A Newsletter by Students, for Students.

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to bring you the second edition of the CoAS NEWSLETTER, a student publication that continues to reflect the vibrant academic life at the College of Arts and Sciences. In this new issue, we dive into the multifaceted experiences of our community, with three particular points of emphasis. First, we are sharing clinical psychology major Maliea May's experience as the youngest presenter at the recent International Conference on Spatial Cognition. Next, we shine a spotlight on student-athletes who balance academic rigor with athletic pursuits. Finally, we take a deep dive into the ways that computer science, particularly artificial intelligence (AI), is transforming various aspects of our daily lives. The rise of AI technologies is not just a theoretical discussion but a lived reality, shaping industries, academic fields, and even the way we navigate our personal lives. To explore this further, we had an insightful conversation with one of LTU's esteemed computer science professors, Dr. Paula Lauren, whose work in AI is pushing the boundaries of what technology can achieve.

Also in this edition, you will find updates from campus, some academic highlights, and the introduction from one of our most promising team members. We hope these recurring team introductions help build a personal connection between the newsletter team and our readers, fostering a community of collaboration, learning, and engagement.

I. Campus Updates

Life at Lawrence Tech is bustling with opportunities for students to connect, grow, and thrive, both academically and socially. With over 60 student organizations, including professional associations and recreational groups like the LTU eSports and Gaming Association, students are finding ways to blend their personal interests with their academic and professional goals. Greek life and student government also provide platforms for leadership and advocacy, ensuring that student voices are heard across campus.

This year's Welcome Week and De-Stress Fest events were a hit, offering new students a warm introduction to campus life and much-needed relaxation during midterms. Events like these, including therapy dog visits and mental health workshops, emphasize LTU's dedication to student well-being and creating a balanced college experience. This holistic approach ensures that students not only excel academically but also have access to resources that support their mental and emotional health. These activities showcase LTU's vibrant and supportive community, making it a welcoming environment for all students to thrive.



Hi everyone and welcome to the CoAS Newsletter! My name is

Jason Nguyen, and I am a junior majoring in computer science with a concentration in software engineering. In addition to being involved in this newsletter, I am also in eSports and team manager for Men's Volleyball. I'm very passionate about and interested in discussing insights on AI and how it can revolutionize education here at LTU in the future! The CoAS Newsletter is student-driven and is dedicated to sharing our students' perspectives on topics spanning the arts, sciences, and LTU community life. We are a newsletter that is by students and for the students.



Dean of CoAS, Dr. Patrick Nelson

II. From Classroom to Conference: Maliea May's Journey Through Psychology Research

Maliea May, a clinical psychology major set to graduate in 2025, has made remarkable progress both academically and athletically during her time at Lawrence Technological University. Juggling the demands of being a student-athlete and captain on the Women's Soccer team, she also thrived in a research assistant role that developed into something



that developed into something much more: an opportunity to lead Cognition (ICSC 2024).

cutting-edge eye-tracking research and present her findings on an international stage.

Maliea started as an undergraduate research assistant in the psychology program department under the guidance of Dr. Franco Delogu. After just 2 months, she took on a project focused on visual search patterns using the Trail Making Test (TMT) and advanced eye tracking technology. Her responsibilities included testing participants, analyzing data with specialized software, and interpreting the results of the study. This experience culminated in the opportunity to present her research at the prestigious International Conference on Spatial Cognition (ICSC 2024) in Rome, Italy, where she was the youngest presenter.

Reflecting on her experience, Maliea shared that presenting her research at the European University of Rome was an unforgettable experience, surrounded by passionate researchers and professors from around the world. "It was truly a once in a lifetime opportunity that I will cherish forever," she remarked.

Maliea's research journey began early in her academic career during her freshman year when Dr. Delogu, impressed by her dedication, invited her to assist with the eye tracking study. Eager to seize the opportunity, she quickly became deeply involved in the project, eventually taking on a leadership role. She expressed her appreciation for being offered such a significant opportunity early in her academic path, which set the foundation for her future growth.

Throughout the project, Maliea learned essential skills, including time management to balance her academics, research, and athletic commitments, the importance of diligence in analyzing complex data, and the value of stepping outside her comfort zone to take on new challenges. These experiences not only shaped her academic career but also prepared her for future success in her chosen field of psychology.

As she looks ahead to pursuing a master's degree in counseling psychology, Maliea is confident that the skills and experience she gained through her research will give her a competitive advantage. Her research experience has sharpened her analytical abilities, boosted her confidence in public speaking, and enabled her to form international connections—all of which will be invaluable as she continues her education and works toward becoming a practicing psychologist.

III. Academic Highlights:

A 360 Overview of the Computer Science Major with an Al Focus

The College of Arts and Sciences (CoAS) at Lawrence Technological University has been at the forefront of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into its computer science curriculum. AI is not just a subject of study but a transformative force in academic research and industry collaborations. In 2024, CoAS saw significant developments in AI-focused projects, with students and faculty engaging in real-world applications such as machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision.

