Bios

Keynote speakers

Kate Bischoff - tHRive Law & Consulting LLC

Kate Bischoff is an overly enthusiastic, sarcastic, and opinionated management-side employment attorney and SHRM-SCP-certified HR pro. She works closely with management, HR folk, and technology companies to improve organizations and make it easier to recruit and retain talent through having easy-to-understand policies, easy-to-use technology, and easy-to-explain compliance initiatives. Kate has been recognized by The New York Times, CNN.com, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, National Public Radio, and other journalistic sources as a leading authority on harassment, technology in the workplace, and employment law.

Clay Campbell – Unify Consulting

Clay Campbell is the Director of Innovation and Applied A.I. for Unify Consulting in Seattle, WA. A Madison, SD native, Clay has spent over a decade working with some of the largest companies on the planet solving some of their hardest problems. Most notably he has established himself as a thought leader in the field of Applied A.I. He spends his free time building self-driving cars and treasure hunting.
Invited Speakers

Ryan Burton -- Capital Services, Inc.

Ryan is the Portfolio Analytics and Risk Director at CAPITAL Services where he is responsible for managing analytical applications throughout the company including reporting, modeling, and strategy development. He received his Master’s Degree in Statistics from South Dakota State University researching trended data’s impact on credit scoring. He is motivated by making smarter decisions using analytics to improve outcomes for all parties impacted.

Thomas Cleberg – Mutual of Omaha

Thomas is a Principal Data Scientist at Mutual of Omaha and graduate of South Dakota State University and Dakota State University. In addition to developments in reinforcement learning, neural architectures and applied machine learning, Thomas has a strong interest in the responsible application of algorithms, model lifecycle management systems and practices, and interpretability of machine learning models. He can often be sighted in the wild with his wife, Lindsey, at concerts in the Omaha area or tending to their pollinator garden.
Dr. Gerald Fahner is Senior Principal Scientist in FICO’s Scores division. He specializes on innovative algorithms that turn data and domain knowledge into superior insights, predictions, and decisions. Gerald is also responsible for the core algorithms underlying FICO’s Scorecard development platform. His work on causal modelling won the Best Paper award at the Credit Scoring and Credit Control XI conference. Prior to joining FICO in 1996, he served as a researcher in artificial intelligence, neural networks and robotics at the International Computer Science Institute in Berkeley, and earned his Computer Science doctorate from University of Bonn.

Emily Griese – Sanford Health

Emily Griese, PhD is the Director of Collaborative Research at Sanford Health. In this role, she works across Sanford’s Research, Enterprise Data and Analytics, and Quality arms to support coordinated population health strategies throughout the enterprise. She has worked to establish and currently directs the Sanford Data Collaborative, a first of its kind data sharing initiative with academic partners to innovate and improve the way healthcare is provided to the patients and communities Sanford serves.

Dr. Griese is a NIH-funded scientist in the Population Health Research Group at Sanford Research and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. She received her PhD in psychological research from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and completed her postdoctoral fellowship in Population Health at Sanford Health. Her research focuses on social determinants of health and their impact on health trajectories over time, working specifically with rural communities.
Hossein Moradi – South Dakota State University

Hossein is an Assistant Professor of Statistics at South Dakota State University. His research interest is the development of statistical models for spatial and spatiotemporal data, functional data, and multivariate data for making inferences from massive datasets, all motivated by the desire to tackle scientific problems. Hossein was a member of Research Network for Statistical Methods for Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences as Postdoctoral fellow. Prior to that, he was at Virginia Commonwealth University where he received his Ph.D. in System Modeling and Analysis and his Master in Operations Research. He received his Master in Mathematical Statistics from Tarbiat Modares University and his Bachelors in Statistics in Statistics from University of Mazandaran.

Cedric Neumann – South Dakota State University

Cedric Neumann is an Associate Professor of Statistics at the South Dakota State University. Cedric’s main area of research focuses on the statistical interpretation of forensic evidence, more specifically fingerprint, shoeprint and traces. Prior to joining SDSU, Cedric worked for the Forensic Science Service (FSS) in the United Kingdom. As head of the R&D Statistics and Interpretation Research Group, he contributed to the development of the first validated fingerprint statistical model. This model was used to support the admissibility of fingerprint evidence in U.S. courts. Cedric has a Ph.D. in forensic science from the University of Lausanne, in Switzerland. He received several awards for his implementation of his thesis work at the United States Secret Service.
Ally Pelletier - Star Tribune

Ally is currently working as a Data Scientist for the Star Tribune in Minneapolis, MN. She is involved in reporting and modeling for the digital department at the Star Tribune. Her current work includes recommendation models, customer retention, and map development. Previous to working at the Star Tribune, Ally worked as a Data Science Consultant with RProfet. In this position, she was deeply involved in all aspects of the modeling process. She is a subject matter expert in credit modeling as well as the development of the regular reporting processes and documentation necessary to create data driven decisions. Ally earned a BA in Mathematics Education from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and an MS in Statistics from South Dakota State University. During her time at SDSU she held a research assistantship and an internship in digital media. In her research she developed new statistical power calculations for measuring mixtures of non-normal distributions to measure the profitability in A/B testing in credit card customer behavior.

Honghao Shan – Experian

Terry Therneau- Mayo Clinic

As a statistician engaged in clinical research programs, my interests reflect both medical and statistical areas. The former has been focused for the last several years on liver disease, liver transplant, hematology with particular emphasis on plasma cell malignancy, and physical medicine. Statistically, the major impetus of my work has been in survival analysis. Currently research includes: 1) correlated random effects models, applied to large family based genetics studies; 2) the analysis and understanding of
microarray and proteomics data; 3) expected survival computation and competing risks; and, 4) the application of tree based methods to survival data.

[https://www.mayo.edu/research/faculty/therneau-terry-m-ph-d/bio-00025991](https://www.mayo.edu/research/faculty/therneau-terry-m-ph-d/bio-00025991)

### Workshops

**Adam Sullivan — Brown University**

Adam Sullivan is an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at Brown University. His interests include flipped/blended learning, online learning, open education, R programming and Statistics Education. He is currently director of the Masters program in biostatistics at Brown University and the faculty statistician at the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute. His interests include statistics education, online/blended learning, and pediatric research. During his time at Brown he has created numerous courses and has won 3 teaching awards for this work.

Prior to Brown, Sullivan was a key contributor to the creation of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health’s first blended course which also integrated biostatistics and epidemiology. He received his PhD in Biostatistics from Harvard University in May 2015, his masters in mathematics from South Dakota State University in 2010 and a bachelors in mathematics and secondary education from Houghton College in 2003. He has worked as an educator in all levels from high-school mathematics to graduate-level biostatistics.

**David Zeng — Dakota State University**

Dr. David Zeng is an assistant professor of Information Systems at Dakota State University. He teaches graduate courses in the Master of Science in Data Science Program jointly offered by DSU and SDSU. The courses he teaches include Predictive Analytics for Decision Making, Programming for Data Analytics (Python), Deep Learning, and BI & Visualization. His research focuses on Economics of IT-enabled services, application of Deep Learning (transfer learning) in healthcare, and generative neural
networks in contests and games. His papers have been published in top peer-reviewed journals and awarded as best papers in conferences. David received his PhD in Information Systems from University of California, Irvine. He got his MS in Computer Science from California State University, Long Beach.