



School of Data Science
UNC CHARLOTTE

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Note From Executive Director, Doug Hague

What a fast start to the semester! Thanks for everything you are doing. Teaching and being in a mask all the time is necessary, but not always comfortable, efficient, or pleasant. The good thing is that with few exceptions, our students have gotten the message and are complying with our policies. We'll get through this together.

More good news is that SDS will be very close to or over 400 students this Fall. Thanks to all of you for making the School a desired place to be for our students.

A few upcoming reminders:

Faculty meeting on Sept 14th 3:30. We will be voting on a few things so we will need a quorum to be able to adopt our By-Laws and hold initial elections. Duan Chen is developing the agenda for the meeting and will send it soon with a call for actions. We will have an in person reception following the meeting for those that are willing to attend in person.

Informal happy hours Marriott Golden Owl ~4:45 every Thursday. Feel free to drop in.

It has been great to see some of you in person and I hope to connect with each of you soon.

Doug

TO READ THE ENTIRE NEWSLETTER

Click "**View entire message**"

At the bottom of this email for: More upcoming events, tentative WIDS and AF conference dates, and information regarding TA allocation.



SDS Bootcamps: Relaunching for Fall 2021



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:

SDS Bootcamps

Students currently enrolled in the Fall 2021 sections must complete the bootcamp by Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

Free Online Bootcamp Trainings for SDS Classes

As most of you know, there are **three SDS Bootcamp courses you can utilize if your Fall 2021 class requires knowledge of Statistics, Python, or R**. These are online and asynchronous, hosted on Canvas, and designed to provide foundational skills.

All active DSBA/HIA students and those who are enrolled in your DSBA/HIA can sign up for these courses at:

<https://dsba.uncc.edu/current-students/sds-bootcamp-courses>

If you want to enroll all your students and keep track of their completions, please send the following information to Dr. SungJune Park, DSBA GPD (supark@uncc.edu):

1. course ID (including cross-listed ID)
2. required bootcamp course(s), and
3. class roster containing NinerNET ID (Exporting Canvas Gradebook will do the job).

Upon your request, the TA for the Bootcamp courses **can provide a certificate (proof of completion) report** for each course after the deadline you specify.

The Bootcamp courses will be **available throughout the semester until December 7**. So, you are encouraged to set an earlier deadline and specify it in your syllabus. As always, we welcome any feedback and suggestions for boot camp improvement.



HPC Educational Cluster Usage Requests for Fall 2021

If you are planning to use one or both of the HPC educational clusters for course sections during the Fall 2021 term, **please use the link below to complete the account creation request form**.

<https://forms.gle/FMxvQRNNjuj6NjUt8>

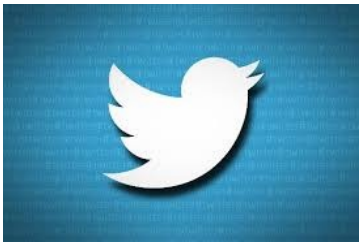
The **URC staff recently updated the educational HPC cluster to use Slurm**

for job scheduling to match the campus research clusters. New user documentation is available for the expanded CENTAURUS (13 nodes / 208 computing cores) and GPU (9 nodes / 136 computing cores / 24 GPUs) partitions (formerly MAMBA). The DSBA Hadoop cluster has 16 nodes (8 data nodes; 8 management nodes) and updated Cloudera distribution of Hadoop with standard services.

The **URC staff typically bulk processes student account creations on the day after add/drop unless instructors indicate that resources need to be used during the first week of classes.** New user documentation is available on the URC website: <https://oneit.uncc.edu/urc/educational-clusters/centaurus-user-notes>

Keep in mind that the educational HPC clusters are **used only for course-related assignments** and projects, and are **not to be used for research.** Here's a link to the URC page summarizing the Education Cluster resources: <https://oneit.uncc.edu/urc/educational-clusters>

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:**

[Get Started 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



AI for Good
FOUNDATION

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 **provided documents [here](#) and [here](#)**. **Feel free to review and use**. Please let Doug Hauge 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:

<https://www.burtchworks.com/2021/06/08/12-key-data-scientist-skills-in-2021/>

CDC Announces a New Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics

The Center will bring together next-generation public health data, expert disease modelers, public health emergency responders, and high-quality communications, to meet the needs of decision-makers.

[Learn More Here](#)

South Big Data Hub- Engagement Opportunities

The South Big Data Innovation Hub is a research coordination network that catalyzes and strengthens public-private partnerships to apply data science and analytics to scientific, societal and economic challenges important to the region and the nation. The South Hub is one of a network of four hubs across the country, launched by the National Science Foundation in partnership with our host institutions. **The Hub offers several education, training, funding (seed grants), and speaking opportunities to its community every year.**

[Learn More Here](#)

Army - HBCU/MI Faculty Immersion Program

The U.S. Army has launched a new initiative titled: Army - HBCU/MI Faculty Immersion Program. **The purpose** of this program, to be executed under the authority 10 U.S.C. 2362, is to **foster collaboration, enhance research capabilities, and encourage participation in the programs and activities of the Department of Defense by covered educational institutions.** The concept is a **two-year program executed in three phases. Phase One** places an HBCU/MI junior faculty in an Army laboratory for a minimum of ten

consecutive weeks for training and collaboration with Army in-house researchers. Phase Two places the HBCU/MI junior faculty member at an R-1 Institute of Higher Education (IHE) for a semester of training and experience working with Army and the R-1 IHE researchers. **Phase Two** also includes the further development of an Army-relevant research proposal for continuing research into phase three of the program. **Phase Three** entails eighteen months conducting the proposed research at the junior faculty member's home institution (i.e., the HBCU/MI) with continued collaboration with Army and R-1 IHE teammates. The Army is seeking applicants with junior faculty members who are currently performing research in the field of artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML).

