UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE | SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

Updates from the Director

As August begins, we turn our attention to the new semester and the arrival of both new and returning students. This edition highlights a range of resources and welcome events to help you prepare for fall, from laptops to textbooks. We are excited to welcome 100 new undergraduate and 120 new graduate students to the School of Data Science. We also have the pleasure of introducing Dr. Dongsong Zhang as the new Executive Director of SDS. Dr. Doug Hague will be transitioning to a new role as Executive Director of Corporate Engagement at UNC Charlotte. In addition, we are welcoming several new faculty and staff members to the SDS team. There are many updates, resources, and development opportunities as you get ready for the new academic year.

Sincerely,
Josh

For those of you new to the newsletter, here is your "pro-tip"- there is far more than what appears in the email preview. Make sure to download the whole newsletter- we post the internships and jobs at the bottom!

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!

Welcome New Students- Things to Do!

All SDS Students:

- **Laptop Policy- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)**- All students are required to have a personal laptop (PC or Mac). (Please note that Chromebooks, iPads, tablets, and mobile devices do not fulfill this requirement.) The NinerTech

Store offers Niner Ready Bundles, including a laptop meeting these specifications and a discounted warranty.

- **Niner Course Pack**- Niner Course Pack is a textbook rental program that allows students to receive all their course materials ahead of time and save money. Enrollment is automatic and students are billed $20 per credit hour per term. If you wish to opt-out for Fall 2024, you can do so between July 20 and August 30—opt-out link.
- **Parking on Campus: Parking And Transportation Services (PATS)**- PATS is your one-stop shop for parking and campus transportation.
- **Student Health Insurance**- Students must have health insurance, either through their employer or parent or by purchasing Student Blue Student Health Insurance. Unless a waiver is completed, students will be automatically enrolled and billed for Student Blue coverage on their tuition account. Starting this year, students can select either the Value or Premium health insurance plans. For more details, visit the Student Health Insurance page.

SDS Undergrads- BS in Data Science:

- **Convocation 2025** - New Student Convocation is a campus tradition to welcome new students (first-year and transfer students) to Niner Nation! During the event, you will learn about Charlotte's traditions, mission, and values that drive Niner Pride and our campus community.
- After Convocation we HIGHLY recommend attending the **Student Organization Showcase and RecFest**. Visit **goldrush.charlotte.edu** for more information!
  - Location - Barnhardt Student Activity Center (SAC)
  - Time - doors open at 1:00 pm. Get there early to get your free t-shirt!!
- Interested in Sports Analytics? - We have some seats available in DTSC 2110 - **Business Sports Analytics**. If you are interested, please complete the following **form.**

SDS HIAN and DSBA Graduate Students:

- **SDS New and Continuing *GRADUATE* Student Orientation**– The SDS will host a Fall Orientation & Town Hall for all DSBA & HIAN students. The event will be in-person on **Friday, August 16** from **11 AM - 1 PM**. Lunch will be served. It will be held on the main campus in Colvard South room 1040. **Register Here!**
- **Campus-Wide Orientation for New Graduate Students**- All of the incoming graduate students are invited to participate in a campus orientation and reception hosted by the Center for Graduate Life and Learning:
  - **Virtual Orientation**: Thursday, Aug. 15, 4-6 pm
  - **Graduate Student Welcome Reception**: Saturday, Aug. 17, 12:30-2:30 pm, Hauser Alumni Pavilion.
- By now you should also be familiar with **NewGradPortal**, where you can find for a smooth transition to grad school. Read more about all of the above events and find more resources on our **orientation page.**

Questions Regarding Your Fall Tuition Bill- (Graduate Students)?

As many of you know, graduate students enrolled in the DSBA and HIAN programs are charged a special **School-Based Tuition Increment (SBTI)**. This is an additional per-term assessment based on the number of enrolled credit hours each semester. The increment is assigned to each program, so students enrolled in both a Cert and MS degree program are double charged the increment. Carly has reviewed all student records and requested a waiver of one increment charge for students impacted. PLEASE CHECK YOUR BILL FOR ERRORS. If you feel that there is an error, please contact **Student Accounts** first to confirm. Then contact **Carly Mahedy** to request a new waiver.

