

Subject: Will the San Francisco 49ers beat the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday?
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 at 9:00:55 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Bernadine Fong
To: foothill
CC: centralservices

Happy New Year! And Congratulations to the victory by the 49ers!

Sunday began the year of the Rabbit. If you don't recall from a previous email, those of you who are Rabbits, are vigilant, witty, quick-minded and ingenious. If you were born in a year that is a multiple of 12 - 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023, you are a Rabbit. The colors of Chinese New Year are red and gold and the colors of the 49ers, who won yesterday, on the first day of the New Year's celebration are red and gold. What could be more serendipitous.

This year of the Rabbit is a harbinger of tremendous luck and good fortune and what could be more fortuitous as we begin to welcome Dr. Kristina Whalen. Beginning today, she will be joining, via Zoom, our President's Cabinet as part of her onboarding process. Last Friday, MIPC, (Mission-Informed Planning Council) began the planning for welcome activities when she begins on April 1, the beginning of Spring Quarter. More information to follow as plans develop.

On an entirely different subject, take note of ChatGPT, an app which is gaining popularity, and should attract the serious attention of educators.

"ChatGPT (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer) is a complex [machine learning model](#) that is able to carry out natural language generation ([NLG](#)) tasks with such a high level of accuracy that the model can pass a [Turing Test](#)," (Techopedia).

Tasks ChatGPT excels at include:

- Providing answers to questions.
- Completing a given text or a phrase.
- Writing fiction and non-fiction content from prompts.
- Producing humanlike [chatbot](#) responses.
- Generating computer code.
- Translating text from one language to another.
- Performing calculations.
- Summarizing a given text.
- Classifying text into different categories.
- Analyzing [text sentiment](#).
- Generating text that summarizes data in tables and spreadsheets.
- Responding to user input in a conversational manner.

In other words, ask ChatGPT most any question and you will get a response, including writing out what could be an essay that students turn in as their own assignment. Download the app and try it. I asked, "Who will win the 49ers vs. Eagles game on Sunday."

I have also asked our Academic Senate to look into this new technology. Ben Stefoni (Psychology) is already conducting a class project where his students "will be developing two surveys regarding Chat GPT: one for students and one for faculty... Chat GPT will be massively disruptive to educational

practices and assessment techniques, and we are at the very beginning stages of understanding how we will need to adapt. One thing is certain: moving forward, we will need to design assessment techniques with consideration to AI capabilities. I'm of the opinion that with the introduction of these technologies we are at the beginning of a revolution in educational practices.” Thank you, Ben, for helping us to address this very important and critical issue.

Just as we want Foothill to be at the cutting edge of virtual reality in education, so we must look into the implications of A (artificial intelligence) if we are to maintain ourselves as a leader in educational technology (starting with when we were the first college to offer totally online credit courses in the state, if not the country, in 1995).

Best regards,

Bernadine

Bernadine Chuck Fong, Ph.D.

Interim President, Foothill College

Senior Scholar and Director of Leadership Initiatives, Stanford University