



TOPIC MODELING

Syracuse University Commencement Speeches.

WHO ARE WE?



Ryan French



William D. Lombardi

QUESTIONS



1. What topics are consistent across commencement speeches?
2. Do commencement speakers concentrate on abstract or tangible topics?
3. Are there differences in content between male and female speakers?

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Topic model each of the speeches individually to look for significant topics
 - Generate insight into overlapping topics between speeches
 - Are they abstract or concrete?
 - Look for topics consistent across all speakers
 - Look for topics consistent in male and female speakers



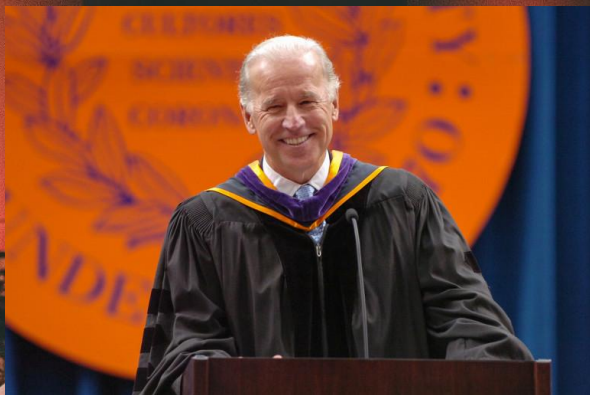
WHO WE WILL BE MODELING?



Donald Newhouse



Billy Joel



Joe Biden



& more!

DATA DESCRIPTION

- Transcribed speeches from past commencement speakers
 - Here at Syracuse University!
- 16 speeches from 2002-2017
 - <http://commencement.syr.edu/stay-connected/past-commencement-speakers/>

I arrived at Syracuse as a freshman in 1947.

And while I did not achieve what you have, it took me 69 years to get a degree, I am extremely moved to be here alongside you today and if you will indulge me, I'd like to tell you something about good fortune and its opposite, something about love and loss, and what it is taught me.

I was not an especially self confident young man.

I came to Syracuse largely because my visionary and highly creative brother, sy, my lifelong partner and closest friend came a couple of years before.

My father, who started life in a tenement on the Lower East Side of New York, did not emphasize scholarship in quite the same way he might have in a later generation.

He was one of those young people, a son of an immigrant from a large struggling family, whose through brilliance and drive, hard work, luck, and a keen eye for opportunity, went from being an apprentice lawyer to a successful publisher of newspapers, from Staten Island to Long Island, Newark, to Syracuse, he began buying newspapers in a pre digital era when newspapers were the core of a community.

Both my brother and I were eager to go to work in his fascinating newspaper world.

When I arrived at Syracuse, it was the post war years.

Like so many University, Syracuse expanded to accommodate thousands of returning veterans.

The campus was filled with Quonset huts acting as dormitories and classrooms.

In my freshman year I was assigned a bunk in the hay lost in a barn on the grounds of the State Fair, 5 miles from campus.

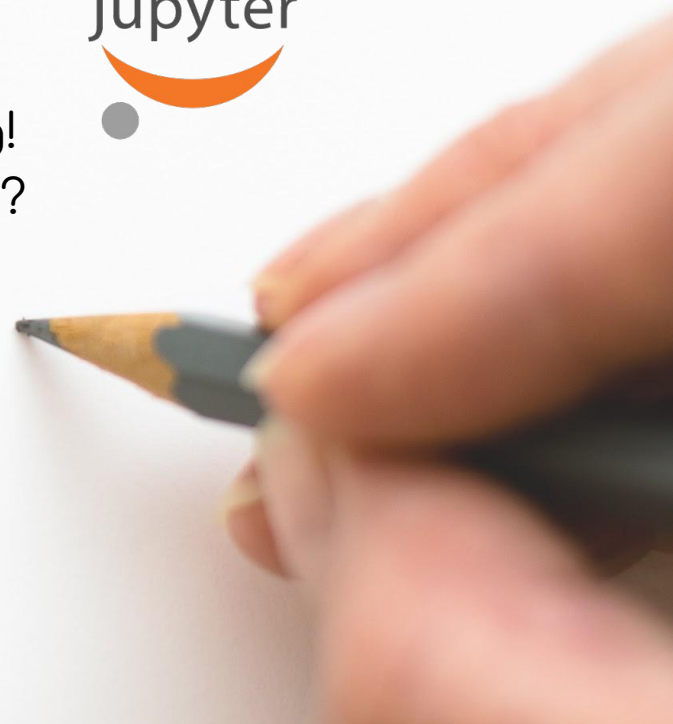
-Donald Newhouse '51

GOAL

- Discover the primary topics present in SU commencement speeches
- Understand what (if any) topical differences there are between male and female speaker's speech content
- Generate individual insight as to the focus of each speaker

TOOLS UTILIZED & POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

- Tools: Topic Modeling
 - Python Jupyter Notebook
 - LDA algorithm
- Problem: some of the speeches are missing!
 - Can we track them down on other sites?
 - If not, can we get into contact with someone in the administration?





THANK YOU.

Any Questions?