



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS®

RESEARCH + **INNOVATION**

NEWSLETTER



Award Supports Development of a Home-Grown Multidisciplinary Rail Workforce

University of Memphis secures \$1.3M as part of a \$6.4M Federal Railroad Administration investment to build a nationally replicable, industry-aligned rail workforce pipeline.

[Read Full Story](#)



Call for Proposals: 2025–26 Fine Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Support Program

Research and Innovation invites proposals for the 2025–26 FAHSS Support Program, designed to advance scholarly and creative productivity and strengthen pathways to external funding.

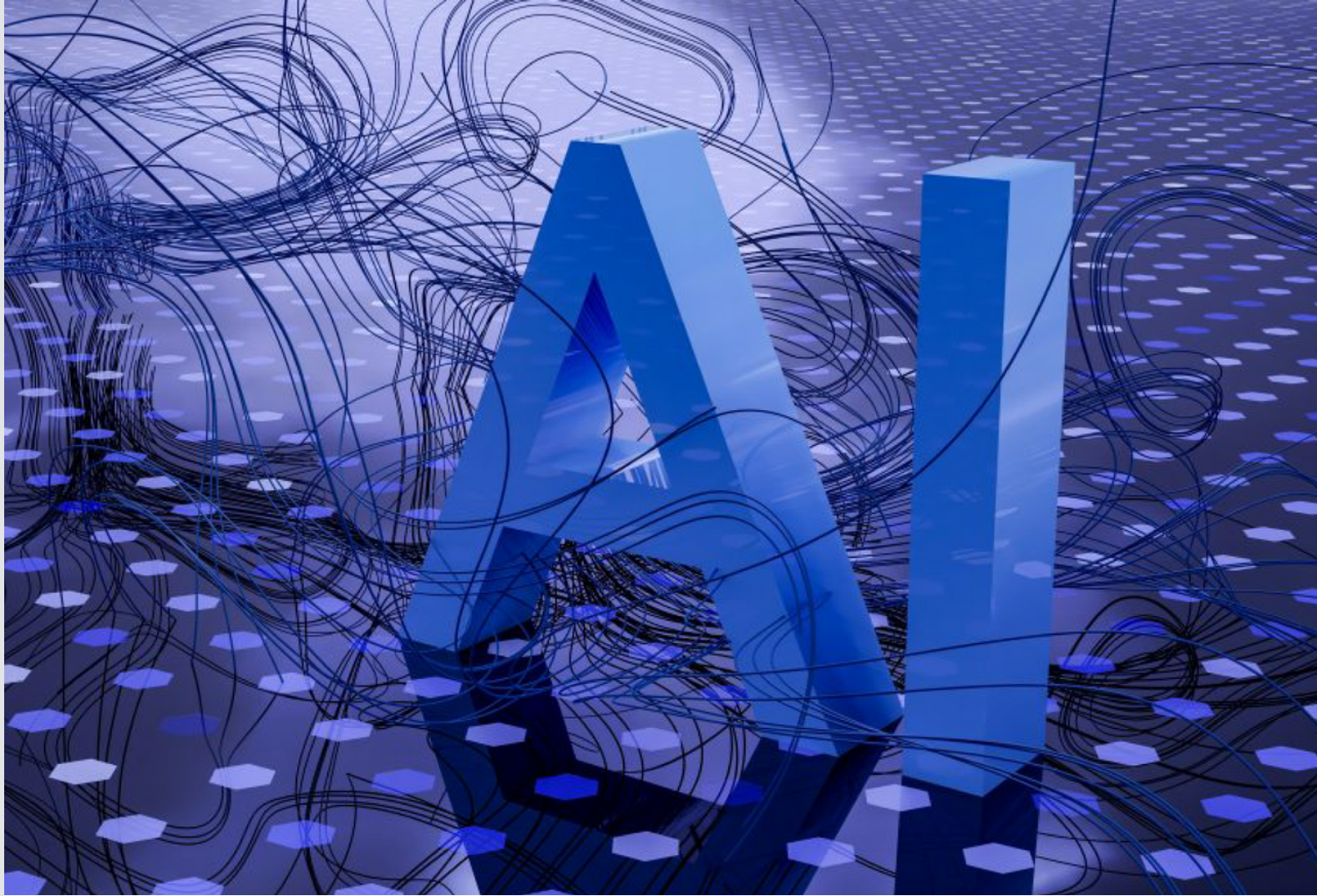
[Read Full Story](#)



