



School of Data Science
UNC CHARLOTTE

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Note From Executive Director, Doug Hague

I hope each of you has gotten a vacation or break this summer. It has been a long pandemic and while not over, at least we are seeing some return to the new normal. A few reminders for you:

1. At our first faculty meeting, we will be voting on the adoption of our initial Bylaws. Please provide feedback to Duan Chen (or put comments in the document) by September 3rd.
2. Your comments are also being sought on our initial SDS Strategic Plan.
3. A few of us are still meeting at the new Marriott every Thursday at ~4:30 feel free to join.
4. We have joined the Academic Data Science Alliance as institutional members. Make sure to note this if you plan to register for their conference or events. They also have a Slack channel at academicdatascience.slack.com if you are interested. (if you have trouble accessing, Doug Hague can always invite you to the channel, just let him know).

BTW- details are below, but I'm looking forward to our first faculty meeting in September (with reception following!).

- Doug Hague



SDS Bootcamps: Relaunching for Fall 2021


SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE
BOOTCAMP COURSES
INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON FOR DATA SCIENCE,
INTRODUCTION TO R FOR DATA SCIENCE, OVERVIEW OF
STATISTICS FOR DATA SCIENCE

All three of the current SDS boot camps (Python, Statistics, and Introduction to R) were reviewed this spring. Registration for the Fall Semester SDS Boot Camps will open for students on Monday, August 2nd. These training modules are open to all students actively enrolled in the DSBA or HIA programs. These online courses were created as a free resource for students. They are intended to be utilized as introductory or foundational review tools. Please share this with your students. More information about the courses can be found here:

Students currently enrolled in the summer 2021 sections must complete the bootcamp by Tuesday, August 17th, 2021.

SDS Bootcamps

New Graduate Student Orientation- HIA and DSBA Programs

**School of Data Science (SDS) Virtual Orientation & Town Hall
Friday August 20, 2021 | 4:00pm – 5:30pm**

The School of Data Science is inviting all new and continuing DSBA and HIA students (Masters, Certificate, and Distance Education) to participate in a virtual orientation session. Students will learn how to prepare for the first semester, class expectations, and other aspects of each program along with a Q & A session with the school's faculty and staff. We will discuss in-person social and professional networking events planned for the Fall semester. New and continuing HIA and DSBA students can register.

[Register Here](#)

SDS Undergraduate Meet and Greet

The School of Data Science is holding a Data Science Meet and Greet as part of the Goldrush events welcoming new students to campus. The event will be held on August 23 between 4:00 - 5:00 pm at the Bioinformatics second floor lobby. The event is a casual affair for students to grab a slice of pizza and some SDS swag and create recognition for the program.

Faculty Information for New Student Convocation: August 22

We are excited to bring back the annual tradition of New Student Convocation in person this fall on Sunday, August 22, at 6 p.m. New Student Convocation celebrates and welcomes our new students and provides clear academic expectations and an understanding of what it means to be a 49er. The event presents the traditions of the institution, the Noble Niner Honor Code, a faculty keynote address, and a performance by the Pride of Niner Nation Marching Band.

All faculty are asked to [RSVP at this form](#) and participate in regalia in the one-hour New Student Convocation ceremony. If you need to rent regalia, please place your order with [Oak Hall](#). The last day to rent online is July 16. Visit the [New Student Convocation faculty information webpage](#) for more information.



Access to the Twitter Decahose Feed



In addition to the 1B+ Tweets on COVID-19, the School of Data Science has an agreement in place with Twitter which will enable UNC-Charlotte researchers to access the Twitter Decahose feed. The Decahose is a statistically relevant, real-time feed of 10% of Twitter content. Throughput volume is approximately 0.3TB/day.

Please reach out to Rick Hudson (rhudson@uncc.edu), SDS Project Manager, should you have any questions and/or need specifics on access to Decahose for research.

Additional information can be found at:

<https://developer.twitter.com/en/docs/twitter-api/enterprise/decahose-api/overview/decahose>

We will be publishing additional information/FAQs on the SDS website specific to UNC-Charlotte access to the Decahose in the near future.

Note: As of 30 June 2021, we no longer have access to the Twitter Historical Power Track (HPT) API. This capability has been replaced by the Twitter Academic Power Track. The Academic Power Track is a tool for academic researchers which provides an equivalent level of access to the HPT.

