The Honors College invites you to take a seat at the virtual Honors College Forum BLOCKCHAIN, Fall 2020.

**BLOCKCHAIN** is a nationally significant seminar sponsored by the Sam M. Walton College of Business’s Blockchain Center of Excellence and the Honors College, featuring networking opportunities with leaders in industry.

BLOCKCHAINs are the next evolution of the Internet. Bitcoin, the first blockchain application released in January of 2009, and other blockchain innovations that followed are moving us from an ‘Internet of Information’ to an ‘Internet of Value’ where people transact value, i.e., money and other assets, directly with each other without relying on trusted third parties like banks. The post-blockchain world is digital, automated, inexpensive, and distributed, promising to empower individuals to control their own data. Companies are already using them to trace food from farm to fork, to prevent blood diamonds from entering supply chains, to allow neighbors to buy and sell excess solar capacity, and much more. BLOCKCHAINs are revolutionizing industry in the same way the internet overturned traditional modes of doing business. LinkedIn has cited BLOCKCHAIN as the #1 skill sought by employers in 2020.

Join the Honors College Forum BLOCKCHAIN and mine the secrets of this global phenomenon. Participate in an innovative conference where you will not only learn from world-class leaders who are creating the internet of value, but also have the opportunity to connect with fellow participants and sponsoring companies using AI matching technology. Together, we will explore how decentralized information and value exchange online is transforming real businesses today.

- A seat has been reserved for YOU in BLOCKCHAIN.
- 1 hour of honors credit, first 8 weeks of the fall 2020 semester.
Blockchain meets on **Wednesdays, 11:50am-12:40 p.m.** and includes two conference days, October 1-2, which will be recorded for ease of access.

- August 26, 11:50 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- September 2, 11:50 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- September 9, 11:50 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- September 16, 11:50 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- September 23, 11:50 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- October 1, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (virtual conference—recording available for viewing anytime)
- October 2, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (virtual conference—recording available for viewing anytime)
- October 7, 11:50-12:40 p.m. (debrief)
- October 14, 11:50-12:40 p.m. (wrap-up)

**Requirements:**

- A five page paper on a critical analysis of a blockchain use case might be appropriate. Students could pick a project that they are passionate about.
- Students will also create their own cryptocurrency, determine their own monetary policy, and launch their own blockchain application

**Instructors:**

**Dr. Mary C. Lacity** is Walton Professor of Information Systems and Director of the Blockchain Center of Excellence in Sam M. Walton College of Business at The University of Arkansas. She was previously Curators’ Distinguished Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She has held visiting positions at MIT, the London School of Economics, Washington University, and Oxford University. She is a Certified Outsourcing Professional ® and Senior Editor for MIS Quarterly Executive. Her recent research focuses on improving business services using Robotic Process Automation (RPA), Cognitive Automation (CA), and Blockchain technologies. She has conducted case studies and surveys of hundreds of organizations on their adoption journeys. She has given keynote speeches and executive seminars worldwide and has served as an expert witness for the US Congress. She was inducted into the IAOP’s Outsourcing Hall of Fame in 2014, one of only three academics to ever be inducted. She was the recipient of the 2008 Gateway to Innovation Award sponsored by the IT Coalition, Society for Information Management, and St. Louis RCGA. She has published 30 books, most recently, Blockchain Fundamentals for the Internet of Value (Summer 2020) and A Manager’s Guide to Blockchains for Business. Her publications have appeared in the Harvard Business Review, Sloan Management Review, MIS Quarterly, MIS Quarterly Executive, IEEE Computer, Communications of the ACM, and many other academic and practitioner outlets. Her work has been cited over 18,000 times and she has an h-index of 54, placing her in the top 2 percent of information systems faculty globally.

**Dr. Daniel Conway** is a Clinical Professor and Associate Director of the Blockchain Center of Excellence, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA. He received the Ph.D. degree in decision sciences from Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA. He teaches classes in blockchain, analytics, and artificial intelligence. His research interests include blockchain, analytics, and risk management. He is an Advisor and Consultant to several companies on decision management, analytics, and blockchain. His recent blockchain publications include, Conway, D., and Garimella, K. (2020), “Enhancing Trust in Blockchain Ecosystems with Blockchain Technology,” IEEE Engineering Management Review, 40(1), pp. 24-30.
Kathryn Carlisle is the Senior Managing Director of the Blockchain Center of Excellence in the Sam M. Walton College at the University of Arkansas. She holds a Master’s of Digital Currency from The University of Nicosia in Cyprus, the first institution in the world to offer this degree. Kathryn founded Distributed Tech Partners, a blockchain and cryptocurrency consulting business, that enabled her to lead product design, manage communities and pilot projects with businesses, startups and non-profits based all over the country. She is an alumna of the University of Arkansas, where she received a dual-degree in International Business and Spanish Language. Kathryn leads the Blockchain Center of Excellence’s outreach for students, startups and locally based companies interested in learning and implementing this emerging technology.

INTERESTED? Contact Lynda Coon at llcoon@uark.edu