THE **UNIVERSITY** OF RHODE ISLAND

2024

URI ACADEMIC SUMMIT

MEMORIAL UNION BALLROOM

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Professor Sid Dobrin
University of Florida
Generative AI and Higher Education: a few provocations

Since the release of OpenAI's ChatGPT in November 2022, higher education has begun to adjust from the "deer in the headlights" phase to serious considerations about how GenTech will integrate into college-level education. While resistance to GenAI in the classroom remains prevalent across the country (and the world, to be honest about it) increasingly, educational institutions are beginning to ask conceptual and application questions about using GenAI. This presentation will first demystify how AI and GenAI work and then address several possibilities for how to think about GenTech moving forward. The presentation will pose questions about conceptual AI and applied AI to further generate conversation and will focus on responsible use for deploying AI in higher education.

Sid Dobrin Professor and Chair in the Department of English at the University of Florida. Recognized as one of the world's most sought-after academic experts on AI and as a global AI thought leader, Dobrin has delivered more than 35 talks about AI and GenAI to academic and industry audiences this year. He is the Founding Director of the Trace Innovation Initiative at UF and has been named a Digital Thought Leader by Adobe. He is the author and editor of numerous books and articles, including *Talking about Generative AI: A Guide for Educators*, and the first AI-focused writing textbook *AI and Writing*. He serves as a Member of The Florida Institute of National Security (FINS), part of the University of Florida's AI Initiative, and, as such was invited to attend the US Department of Defense's Task Force Lima Industry and Academia Challenge Day. He has recently been invited to address the US Congressional Committee on Education and the Workforce about AI and GenAI.

PROGRAM

8:00 _A_M **Registration Opens**

8:15 _A_M **Breakfast** – MEMORIAL UNION BALLROOM

9:00 _A_M **Opening Remarks and Welcome**
Barbara Wolfe
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

President's Welcome
Marc Parlange, *President*

9:30 _A_M **Keynote Address**
Professor Sid Dobrin, *University of Florida*
Keynote: Generative AI and Higher Education: a few provocations

10:15 _A_M **Q & A with Dr. Dobrin**

10:45 _A_M **Student Voices – URI student perspectives on AI**

11:00 _A_M **Roundtable discussions** – BALLROOM

Teaching and Learning
Impact and role of AI in academic affairs including teaching pedagogy, student learning outcomes, student assessment, curriculum content/ design, and student support and success.

Research
Impact and role of AI in research activities including use of generative AI by graduate students and researchers, acceptable use of AI tools, regulation of AI use, intellectual property concerns, disclosure requirements, etc.

University Functions
Impact, role, and acceptable use of AI in enhancing and supporting university functions such as advising, student recruitment and admissions, faculty/staff recruiting and hiring, communications, marketing, program assessment and enrollment management.

12:00 _{PM}   **Lunch and further conversation** – BALLROOM

1:00 _{PM}   **Break**

1:15 _{PM}   **Breakout Sessions** *(see registration badge for room assignments)*

1. **What's it all About? AI (somewhat) demystified**.   ROOM 308

   SESSION CO-CHAIRS:
   - Christopher Lavan
     Associate Vice Provost, Advancement of Teaching and Learning
   - Kathleen Torrens
     Professor, Communication Studies,
     Associate Director of the Harrington School

   PRESENTERS:
   - Sarah Brown
     Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Statistics
   - Penny Edwards
     Faculty Development Specialist, Advancement of Teaching and Learning

2. **Leveraging AI to Support Student Learning and Success**   ATRIUM 1

   SESSION CHAIR:
   - Jennifer Burgess
     Director, Academic Enhancement Center

   SESSION FACILITATORS:
   - Heather Price
     Coordinator, Undergraduate Writing Center
   - Amanda Izenstark
     Professor, Reference and Instructional Design Librarian
   - Julianna Golas
     Associate Teaching Professor,
     Department of Human Development and Family Science
   - Joseph Golas
     URI Student, Kinesiology Major

   SESSION CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS:
   - Kayon Murray-Johnson
     Associate Professor, Feinstein College of Education
   - Jonathan Schrader
     Assistant Teaching Professor, Computer Science and Statistics
   - Daniela Lopes Paim Pinto
     Assistant Teaching Professor, Biological Sciences

3. **Nurturing Critical Thinking in the Age of Generative AI: a dialog on educational strategies** ATRIUM 2

