

AUGUST 24 STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the School of Data Science Newsletter!

I hope everyone had a great summer and is settling into the new semester.

Today, August 24, is the **Drop/Add deadline** for UNC Charlotte. After today, you can still make schedule changes in limited circumstances, but there may be financial implications. If you have questions about your schedule, please reach out to your faculty advisor or academic advisor **today**.

The semester is already starting to gear up. Tomorrow, Tuesday, August 25, we kick off our regular **SDS Tuesday Seminar Series** with a fantastic panel featuring CCI and SDS alumni. We have a great calendar of sessions planned this fall, giving you opportunities to meet and connect with professionals working in industry. More importantly, these events are a chance to build relationships and grow your professional network. Keep an eye on the **SDS Events Calendar** for upcoming sessions.

We are also excited to welcome the new **Undergraduate and Graduate SGA representatives**. They are already busy planning social and networking events in collaboration with our new SDS Alumni Association.

Beyond that, this issue includes staff welcomes & updates, job and internship opportunities, and more. As always, we welcome your submissions. Have a workshop, seminar, job opportunity, event, new tool, or meetup group to share? Please send it our way!

Have a great start to the semester!

Joshua Hertel

Director, School of Data Science

Share your SDS story! Have an event, community meet-up, Data competition, job posting, or story idea for the SDS community? Please send your submissions to **Lindsay Mongillo**, SDS Communications and Events Manager. Newsletters are published bi-monthly, around the 1st and 15th of the month.



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Important Campus Dates

The [Registrar's Calendar for 2026-2027](#) includes the full academic year schedule for holidays and deadlines. Find the full [SDS Calendar of Events](#) on the program website.

- August 24 **Last day to add or drop a course with no grade* @ 11:59 pm**
 - August 25 Second Cancellation for nonpayment Payment Information
 - August 27 Grade Replacement auto selection process run Policy Information
 - August 28 **Census date for Fall Enrollment**
 - August 28 Niner Course Pack Last Day to Opt Out Niner Course Pack Information
-

Program Updates

AND CAMPUS NEWS

School of Data Science Welcomes Two New Faculty Members

The School of Data Science is pleased to welcome two new faculty members this fall: Dr. Dante Goss, Teaching Assistant Professor in the Sports Analytics program, and Dr. Haopeng Zhang, Assistant Professor in SDS.

Dr. Goss joins SDS with expertise in kinesiology, biomechanics, wearable sensors, and data analytics. He recently completed his Ph.D. in Kinesiology and Exercise Science at the University of Virginia, where his research focused on biomechanics, physical activity, and pain. His expertise will strengthen our Sports Analytics program.



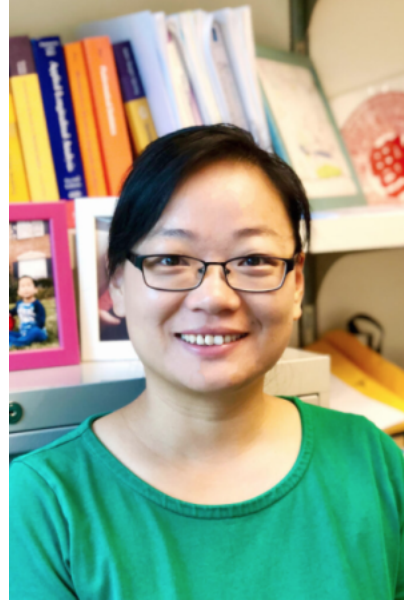
Dr. Zhang joins SDS from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from UC Davis and specializes in natural language processing, large language models, agentic AI, and applications in healthcare, linguistics, and education.

We are excited to welcome Dr. Goss and Dr. Zhang and look forward to the expertise they will bring to our students, programs, and research.

New Graduate Program Director for the Data Science PhD Program

Summer is a busy time for our academic programs. We say many farewells and good lucks, and begin to prepare for the many changes going on in the department.