One key focus this year has been Al-driven data analytics and its impact on fields such as healthcare, finance, and autonomous systems. The CoAS AI major has grown in popularity as students take advantage of courses that provide both theoretical grounding and hands-on experience in building intelligent systems. Faculty members have been actively involved in research that pushes the boundaries of what AI can achieve.

Moreover, the collaboration between the Al program and industry partners has allowed students to work on live Al applications, giving them practical experience in areas such as robotics, predictive analytics, and ethical Al development. These initiatives not only prepare students for careers in this rapidly evolving field but also contribute to LTU's mission of blending theory and practice in education.



Maliea May at the International Conference on Spatial Cognition (ICSC 2024) held at the European University of Rome in Rome Italy.

In addition to her academic achievements, Maliea credits her success to her experiences as a student-athlete. The discipline, work ethic, and perseverance she developed on the field have translated into her academic and research pursuits. Her advice to other student-athletes is simple: believe in yourself and trust in your abilities. Though there were times when she felt overwhelmed, Maliea found strength in her resilience and commitment to her goals.

Looking back on her journey, Maliea expressed deep gratitude to her family for their unwavering support, as well as to Dr. Delogu for his mentorship and guidance. With the lessons she has learned and the support she has received, Maliea is excited about the future and confident that she will make a lasting impact in the field of psychology and beyond.

IV. Student-Athletes Experience

Several student-athletes shared how their experiences on the field have shaped both their academic and social lives. Madison Kujala, a soccer player, highlighted how her teammates pushed her to step out of her comfort zone, helping her create lasting friendships. Similarly, Alexander Grove from the hockey team mentioned how being a student-athlete helped him adjust to the college experience, build connections, and effectively communicate with professors.

Faculty support has been crucial for these athletes. Alaina Smythe, a lacrosse player, noted how understanding her professors are when scheduling conflicts arise. Many even attend games or help with missed classwork. This support has been instrumental in managing the demands of both academics and athletics, making the juggling act more manageable for student-athletes.

Beyond the lessons learned in their sports, many athletes have developed valuable life skills such as leadership, time management, and discipline. Despite their busy schedules, they still find time for personal passions—Alexander enjoys playing piano, while Alaina can solve a Rubik's cube in under a minute. These stories show how student-athletes excel both on and off the field.

VI. Important Reminders

Spring semester registration opens: Nov 2, 2024

Last day to withdraw from traditional semester courses: Nov 22, 2024

Last day of classes before Thanksgiving break: Nov 26, 2024

Classes resume after Thanksgiving break: Dec 2, 2024

Commencement (Fall 2024 graduates): Dec 7, 2024

Last day of class: Dec 15, 2024

Traditional semester final exams: Dec16, 2024 to Dec19, 2024

Fall 2024 semester ends: Dec 19, 2024

Grades due for traditional semester courses: Dec 26, 2024

Last day to register for spring semester: Jan 12, 2025



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 (CoAS), please feel free to reach out. You can email us at ggarciade@ltu.edu, jnguyen1@ltu.edu or mmay1@ltu.edu. Is anyone interested in becoming a member of this newsletter community? Your participation is greatly appreciated!

V. Featured Faculty/Staff: The Future of AI in Education: Insights from Professor Paula Lauren

In a recent interview, Jason engaged with Professor Lauren to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in the learning experience at Lawrence Technological University. Professor Lauren believes that AI will revolutionize education by offering personalized learning tailored to individual student needs. Generative AI tools, currently under development, promise to enhance this capability further. By customizing educational content, AI can significantly impact how students engage with their studies, allowing for a more individualized approach that meets diverse learning styles.

While the integration of AI brings numerous benefits, there are also notable challenges. Professor Lauren highlighted that in her courses, AI has streamlined many tedious aspects of learning, such as data generation in database systems. However, she cautions that these tools are not infallible; outputs can sometimes be inaccurate, underscoring the importance of critical evaluation by students. Moreover, ethical considerations around AI usage are crucial. Students should view AI as a supportive tool rather than a substitute for diligent effort, ensuring the learning process remains robust and meaningful.

Despite the challenges, AI offers significant advantages, particularly in enhancing academic efficiency. Its 24/7 availability provides students with immediate assistance while studying or working on assignments, making it easier to manage workloads. However, equitable access remains a concern, as many advanced AI applications require subscription fees that may not be affordable for all students. Additionally, privacy, bias, and factual consistency issues must be addressed to create a fair and effective educational environment. As AI continues to evolve, its responsible integration into education could lead to a more personalized and efficient learning experience at LTU. Once more, we would like to thank Dr. Paula Lauren for the interview! In addition to her specialty course on Text Mining and Analytics, Dr. Lauren offers core computer science courses in C and C++ to students who are interested in learning from her. Her lectures offer excellent chances for anyone who are interested in learning more about data mining, natural language processing, or information extraction.