SESSION CHAIR:
- Jay Fogelman
  Associate Professor, Secondary Science Education

COORDINATORS:
- Katie Branch
  Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Science
- Richard McIntyre
  Professor, Economics
- Frank Romanelli
  Associate Teaching Professor, Harrington School of Communication and Media
- Shaun Wallace
  Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Statistics

4. **Now What? Rethinking how we assess student learning** MAIN LOUNGE
ACROSS FROM THE BALLROOM

SESSION CHAIR:
- Todd Dresser
  Associate Director, Faculty Development, Advancement of Teaching and Learning

5. **Empowering Accessibility: Harnessing AI for inclusive learning environments** COMMUTER LOUNGE
3RD FLOOR

SESSION CHAIR:
- Paige Ramsdell
  Assistant Dean of Students for Accessibility and Inclusion, and Director of Disability, Access, and Inclusion

PRESENTERS:
- Nina Schiarizzi-Tobin
  Assistant Director, Disability, Access, and Inclusion
- Dan Graney
  Dean of Students
- Andrew Davies
  Professor, Biological Sciences

6. Exploring the Responsible Integration of AI into Graduate Education and ResearchBALLROOM

SESSION CHAIR:
- Brenton DeBoef
  Dean, Graduate School

PRESENTER:
- Colleen Mouw
  Associate Dean, Graduate School

---

7. URI Resources for AI Enhanced Research: data analysis, data mining, predictive modeling, and moreROOM 300
SENATE CHAMBERS

SESSION CHAIR:
- Joan Peckham
  Professor Emeritus, Computer Science and Statistics

PANELISTS:
- Indrani Mandal
  Associate Teaching Professor, Computer Science and Statistics, and Educational Outreach Coordinator in the URI AI Lab
- Abdeltawab Hendawi
  Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Statistics, and Co-director and Research Coordinator in the URI AI Lab
- Kevin Bryan
  Research Computing and the Center for Computational Research, Manager High Performance Computing Systems, ITS
- Ying Zhang
  Associate Professor, Cell and Molecular Biology

8. **Critical Making with AI: roles and uses in content creation, generative art and music composition**   ROOM 318

SESSION CHAIR:
- Madison Jones
  Assistant Professor, Professional and Public Writing, and Natural Resources Science

PANELISTS:
- Sid Dobrin
  Professor, Department of English, University of Florida
- Travess Smalley
  Assistant Professor, Art and Art History
- Jacob Greene
  Assistant Professor, Department of English, Arizona State University
- Griffin Smith
  Lecturer, Rhode Island School of Design

9. **AI and the Future of Work: how should we prepare students for work in the age of AI?**   ROOM 360

SESSION CHAIR:
- Yan Sun
  Professor and Department Chair, Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering

COORDINATORS:
- Drew Zhang
  Professor and Alfred J. Verrecchia Endowed Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Business Analytics
- Ammina Kothari
  Professor, Journalism, Director of the Harrington School

2:15 PM   **Break / Dessert** – BALLROOM

2:30 PM   **Generative AI in Action** – BALLROOM
A Demonstration by Dr. Sid Dobrin

3:00 PM   **Closing**

ACADEMIC SUMMIT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Sarah Brown
Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Statistics

Ryan Chapman
Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

Haibo He
Robert Haas Endowed Professor, Electrical, Computer and Biomedical Engineering

Elizabeth Howlett
Director, Special Projects, Office of the Provost

Madison Jones
Assistant Professor, Professional and Public Writing, and Natural Resources Science

Christopher Lavan
Associate Vice Provost, Office for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning

Kathleen Torrens
Professor, Communication Studies, Associate Director of the Harrington School

Anne Veeger
Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Initiatives

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Kim Jimenez, *Executive Assistant, Office of the Provost* and Lou Ann Diomandes, *Executive Assistant, Office of the Provost*, without whom we would not have been able to make this summit a reality.

We also thank the students and staff who produced the student voices video: Abby Wildgoose '24 Film/Media, Emma Tronkowski '25 Communications Studies, Ariana Temelini '26 Communication Studies, and Leah Pisari, *Video and Social Media Specialist, Harrington School of Communication and Media*, and the students who agreed to share their perspectives on AI by video.

THE **UNIVERSITY** OF RHODE ISLAND
2024 **URI ACADEMIC SUMMIT**