

AI for All



Monthly Newsletter

March 2026

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AI for All: Where AI Fluency Meets Ethical Use and Collaborative Productivity

AI for All Monthly Newsletter, February 2026 Vol. 2, Issue 3 Communication
Lead: Anastasia Bojanowski

Note for distribution: Department liaisons, please forward this mailing to departmental colleagues.

UCF AI Updates

- UCF Institute of Artificial Intelligence has just released their [Spring 2026 brochure](#).
- NEW [Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Tools Guidelines](#) from UCF Information Security. Guidelines for enterprise agreements, chat and agent, coding, and productivity tools
- [MyKnight STAR](#), branded Education Advisory Board (EAB) platform. "Schedule appointments, explore majors, find resources, seek assistance, and more with the myKnight STAR app, powered by Navigate360 Student."



Recap of AI Research Day,

February 26. Hosted by UCF's Institute of Artificial Intelligence. The day showcased projects spanning computer vision, robotics, large language models, medical AI, and AI in education. Students, faculty, and collaborators shared insights into the potential for AI.

Quick Numbers:

- 55 Posters showcasing cutting-edge AI research
- 90 Registered guests from academia, industry, and community partners
- 100+ In-person attendees
- 500+ Livestream views (and counting)

Learn More about AI Research Day

- Explore all [posters, slides, and recordings](#)
 - Watch the [full event replay](#) on YouTube
 - Read more about [IAI research](#)
-

Upcoming Events at UCF

March

- **AI Study Tools for Students**, March 4, 12:00-12:30 PM. Hosted by the AI for All initiative. Join us for a free 30-minute AI Webinar and learn how to study smarter, not harder. We'll show you how to use AI tools to boost your study game before midterms hit.
- **Supercharge Your Day Job with Artificial Intelligence**, March 10, 2:00-3:00 PM. Hosted by Human Resources. Many of us have tried Generative AI (GenAI) like ChatGPT before, but what about using it in your "day job" at UCF? Where are the areas where GenAI can make us faster and more productive? We'll briefly review what GenAI is and how it works, then address its advantages and weaknesses.

April

- **Save the Date: Student-Focused AI Day – April 8**, All day event. Please save the date for UCF Libraries' AI Day, taking place on Wednesday, April 8. This student-facing event will highlight practical, ethical, and academic uses of artificial intelligence, with sessions designed to support student learning, productivity, and career readiness. We hope you'll help us spread the word to your students and join us in supporting their AI literacy. Students can see the agenda and register here:
<https://ucf.libcal.com/event/16202187>
- **Amazon Quick Suite: AI-Powered Research Workspace**, April 15, 1:00-4:00 PM. Discover how to transform your research workflows with Amazon Quick Suite, an enterprise AI platform that unifies data analysis, automation, and intelligent assistance in a single workspace. This hands-on workshop demonstrates how to organize data using Spaces, build custom AI agents trained on your lab's specialized knowledge, automate repetitive tasks with Quick Flows, and conduct deep-dive analysis using Quick Research.

June

- **UCF's Teaching and Learning with AI Conference, 2026** (Special UCF Registration Price), **June 11-13**. The FCTL, CDL, and UCF Libraries are hosting the fourth annual *Teaching and Learning with AI* conference, dedicated to sharing teaching practices in the age of AI. We focus less on research than on practical ideas: what are YOU doing about AI? We welcome presentations that embrace AI, those that discuss resisting it, and everything in between. The conference takes place June 11-13 (2026) at the Gaylord Palms near the theme parks. UCF faculty cannot attend for free due to catering costs, but there is a substantial discount: UCF registration is only \$250, the same price whether presenting or simply attending. Email teachwithai@ucf.edu to obtain the link to register, specifying whether you will be paying with department funds or a personal credit card.

Tip of the Month:

If you need to change the color of a graphic you either made in the past or have the copyright to, upload the file to ChatGPT and indicate the colors you want as a description or color code/value.

Publication Call for Papers

Spring 2026 Call for Papers—Special Journal Issue

The journal *Frontiers in Computer Science: Human-Media Interactions* invites article submissions for a special topic: *Transforming Education through Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies*: [Call for Papers](#).

"We invite submissions for a Research Topic of *Frontiers in Computer Science* on *Transforming Education through Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies*. This Research Topic highlights innovative, interdisciplinary, and equity-oriented research exploring how artificial intelligence (AI) and related emerging technologies are reshaping education worldwide. We seek contributions that investigate the evolving role of AI in teaching and learning across subjects such as mathematics, science, computer science, computational thinking, engineering, and robotics."

Deadline for full submission: **April 30, 2026**. Questions can be sent to [Mike Borowczak](#).