This summer, we said farewell to Dr. Shaoyu Li, the inaugural Program Director for the Data Science PhD program, as she returns to the faculty. Dr. Li leaves an impressive legacy of firsts, including recruiting and enrolling our inaugural PhD class, implementing the program's new curriculum, and establishing the foundation for the program's continued growth. Thank you Dr. Li for your continued leadership in the department.



We are pleased to welcome Dr. Jason Windett as the new Data Science PhD Program Director. Dr. Windett is a Professor in the School of Data Science and holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from UNC Chapel Hill. His research focuses on representation in American politics, with particular interests in state politics, state courts, and gender and politics. He has received multiple National Science Foundation grants, and his research has appeared in leading journals in political science and public policy. Dr. Windett brings extensive experience in research methods, public policy, and applying data science to social and political questions. We look forward to his leadership as the PhD program enters its next chapter.

Advising Resources for Graduate and Undergraduate Students in SDS

The School of Data Science offers a range of advising resources to help undergraduate and graduate students navigate their academic journey, from course selection and registration to questions about program progress and campus resources.

Graduate Students: Graduate students in Data Science and Business Analytics, Data Science and Health Analytics, and the new AI for Data Science Graduate Certificate can connect with **Carly Mahedy** or **Josh Hertel** for individual advising sessions, either in person or virtually. Group advising sessions are also offered regularly through the SDS events schedule. Students at the Dubois Center can meet with an advisor in person on Tues, Wed and Thursdays.





Undergraduate Students: Undergraduate students can access professional and peer advising in Colvard South, Suite 1028. **Deanna Rella** advises Data Science majors, **Erin O'Neill** supports Sports Analytics majors, and Carly Mahedy works with Early Entry students.

SDS Peer Advisors Shanthi Pillai, Gabriel Tewell, and Emily Smith also provide appointments and drop-in support. As experienced upper-level

students, they can assist with general questions, registration, program resources, and connecting students with appropriate campus services. Students can view Peer Advisor availability through **Connect**. For additional assistance, email sds-advising@charlotte.edu.

Meet the 2026-2027 SDS Undergraduate Peer Advisors

SDS Peer Advisors are available for appointments and drop-in advising in **Colvard South, Suite 1028**. Students can view Peer Advisor availability and schedule appointments through **Connect**. For additional assistance, contact sds-advising@charlotte.edu.

- **Emily Smith** is a Data Science major with minors in Statistics and Management Information Systems, along with a certificate in Sports Analytics. She enjoys studying Data Science because it allows her to use data and analytics to discover trends and turn them into meaningful insights that can improve decision-making. On campus, Emily is involved in the women's club basketball team and contributes game statistics for Charlotte Women's Basketball through NinerStats. As a Peer Advisor, she is excited to support DTSC and SPOA students.
- **Gabriel Tewell** is a Data Science major with minors in Statistics and Artificial Intelligence. He enjoys the versatility of data science and its ability to be applied across a variety of fields, allowing individuals to pursue areas that align with their interests and passions. Gabriel plans to pursue a career in data ethics and the ethical application of AI. Outside of academics, he enjoys cooking, needle felting, and spending time with his apartment cat.
- **Shanthi Pillai** is a senior majoring in Data Science with a minor in Bioinformatics. She enjoys the interdisciplinary nature of Data Science and its ability to combine her interests in data analysis, machine learning, and biology. Shanthi hopes to pursue a career in biomedical applications of AI or apply AI to biotechnology. On campus, she is involved in CLT Kanaka, an Indian classical dance team, the Tamil Student Organization, and the Honors College. She has also traveled to five countries: India, Switzerland, Italy, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Alumni CORNER

New SDS Alumni Network on LinkedIn

The School of Data Science Alumni Network is now on LinkedIn, and we would love for you to join! SDS alumni and current students can stay connected on this page after graduation. You will find event announcements, career conversations, alumni spotlights, and opportunities shared by people who have been through the same program you have. For students, it is a direct line to alumni working across health care, finance, technology, and consulting. For alumni, it is a way to stay close to the school and to help the next group of graduates find their footing.