The opportunity has been announced via Special Notice in www.grants.gov under FOA: [W911NF-19-S-0013](https://www.grants.gov/foa/W911NF-19-S-0013). The Special Notice includes a list of past and current Army-sponsored R-1 IHEs for HBCU/MI participants to consider as long-term teammates.



SDS Faculty Meeting, Harris Alumni House

Wednesday, September 14, 2021- 3:30-5:00 pm

The fall SDS faculty meeting will be held on 9/14, at the Harris Alumni Center from 3:30 - 5:00 pm with a reception to follow. **If you have not responded to the invitation sent earlier, please do so at your earliest convenience.**

The following link is the tentative agenda

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1LO6cbXY0LNZwmK_vuZ0xrjDGwcc5Raj-CDOoTDzUYog/edit#slide=id.gcb3ec73567_0_0

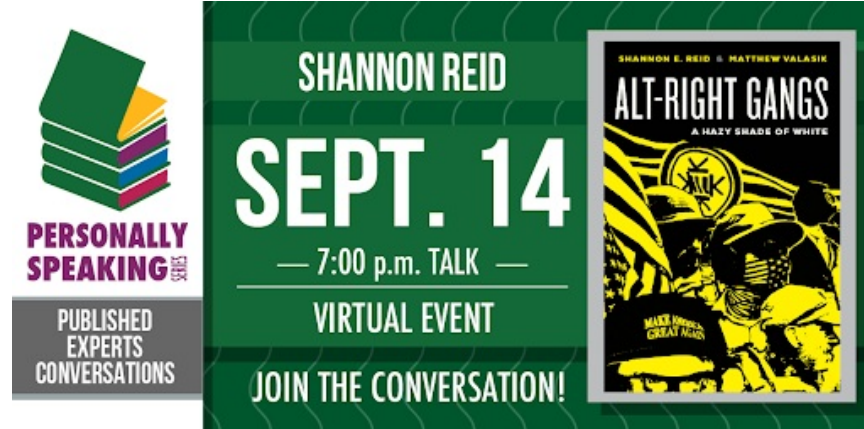
Additionally, we are **calling for nominations/self-nominations for SDS committees**, please find in the following link information about the committees and current members:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1WUHQ6HSGkMojWzuDPnqnGV0-7JNkeJu-xunU7-dpf9k/edit#slide=id.p>

Please let Duan Chen or Doug Hague know if you have an interest in serving any of the committees, or if see errors on the current list. For some positions, such as President and President-elect, we will vote, and for others,

Doug will work collaboratively with individuals and the corresponding department chairs to determine assignments.

Alt-Right Gangs: A Hazy Shade of White



PERSONALLY SPEAKING SERIES
PUBLISHED EXPERTS CONVERSATIONS

SHANNON REID
SEPT. 14
— 7:00 p.m. TALK —
VIRTUAL EVENT
JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

ALT-RIGHT GANGS
A HAZY SHADE OF WHITE

Shannon Reid | Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021 @7:00 p.m.

How and why do youth get involved in gangs that have white power signs, symbols, and ideologies? Research by Shannon Reid and co-author Matthew Valasik focuses on understanding the evidence behind the development, growth, and influence of alt-right groups within the white power movement. **Join us virtually for the kickoff of the 2021-22, Personally Speaking, series, on Tuesday, Sept. 14 with a Livestream event** hosted by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, The Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City, and the J. Murrey Atkins Library. During her talk, Reid will draw from her book *Alt-Right Gangs: A Hazy Shade of White* and present how prevention and intervention strategies can make a long-term impact.

Join the Conversation

Virtual Summit for Women in Tech: Ignite Change



Ignite Change
Sept. 23-24

VIRTUAL SUMMIT FOR WOMEN IN TECH

NCTECH Association
Presenting Sponsor
NC

September 23-24, 2021

The Virtual Summit will be live on the mornings of September 23-24 featuring a

dynamic lineup of keynote speakers that include:

Madhu Beriwal, President + CEO of IEM

Sue Harnett, Founder + President of Rewriting the Code

Theresa Payton, President + CEO of Fortalice Solutions, First-ever woman White House CIO

Jessica Rosenworcel, Acting Chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

There will also be panel discussions, Motivational Moments and more.

[Register Here](#)

ADSA Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the ADSA Annual Meeting, taking place **November 10-12 in Savannah, GA** with a virtual option. We understand there is still some uncertainty surrounding Covid and possible travel restrictions. Please know the health and safety of our community is our top priority. We will be following [Savannah's local mandates](#) as well as the [CDC guidelines](#), which may require masks at all times while inside. If in the unfortunate event we are forced to cancel part or all of the meeting, we will be offering refunds.

Doug Hague is on the planning committee for the conference and is **helping organize a session called “Data science for social impact in university-based programs.”** We are members of ADSA and get a **discount** off the registration fee, **so reach out to Doug before you register.**

[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, along with a virtual option.** We will host a reception for faculty after each meeting (5:00-6:00 pm) for those in attendance.

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 your 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 preparation, the policy on how SDS-funded Teaching

Assistantships are assigned is outlined below.

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:

- [DSBA Assistantships](#)
- [HIA Assistantships](#)

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 On-campus employment & I9 session](#) on September 10th or 26th if they have not done so

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



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