Updates to AI Tools (2026)

- Google added a **Gemini bar** within Chrome that functions as an agent—in other words, it can control the browser [February 1]
- OpenAI introduced the **Codex app "for macOS"**—a powerful new interface designed to effortlessly manage multiple agents at once, run work in parallel, and collaborate with agents over long-running tasks" [February 4]
- Anthropic published **Claude Opus 4.6**, which is billed as "improv[ing] on its predecessor's coding skills. It plans more carefully, sustains agentic tasks for longer, can operate more reliably in larger codebases, and has better code review and debugging skills to catch its own mistakes" [February 5]
- OpenAI introduces **ChatGPT ads**, "ChatGPT helps sales and marketing teams work collaboratively to save time and focus on growing revenue—while keeping your data secure" [February 9]
- China's ByteDance releases AI video creator **SeeDance** for beta testers [February 13]
- Google drops **Gemini 3.1** [February 19]
- Companion introduces the **Einstein AI** app, specific to Canvas, with a subscription [February 24]. As of the date of this newsletter, the website has been taken down, and the app is no longer available in the App Store or Google Play [yet like a villain in a horror movie . . .]

Articles & Studies on AI

- **College Board bans smart glasses during SAT**, *Inside Higher Ed* (2026, February 2). The College Board will prohibit students from wearing smart glasses—wearable, internet-connected computers that allow users to see a computer display in the lenses—while taking the SAT, starting in March 2026.
- **How instructors regulate AI in college: Evidence from 31,000 course syllabi**, Center for Studies in Higher Education, University of California: Berkeley (2026, February). This paper introduces a taskbased approach to AI and skill formation to study how instructors regulate student use of AI, predicting that regulation depends on course task composition and the strength of AI capabilities in those tasks.
- **Thinking—fast, slow, and artificial: How AI is reshaping human reasoning and the rise of cognitive surrender**, available on the Social Science Research Network (2026, February 2). As AI becomes embedded in daily thought, what becomes of human judgment? We introduce Tri-System Theory, extending dual-process accounts of reasoning by positing System 3: artificial cognition that operates outside the brain.
- **GPT-5.2 derives a new result in theoretical physics**, Open AI (2026, February 13). We've published a new preprint showing that a type of particle interaction many physicists expected would not occur can in fact arise under specific conditions. The work focuses on gluons, the particles that carry the strong nuclear force. The preprint (opens in a new window) is available on arXiv and is being submitted for publication. In the meantime, we welcome feedback from the community.
- **The intersection of AI and attorney-client privilege: A cautionary tale**, *The National Review* (2026, February 24). Judge Jed S. Rakoff held that neither the attorney-client privilege nor the work product doctrine protected AI-generated documents from disclosure.

UCF Faculty Publications on AI

Deb, D. (2026). Predicting male flowering time in maize using machine learning technique. *Data Science and Data Mining* 51. <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/data-science-mining/51/>

Abstract: This study compares three machine learning approaches—Elastic Net, Principal Component Regression (PCR), and Partial Least Squares (PLS)—for variable selection and prediction within a high-dimensional Maize-GWAS framework. The goal was to accurately predict the complex polygenic trait of time to male flowering while managing the challenges of numerous, highly correlated genetic markers. The ENET model, which combines l1 and l2 penalties, delivered the highest predictive accuracy and successfully identified a select subset of the most influential genetic variants. In contrast, PCR and PLS, both utilizing dimension reduction, offered a significant advantage in computational speed and model stability. The findings confirm that while ENET provides the most precise genomic prediction, the latent variable methods offer a highly efficient and competitive alternative for analyzing complex traits.

Deb, D., & Hossain, E. (2026). Interpretable linear models for heart disease prediction: A Comparative study. *Data Science and Data Mining 52*. <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/data-science/mining/52/>

Abstract: Heart disease remains a leading cause of mortality worldwide, underscoring the importance of accurate and transparent methods for early diagnosis. While many machine learning and artificial intelligence models have demonstrated strong predictive performance, their limited interpretability poses challenges for clinical adoption. In this study, we evaluate three interpretable linear classification models—Generalized Linear Model (GLM) logistic regression, L1-regularized (Lasso) logistic regression, and Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA)—for heart disease prediction using the Cleveland Heart Disease dataset.

Stafford, T. (2025, May 29). *The four guardrails of Applied AI in higher education*. STARS. <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/teachwithai/2025/thursday/56/> Generative AI is reshaping higher education, offering transformative opportunities for teaching, research, and administration. However, its adoption also raises critical ethical and operational challenges. The guardrails focus on Fairness and Inclusivity, fostering equitable student outcomes and unbiased practices; Transparency and Accountability, building trust through explainable AI and clear governance; Privacy and Security, safeguarding sensitive academic and student data; and Human Collaboration and Creativity, positioning AI as a tool to enhance, not replace, human expertise.

Note: If a faculty member would like to be featured in this section of the AI newsletter, please contact ai@ucf.edu.

Faculty Spotlight

We invite faculty members who incorporate AI models into their professional workflow or curriculum to be featured in our Faculty Spotlight section. If you are interested in participating, please contact us at ai@ucf.edu.

Many of you are receiving this newsletter from a colleague in your Department/School. Everyone is also welcome to [sign up](#) to receive the newsletter directly.

Thank you for reading our current issue. We will be back next month with more insights and updates. —Your *AI for All* team. Email us at ai@ucf.edu

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