We are building this from the ground up, and the network is only as strong as the people in it. Follow the page, introduce yourself, and share it with anyone in the SDS community who would want to be included.

[Join Today!](#)

Update Your Alumni Information

Keep your contact information current to ensure you receive the latest updates on SDS alumni events, news, announcements, and more. With more than 100,000 UNC Charlotte alumni and over 1000 alumni from the School of Data Science, you can connect with fellow graduates around the globe. [Click here to update your contact and/or professional information.](#)



Alumni Recruitment: Share your Opportunities with SDS Students

Looking to hire talented recent graduates or experienced alumni from the School of Data Science? As an SDS alumnus, you have two easy ways to connect with top candidates:

- **Feature Your Job in the SDS Student Newsletter:** Have a job or internship opening? Send it to Josh Hertel at jhertel@charlotte.edu, and we'll include it in the next SDS Student Newsletter, reaching over 800 current undergraduates and graduate students, plus 1,000+ SDS alumni.
- **Post Through Hire-A-Niner:** As an alumnus, you can use UNC Charlotte's Hire-A-Niner platform as an employer, completely free. Post jobs and internships; target specific majors or program levels (like Data Science, undergrad, or grad). *Let us know when your post is live, and we'll promote it to SDS students via our newsletter.* Questions? Contact the Career Center's Employer Engagement Team at recruit@charlotte.edu.

Campus Welcomes and Orientations



NEW THIS YEAR: Senior Week!

Are you on track to graduate in **May 2027**? We are introducing **Senior Week** to help you get ahead!

- **What:** Quick drop-in appointments to review your Spring 2027 course plan and clear your advising hold early.
- **When:** Week of August 24th - 28th
- **Details:** Swing by all this week to meet with Ms. Rella or a peer advisor to review the courses you have remaining for the spring semester.



Staffing & Advising Updates

- **Undergraduate DTSC Majors:** Assigned to Deanna Rella (drella@charlotte.edu).
- **Early Entry Students (in Data Science Program):** Assigned to Carly Mahedy (cfletcher@charlotte.edu)
- **SPOA Majors:** Assigned to Erin O'Neill (eooneil22@charlotte.edu). *Note:* Ms. Rodriguez has transitioned to a new unit on campus and will no longer be advising SPOA or CCI majors, but if you see her, be sure to say hi!
- **Peer Advisors:** We have three amazing Peer Advisors available for appointments and drop-ins! As senior students in our majors, they have completed most of the required coursework and are ready to help. Check your student account in Connect to view their schedule.

Campus Events

CCI AND SDS

SDS, CCI and Campus Events

Below is a collection of workshops, advising sessions, networking, conferences, etc. relevant to students in the SDS.

SDS Professional Seminars/Dubois Center Events - The School of Data Science hosts weekly in-person Professional Seminar Sessions with various presenters to help students connect with industry professionals and build career skills. All sessions are hosted at the Dubois Center from 4:00-5:00 pm. Please visit the ***SDS Calendar of Events*** for more information on the companies and speakers participating, and to register.

- **Introduction to the Wells Fargo Externship Program | Tuesday, September 1 | 4:00–5:00 p.m.**

Learn about Wells Fargo's Corporate Risk Externship Program, including opportunities in financial risk, analytics, AI, risk model development and validation, and data solutions. Hear from Wells Fargo representatives and UNC Charlotte externship participants about the program and how students can get involved. Registration required.



- **A Perspective on AI in Sports | Tuesday, September 8 | 4:00–5:00 p.m.- Eddie Mitchell**

Joe Gibbs Human Performance Institute / Joe Gibbs Racing, will share an applied perspective on AI in sports, drawing on his work leading AI and R&D initiatives focused on athlete performance, biomechanics, and motorsports. Registration required.



CCI and Campus Events

The College of Computing and Informatics, Career Center, Center for Graduate Life and Learning, etc, host regular in-person and online sessions open to all with various presenters to help students connect with industry professionals and build career skills. Please visit their respective websites for the full list of opportunities. Below is a curated list.

