FACULTY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Spring 2024 Semester! After a bit of a chaotic start to our semester, it seems like things are now settled in. At our Faculty Meeting, we discussed many updates to our programs including the expected PhD full approval in January of 2025 with official launch that following Fall. The BS in Sports Analytics should be fully approved by May 2024, but we will be waiting to launch on funding from legislature. One thing I did note is that if/as you begin to write Data Science PhD students into grants, please connect with us so we can provide the right costs. SDS is currently expected to pay $22k stipends and also charge SBTI so it isn't the minimums that many programs use. The other news is that SDS has been allocated $1M in recurring funds. We'll have search committees for a couple positions this Spring, but the tenure track faculty searches will start next Fall. One of the implications of this is that there MAY be some one time funds available for SDS to spend this year. As a reminder of what I said in the meeting, if you have items to purchase that would support your data science research and engagement, please email me (dhague@charlotte.edu) your wish list and depending upon whether we have funding arrive this year, support everything that I can.

We may need to change the time of our April Faculty meeting, more on that soon, but in the meantime, please think about your service to SDS and whether you would be willing to be President Elect, or serve on one of the elected committees. We'll get a slate out and have elections at the April meeting. Harish Cherukuri will move to the President position and we will need to elect the President Elect as well as other committees.

I hope your semester is off to a great start! Reach out with any questions or if you'd

just like to catch up.

Thanks,

-Doug

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) - Several Grants Available

Dongsong Zhang has shared a few NOFO options available to SDS faculty. Their deadlines and focuses vary, but the list with details can be found **here**.

Call for Proposals: 2024 SDS Summer Seed Grant

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support interdisciplinary research projects, with the hope of fueling the collaborative spirit that already exists within the field of data science. This seed grant provides up to $15,000 per award. The deadline for application is March 1, 2024. Questions can be directed to **Dongsong Zhang**.

More Info

2023 Outstanding Data Science Junior Faculty AND Faculty Research Awards

Deadline: Midnight, Feb. 15, 2024

This annual faculty research award is aimed to recognize significant achievements in data science research of a core or an affiliate faculty member of the School of Data Science in the calendar year 2023. The winner of this award will receive a one-time $2,000 research stipend that can be used to cover any research-related expenses, such as conference travel, data and software purchases, and compensation for study participants.

Call for Seed Grant Proposals

Junior Faculty

Faculty

Analytics Frontiers: Call for Presenters

April 16, 2024 | Charlotte Convention Center

The 2024 Analytics Frontiers Conference will be held uptown at the Charlotte Convention Center on **Tuesday, April 16th** . Truist Bank returns as the title sponsor for the event. *This is the largest data science conference in the region, attracting more than 500 thought leaders, scientists, and business executives.* Topic ideas include ethics, finance, healthcare, and more.

The last day to submit speaker proposals is **February 1st!**

LEARN MORE

Women in Data Science: Registration Open!

March 21, 2024 | UNC Charlotte Marriott

The School of Data Science has had the privilege of hosting the Women in Data Science Conference for several years. With the generous support of our title sponsor Lowes, the event is free and open to students and early career

professionals from across the Carolinas. This day-long conference will feature workshops, hands-on training, networking opportunities, and a career fair. The Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference is part of a global initiative dedicated to mitigating unconscious biases in analytical and predictive models, thereby preventing decisions and designs that may exacerbate inequalities and underserved populations. Moreover, the investment aims to promote economic justice and prosperity for all, effectively addressing workforce talent shortage challenges. **We encourage you and your students to register and attend this year's event.**

LEARN MORE

Does Your Faculty Bio Need Updating?

Please check your current biography on the SDS page and let us know if we need to add or subtract any information, or update your photo. Please contact **Lindsay Lennon** with any questions or updated material.

Call for Content:

Have a story to share, an event to highlight, a new grant, or a job posting? Please feel free to share it with us @ **sds-communications@charlotte.edu**

Midwest Big Data Hub Collaboration Cafe

January 31 at 4 PM ET

The Collaboration Cafe is a monthly webinar open to all that is focused on building a community of data science researchers in the Midwest and beyond to explore funding opportunities and develop proposals. We are focused on elevating early-career scholars, particularly from under-resourced institutions, but everyone is welcome, including participants from industry, nonprofits, and government agencies. The topic is "Understanding Research Administration Capacity Challenges and Opportunities in the Midwest Region" and the speakers will be discussing the NSF Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity (GRANTED) program.

