THE SOURCE

UC MATTERS

JUNE 2019

UC PEOPLE

Michael McCarthy, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Program Director for M.S. in Data Science

By Jessica Bates '20, PR Intern

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I grew up in California, and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2000. Following graduation, I went to flight school. I was stationed overseas in Germany and then deployed to Iraq, where I led an aviation platoon. One of the last things I did in the Army before getting out in 2007 was work for an internal Army think tank that studied the future. We looked a lot at demographic, economic, and agricultural trends. We tried to postulate what the future might hold. Working there got me excited about going back into academia, as I was not always a great undergraduate student. I earned my master's degree; I absolutely loved it and went on to get my Ph.D. in geography.

I then worked as an analyst at the U.S. Veterans Administration for two years before coming to Utica College.

Q: What is data science, and what do data scientists do?

A: Data doesn't speak for itself, and can be extremely biased, thus we strive to find meaning and knowledge in the data that is all around us. Often, data science is seen as a three-part Venn diagram. The three parts are mathematics, computer science, and the "other" domain. This "other" is what makes data science hard to pin down, as there can be biologists, business analysts, sociologists, and many other disiplines have data scientists. That third portion can include almost any field, including philosophy, geography, and technology. At UC, we try to help our students lean toward the center of that Venn diagram, and give them the computer science skills, math skills, and "other" skills, including business, financial crime, cybersecurity,

> *"We want to help our students become more capable and well-rounded data scientists, to be able to coordinate and communicate with a team to help transform the data into something useful for the organization."*
>
> *-Michael McCarthy*

2019 DPT graduates proudly don their new white coats, symbolizing their transition from classroom to clinic. *05/10*

UTICA COLLEGE

Never stand still

HR NOTES

Welcome

Brooke Barbuto, *Head Coach for Women's Soccer, Office of Athletics*

Cara Briggs, *Receptionist, Office of the Registrar*

Victoria Pardee, *Career Coach, School of Health Professions and Education*

Jennifer Rubino, *Career Coach, School of Business and Justice Studies*

Samantha Ashley, *Area Coordinator, Office of Student Living and College Engagement*

Matthew Lumbard, *Administrative Assistant III, Library*

Adi Pasic, *Helpdesk Specialist, IITS*

Title Change

Larry Aaronson, *Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences*

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Kudos Card program monthly drawing winner is...

Jessica Zdanowicz

Congratulations, Jessica, and enjoy your prize!

You can access the link below at any time to recognize a colleague for his/her great work:

utica.edu/kudos

"Thank you for filing all those folders and for always being a team player!"

2019-2020 COLLEGES OF DISTINCTION

UC MAKING HEADLINES

Utica College Championed as College of Distinction

UC has received national recognition as one of the renowned Colleges of Distinction for its individual and engaging education and goals of student success and satisfaction. Schools are accepted on the basis that they adhere to four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community, and successful outcomes.

Utica College Introduces Three New Nursing Master's Degrees

The way in which healthcare is delivered is changing by the minute, and UC is addressing those changes by adding three new nursing master's degrees to its suite of nursing programs, including family nurse practitioner, nursing education and nursing leadership. Students can earn their nursing masters online at UC in just 16 to 20 months in the hours and days that work best for them.

Utica College Cybersecurity Master's Program Designated National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education

The National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security have designated UC as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education for its M.S. degree in cybersecurity. UC's bachelor's program in cybersecurity, offered on campus and online, was given the same honor in 2016, making Utica College one of the first institutions in the U.S. to earn Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) designations for both its undergraduate and graduate programs.

and social sciences. There are so many components that one person cannot be an expert in it all. Despite that, it is important that we help students develop their strengths, while also growing stronger in the more difficult areas. We want to help our students become more capable and well-rounded data scientists, to be able to coordinate and communicate with a team to help transform the data into something useful for the organization.

