



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE

SCHOOL OF
DATA SCIENCE

Updates from the Director

Welcome to 2024! New Year's Resolutions

A new year and a new semester. As always we have a newsletter full of information. Please make sure to download the full edition to find the internship and job postings. For students new to the program and this newsletter, this is meant to be a catch-all of announcements, important dates, workshop opportunities, and professional development resources. We intend to get you plugged into the campus and the larger community. Newsletters are usually published around the 1st and 15th of each month.

In this edition, in the spirit of the New Year, I am going to kick off with a list of suggested resolutions for this New Year:

- **Audit your degree progress- ASAP.** DegreeWorks provides real-time advice for degree progression and planning. Similar to a transcript, it gives UNC Charlotte students access to their plan of study as well as an overall glance of their academic progress. Please review your progress to make sure that all of your courses are being counted properly, and they are not in the “fall-through” category. You may have to submit an academic petition to request that courses be manually slotted into your degree.
- **Confirm Registration:** Log into your Banner SelfService Account and make sure that you are ready for the spring semester. The last day to add or drop a class without penalty is January 17th. (Payment Information) Please contact your advisor if you have any questions.
- **Get connected to campus:** We have a wealth of resources for students in the undergraduate and graduate programs. It is vital for your success to access these resources early in your academic programs.
- **Career Center:** from resume workshops, Career Meet-Ups, Career Treks, Networking Events, Professional Panels, etc., plan a weekly visit to their website and sign up!
- **The International Student and Scholar Office (ISSO):** The ISSO provides information, services, and programs that help international students and visiting scholars achieve individual educational and personal goals. The ISSO fosters an appreciation for a culturally diverse learning environment in the larger UNC Charlotte community.
- **The Reynolds Center for Graduate Life and Learning (CGLL)** : As the name suggests, this is a resource specifically tailored to the needs of

Graduate students. The CGLL is located in Atkins directly across from the Career Center. It offers a place to meet and study, professional workshops, social networking opportunities, and writing support.

- **Get connected off-campus**: As important as the campus community may be, it is even more important to cultivate and grow a professional network in the larger Charlotte community. To that end, block off time to participate in the SDS Professional Seminars on Monday afternoons this spring. Meet our industry and community partners. Join a local meet-up group. You can find a starter list here.
- **Be a Lifelong Learner**: We have created a variety of free online resources for you to introduce yourself to a new tool or platform, or to review critical skills. Sign up for boot camps, refreshers, and hacks here!

Your success in the Bachelor's degree, Graduate Certificate, or Master's program is predicated on your motivation and engagement. Welcome to 2024 and the School of Data Science.

-Josh

Call for Content: *Have a story to share, an event to highlight, or a job posting? Please feel to share it with us @ sds-communications@charlotte.edu*

Important!

TO READ THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER CLICK "VIEW ENTIRE MESSAGE" AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS EMAIL FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES!

Mark Your
CALENDAR

Important Dates

January 10: First day of classes

January 13: No Saturday classes

January 15: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day -University Closed

January 17: Last day to add, drop with no grade

January 18: Payment Due Date/2nd Cancellation for non-payment

January 20: Saturday Classes Begin

Below is a list of upcoming campus events for all students and faculty. These are opportunities to learn and network! We hope you can participate and encourage your students to engage.

Welcome Reception for New Graduate Students

Thursday, January 11, 2024 | 4:30-6:30 PM EDT | Student Union 340 D

The perfect introduction for newcomers and a fantastic opportunity for everyone to explore the wealth of resources available around campus! Come meet new grad students, CGLL staff, and campus partners who are here to support you. Plus there will be food, drinks, free giveaways, and music! All new grad students are welcome (including part-time and distance education).

[REGISTER](#)

Exploring Streamlit and RAG: Interactive Web Apps and Enhanced AI Responses

Data Science Charlotte MeetUp Group:

Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7:30- 8:30 PM

CoCoTiv Coworking | 1515 Mockingbird Ln STE 400 · Charlotte, NC

Dive into the world of Streamlit and RAG (Retrieval-Augmented Generation) applications. This event is perfect for anyone interested in developing interactive web applications and enhancing AI models with state-of-the-art techniques.