Graduate students enrolled in dual-degree programs are initially billed tuition increments for both programs. However, SDS and our partner programs have agreed to waive one of the increments per term. Students are responsible for contacting the appropriate program to request a waiver for one of the tuition increments each semester, ideally at the time of registration.

After we forward the waiver request to student accounts, the charges for both increments will remain on the student's account until the add/drop deadline has passed, but the student's registration will not be dropped for nonpayment of the waived amount. Be sure to pay your bill, less one increment charge, but the payment deadline.

Attention Sports Analytics Students -
Declare the Certificate!

Students who are interested in the Sports Analytics Certificate who have completed an Introduction to STAT course along with a course in computer programming, data science or business computing are welcome to apply!

- **Sports Analytics Information Page**
- **Declaration Link**

Interested in LLMs? Enroll in DSBA 6010 - Applications of Large Language Models with Dr. Ryan Wesslen!

Explore the power of large language models (LLMs) in today's business landscape. This graduate-level course dives deep into practical applications, from prompt engineering to API interactions, and beyond. Gain hands-on experience with LLMs through supervised fine-tuning, reward model training, and Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG). Understand the broader implications of LLM usage, including ethics and production challenges. Prerequisites include DSBA 6156 Applied Machine Learning. Python proficiency and familiarity with command-line environments are recommended. *Register today!*

Fall 2024 SDS Electives and Special Topic Courses

Still looking for fall elective options? The SDS undergraduate and graduate programs have a rich set of special topic offerings for Fall 2024.
Fall 2024 SDS Special Topics and Electives

Important Dates

- **August 2**: Last Day of Classes- Summer Session
- **August 6-7**: Final Exams- Summer Session
- **August 7**: Payment Due Date / Cancellation for non-payment for Fall
- **August 12**: Academic Year Begins
- **August 18:** New Student Convocation
- **August 19**: First day of classes (fall semester)
- **August 26**: Last day to add/drop course
- **August 27**: Second cancellation for non-payment

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.

SDS Resume and LinkedIn Workshop: Get Job Ready for Fall Recruitment!

The School of Data Science is offering a limited-capacity workshop series (first 25

registrants) to help you land your dream data science job this fall. Sharpen your skills in three key areas:

- **Crafting Effective Technical Resumes** (August 6th): Get insider tips on tailoring your resume to data science roles and highlighting your technical skills. (Presenter: Jay Skipworth, UNC Charlotte College of Computing and Informatics)
- **Optimizing Online Presence & Portfolios** (August 13th): Discover how to leverage online platforms to showcase your data science expertise and impress potential employers. (Presenter: Allison Quick, FDM Group)

All workshops are held from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm in Atkins 150A. Don't miss this opportunity to gain a competitive edge for the upcoming fall recruitment season!

Register Here Today!

Summer Research Symposium 2024: Friday August 2

The Office of Undergraduate Research will present Summer Research Symposium 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Aug. 2, in the Popp Martin Student Union. Be a part of this celebration of research and creativity of our undergraduates.

Register Here!

Important Announcement: Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Class of 2025

Application Cycle- The PMF Class of 2025 Application Cycle will open in just over a month.

- **Opening**: Noon (Eastern Time) on Wednesday, September 4, 2024
- **Closing**: Noon (Eastern Time) on Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Webinars for Potential Applicants: Throughout August 2024, PMF will also host informational webinars for potential applicants. These will provide an overview of the PMF Program and details about the 2025 application cycle. The schedule will be posted on the **PMF 2025 Application** section of our website.

Dongsong Zhang: New Interim Executive Director SDS

We're thrilled to share some big news about the School of Data Science! SDS is now a full unit within the University, reflecting the growing importance of data science in various fields and industries. This transition is driven by our rapid growth —from 180 students to over 750, across five programs including a new PhD and BS degree. To better support our expanding community, we'll be increasing our faculty and enhancing our programs.

As of May 15th, **Dr. Dongsong Zhang** (former Director of Research) stepped in as the Interim Executive Director, guiding us through this exciting period of change. Expect to see more transdisciplinary collaborations, new faculty joining, and even more opportunities to engage with cutting-edge data science initiatives. We're committed to continuing our role as a leader in data science education and research, and we can't wait to embark on this new journey with you!

Welcome New Faculty!