Research in a Minute: Dr. Donal Harris: How Social Institutions Shape What We Read and Who We Become

A professor of English and director of the Marcus W. Orr Center for the Humanities at the University of Memphis, Harris' research explores how social institutions influence what we read, how we talk about art and ultimately what we create.

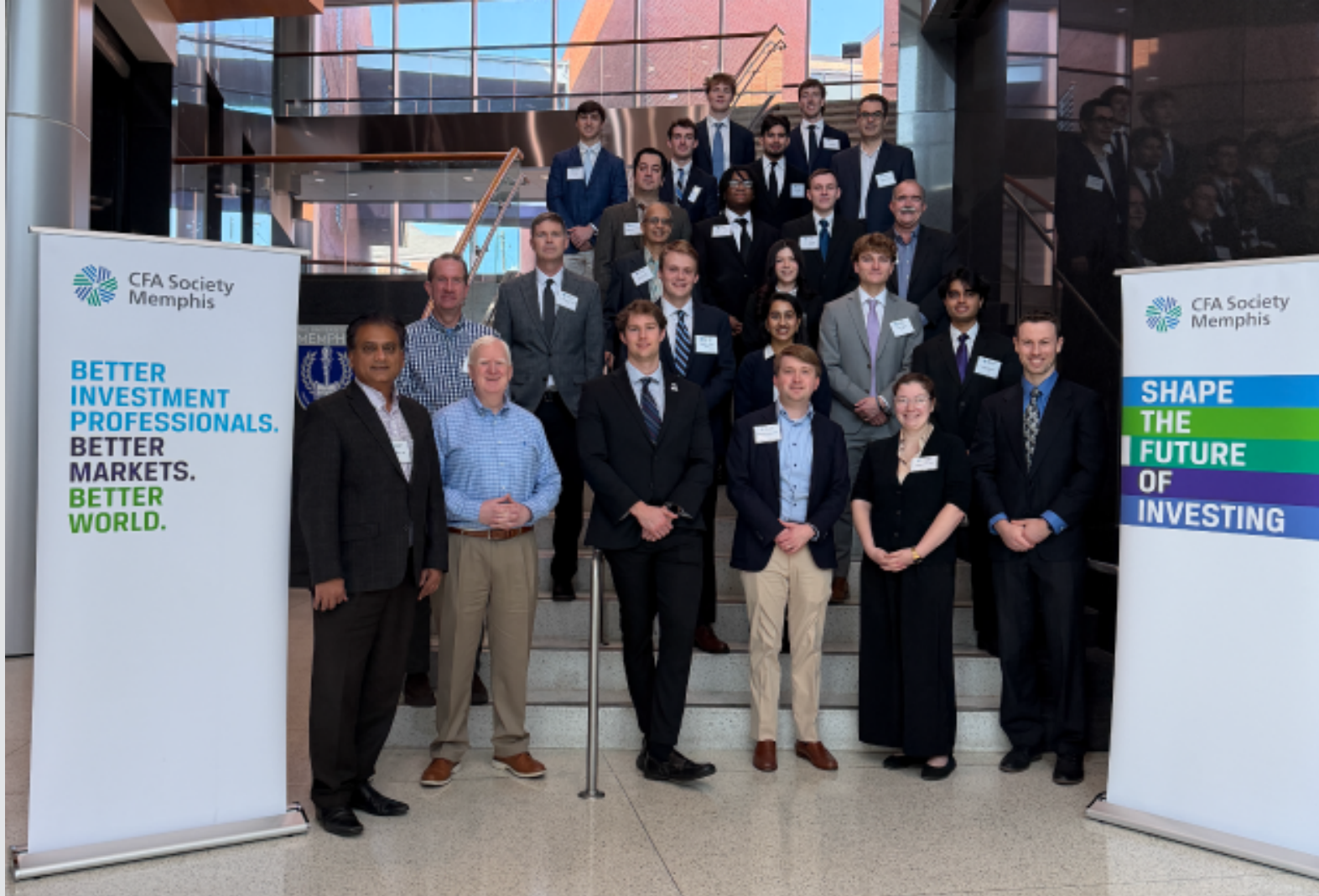
[Read Full Story](#)