We tell our students, "put the scientist hat on first," meaning we use the scientific method first, enabling us to use the data to present sound findings. Our program, more than other data science programs, focuses on ethics, bias, and social responsibility. There is a perception that data is unbiased, but this is not the case. Knowingly or unknowingly, the data, the questions we ask, and our analysis can be biased. We try to teach students to assess bias at each step and at the end we ask "Is this ethically beneficial, ethically analyzed, and what is the social benefit of this analysis?" By enabling the students to ask that question, and hopefully answer it, helps them develop the methodology and mindset that is part of the consideration at each step of the process.

Q: What can a graduate of the master's in data science program do with their degree?

A: The sky's the limit. We started this program in 2017, and we just recently had our first cohort graduate, we have a cohort that graduates every term from now on. The stories that I hear from my students about the transformations they've made are heartwarming and phenomenal. I have a student who transformed himself from a barista to a data analyst for a major online platform while still in the program. One of the most exciting moments for me was at the first graduation when a student handed me her business card with the title "Data Scientist." The title of data scientist is actually rarer than people think. Often times, the title is analyst, so to have students actually receive the full title is quite amazing.

Q: How does data science fit in with the social sciences?

A: In most cases, a lot of the information online comes from searches, social media, and most of the data we are concerned about relates to people. While not necessarily always true, I introduce the idea that "data are people." As we work through the data, this idea connects the ethics and social responsibility components of data science. When I was working in healthcare, it was easy to get bogged down with the numbers, accounts, timestamps, et cetera. However, it was important to be mindful that what I was looking at was actually the people we were taking care of, the patients. As we take a social science outlook on data, it enables us to have a different lens beyond the usual business lens, and helps us strive to understand the actual inputs rather than just the data itself. We can ask the question, "What does this actually mean for the people whose data we are collecting?" It helps us have the perspective of the person, not just looking at the rows and columns of the data that comes from what the person does. It gives us a nice theoretical foundation to build our analysis.

Q: A common idea people hear in regard to data science is "manipulating data." What does this mean?

A: I'm a classically-trained geographer, and a text that a lot of people talk about is a famous book on how to lie with maps and a similar book in math about how to lie with statistics. It is easier than expected to manipulate data to have it tell the story that you want it to tell. That is why it's important that we assess our ethics, biases and social responsibilities at each step. We have a small case study that looks at the *U.S. News & World Report* college rankings versus *Forbes*

college rankings in which the top colleges are similar, but they're not the same. The differences become greater as one goes down the list, which is due to the weights assigned to what makes a college the "best." It's very important that we try to avoid confirmation bias, the act of seeing the data in a way that fits the narrative we hoped for. In the introductory class, we talk about how, as data scientists, we have to be able to talk to leadership and tell them that what they were hoping for may not be the case and stating what the data is really showing as opposed to what they wanted it to show.

Q: What does the future look like for data science? How will data science evolve over the next decade?

A: I believe that data science is going to become more integral in helping organizations find the strategies and important aspects that aren't currently being analyzed. As a technical component, everything is shifting to distributed, cloud-based analysis, which will become much more ubiquitous, even to small companies. Data scientists are going to become much more than just analysts. They're going to be almost evangelical or prophets for ethics, bias, and social responsibility and for the transformation to data-driven organizations.

My biggest hope is that with all the management or mismanagement of people's data that's currently happening in the U.S. that data science as a discipline does not become distrusted by the general population. As doctors have the Hippocratic oath in medicine, there is talk of a similar idea for data scientists. While I don't believe that we necessarily need an oath, we want to strive to have similar ethics. Medicine has a strong reputation for doing what is best for the patient, and I'd like to think that we could have similar respect and trust that data scientists are doing what is best for people. Honestly, I'm amazed that thus far people don't have mistrust in data scientists.

If I told people 15 years ago how much data they were sharing with companies willingly and openly, they might be appalled. We've gone done a road now though where everything's "free." "Free" Gmail, Facebook, and social media sites are not really free; we're paying for them by offering our data as well as by seeing ads. There's a famous quote by Jeff Hammerbacher, "The best minds of my generation are thinking about how to make people click ads" which is a sad reality. Recently, people are fine with the data they share because they're getting something for free. We live in an interesting time where there is a generation that is fine with sharing data and a generation that isn't affected by it because they are not fully engaged with the online platforms.