- **August 25: 3-4:00 pm CCI/SDS Recent Alumni Career Panel (Lowe's • TIAA • Duke Energy • WTW • The Hartford)- Main Campus** - The series opens with a panel of recent UNC Charlotte alumni working across data science, information security, technology leadership, healthcare analytics, and insurance. The panel focuses on academic and career journeys, internships, technical interview preparation, continuous



learning, and skills students should develop for an evolving technology and AI landscape.

- **CCI/SDS Early Entry Social (RSVP required) | August 26: 3-4:00 pm | Woodward Bldg:** The College welcomes incoming and current Early Entry students for a casual opportunity to connect with peers and build their professional network. Students will also learn about professional development opportunities and resources available specifically to Early Entry students during the Fall 2026 semester.
- **Career Fair Crash Course Tabling | Thursday, August 27, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. | Woodward Second Floor** - Get ready for fall career fairs and networking events! Stop by to pick up tips and resources to help you make the most of upcoming opportunities to connect with employers, explore careers, and land internships and jobs.

UNC Charlotte Career Center - From the Career Center Newsletter

The Career Center's fall calendar is getting busy, with the STEM Fair on September 4, Fall Career & Internship Fair on September 25, and Part-Time Job Fair on October 7, along with upcoming networking opportunities. **Career Center Dates:**

- Friday, September 4: **STEM Fair**
- Tuesday, September 15: Niner Networking Mixer
- Friday, September 25: **Fall Career & Internship Fair**



Technology | Data | Analytics Community Week | September 15–18- Join employers including **TIAA, SMBC, and Ahold Delhaize** for career conversations, employer networking, workshops, and professional development opportunities focused on technology, data, and analytics. Events include employer meet-and-greets, career coaching, an information security career talk, internship and co-op strategies, and more. **Explore the full schedule and register for upcoming events through Niner Engage.**

Join the Niner Career Challenge Today! Turn your career preparation into a chance to win Spring 2027 tuition! The Niner Career Challenge is back, rewarding your professional growth throughout the year. Earn points by:

- Attending Career Center meetups or coaching.
- Networking at career fairs.
- Engaging in campus-wide career events.

NINER CAREER
CHALLENGE

Qualifying activities are hosted by Niner Finances, CCI, and other partners. Visit the registration page here to view the full list of eligible activities and start earning points today!

Student Government NEWS

Association of Data Science Welcomes New Officers

The Association of Data Science (ADS) supports undergraduate students with a passion for data through events, workshops, networking, and professional development opportunities.

We are pleased to welcome the 2026–27 ADS officers: **Joe Conrad, President; Isabella Broughton, Event Coordinator; Nadia Narayanan, Treasurer; and Kashika Chaudhary, Secretary.**



ADS welcomes all SDS undergraduates interested in getting involved, planning events, joining a committee, or sharing ideas. Watch the SDS newsletter for upcoming events and opportunities to connect with ADS. Stay updated on events through SDS email newsletters, or follow us on **LinkedIn** or **Instagram**.

Upcoming Event for the ADS

- Interest Meeting August 24th, 6 - 7 PM, Mebane Hall 419
- Recurring meetings on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month.



The **Graduate SDS Student Council** is excited to wish everyone a warm welcome for the first week of classes! We are so excited for this semester and look forward to meeting everyone! If you see us on campus or around please feel free to chat with us. Attached is our linktree with our Instagram, LinkedIn, Events Calendar for the semester, Event Attendance Form and Feedback Form. Please take a moment to look at these and familiarize yourself with them. If you have any

questions, please feel free to email us at:

cltsdsggraduatestudentcouncil@gmail.com.

Community Events

MEET-UPS, HACKATHONS,
CONFERENCES, ETC.