[Learn More Here](#)

New Twitter Training Available

Twitter has released a free course on pulling data. I know this has always been a popular topic for UNCC researchers. Now with the academic API, you have an off-the-shelf course ready to go for both R and Python:

<https://github.com/twitterdev/getting-started-with-the-twitter-api-v2-for-academic-research>

[Read More Here](#)

Stratifyd Tools for Use in Classroom



CCI is pursuing the possible availability of [Stratifyd data analytics tools](#) for the campus. The tools could supplement the instruction in our courses, by cutting time on data preparation for quick demos. If you are interested in receiving temporary user licenses to try out capabilities and drive possible engagement, please let Doug Hauge (dhague@uncc.edu) know soon so he can add your name to the list of faculty to receive a license.

Career Center Offers Free Professional Headshots for Faculty and Students

Give your professional image a boost on LinkedIn with a headshot. Having a professional headshot gives strength to your personal brand. There's no charge for the headshot program, and it is open to all current UNC Charlotte students, faculty/staff, and alumni.



[Learn More Here](#)

AI for Good Foundation Curriculum and Datasets



The AI for Good Foundation has just released its initial [Launchpad](#) curriculum that is available for faculty use. They are focused on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals and are

building datasets for curriculum use at universities. They have also provided a few documents [here](#) and [here](#). Feel free to review and utilized as you want. Please let Doug Hague know if you have feedback or further requests about the materials.

Burtch Works Jobs Report



Burtch Works is an Executive recruiting firm that produces regular research and insights on trends in the data science marketplace. They specialize in marketing research, marketing science, credit and risk

analytics, data science, and direct and digital marketing for a wide range of businesses and industries.

Check out their latest reports on Data Science & Analytics Salaries, Hiring Research, & Market Trends.

Webinar recording: <https://youtu.be/PDXizL0Grck>

Full report and slide deck: <http://www.burtchworks.com/study>

Looking for more info on current trends? Check out the additional links below:

1. Growing salary, education, and industry trends we're highlighting this year: <https://www.burtchworks.com/2021/06/21/new-report-5-growing-data-science-analytics-trends/>
2. Our latest hiring survey results for data science & analytics teams in Q3/Q4: <https://www.burtchworks.com/2021/06/15/survey-results-2021-data-science-analytics-data-engineering-hiring-in-q3-q4/>
3. Key data scientist skills for positions we're hiring for in 2021:



Data Summit - July 28th



Join OneIT for a high-level conversation about steps to develop a multi-year roadmap leveraging data & analytics in support of informed decision-making.

When: Wednesday, July 28, 2021, from 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Student Union 340 D-I

Speaker: Dr. Deke Kassabian, Executive Partner with Gartner

Intended Audience: University leaders, managers, and intermediate-to-advanced professionals who utilize data to inform decisions.

Please RSVP by Friday, July 23.

[RSVP Here](#)

Real-World Evidence: How Big Data Is Changing Scientific Standards

Thursday, July 22 | 9 a.m. Eastern

In this half-day National Press Foundation training aimed at health and science journalists, we'll dive into what's behind the evidence that powers medical knowledge. Experts will explain the real uses of "real-world data" that become the "real-world evidence" that can be submitted for regulatory approval. Dr.

Mark McClellan, former commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and now a Duke University professor will be joined by other experts from the fields of medicine, health economics, and statistics to offer a primer on what real-world evidence is and isn't — and how it may increasingly be used by the FDA and regulatory agencies.

[Register Here](#)

South Big Data Hub Open House

SBDH is hosting their 2021 All-Hands Meeting from July 28 - 30, where big data influencers from industry, academia, nonprofits, and the government will discuss the most important topics in data science today. The event features six conference tracks, each led by game-changers in their area of expertise.

- Data Science Education & Workforce — Led by Renata Rawlings-Goss and Melvin Greer
- Data Sharing & Cyberinfrastructure — Led by Niall Gaffney
- Team Science — Led by Shannon McKeen and Steve Fiore
- Smart & Resilient Cities — Led by Madhav Marathe and Samarth Swarup
- Health Disparities — Led by Patrick Sullivan
- Materials & Advanced Manufacturing — Led by Zachary Trautt and Eva Campo

In addition to presentations and networking opportunities, the South Hub All-Hands offers a chance for community members to connect on our virtual booth floor. Nonprofit, government and academic organizations can host an informational booth to highlight your program or project free of charge.