Advancing Artificial Intelligence Adoption and Adaptation Across Key Sectors

Communities of AI Research Scholars (CoAIRS) invest in interdisciplinary teams to accelerate responsible, scalable AI integration across healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, education and emerging technologies.

[**Read Full Story**](#)



University of Memphis Hosts CFA Institute Research Challenge

Regional competition held at the FedEx Institute of Technology showcases student excellence in research and financial analysis.

[Read Full Story](#)



2026 NSF CAREER Cohort Now Open for Enrollment

The Division of Research and Innovation launches faculty development program to strengthen NSF funding success.

[Read Full Story](#)



Advancing Balance Science: Dr. Raghav Jha Awarded Grant to Study Age-Related Changes in Vestibular Function

Innovative research on bone-conduction VEMPs aims to improve diagnosis and prevent falls in older adults.

[Read Full Story](#)



SUAPP Launches MARCA Institute to Advance Community-Driven Research in the Mid-South

New interdisciplinary network strengthens partnerships, data infrastructure and applied solutions for Memphis communities.

[Read Full Story](#)



HRSA, John Templeton Foundation, NIH, NSF and ONR Funding Opportunities

Learn more about recently published funding opportunities and notices from various organizations.

[See Full List](#)



Calendar of Events and Activities for Research and Innovation: March

Learn about upcoming events with Research and Innovation, UMRF Research Park and FedEx Institute of Technology.

[See Full List](#)

Research Awards February

Dr. Sabayasachee Mishra awarded \$2,000,000 by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Dr. Richard Bloomer awarded \$90,350 by PharmaLinea Ltd. and \$37,586 by Microbe Formulas.

Dr. Satish Kedia awarded \$84,612 by the state of Tennessee.

Dr. Shawn Brown awarded \$56,610 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Susan Elswick awarded \$56,043 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Dr. Mary Randolph-Frye awarded \$37,000 by the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis.

Dr. Amy de Jongh Curry awarded \$30,000 by the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Dr. Adrienne Cooper awarded \$20,000 by the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation.

Mary Tucker awarded \$19,591 by the Tennessee Department of Education and \$10,000 by the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Max Paquette awarded \$9,962 by DECATHLON SE.

**Data reported on the 18 of each month. Awards finalized after the 18 will be reported the following month.*

[Full project and award details available here.](#)

Upcoming Events and Announcements



FedEx Institute of Technology Speed-Networking for University Spinouts

The Office of Technology Transfer will host this speed-networking event to connect potential executives interested in working with university spin-out companies, and with faculty who have, or are, thinking about forming companies to commercialize their research.

Five of the University's current Spinout Bootcamp companies will be presenting. The companies include:

UpCycle Farma - upcyclefarma.com

ChormatoCare Innovations - chromatocareinnovations.com

Mighty Zebras Bio - mightyzebras.bio

CuesHub - cueshub.com

Join us!

Thursday, March 5 | 3-5 PM
The Fishbowl (203/205) | FedEx Institute of Technology

Register



FedEx Institute of Technology **MEMSEC - DEFCON901**

Large Language Models don't have to live in someone else's cloud. Current hardware makes it possible to run powerful AI models entirely on your own systems — giving you full control over capability, privacy and experimentation.

This month, nullOperatOr provides us a practical introduction to running local LLMs.

During this event, topics covered include the hardware needed to run models at home or in the lab, the tooling ecosystem (LM Studio, Ollama, vLLM, llama.cpp, Open WebUI and more), and what terms like quantization, GGUF and MLX actually mean in practice.