[REGISTER](#)

ABD Signature Series: Practical Considerations for Gen AI

Thursday, January 25 · 6 - 8:00 pm | Lendingtree- Charlotte, NC 28203

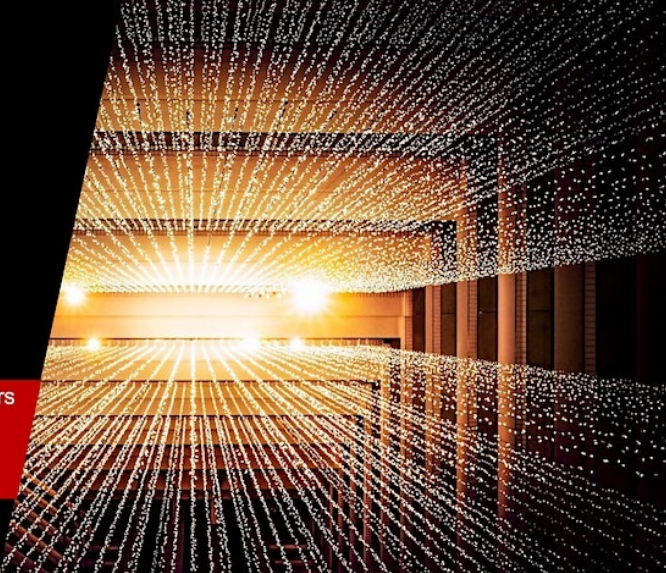
We will kick off with a 15-minute presentation from each speaker, followed by a lively Q&A. SDS faculty Dr. Jason Windett will be part of the panel. Afterwards, we'll host our Data & Brews Happy Hour event. We're hosting this event in Lendingtree's new Southend headquarters. [Find out more about the Analytics & Big Data \(ABD\) Society.](#)

Practical Considerations for Generative AI

2024 Signature Series Event

1/25/24 ♦ 6PM ♦ LendingTree Headquarters

Panel discussion followed by our
Data & Brews Happy Hour



CCI Career Fair: Save the Date!

Thursday, February 1, 2024 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Barnhardt SAC Salons

More information to come- this event will be exclusive to CCI students, including the School of Data Science and Bioinformatics & Genomics.

Monday SDS Seminars

All SDS students are invited to engage in the Monday session. This is your opportunity to connect with companies and industry professionals in person! Sign up and join in the conversation to build your professional networks.

Monday, January 22, 2024

"A Day In The Life Of A Senior Data Analyst @DVSUM"

In Person @ CCB | 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Presenter: [Juan Ricardo, Senior Data Analyst, DvSum, DSBA MS 2022](#)

REGISTER

Monday, January 29, 2024

"Unlocking Your Full Potential with the Power of Generative AI"

In Person @ CCB | 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Presenter: [Suresh Patnam, Principal GTM Specialist AI/ML, AWS](#)

REGISTER

Student

RESOURCES

UNC Charlotte Student Legal Services, Inc. (SLS)

UNC Charlotte Student Legal Services, Inc. (SLS) provides free legal advice, limited representation, and resources to enrolled students. SLS is also available for presentations to student organizations and classes to educate students on their rights and responsibilities under the law. This service is paid through your student activity fee and services are provided free of charge.

Veteran Services

Charlotte's Veterans Services Office is dedicated to the support and success of our military-affiliated student body. From processing GI Bill® benefits to providing the Veteran Student Lounge for study and community, the VSO is the central hub at Charlotte to promote a smooth and seamless transition for those choosing college after or during their service.

University Ombuds

For Graduate students only, the Ombuds program at UNC Charlotte is a confidential, independent, impartial, and informal resource to informally work through challenging workplace problems, dilemmas and conflicts. The University Ombuds uses a number of interest-based techniques to help prevent problems from escalating and empower productive, collaborative solutions.

Are you graduating in May?

Students who are planning to graduate this semester must **apply for graduation through Banner** by February 8. Once a student has applied for graduation, the registrar's office will follow up with additional commencement information, including the ceremony schedule beginning in March. Undergraduate students can email graduation@charlotte.edu with any additional questions, and Graduate students can email gradgraduation@charlotte.edu with any additional questions.

Laboratory for Analytic Sciences: Now

Recruiting Students

Summer Conference on Applied Data Science

June 3 – July 26, 2024

The application for SCADS 2024 is now open to students. Student applicants should be currently enrolled in a master's or Ph.D. program. There are no requirements around coursework or specific degree programs. We welcome student applicants from all disciplines interested in the SCADS grand challenge. Students are expected to work 40 hours/week and will receive a competitive stipend of \$10,000. Students who do not already live in the local area (within 35 miles of campus) will also receive a stipend to support local accommodations and travel. [Register for an information session](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, January 12, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. ET.