[Register Here](#)

Tentative Dates Set for 2021-2022 SDS Faculty Meetings

We are currently working on the 2021-2022 [SDS calendar](#). We have identified three tentative dates for next year's SDS Faculty and Staff meetings. We are planning for only three formal/in-person faculty meetings for the coming academic year.

- Tuesday, September 14th, 2021, 3:30-5:00 pm
- Tuesday, January 11th, 2022, 3:30-5:00 pm
- Monday, April 11th, 2022, 3:30-5:00 pm

We plan to offer all three on-campus at Alumni House, although there will also be a virtual option. We will host a reception for faculty after each meeting (5:00-6:00 pm) for those in attendance.

[Click "View entire message" below for:](#)

Women in Data Science and Analytics Frontiers - Tentative Dates Announced

SDS is starting the planning process for [WiDS 2022](#) and [AFC 2022](#). Both events will be held in-person and on campus in the new [UNC Charlotte Marriott Hotel & Conference Center](#). Tentative dates:

- Women in Data Science (WiDS) Charlotte Conference: Monday, February 28, 2022
- Analytics Frontier Conference: Thursday, March 31, 2022

We are looking for faculty and staff to join the planning committees for each of these events. If you are interested please reach out to either Doug Hague (dhague@uncc.edu) or Joshua Hertel (jhertel@uncc.edu).

Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Class of 2022 Application Cycle - Please share with students

The Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program is administered by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). The PMF Program is a leadership development program at the entry-level for advanced degree candidates in STEM fields. As such, students in the DSBA and HIA PSM programs are well-positioned to apply for this program. The Program attracts and selects the best candidates possible, but is really designed with a more narrow focus - developing a cadre of potential government leaders. It provides some sustenance during the first years of employment and encourages the development of leadership capabilities. The PMF Program inculcates a lasting bond as well as a spirit of public service, ultimately encouraging and leading to a career in the government.

The PMF Program Office has announced the dates for the upcoming PMF Class of 2022 Application:

- **OPENS**- Tuesday, September 28, 12:00 pm (EST)
- **CLOSES**- Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 12:00 pm (EST)

These dates have been posted here: <https://www.pmf.gov/become-a-pmf/2022-application/>. PMF Class of 2022 Finalists will be announced approximately six weeks after the application closes. Please monitor the webpage for updates.

TA Allocation for 2021-2022

The SDS will start the process of allocating TA support for Spring 2022 SDS

classes. If you are teaching a **DTSC, HCIP, or DSBA course** this spring you should be on the lookout for an email in late September with information regarding the specific class allocation and a link to a Google Forms folder with eligible candidates. In anticipation, we wanted to review the policy on how SDS-funded Teaching Assistantships are assigned.

The SDS pays master's candidates \$5,100 for a full-time (15 weeks/20 hours a week) and \$2,550 for a half-time (15 weeks/10 hours a week) assignment, roughly \$17.00 an hour. These positions are funded through the HIA and DSBA Tuition Increments. As a result, with few exceptions, we require the students selected to be a TA for an SDS course, to be enrolled in an SDS program.

SDS Enrollment/TA Allocation

- 25 or more students = 20 hours a week
- 15-24 students = 10 hours a week
- Less than 15 students = 0 hours

General requirements for SDS-funded assistantships can be found here. Some important high points:

- Students holding an SDS-funded assistantship must be registered for a minimum of 6 credit hours and a maximum of 9 credit hours.
- Students must have a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- Assistantships do not come with tuition remission.
- International students are eligible to hold an assistantship, but they need to sign up for the ISSO workshop if they have not already done so.

Please contact Josh Hertel (jhertel@uncc.edu) if you have any questions.

The SDS Graduate Student Organization Upcoming Events

New members of the SDS Student Organization are actively planning two exciting signature social events for the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year. One of the SDS Student Organization's goals is to have faculty and staff participate in the events. We will keep you posted on the events to come. Additionally, the Student Organization is planning a hackathon for Spring 2022. Again their goal is to make this event a signature yearly event and to involve faculty in the planning and the event itself.



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