Beyond setup, explore why you should care about:

- Keeping sensitive research and targets off third-party APIs
- Automating recon, analysis and workflow augmentation
- Building AI assistants that can interact with real tools and local environments

- Running models offline, uncensored, and fully customizable

This meetup is FREE, open to the public and we'll also enjoy Garibaldi's pizza.
Join us!

Friday, March 6 | 5-7 PM
Innovation Classroom (225) | FedEx Institute of Technology

[Register](#)



FedEx Institute of Technology **Memphis Data Professionals Meetup**

Cloud. AI. This isn't the future. It's now.

And Memphis? We are becoming the hub of the Digital Delta.

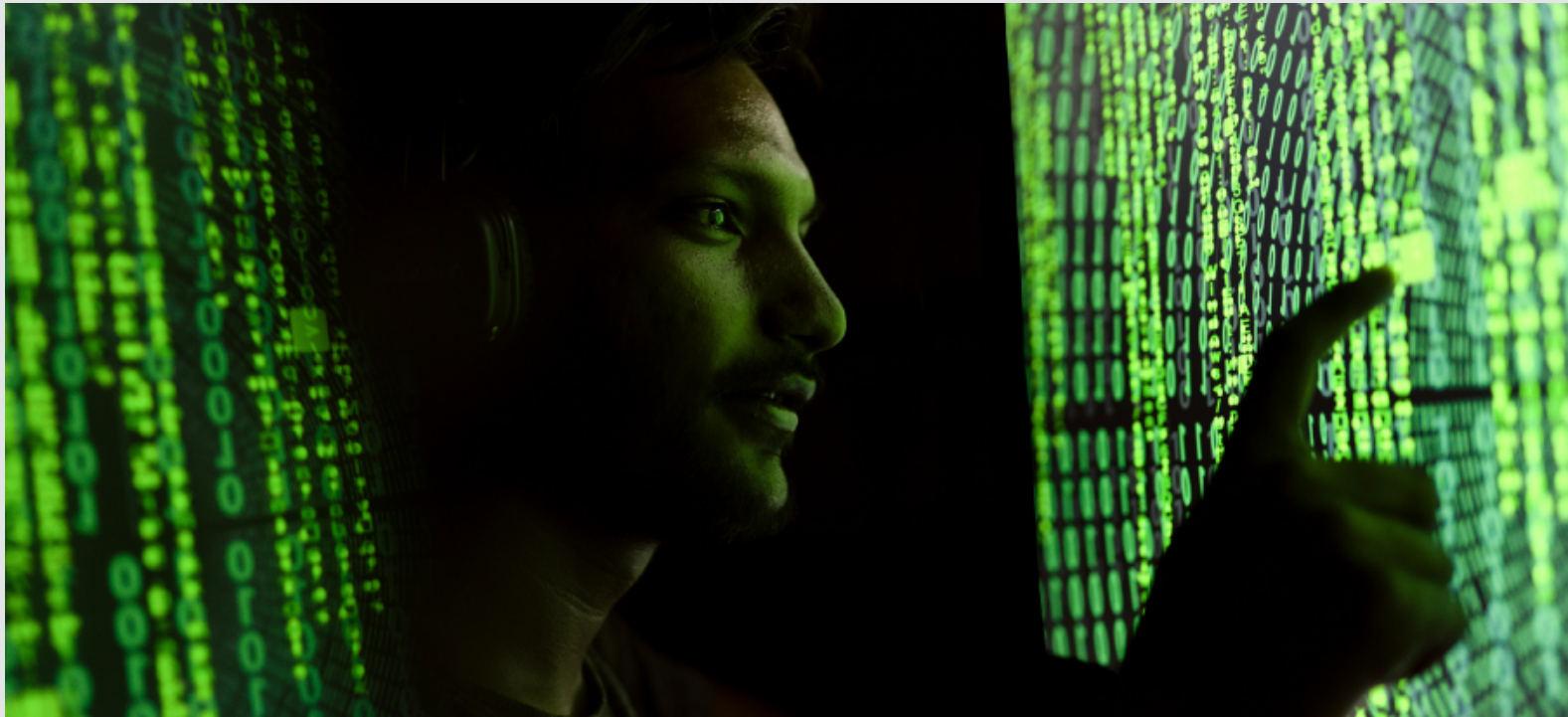
With massive investment, advanced compute infrastructure and global tech players planting roots here — this city is accelerating fast.

