



LTU CoAS Presents...

NO.1
Student Newsletter
CoAS

Student Newsletter

Welcome to

the inaugural edition of "CoAS STUDENTS NEWSLETTER", your gateway to the students' perspectives about the college. As the proud stewards of the College of Arts and Science (CoAS), we are thrilled to introduce this newsletter designed to celebrate the *dynamic achievements, pursuits, and innovations* within our academic community.

The newsletter, written by LTU students, covers the most recent events, updates, and introductions of new courses and activities within the college. This inaugural edition introduces the mission, a welcome message from the newsletter president, and some insights from the **CoAS Dean, Patrick Nelson**.

In a recent interview,

Guillermo Garcia de Celis and Dean Nelson talked about the necessity of increasing awareness of collaboration within our university. Dean Nelson highlighted how important it is for students to understand the diverse opportunities available. Dean Nelson expressed the challenges that the college faces with LTU being famously known as only an engineering and architecture school.

CoAS has become a *vibrant, research-intensive* college with countless opportunities for students to connect with faculty members and work on cutting-edge research projects. He proposed the idea of creating a podcast and opening new social media platforms to extend, reach, and engage with LTU students. In addition, he highlights the significance of students' voices being heard in order to help shape the university's direction through these newsletters. Guillermo opens up a discussion about the Quest program and how it can provide opportunities for students to take on research projects and gain valuable knowledge and experience. Dean Nelson states that the program's purpose is to fund research initiatives that can challenge students to learn outside the classroom.

Guillermo brings up a conversation about exploring the possibility of reducing credits to accommodate project-based learning. Dean Nelson wants the focus to not solely be on modifying flowcharts but on what is best for students and their career goals. He also highlights how the new chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Dr. Eric Martinson, is creating an opportunity to collaborate with industry partners by allowing students to work on real-world projects that could potentially secure internships or jobs. This is groundbreaking as it allows flexibility and aims to make students' academic experiences unique and integrated with close industry partners.

Dean Nelson states that the newsletter is a huge benefit for students to share valuable information. He emphasized the importance of peer interaction, where we can learn from one another and motivate each other to move forward. To conclude, Dean Nelson advocates for unique experiences and diverse opportunities for students. He wants students to collaborate with different departments and envisions their voices being heard through potential podcasts and social media engagements, reflecting a commitment to enhancing the overall academic journey for LTU within the CoAS.



Hello and Welcome to our newsletter! My name is Guillermo Garcia de Celis,

and I am in my third-year majoring in Data Science and proudly serve as the President of our newsletter. Alongside my involvement in the men's soccer team, I am excited to introduce this initiative aimed at showcasing the diverse opportunities within LTU. This newsletter goes beyond academics, offering insights into the student perspective regarding campus life, internship opportunities, departmental interactions, projects, research, and faculty engagement. It is a student-driven platform that welcomes and values every piece of feedback and aims to create a space where our collective experiences shape the narrative of our academic community. It is a newsletter *by the students for the students*.

Dean of CoAS, Dr. Patrick Nelson



I. Campus Updates

Research Day at LTU, April 2024. The Annual Research Day and Presidential Colloquium promotes the scholarly engagement of faculty and students and supports a culture of research at the university. This event will take place at LTU's management building on **April 19, 2024, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** If you, as a student, have been working on any project and wish to attend and present at the event, please register at this link. MASAL's annual conference will take place at LTU this year! MASAL is a learned society and academic organization that supports research through various scholarly activities, including conferences in which students, administrators, librarians, and primarily those in higher education present their research in front of an audience. This event will take place on **Friday, March 8, 2024.**

II. Academic Highlights

Unlocking Majors: LTU's Cutting-Edge Data Science Major

Embark on an exhilarating exploration into the world of data with Lawrence Technological University's data science major—a vibrant program designed for future tech leaders. Combining the elements of computer science, mathematics, and statistics, our curriculum is the key to unlocking opportunities through vast datasets. The heart of LTU's data science major is a hands-on approach that immerses students in programming languages like Python and R for seamless data manipulation and analysis. But that is just the beginning; delve into machine learning, artificial intelligence, and big data technologies, shaping you into a graduate equipped with the tools to define the future of data analytics!

LTU takes pride in providing unique opportunities for hands-on learning, epitomized by our Quest Program. Imagine collaborating with faculty on cutting-edge research and delving into specific data science topics to deepen your understanding while gaining invaluable real-world exposure. The adventure does not end there—our data science program also offers Research Student Assistant roles. Envision yourself contributing to groundbreaking projects alongside esteemed faculty members, turning theoretical knowledge into practical applications. This not only enriches your educational journey but also positions you ahead in the competitive landscape of data science.

