



In a Nutshell

The American Statistical Association (ASA) DataFest is a nationally-coordinated undergraduate competition that was introduced at UCLA in 2011. Since its first year, various DataFests have been held at schools such as Princeton, Dartmouth, North Carolina State University, and Mt. Holyoke College. In a typical DataFest, teams of up to 5 students work over a weekend to extract insight from a rich and complex data set that is kept secret before the competition kick off. At the conclusion of the competition, each team has several minutes to make a presentation to a panel of judges, and the winning teams receive awards and certificates. DataFest is an exciting opportunity for students to come together in a hackathon-type environment and solve a very challenging and very interesting real-world problem using data analysis, statistical, and computational tools. You can learn more about [past DataFests here](#).

Objectives

At BOW colleges and beyond, interest in statistics and data science is growing. Our courses and curricula increasingly emphasize the statistical and computing skills that our graduates need. This event is intended to connect the data-focused students, faculty, and staff at our three colleges to celebrate data and learn from each other. The goals of the BOW DataFest are to promote statistics and data science; to foster students' data analysis, statistical, and computational skills; to recognize excellent student work; and to connect the data science and statistics communities at our colleges.

Date and Location

The event will take place over the weekend of April 1-3, 2016 at Olin College Library (Milas Hall). The schedule is at the end of this document. It's okay if not every team member is present throughout the entire event. A campus map is [here](#).

Participant List

[Here is a list](#) of the participating teams, consultants, and other visitors.

Q&A with Data Provider

[Here is the google doc](#) for Q&A with the company.

Support

Faculty and staff from BOW colleges and data professionals from outside BOW will circulate throughout the event as "consultants." Consultants will provide feedback, suggestions, and motivation as the weekend progresses.

Dining Accommodations

Meals will be provided at the Olin College Dining Hall in the Campus Center. Olin and Babson students can use their meal plans as usual. Wellesley students will be provided with meal passes for six meals (Friday dinner, three meals on Saturday, breakfast and lunch on Sunday). There will be a sign-in sheet at the dining hall. The dining hall hours are [here](#). DataFest will also provide snacks throughout the event.

BOW Shuttle

The usual BOW shuttle schedule is [here](#). Shuttles will run one hour later than usual on Friday, April 1. On Saturday, April 2, shuttles will run from 8 am-noon, in addition to the usual schedule from 3 pm-midnight. On Sunday, April 3, shuttles will run from 8 am-4 pm. [This document](#) lists the exact times for the extended shuttle - the times are the same as they'd be on a weekday.

DataCamp:

[DataCamp](#), a sponsor, has arranged for a coupon code for all participating students to get 2-month free access to the [courses on their platform](#). Students can sign up at <https://www.datacamp.com/datafest>.

Organizers

This event is organized by Allen Downey (Olin), Davit Khachatryan (Babson), and Casey Pattanayak (Wellesley), with the assistance of John McKenzie (Babson). Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Schedule

Friday, April 1, 2016

6-7 pm	Registration at Olin College Library in Milas Hall Dinner available until 7 pm at the Dining Hall in the Campus Center
7-10 pm	Welcoming remarks and introduction to data, Auditorium in Milas Hall Data distributed Teams begin working with data in the Library, Milas Hall Consultants engage with students

Saturday, April 2, 2016

8 am-10 pm	Teams continue working on data in the Library, Milas Hall Consultants engage with students Dining hall open 8:30 am - 7 pm, Campus Center
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Sunday, April 3, 2016

8 am-1 pm	Teams continue working on data in the Library, Milas Hall Consultants engage with students Dining hall open beginning 8:30 am, Campus Center
1-2:45 pm	Presentations, Auditorium in Milas Hall
2:45 pm (approx)	Group photo
3 pm (approx)	Awards, Auditorium in Milas Hall

Sponsors



ASA Boston Chapter