Summer often brings change, and this year we're excited to welcome several new faculty members to SDS. You can learn more about them on their individual faculty websites.

Michael Schuckers: Professor

Dr. Michael Schuckers joins UNC Charlotte as a professor, with deep expertise in sports data science. His research in ice hockey analytics and bioauthentication technologies has earned recognition from the American Statistical Association.

Michael Korvink: Adjunct Faculty

Michael Korvink is a Principal Data Scientist at Premier Inc., specializing in integrating Social Drivers

of Health (SDOH) into healthcare analytics. With over a decade at Premier, his research on SDOH's impact on hospital rankings advocates for equity in healthcare. Michael also instructs at UNC Charlotte and pursues a Doctor of Public Health at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He will be co-teaching HCIP 5376 Introduction to Programming for Health Informatics this fall.

Sydney Westfall: Adjunct Faculty

Sydney Westfall is a Data Scientist at Premier Inc. She specializes in and develops statistical models to enhance hospital performance. Her work on PINC AI™'s Clinical Health and Social Needs Index underscores her commitment to improving healthcare through data-driven insights. She will be co-teaching HCIP 5376 Introduction to Programming for Health Informatics this fall.

New Executive in Residence: Agus Sudjianto

Agus Sudjianto, a highly accomplished risk management and quantitative methods expert with extensive experience in the financial services industry, is becoming an Executive in Residence for the School of Data Science. He will also be co-teaching a class on MLM with Professor Robert Fox this fall at SDS. Agus recently retired as Executive Vice President and Head of Corporate Model Risk at Wells Fargo, where he served for over 11 years.

Read more!

New Director of Research for SDS: Dr. Jason Windett

The School of Data Science welcomes Dr. Jason Windett as its new Director of Research, effective July 2024. He is taking over the role of Dr. Dongsang

Zhang, the new Interim Executive Director for the School. With a joint appointment as a Professor of Political Science, Public Policy, and Data Science, Dr. Windett brings extensive expertise in American politics and data-driven research. **Read more here!**

Fall Resume Book- Internship and Jobs

For those of you seeking an internship or full-time placement for fall 2024, we have updated the **SDS Resume Book**. We collect SDS resumes and create a fresh version of the book each semester. If you would like us to share your resume with business and community partners, please **fill out the form and upload a recent resume in a PDF format**.

Access to Microsoft Co-Pilot

Start leveraging AI to boost your productivity! Microsoft Copilot with data protection (browser chat) will be available for students, faculty, and staff beginning Friday, July 26.

Specialized Job Search Resources for Data Science and Analytics

Jobs & Internship Sites:

- Hire-A-Niner: **hireaniner.charlotte.edu**
- Dice.com: **www.dice.com/jobs**

- The Muse: **www.themuse.com**
- Data Jobs: **datajobs.com**
- Hire Tech Ladies: **www.hiretechladies.com**
- Uncubed: **uncubed.com**
- Crunchboard: **crunchboard.com/jobs**
- Just Tech Jobs: **justtechjobs.com**
- Wellfound (tech startup jobs): **wellfound.com/jobs**
- Product Hunt: **producthunt.com/jobs**

The NC Technology Association (NC TECH)- Latest Report on the IT Job Landscape

The NC Technology Association (NC TECH) has unveiled its latest update on the state's IT job landscape through its new, comprehensive IT Job Trends Dashboard. NC TECH reports declining IT job postings for March, down -43.6% from June 2023.

Resources for International Students

- H1-B Employer Data Hub: **uscis.gov/h-1b-data-hub**
- MyVisaJobs: **www.myvisajobs.com**
- OPTNation: **www.optnation.com**
- **Ultimate H1-B Sponsor Checker** (for LinkedIn and Indeed)
- Top OPT and STEM OPT Employers (2018)

Other Events AND WORKSHOPS

Data Matters Short-Course Series | August 5 - 9

Data Matters™ is a week-long series of one and two-day courses aimed at students and professionals in business, research, and government. Sponsored by the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC-Chapel Hill, the National Consortium for Data Science, and RENCI, the short-course series gives students the chance to learn about a wide range of topics in data science, analytics, visualization, curation,

and more from expert instructors. (From **South Big Data Hub**)

Summit for Women in Tech in New Bern, NC, September 25-26

Join NC TECH, presenting sponsor **Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina**, and women from across North Carolina for the fourth annual **Summit for Women in Tech** in New Bern, NC, September 25-26. This women-only summit will feature candid conversations with women tech leaders where we explore gender bias, share our unique journeys, discuss how to shift the paradigm, and provide insights on advocating for change both now and for the next generation.