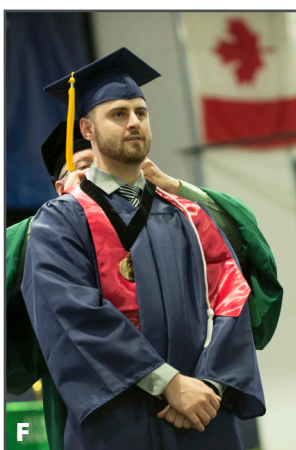**Q: Are there regulations to deal with the issue of data manipulation?**

A: The United States is actually further behind than one might think. American internet uses benefited a bit from what Europe enabled through the general data protection regulation (GDPR). There are some very important fundamental components to the European GDPR that would be perfect for everyone who uses the Internet, but especially the United States. While there are a lot of GDPR components that are being implemented broadly in the U.S. by multinational companies and platforms that strive to adhere to the GDPR requirements, universal protections are needed. While people would generally say that every component of the GDPR is important, it's not something that many Americans are strongly advocating for.

COMMENCEMENT 2019

A-F. *Undergraduate Commencement ceremonies took place at the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium.* *05/11*

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B

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D

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F

G

H

H-J. *The Graduate Commencement ceremonies at the Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium.* *05/11*

I

J

KUDOS

CRISAFULLI DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD PRESENTED TO ROSSI

The Dr. Virgil Crisafulli Distinguished Teaching Award is widely recognized as the College's most coveted tribute to faculty members.

This year's recipient, Professor of Management Tom Rossi, was hired by the late Professor Emeritus Ray Simon in 1979. He has served as the faculty advisor to UC's Student Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management since he joined UC, and has long served as the faculty advisor to the men's baseball and football teams. The coordinator of business internships, he has served on the AAUP-UC's governing board and hearing committee, as a diversity advocate, and a member of the provost's task force on hiring practices. He has held the designation of professional of human resources management since 1987 and is a member of regionally-based Mohawk Valley Society of Human Resource Management. His true love of learning led him to earn his doctorate in 2015, which he said made him a better teacher, researcher and person.

Perhaps most telling is what his students have to say: "His positive and encouraging attitude continues even after his designated office hours." "He knows all of the students by name and loves to talk with us about classes, projects, and just to make sure that everything is going well." Described as passionate and effective, Rossi shares stories in the classroom that directly relate to personal, real-world experiences, and effective practice that students notice and appreciate.

Congratulations, Tom!

Young Scholars Liberty Partnership Program at Utica College was awarded $40,000 for a scholarship program by The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties.

Trustee emeritus Michael Damsky (seated) presents President Laura Casamento with a $25,000 grant from the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation. The grant, obtained through the work of Damsky, will go toward extending and improving the Utica Advantage Internship Project for the Young Scholars Liberty Partnerships Program at UC.

Leslie Corbo, assistant professor of cybersecurity, earned her Doctor of Science in Information Assurance and Cybersecurity from Capitol Technology University in Laurel, Maryland.

Douglas Edwards, assistant professor of philosophy, had his book *The Metaphysics of Truth* nominated for the American Philosophical Association's 2019 Sanders Book Prize. The Sanders Book Prize is awarded to the best book in philosophy of mind, metaphysics, or epistemology that engages the analytic tradition published in English in the previous five-year period.

Amy Lindsey, associate professor of psychology, and undergraduate coauthors Ashley Rohacek '20, neuroscience, and Brittany Smith '19, biochemistry, presented their research titled *Contrast Sensitivity Functions in Surface and Hybrid Mexican Tetras* at the annual Vision Science Society conference in St. Pete Beach, FL.

Paul MacArthur, professor of public relations and journalism, gave the opening presentation about Free Speech, Free Press and a Free Society for the Oneida County

Bar Association's "Law Day." He also served on a panel about free speech after his presentation.

MacArthur presented "Video Threats: The Real Disruption Is in The Courtroom," at the 64th Annual Broadcast Education Association Convention in April.