The only question is: Will you lead... or get left behind?

Join us. This meetup is FREE, open to the public.

Tuesday, March 17 | 5:30-7 PM
Innovation Classroom (225) | FedEx Institute of Technology

[Register](#)



UMRF Ventures **Digital Delta Defense Capture the Flag**

Welcome to the Digital Delta Defense - CTF event hosted by UMRV Ventures, Inc., presented by Raymond James and sponsored by the FedEx Institute of Technology!

Join us for a fun and interactive cybersecurity competition for college-age students in the Memphis area! This thrilling in-person Capture the Flag competition at the FedEx Institute of Technology will allow you to test your cybersecurity skills, solve challenges and compete against fellow enthusiasts.

Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your talent and learn from industry experts. Mark your calendars and get ready for a day filled with excitement and learning!

Saturday, March 28 | 9:30 AM-5 PM
Lobby | FedEx Institute of Technology

[Register](#)



Research and Innovation **Annual Research Celebration**

The Research Celebration is our annual University-wide event honoring the faculty, students, staff and partners who power discovery at the University of Memphis. We recognize major accomplishments from the past fiscal year including first-time awardees, PI millionaires, interdisciplinary research teams, publication milestones and collaborators across campus.

Join us as we celebrate the growing impact of UofM research and the people advancing knowledge, innovation and real-world change.

Monday, March 30 | 4:15-5:15 PM Ceremony
Reception Immediately Following
The Zone and Lobby | FedEx Institute of Technology

RSVP



Research and Innovation **COMING SOON: New Cayuse IRB Application**

We are working diligently to update the IRB application form within Cayuse-IRB to streamline both the application submission and review processes for investigators and reviewers. The new application form will feature a response-driven design to ensure that information collected is tailored specifically to study design.

Please note that when the revision is implemented, any studies (Draft/Submitted and Approved application) created before the release of the new application will remain in the current (legacy) format.

Our goal is for the new application form to be accessible via Cayuse-IRB by Wednesday, April 1.

For more details, contact Research Compliance at researchcompliance@memphis.edu.



CITI Program Training Now available in "myMemphis" portal

The University of Memphis CITI Program training is now available in "myMemphis" portal. All researchers (including graduate and undergraduate students) will now have easy access to their CITI training. Once you click on the CITI training tile, it will take you straight to your current CITI training course.

If you have any questions, contact Research Compliance at researchcompliance@memphis.edu.



Faculty Book Publications

The Division of Research and Innovation is hosting the **2026 Research Celebration on March 30**. As part of this event, we compile a list of faculty book publications from the past year. This list is self-reported by faculty.

Faculty members who have published or will publish a book (monograph, edited volume, etc.) between **May 2025 and June 2026** are asked to email the book citation to researchdev@memphis.edu.

Please note that only books will be included. Book chapters, journal articles or other scholarly publications will not be listed. The submitted information will be published on the [Research Celebration website](#).

Please share this request with faculty in your respective schools or colleges.

[Submit Book Citation](#)



Research Study Participation Opportunities

Research study participation opportunities should be posted to the main college/departmental website versus individual/PI links to appear in This Week.

- [Center for Information Assurance >](#)
- [Cognition, Language and Speech Lab \(CLaSLab\) >](#)
- [College of Health Sciences >](#)
- [Department of Psychology >](#)

- [Hearing Aid Research Laboratory >](#)
- [Pediatric Auditory Research Laboratory >](#)

If your department or college would like to have its research study participation opportunities listed, email thisweek@memphis.edu.

[Contact This Week](#)

Quick Links

[Research and Innovation News](#)

[Research Compliance](#) | [Emerging Tech Training](#)

[FedEx Institute of Technology](#)

[Subscribe Now](#)



[Previous Newsletter](#)

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

365 Innovation Drive, Suite 303 | Memphis, TN 38152 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.