Full details and registration

NCHIMSS Annual Conference: Building the Future of Healthcare Together

October 10-11th @Wrightsville Beach, NC

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

From the Washington Post

Who will control the future of AI?- Sam Altman, co-founder and CEO of OpenAI discusses the urgent question is whether the future of AI will be shaped by democratic values and global benefit or by authoritarian control and power consolidation. (July 25, 2024)

From the American Medical Informatics Association's (AMIA)

- **Academic researchers need better access to AI tech**- Researchers in

academic settings do not have as much access to supercomputers needed for AI health-related studies, compared with for-profit companies, which may mean data from underrepresented populations are not included in the process. "There's this persistent concern that the data that's being used to train generative AI could have inherent biases that are almost impossible to discern until after the fact because a generative AI agent can only interpret what it's been given," said Bronson Messer at the US Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility. The National Science Foundation launched the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource pilot program earlier this year to address this bias. Full Story: Inside Higher Ed (7/14)

- **Lack of interoperability hampers public health reporting**- Small, rural and critical access hospitals have lower rates of electronic public health reporting, compared with other hospitals, but about 75% of hospitals in 2022 said they experienced at least one challenge to public health reporting, experts wrote in a Health IT Buzz column. Reporting by physicians varies based on specialty. Interoperability is an issue but a number of initiatives are in play to address these challenges. Full Story: Health IT Buzz (Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT) (7/22)

Data Science Current

A monthly newsletter from the Data Science Council of America.

- **AI Appreciation Day**- Artificial Intelligence Appreciation Day is celebrated on July 16 each year. With discoveries in science, tech, and healthcare, AI offers the possibility of a more evolved future. AI tools already dominate the market making human life much easier. In this special round-up, we've collected a number of commentaries from our friends in the AI industry ecosystem. INSIDEBIGDATA

- **Evaluating GPT-4o mini: How OpenAI's Latest Model Stacks Up?** Introduction OpenAI launched GPT-4o mini yesterday (18th June 2024), taking the world by storm. There are several reasons for this. OpenAI has traditionally focused on large language models (LLMs), which take a lot of computing power and have significant costs associated with using them. However, with this release, they are officially venturing into small language […] The post Evaluating GPT-4o mini: How OpenAI's Latest Model Stacks Up? ANALYTICS VIDHYA

Other Newsletters and Resources:

- **Data Science Community Newsletter**- One more resource to keep in the know for new tools, events, job postings, and developing trends in data science. Download this month's newsletter **HERE**.

- **KDnuggets**- KDnuggets is an online site for Data Science, Machine Learning, AI, and Analytics, edited by Matthew Mayo. KD stands for Knowledge Discovery.

- **SouthBDHub**- A monthly newsletter lists news, events, and opportunities in data science, analytics, engineering, and policy.

- **empowHERed**- Focuses on women in the sports industry they offer webinars, a newsletter, and networking events to our Mentor Program and Career Pipeline.

- **Kaggle**- Kaggle, owned by Google LLC, is a platform and community for data scientists and machine learning practitioners. Users can discover and share datasets, create models in a web-based environment, collaborate with others, and compete in data science challenges.
- **Medium**- Medium is an open-source online publishing platform where anyone can publish and share insightful perspectives and useful knowledge. In addition to their website, they also publish a daily e-newsletter.

Featured

JOBS

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

Below you will find a current listing of postings that have been shared with the SDS team or posted on the **Career Center's Hire-a-Niner site**. We encourage you not only to apply for specific postings but also to explore and familiarize yourself with the companies and organizations actively recruiting UNC Charlotte and SDS students. In addition to these postings, we strongly encourage you to build your professional network through the Monday SDS Professional Seminars, CCI Business Partner's Program, and various networking events scheduled throughout the semester.

Featured

JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS

Three featured positions- one job, one internship, and a new assistantship opportunity. For your information, Wells Fargo will kick off our fall Professional Seminar series on August 26th at the Dubois Center. Keep an eye on the SDS events calendar for details and registration!