MacArthur also presented "Ready for Winter Primetime: The Portrayal of Male and Female Athletes on NBC's Primetime Television Broadcast of the 2018 PyeongChang Olympic Games," at the 2nd Annual Conference for the Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research in March. This presentation was co-authored by Lauren Reichart Smith of Indiana University.

Luke Perry, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, wrote a summary of his recent book, *Donald Trump and the 2018 Midterm Battle for Central New York*. The summary was used as the cover article for an issue of *City and State New York.*

Perry, also moderated the Utica School Board debate hosted by the League of Women Voters.

Christopher Riddle, associate professor of philosophy, co-authored a piece titled "Obsolescence, Genetic Treatment, and Disability" that was accepted by *The American Journal of Bioethics.* The paper discusses how obsolescence is the wrong concept to critique genetic enhancement and treatment.

Riddle also worked with Simo Vehmas to contribute to the "Routledge Handbook of Disability Studies: 2nd Edition" in a chapter titled "What Can Philosophy Tell Us About Disability?"

Rob Swenszkowski, professor of practice of criminal justice, was presented with a proclamation in recognition of his service to the criminal justice profession by Senator Joe Griffo.

Please send information and photos for KUDOS to source@utica.edu
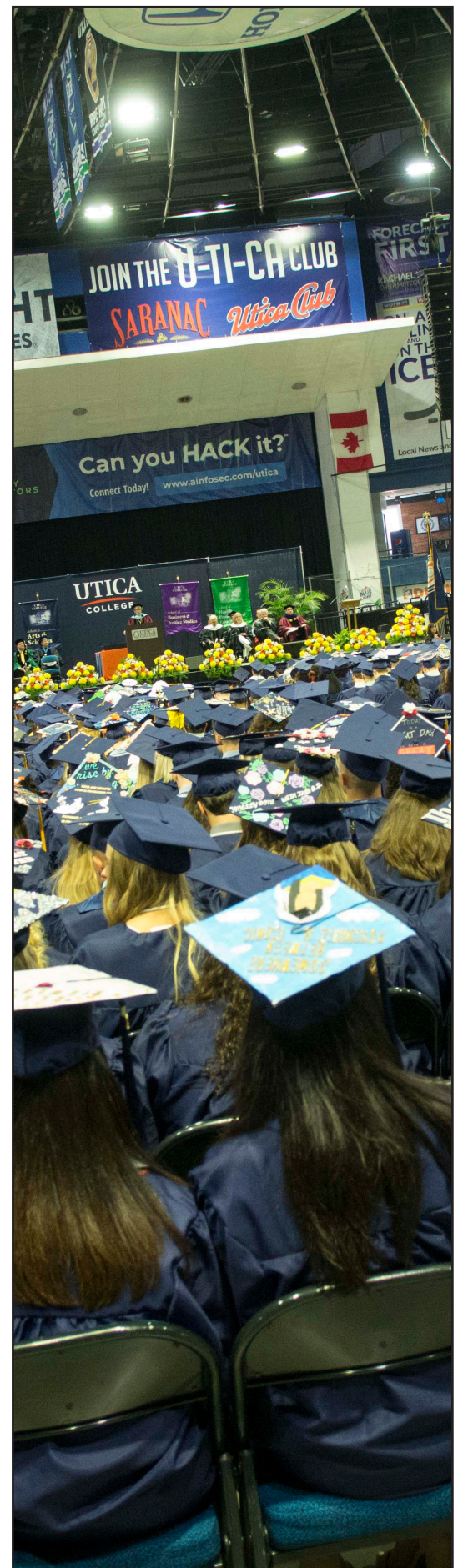
IN THE NEWS...

