USC Math Grad **TA**bloid

Weekly Newsletter for TA Teaching
Volume 13, Issue 2
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Announcements:

- Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any concerns about curricular pacing with the snow/ice days that may occur next week.

Upcoming Events:

CLICK the picture below for more information and to sign up if interested to register. All sessions are online.

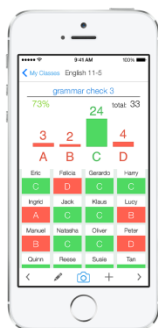|	
JAN 26 — Achievements in Blackboard Learn 🆆	⊕
JAN 26 — UDL Principles in Design Practice 🆆	⊕
JAN 27 — Outsmarting AI Misuse with Better Assignment Design 🆆	⊕
JAN 27 — Unpacking USC Data to Support Experiential Learning and Career Readiness Across Transfer, Sophomore, and Junior Year Experiences 🅸🅿	⊕
JAN 28 — Video Captioning and Transcription Made Easy 🆆	⊕
JAN 28 — Responsible Generative Artificial Intelligence: Empowering Tomorrow's Innovators 🆆	⊕
JAN 29 — Become an AI Champion in Blackboard! 🆆	⊕
JAN 29 — Elevating the Graduate Student Experience: Insights and Strategies for Success 🅸🅿	⊕
JAN 29 — PDFs without Barriers 🆆	⊕
JAN 30 — Active Learning Strategies for Any Discipline 🆆	⊕

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Teaching Tip of the Week:

Plickers!
Our own Garner Cochran uses this method of formative assessment and I plan on using it as well. It is a high and low tech solution to having clickers in your class using only paper and a cell phone. Brilliant!

https://plickers.com/

Getting TA Know You:

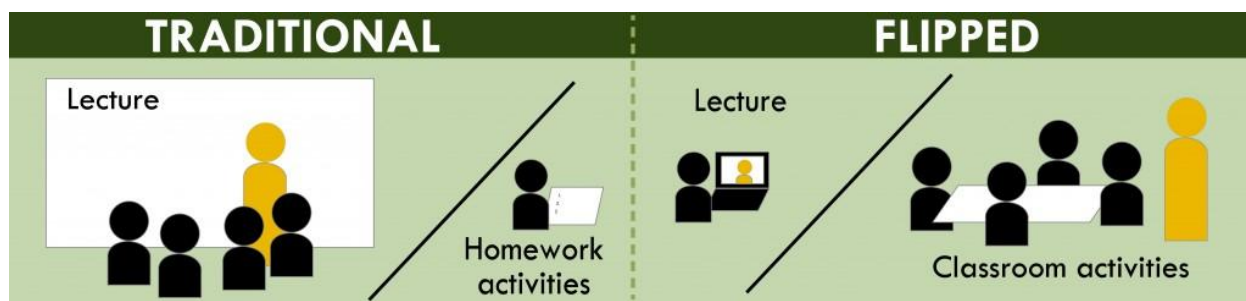This week we are learning about **Dr. Wuchen Li**

What classes do you like to teach? I love to teach topic courses, and graduate courses on numerical analysis, such as 708-709.

What is your area of research? I am working on the mathematical foundation of AI, focusing on optimal transport (OT) and information geometry (IG). I am also interested in constructing convergence-guaranteed algorithms for scientific machine learning. OT is an emerging research direction, and it has produced major breakthroughs in the past two decades. This area provides powerful tools for probability-related PDEs and curvature structures, with growing applications in sampling algorithms. Meanwhile, IG is also a fast-developing field that studies divergence functionals on probability density spaces. The combination of OT and IG leads to a broad and fruitful set of research directions in mathematical AI.

What are some fun facts about yourself? I like sports such as swimming and playing ping-pong. I also enjoy walking a lot around our beautiful campus. Outside of work, I'm a big fan of hardcore video games, especially Warcraft III and the NBA 2K series.

Stop by Dr. Li's office and challenge him to a game of ping pong!

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Pedagogical Term of the Week:

Flipped Classroom

Many graduate students have asked me, "what does a flipped classroom look like?" or "what does it mean to flip your classroom?" A flipped classroom reverses the role of traditional homework and lecture. First, students' job at home (homework) is to get online and watch a video (lecture) designed by the instructor using software (such as ShowMe on the IPad). Second, students come to class and apply what they learned in the video via cooperative groupwork in solving problems related to the lecture. In this format, the instructor becomes a supportive facilitator/tutor in the classroom while the developer of the videos outside the classroom. Thus the class design is flipped with traditional homework done in class together and traditional lecture done as homework.

I have seen flipped classrooms flourish and I have seen flipped classrooms collapse. The danger is that if the student does not watch the lecture, they cannot do the classroom activities. I would suggest you start by making videos as supplementary support if interested in helping the students better understand the material. Feel free to stop by my office to discuss the issue further if interested (remember the TA IPad is available).

News

Equitable and Effective Teaching in Undergraduate STEM Education: A Framework for Institutions, Educators and Disciplines

Here is a free copy to the report on addressing inequities in undergraduate STEM education, the report presents a set of principles that draw on decades of research and articulate key aspects of pedagogy critical to the student-centered approach to learning necessary to achieve equitable and effective learning experiences. Click **HERE** to find out.

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