Data Science and Health Informatics In The NEWS

These are stories collected from a variety of newsletters and websites:

From American Medical Informatics Association's (AMIA) Informatics SmartBrief Newsletter:



AI is promising, but serious pitfalls exist

Artificial intelligence has the potential to improve health care, but AI models are unpredictable and may be trained on data that is outdated, leading to responses that may overlook new information, writes AMIA Fellow Nephi Walton, associate medical director of Intermountain Precision Genomics. Conflicting guidelines and the individualized nature of health care also present problems for AI, large language models have fabricated data and sources, and people are at risk of losing skills if we become overly reliant on AI, Walton writes. [Full Story: Inside Precision Medicine \(12/20\)](#)

Explainable AI identifies effective antibiotics

A deep-learning algorithm was used to screen millions of compounds for antibiotic properties, the 283 most promising compounds were tested in preclinical studies, and several novel structural compounds were found to be effective against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and vancomycin-resistant enterococci, researchers reported in *Nature*. The algorithm was designed to be "explainable," enabling researchers to follow its reasoning and understand the biochemistry supporting its results. [Full Story: Scientific American \(12/20\)](#)

Disaggregating racial, and ethnic data would support public health

The US Office of Management and Budget's five mandatory racial categories aggregate sometimes disparate populations into broad groupings and left nearly 50 million US residents to select "some other race" on the 2020 Census. The practice has negative consequences for public health and is no longer necessary, as the technology exists to capture ethnic and racial information with greater precision, writes health equity researcher Juan Carlos Gonzalez. **Full Story: STAT (12/19)**

From Data Science Current:

New York Times sues Microsoft, ChatGPT maker OpenAI over copyright infringement, Flipboard: December 27, 2023

The New York Times on Wednesday filed a lawsuit against Microsoft and OpenAI, creator of the popular AI chatbot ChatGPT, accusing the companies of copyright infringement and abusing the newspaper's intellectual property to train large language models.



Nvidia CEO Jensen dishes out career tips for the fast-changing AI era, suggests not wearing a wristwatch Flipboard - December 26, 2023

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has shared some advice for young professionals trying to steer a career path in the current fast-changing AI era, telling them to take their time and do their best.

Google unveils MedLM, a family of healthcare-focused generative AI models Flipboard, December 13, 2023

Google thinks that there's an opportunity to offload more healthcare tasks to generative AI models — or at least to recruit those models to aid healthcare workers in completing their tasks. Today, the company announced MedLM, a family of models fine-tuned for the medical industries.

From Medium:

Python to Rust: Everything You Must Know About Virtual Environments- Python pro to Rust rookie — a data scientist's transition tale

Dennis Bakhuis | 12/26/2023

Embarking on the journey from Python to Rust can feel like swapping a trusty lightsaber for a new kind of blade — exciting but a bit daunting. As a data scientist deeply familiar with Python's quirks, diving into the Rust world is a thrilling new challenge. In this article, I'll share my experiences and insights, comparing how these two powerful languages handle a key aspect of software development — particularly focusing on (virtual) environments and dependency management.

Understanding Deep Learning Optimizers: Momentum, AdaGrad, RMSProp & Adam

Vyacheslav Efimov | 12/30/2023

Gain intuition behind acceleration training techniques in neural networks by looking at some of the difficult aspects of high-dimensional data which is referred to as the curse of dimensionality. The goal is to have an intuitive understanding of this concept and its practical implications.

From SouthBDHub:



The monthly newsletter contains a listing of news, events, and opportunities in data science, analytics, engineering, and policy. A selection of stories and announcements are below. Subscribe to their [Listserv](#).

Call for Volunteers: 2024 UVA Data + Society Challenge

The competition aims to engage high school students in data science and raise awareness and interest in pursuing data science as a course of study and a career path. The theme of the challenge is "Applying Data Science to Solve Societal Problems." Students will work in teams engaging with a fair lending data science challenge. The competition will open for entries in January 2024 and close in April 2024. The team is looking for virtual mentors with experience in Python. [Learn more on their website](#).

Data Science Community Newsletter- Sign Up Today



One more resource to keep in the know for new tools, events, job postings, and developing trends in data science- [subscribe today](#).

Featured Job OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for more internships and job postings? Log into [Hire-a-Niner](#) or use their convenient [School of Data Science aggregator](#).

SDS Jobs & Internships

This month we have so many job and internship postings that we have listed them all on a separate Google doc. You can also regularly check our website's Job Board! Be sure to bookmark it, as we update it regularly.

GOOGLE DOC

JOB BOARD

GET CONNECTED with SDS!
Feel free to join the School of Data Science
GroupMe and Slack Channel for regular updates.

GROUPME

SLACK
CHANNEL



UNC Charlotte's School of Data Science | 9105 University Rd, Charlotte, NC 28223

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