Daniel Tagliarina, assistant professor of government and poltics, speaks with WKTV News Channel 2 reporter Joleen Ferris '92 5/16

- *WKTV News Channel 2* reporter Kirk Tupaj covered a story about UC Dining Services employing an individual with autism. *4/3*

- *WUTR Eyewitness News* reporter Jenn Seelig spoke with UC students and Erin Kelly, internship program director for the nutrition program, about UC joining the Food Recovery Network. *4/3*

- **Shad Crowe**, director of emergency management, spoke with Bill Keeler on *WIBX Radio's First News with Keeler in the Morning* about Uber safety. *4/6*

- **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for *Medium*, "When Grief and Chemical Dependency Intersect." *4/9*

- **Ashraf Elazzazi**, professor of physical therapy, was a guest on *WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM* to discuss some myths and misinterpretations of Islamic beliefs and encourage peace over hate. *4/15*

- **Nathaniel Richmond**, professor of government, was a guest on *WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM* to discuss the fire that burned the Notre Dame Cathedral and France's healthcare system. *4/16*

- *WKTV News Channel 2* spoke with **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, about the Mueller Report. *4/18*

- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, was quoted by *City and State New York* reporter Zach Williams in his article "House Moderates Want to Talk About Anything but Trump." *4/19*

- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, wrote an op-ed commentary for the *Observer-Dispatch* titled "Why Everyone Should Heed Fallout from Mueller Report." *4/28*

- **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for *Medium*, "Not Your Ordinary Birthday." *4/29*

- *LA Times* reporter Jennifer Haberkorn spoke with **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, about Representative Anthony Brindisi. *4/30*

- *WKTV News Channel 2, Observer-Dispatch, Rome Sentinel*, and *The Bosnian Radio Program 100.7 FM* covered the Utica College Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony. *5/11*

- **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for *Medium*, "We are Beautiful, Tragic and Alive." *5/14*

- **Daniel Tagliarina**, assistant professor of government, was a guest on *WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM* to discuss recent abortion laws and Trump's resistance to Congress subpoenas. *5/16*

- **Daniel Tagliarina**, assistant professor of government, spoke with *WKTV News Channel 2* reporter Joleen Ferris '92 about the difference between libel, slander, and defamation. *5/16*

- **Luke Perry**, professor of government and politics and director of UC's Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, wrote an op-ed commentary for the *New York Daily News* titled "Upstate N.Y. Has a Message for Trump 2020: Reelection Won't Be Easy." *5/21*

- **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for *Mindfulness & Grief Training Institute*, "Sometimes the Smallest Things Take Up the Most Room in Our Hearts." *5/22*

- **Dave Roberts**, adjunct professor of psychology, provided insight for article in *New York Magazine*, "The 16 Best Books About Dealing with Grief, According to Psychologists." *5/22*

- *WKTV News Channel 2* spoke with **Leslie Corbo,** assistant professor of cybersecurity, about Utica College's recent designation as a nationally recognized Center of Academic Excellence in cyber defense education. *5/23*

- **Leslie Corbo**, assistant professor of cybersecurity, was a guest on *WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM* to discuss Utica College's recent designation as a nationally recognized Center of Academic Excellence in cyber defense education. *5/29*

- *The Rome Sentinel* covered a story about the Utica College cybersecurity program being designated as a national Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education. *5/31*

UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

July

07/04/ - **College Holidays**
07/05/19

07/17/19 **TIAA Individual Appointments,** Strebel Student Center, Room 105C

07/24/19 **New Hire Orientation,** 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., TBD

August

08/13/19 **TIAA Individual Appointments,** Strebel Student Center, Room 105C

Check out HR's new page for training and development:
utica.edu/hr/trainingopp.cfm

IN THE COMMUNITY

(Hard) hats off to a this group of CM students who volunteered their time and talent to help out the Boilermaker Road Race by building mobile display walls last month.

05/08

ENJOY SUMMER WITH UC HEALTH & WELLNESS

Stay on track this summer with fun programming from the UC Health & Wellness Committee.

Pre-registration may be required for some events.

Visit utica.edu/hr/wellness/ for more information and to register.

Food Truck Wednesdays

Utica College will once again host local food trucks each Wednesday throughout the summer.

New Location!

To accommodate the summer capital projects, trucks will be located in the tailgating area of Parking Lot A.

July 3
The Grapevine & The Healthy Choice

July 10
Eat Out Loa'd & Break From The Grind

July 17
Adirondack Eatery & Truck TBD

July 24
Break From The Grind & The Original Kitties

July 31
Sarita's & Truck TBD

August 7
The Healthy Choice & The Original Kitties

August 14
Eat Out Loa'd & The Grapevine