SAS North Carolina: SAS is a global leader in analytics, AI, and data management, headquartered in Cary, NC—and a true North Carolina success story. SAS develops software and solutions that help organizations turn data into insights, improve decision-making, and solve complex real-world problems. Each year, SAS sponsors datathons, competitions, and other events that engage students and the broader data science community.

Meet SAS on Campus: Join us **September 29** for the SDS Professional Seminar Series, featuring **Joe Furbee** presenting *From Curiosity to Innovation: Exploring the SAS Hackathon and the Curiosity Cup*. Learn about opportunities to put your data science and AI skills to work, connect with SAS, and take your skills beyond the classroom.

Looking for a Challenge? Sign Up for the SAS Hackathon! October 1–30, 2026-

Put your data science and AI skills to work on a real-world problem during the global SAS Hackathon. Join teams from around the world to build, test, and refine an innovative solution using enterprise-grade AI and analytics. The registration deadline for the 2026 SAS Hackathon is September 15, 2026.

[Register Now](#) | [Learn How It Works](#) | [Explore Past Projects](#) | [Student Resources](#)

Compete in the 2027 SAS Curiosity Cup: Are you interested in showcasing your data science and AI skills on a global stage? The **2027 SAS Curiosity Cup** interest form is now available! This international student competition challenges teams to solve real-world problems using SAS

technologies. Finalists gain valuable exposure to SAS customers and partners, with opportunities for internships, employment, digital badges, prizes, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the SAS Innovate Conference in Las Vegas for the winning teams. ***Learn more and join the 2027 interest list today!***



The National Consortium for Data

Science (NCDS) brings together leaders from academia, industry, and government to advance data science and build a data-literate workforce. NCDS supports career pathways, connects public- and private-sector data professionals, and promotes

ncds

THE NATIONAL CONSORTIUM
for DATA SCIENCE

open and accessible data to drive innovation and economic opportunity. From the National Consortium for Data Science (NCDS) newsletter: **Upcoming Events:**

- **NCDS Fall Career Panel: Analyzing Data Science Careers | October 15 | 5:00 p.m. ET-** Join the National Consortium for Data Science (NCDS) for a career panel exploring pathways into data science, including the technical and professional skills that help candidates stand out in a competitive field. Register now to hear insights from data science professionals across industry.

NC HIMSS Annual Conference: Where Healthcare Innovation Meets Action-

Join healthcare leaders, clinicians, and IT professionals from across the Carolinas at the **NC HIMSS Annual Conference**, held October 19–20 at the McKimmon Center at NC State University. This year's event features expert-led sessions covering critical topics such as artificial intelligence, clinical informatics, cybersecurity, digital transformation, enterprise technology, healthcare policy, and data strategy. Attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, discover innovative solutions, and take away practical, actionable insights for their organizations. Don't miss the chance to connect with industry peers and leading experts. **Register today** to secure your spot, and check the McKimmon Center website for local lodging options and special rates.



Data Science **IN THE NEWS**

NC Tech Job Market Update

NC TECH's July 2026 IT Job Trends Dashboard shows a softer technology job market in North Carolina, with IT job postings down 2.7% from July 2025 and 12% from June. Despite the slowdown, employers continue to seek specialized talent, particularly in artificial intelligence, computer science, automation, scalability, and workflow management. For students preparing for careers in data science and technology, the report highlights both a more cautious hiring environment and continued demand for specialized skills.



Read the full report and explore the NC TECH IT Job Trends Dashboard.

Job Search

RESOURCES

Career Tip: Never Miss an Opportunity with Hire-A-Niner Job Alerts

Looking for internships or full-time opportunities? Let **Hire-A-Niner**, UNC Charlotte's career platform, do the searching for you by setting up **Job Alerts**.