In the dynamic realm of data, LTU's data science program is innovative, preparing graduates to navigate the complexities of a data-driven world. Join us at Lawrence Tech and unlock the thrilling potential of data science, where cutting-edge technology meets ethical leadership. Seize the opportunity to actively shape your educational journey through immersive research experiences like the Quest program and research student assistant opportunities. Whether you dream of pioneering breakthroughs in data analysis or leading ethical data-driven decision-making, LTU's data science major is the launchpad or **your success.**



RESEARCH DAY AT LTU

III. Campus Life

The changes on campus from last semester to now include updated facilities on campus, resulting in a better campus life experience for students. For example, the ESports room got new computers. Other updates include the creation of new clubs (such as this one), students receiving updated laptops to keep up with the latest technologies, and the College of Health Sciences created and added to LTU.

Sports Section:

- Men's Basketball Overall: **8-6**
- Men's Football Overall: **3-7**
- Men's Ice Hockey Overall: **12-8**
- Men's Hockey D3 Overall: **15-3-1**
- Men's Soccer Overall: **11-5-3**
- Women's Basketball Overall: **6-9**
- Women's Ice Hockey Overall: **12-4**
- Women's Soccer Overall: **11-5-4**
- Women's Volleyball Overall: **12-13**
- Esports Overall: **7-9**

IV. Featured Faculty/Staff

Immersive Education: Navigating Virtual Realms at LTU with Professor Franco Delogu.

In a recent interview with Dr. Franco Delogu of Lawrence Technological University's humanities department, the potential of virtual reality (VR) in education emerged as a transformative force. Delogu emphasized VR's capacity to redefine our interaction with the world, from virtualizing sensory experiences to immersive exploration of complex subjects like human anatomy. This insight points toward a paradigm shift in education, where traditional tools fall short in comparison to the immersive and three-dimensional learning experiences that VR can offer.

The conversation also delved into the prospect of integrating VR into LTU's educational toolkit, highlighting its potential as the next evolution in student engagement. Delogu underscored the limitations of conventional methods, emphasizing the advantage of experiencing concepts in three-dimensional space and time. Moreover, the interview revealed a call for collaboration and exposure, with Delogu expressing the importance of interdisciplinary projects. The collaborative efforts between the newsletter team and the humanities department include the potential organization of an on-campus event, aiming to raise awareness among students and foster curiosity about the groundbreaking work being done.

Ultimately, Delogu's openness to student-led initiatives, collaborative projects, and events reflects a shared commitment to enriching the educational landscape at LTU. The interview paints a picture of a department eager to embrace technological advancements for the betterment of education, highlighting the value of VR in enhancing learning experiences. As the newsletter amplifies this message, it serves as a conduit for facilitating engagement between students and faculty, paving the way for an exciting future where virtual reality becomes an integral part of a student's educational journey at Lawrence Technological University.

Embarking on Cognitive Exploration with Professor Corey Bohil

Guillermo's recent interview with Dr. Corey Bohil sheds light on the ambitious mission of the emerging Cognitive Systems Lab. Bohil, at the helm this semester, is propelling the lab toward understanding cognitive systems using innovative tools such as eye-tracking and augmented reality. The overarching goal is to enhance human learning by seamlessly integrating virtual information into our natural environment, creating a significant growth area with vast implications for education.

The lab, far from an exclusive enclave, welcomes students from diverse disciplines. Psychology classes will soon incorporate cognitive studies, providing students with an accessible entry point into this cutting-edge field. Bohil envisions collaborative opportunities for students in computer science and engineering, recognizing the pivotal role psychology plays in bridging the gap between machines and humans, especially in the realm of cognition. It was highlighted that each discipline is not that different from the others, since all the software and products have one common purpose: human beings.

As Bohil stated, "It always starts with the human beings Bohil's current focus on understanding how people pay attention is opening doors for student research assistants. Positions are available for students in psychology, data science, and computer development. As the semester progresses, Bohil expresses excitement about future events that will showcase the lab's work and engage the wider LTU learning community. In essence, Bohil's vision signifies a dynamic synergy between technology and humanity, urging students from various disciplines to join the journey of unraveling and enhancing cognitive systems. The lab's evolution promises collaborative opportunities and groundbreaking contributions to the intersection of technology and education.

VI. Correspondence

Thank you for taking the time to read this article in the CoAS Newsletter. We hope you enjoyed it! If you have any questions or feedback about this newsletter or the College of Arts and Sciences, please feel free to reach out; you can email me at ggarciade@ltu.edu. If you are also interested in becoming a member of this newsletter community, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

