Chris Volinsky

Data Science Leader

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Summary

I'm a Data Science expert with 25 years experience solving real world problems using innovative analytic techniques. Leads productive teams to create solutions for challenging business problems from large complex data sets. Expertise in modern analytic methods; machine learning, classification, clustering, forecasting, data visualization. Passionate lifelong learner and mentor. Leader of 7-person team that won the $1M Netflix Prize competition in 2009. Named AT&T Fellow in 2019.

Experience

2013–Present   **Assistant Vice President, Data Science & AI Research**, *AT&T Chief Data Office*, Bedminster, NJ.
Manage a cross-disciplinary center of 40 data scientists. Responsible for developing and executing data science innovation, strategy, and application development covering statistics, machine learning, information visualization, and database technologies. Collaborate to develop data-driven strategic solutions across the enterprise: networking, customer care, entertainment, advertising, and business solutions. Interface with senior executives explaining strategy and communicating results.

2004–2013   **Executive Director, Statistics Research**, *AT&T Labs-Research*, Florham Park, NJ.
Manage Statistics Research department consisting of 10 data scientists. Responsibilities include maintaining a statistical center of excellence providing analytic consulting for the rest of the company. Projects include analyzing cellular data networks, location based analytics, recommender systems, personalized advertising, anomaly and fraud detection, statistical visualization, analysis of social networks, and data mining methodology.

1997–2004   **Member of Technical Staff, Statistics Research**, *AT&T Labs-Research*, Florham Park, NJ.
Individual contributor - work included detection of various types of telecommunications fraud, modelling the social network communications graph, and building innovative new data mining algorithms.

Teaching

Fall 2009/2011   **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, *Columbia University*.
Professor for Masters' level Data Mining course for quantitative Ph.D. students from mulitple departments.

July 2009   **Instructor**, *Explorations in Statistics Research Summer Program*, University of California, Berkeley.
Taught 2-day course in data mining, focusing on recommender systems.

Summer 2008   **Instructor**, *Massey University*, New Zealand.
Taught Data Mining to grads and undergrads. Topics covered: data collection and quality, data presentation and visualization, classification, clustering, trees, neural networks, machine learning.

1996–1997   **Instructor**, *University of Washington*.
Taught introductory statistics class designed for social science majors.

Education

1992–1997   **Ph.D. Statistics**, *University of Washington*, Seattle, WA, Thesis: Bayesian Model Averaging for Censored Survival Models. Advisor: Adrian E. Raftery.

1988–1992   **B.A. Statistics and Mathematics (double major)**, *State University of New York at Buffalo*, Buffalo, NY.

Service and Mentorship

2022	**Mentor, SureStart**, Mentorship program for female/minority data scientists.
2020-2022	**Mentor, Data Science For All**, Program for mentoring teams of under-represented data scientists as part of a training program.
2020-Present	**Board of Trustees Member: Morris Educational Foundation**, Local non-profit supporting education in the Morristown NJ area.
2012–2016	**Business Intelligence and Analytics Advisory Board**, Stevens Institute of Technology.
1999—2007	**Associate Editor**, *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics.*
2007	**Ph.D. Committee**, Co-chair of dissertation committee for Shawndra Hill (Principal Scientist - Facebook) .
2011	**Summer Intern Mentor**, Chao Han (VP-Data Science- Lucidworks).
2007	**Summer Intern Mentor**, Valerie Hyde (Head of AI/ML Customer Engineering - Google).
2006	**Mentor, AT&T Labs Fellowship Program**, Jennifer Neville (Professor, Purdue University).
2002–2007	**SCEEP Tutor**, *Tutored children in math, reading, and writing through the Suburban Cultural Education and Enrichment Program.*

Awards and Prizes

2019	**AT&T Fellow**, Recognized for outstanding career contributions to data science and AI.
2017	**ICDM 10-Year Highest-Impact Paper Award**, Given to ICDM paper from 2007 with highest impact after 10 years, Joint with Yifan Hu and Yehuda Koren.
2011	**Jack Youden Prize**, Given to best expository paper appearing in the previous year's Technometrics, Joint with Rick Becker and Allan Wilks.
2010	**AT&T Science and Technology Award** , For notable achievements in statistical analysis.
2007–2009	**Netflix Prize**, Winner of US$1M Netflix Prize competition (along with 6 colleagues). Prize awarded to the team with the best recommender system in public Netflix competition. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netflix_Prize).
2009	**Informs Design Science Award**, Award celebrating excellence and innovation in Info Tech algorithms, Joint with Delassandro, Macskassy, Hill, Provost, and Zhang.
1997	**ZW Birnbaum Award, University of Washington Statistics Department**, Annual award given to the graduate student with the best General Exam.
1994	**Teaching Award, University of Washington Statistics Department**, Annual award given to the best teacher among the graduate students..

Selected Patents (of 15 - full list upon request)

US 11,350,174	Method And Apparatus To Monitor Account Credential Sharing In Communication Services
US 11,190,843	Content Recommendation Techniques With Reduced Habit Bias Effects
US 10,735,811	System For Content Curation With User Context And Content Leverage
US 9,946,975	Method And Apparatus To Identify Influencers
US 8,970,593	Visualization and Representation of Data Clusters and Relations
US 6,539,391	Method and System for Squashing a Large Data Set.

Media

2020	**Data Science Leaders Podcast**, *How Computer Science & Statistics Fundamentals Can Advance Data Science*, Online at https://tinyurl.com/yc6bdzr6.
2017	**Datacamp Podcast**, *"How Data Science is Impacting Telecommunications Networks"*, Online at https://www.datacamp.com/community/podcast/data-science-telecommunications.
2017	**Why Oh Why Podcast**, *"Hotter on Bumble"*, Online at http://www.whyohwhyradio.com/hotter-on-bumble-part-2/ (Starting at 10:30).
2012	**Newark Star Ledger**, *"Why AT&T is using your cell phone to watch your movements"*, Online at http://bit.ly/RuvCIM.
2008	**New York Times Magazine**, *"If You Liked This, You're Sure to Love That"*, November 28, 2008, Online version available at www.tinyurl.com/5byw73. Accompanying video segment available at https://nyti.ms/2MCeets.