- **Analyst, eCommerce- Universal Music Group**, Santa Monica, CA
- **Quantitative Analytics Program- Wells Fargo**- Rotational Quantitative Analytics program is designed to provide you with the opportunity to gain comprehensive professional and industry experience that prepares you to develop, implement, calibrate, and validate various analytical models. Wells Fargo hires PhDs and Master's Candidates within the Capital Markets, and Risk Analytics and Decision Science teams.
- **Research Assistantship: Sports Analytics**- Prof. Michael Schuckers (https://www.linkedin.com/in/schuckers/) is accepting applications for DSBA students to analyze sports data. The student will collaborate on

projects such as estimating sports rebuild lengths, predicting NFL kicker performance, NHL draft outcomes, and spatial point process changes in sports. Required: Strong data analysis, R/Python coding skills, statistical modeling expertise, and familiarity with data scraping tools. Applicants must be enrolled in DSBA MS, completed 9+ graduate credit hours, and plan to pursue the Master's Thesis Option. Integrate the project into your thesis. Contact Dr. Schuckers at mschuck1@charlotte.edu for inquiries. Applications are due by August 9 @noon.

Internships

- **Data Scientist Intern (Fall 2024)- Chime**, San Francisco, California
- **Masters Machine Learning Fall Internship 2024 (USA)- Pinterest**, United States (Remote)
- **Machine Learning Intern (Push Notification-TikTok Recommendation) - 2024 Fall/Off Cycle (BS/MS)- TikTok**, San Jose, CA
- **Amazon Robotics - Applied Science Intern / Co-op - 2024- Amazon**, Seattle, WA
- **Data Analyst Intern** - Air, Remote
- **Analytics Internship** - SAIC, Silver Spring, MD
- **Fall Intern, Data Analyst** - HealthStream, Nashville, TN
- **Data Science Intern** - Arrive Logistics, Austin, TX

Jobs

- **Data Scientist I, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, United States**
- **Data Scientist- Alteryx** · United States (Remote)
- **Data Analysis and Informatics Specialist- NC Department of Health and Human Services**, North Carolina, United States
- **Data Analyst- Github**, United States
- **Ahold-Delhaize- Director of Data Science**, Salisbury, NC
- **Data Scientist- U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)**, United States

Full Job List

Specialize Job Search Resources for Data Science and Analytics

Jobs & Internship Sites

- Hire-A-Niner: hireaniner.charlotte.edu
- Dice.com: www.dice.com/jobs

- The Muse: www.themuse.com
- Data Jobs: datajobs.com
- Hire Tech Ladies: www.hiretechladies.com
- Uncubed: uncubed.com
- Crunchboard: crunchboard.com/jobs
- Just Tech Jobs: justtechjobs.com
- Wellfound (tech startup jobs): wellfound.com/jobs
- Product Hunt: producthunt.com/jobs
- *New Resouce: NCTECH Job Board: https://ourmembers.nctech.org/jobs*

For international students:

- GoinGlobal: goinglobal.charlotte.edu
- H1-B Employer Data Hub: uscis.gov/h-1b-data-hub
- MyVisaJobs: www.myvisajobs.com
- OPTNation: www.optnation.com
- Ultimate H1-B Sponsor Checker (for LinkedIn and Indeed)

Alumni

CORNER

Alumni Recruitment: UNC Charlotte's Career Center

Interested in recruiting talented UNC Charlotte students and graduates? We remind you that as an alumni, Hire-A-Niner is still available to you- **as an employer**. Here's what you can do:

- **Post jobs and internships**: Reach a wide range of students, or target specifically by major (like Data Science) or program level (graduate/undergraduate).
- **Get featured in the School of Data Science (SDS) newsletter:** Let us know when you post a relevant job, and we'll promote it to SDS students. Email Josh Hertel - at jhertel@charlotte.edu to share postings.

Ready to get started? Visit https://hireaniner.charlotte.edu/ to set up your free Hire-A-Niner employer account. It's a quick and easy process. Questions? Contact our Employer Engagement Team at recruit@uncc.edu in the Career Center. We're happy to help and discuss other recruitment opportunities.

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