Discover the Data Science Education and Workforce Working Group

The Data Science Education and Workforce Working Group focuses on 1) Institutional Outreach, 2) Faculty and Student Development, 3) Resource Development, and 4) Workforce Landscape. The Education & Workforce Working Group has transitioned to a quarterly meeting format. The Data Science Education and Workforce Working Group is a mixed team of industry, academic, and government members actively engaged in securing funding for and developing education and workforce training in data science. The group also works to support faculty and student data science training and curriculum development, as well as connecting training in academia to industry and government needs and workforce development experience.

LACS Presentation Series

Languages and Cultural Studies has put together an interesting series of seminars on the intersection of AI and languages. The seminars will be held in the Language Resource Center in Mebane Hall 434 and there is a **zoom link** for each.
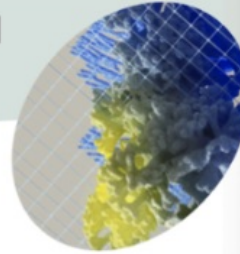
LACS Presentation Series | Spring 2024
Conversations about AI

AI and Ethics
Matteo Di Michele
January 26, 2:30-3:30 pm

AI in the Language Industry
Dr. Chris Mellinger &
Dr. Jeff Killman
February 16, 12:30-2:00 pm

Conversational Systems and AI
Dr. Manuel Perez-Quinones
March 29, 2:30-3:30 pm

AI in the Language Classroom
Dr. Bobby Hobgood
April 19, 2:30-3:30 pm

LRC: Mebane Hall 434

Monday Seminar: Entry Level Escape: Your Guide To Early Career Success

Monday, February 5, 2024 | 4:00 to 5:00 pm | Dubois Center
Presenter/Title: Dave Coughlin, Founder

Abstract: Dave Coughlin has been mentoring data scientists for over a decade resulting in dozens of promotions. Realizing he solved the early career promotion problem and could not mentor every early career professional, he set out to write a book to capture his system so others could benefit. In this session, you will receive an overview of what it means to be a fully 3-D professional, how to prioritize and cultivate the right skills to stand out at promotion time, how to articulate your impact, and how to projectize your promotion. In short, you'll get an overview of the Entry Level Escape methodology for your use to accelerate your promotions.

Sign Up
Here

Monday Seminar: The Burtch Works Jobs Report: Data Science and Analytics Job and Salary Trends

Monday, February 12, 2024 | 4:00 to 5:00 pm | Dubois Center
Presenter: Seamus Hogan, Account Manager, Burtch Works - Data & Analytics

Join us for a presentation by Seamus Hogan from**Burtch Works**, a leading national recruiting firm specializing in data and technology organizations. Discover the latest insights from their annual analysis of job, salary, and hiring trends in quantitative and analytical roles. Seamus will guide you through the comprehensive research, addressing questions about the overall market and offering valuable insights on connecting with prospective employers. Burtch Works, with its reputation for expertise and successful talent placement, caters to a diverse clientele, from Fortune 500 companies to startups. Gain a deeper understanding of the dynamic analytics job market and enhance your strategies for success in data-driven industries.

**Sign Up
Here**

Wednesday Health Informatics Research Seminars - 4:00 pm - virtual

Returning in January 2024. All sessions are virtual. More information and a link to the virtual sessions can be found **here**!

HIA Seminars: The Informatics Research Seminar Series

UNC Charlotte and the School of Data Science are pleased to participate in Duke University's weekly Health Informatics Seminar. The Informatics Research Seminar Series is part of a collaboration with the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (UNC-CH), North Carolina Central University (NCCU, Durham, NC,), University of North Carolina-Charlotte (UNC-C), East Carolina University (ECU, Greenville, NC), and Wake Forest University (WFU, Winston-Salem, NC). This series explores key areas in Health Informatics and includes research results, an overview of programs of research, basic, applied, and evaluative projects, as well as research from varied epistemological stances. The virtual seminars are held on Wednesdays at 4 PM EST. Coming up in the next two weeks:

- **January 31, 2024**- Mental Health In Immigrant Chinese Communities, Presented by Lily Chen Ph.D., MA, CNE, RN, North Carolina Central University
- **February 7, 2024**- Topic, TBD, Presented by Carlos Perez-Aldana, PhD, East Carolina University.