1. Log in to Hire-A-Niner with your NinerNET credentials, select the **Jobs** tab, and use the search filters to customize your results. You can filter by **Position Type**, **Industry**, and **Remote/On-Site** options. For even more targeted results, click **More Filters** to refine your search by criteria such as **Desired Major**, **Work Authorization**, **Posted Date**, **Apply By**, and more.
2. Once you've selected the filters that best match your interests, click **Apply** to view the available opportunities. If you're happy with the results, select **Create Job Alert** in the upper-right corner of the page. You'll receive a confirmation message indicating that alerts have been created for your search.
3. You can customize how often you receive notifications by clicking the **settings (gear) icon** next to **Create Job Alert** and choosing a frequency that works for you: **Daily**, **Weekly**, **Monthly**, **Quarterly**, or **Never**.

Return to the settings menu at any time to update or delete saved alerts. A few minutes of setup can help ensure you never miss relevant opportunities!

Jobs, Fellowships, AND INTERNSHIPS

Job Postings

- **Job Opportunities: Principal AI Engineers with Fifth Third Bank**

Fifth Third Bank is hiring several Principal AI Engineers to help build generative AI, agentic systems, and automation across the bank. These roles offer the opportunity to design AI agents and retrieval systems, work with enterprise data, and partner with teams to apply AI to real-world business workflows. Positions are available in

Charlotte, Raleigh, and Dallas, with primarily in-office work. Interested applicants can reach out to Chris Germain at christopher.germain@53.com.

- **Internship & Full-Time Job Opportunities: Vanguard**

Vanguard is now hiring for its 2027 Technology Leadership Program (TLP) and College to Corporate Information Technology Internship (C2C IT)! These opportunities offer current college seniors and juniors hands-on experience within Vanguard's Information Technology and Data & Analytics teams, with immersive rotational experiences and professional development in financial technology. Positions are available in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Learn more and apply below:

[Technology Leadership Program \(Full-Time\)](#)

[College to Corporate IT Internship \(Summer 2027\)](#)

- **Internship & Graduate Job Opportunities: Deutsche Bank**

Deutsche Bank is now accepting applications for its 2027 Technology, Data and Innovation (TDI) Internship and Graduate Programs in Cary, NC, and New York! These opportunities provide hands-on experience in software engineering, coding, and AI while supporting the bank's Corporate Bank and Investment Bank divisions. Students graduating between December 2027 and July 2028 may be eligible for the 10-week Summer 2027 Internship Program, while students graduating by July 2027 may qualify for the Graduate Program. Learn more and apply below:

[2027 Technology, Data & Innovation Internship Program](#)

[2027 Technology, Data & Innovation Graduate Program](#)

- **Internship Opportunity: Technology, Data & Operations Internship at Truist**

Truist is offering a summer internship opportunity for students interested in technology, data, and financial services! The Technology, Data, and Operations Internship Program provides hands-on experience working on innovative projects across areas such as Software Development, Cybersecurity, AI & Data, and Operations. Interns will also gain professional and technical training, leadership development, mentorship, networking opportunities, and exposure to senior leaders.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](#)

Internships

- **[Quantitative Data Analytics Summer Analyst Program - 2027, Bank of America, Multiple Locations](#)**
- **[Global Technology Summer Analyst 2027 - Business Analyst, Bank of America, Multiple Locations](#)**
- **[2027 Quantitative Analytics Summer Internship Capital Markets \(Masters\) – Early Careers, Wells Fargo, Charlotte, NC](#)**
- **[Services - Summer Analyst Program, Citi, New York City, NY](#)**
- **[Data Engineer Intern \(Data Platform Global Live\) 2027 Summer, TikTok, San Jose, CA](#)**
- **[2027 Technology, Data, and Operations Internship, Truist, Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, Georgia](#)**

Jobs

- **[Data Analyst, Healthcare \(Outpatient Operations\), Charlotte Radiology, Charlotte, NC](#)**

- [2027 Quantitative Analytics Program Capital Markets \(Masters\) – Early Careers](#), Wells Fargo, Charlotte, NC
- [Data Quality Analyst](#), TCS, Charlotte, NC
- [Associate Data Scientist 2027 - AI & Data Analytics](#), IBM, Durham, NC
- [Associate Health Business Analyst - Nautilus Program](#), Florida Blue, Jacksonville, FL



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