2024 Outlook for Tech

February 2, 2024 - UNC Charlotte Marriott Conference Center

NC TECH's annual statewide kick-off event is packed with leading perspectives on trends and innovations shaping technology. This event will include executive panel discussions, a predictions keynote, an innovation briefing, NC TECH's 2024 Preview, the release of the annual 'State of the Technology Industry' Report, a tech expo, and more. Outlook includes breakfast and lunch as well as a pre-event reception. Projected attendance is 250+.

LEARN MORE

National Big Data Health Science Conference

Columbia, SC | February 2 - 3

The National Big Data Health Science Conference is a signature annual event of the Big Data Health Science Center (BDHSC). This 5th annual conference will include innovative plenary sessions, panels, and workshops that emphasize the role of interdisciplinary collaboration in Big Data applications and advancements in the health sciences. Attendees will learn about current challenges and opportunities in Big Data health science from the perspective of academia, industry, government, and healthcare systems and participate in multidisciplinary sessions that will explore the future of Big Data health science research.

Register for the 2024 Informatics Summit

Join your colleagues at the AMIA 2024 Informatics Summit in Boston, March 18-21. At this event, you will have the opportunity to experience content dedicated to translational bioinformatics, precision medicine, clinical research informatics, data science, and AI -- all in one integrated conference. AMIA members: Save more than $300 when you register by Feb. 15!
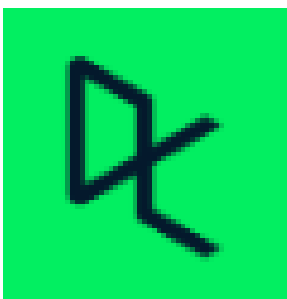
Important Dates

Find the full **SDS Calendar of Events** on the program website

- **February 2:** Early Alert Deadline
- **February 8:** Deadline to apply for May 2024 graduation
- **February 15:** Nominations due for 2023 outstanding research awards
- **February 19:** Master's Thesis Proposal Defense deadline for May graduation
- **February 19:** Unsatisfactory web midterm grading access available
- **March 1:** Summer Seed Grant proposals due
- **March 1:** Unsatisfactory midterm grades due for Spring 2024 Term by 12pm
- **March 4:** Fall 2024 Schedule of Classes available on the web
- **March 4:** Student registration appointment times are available on the web
- **March 4 - March 9:** Student Spring Recess - No Classes

DataCamp Renewed for 2024

The School of Data Science and the College of Computing and Informatics recently re-upped our agreement with DataCamp. All SDS and CCI students actively enrolled for spring and all SDS faculty can request access to create a free account on the platform (or join UNCC's platform with their existing account). All SDS students have free access to learning resources on hundreds of topics in the field of data science. Students can sign up through their respective websites:

- **Data Science-Undergraduate**
- **Health Informatics- Graduate**
- **Data Science and Business Analytics- Graduate**

In addition to the DataCamp license, the School of Data Science has also created some "in-house" training modules in Canvas. These courses are online, asynchronous, and available to all SDS students. Spring 2024 sessions are currently open for students actively enrolled in SDS graduate and undergraduate courses. All three are scheduled for revisions this summer. We will likely reach out to faculty in late spring for feedback.

- Introduction to SAS For Data Science: This course provides a rudimentary introduction to programming in SAS. It covers SAS libraries, datasets, variables, data import, and additional SAS training materials.
- Overview of Statistics for Data Science: This course is intended to provide a review of foundational statistics methods necessary for success in data science and health informatics programs. It covers the basics of statistics, probability, probability distributions, descriptive statistics, and hypothesis testing.
- Health Informatics and Analytics Vocabulary: This course provides an introduction to core vocabulary and terminology used in Informatics, Medical, and Health Systems.

We have a new GA managing access to both the DataCamp and the SDS Bootcamps- **Triston Barbour**. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to Triston if they have any questions regarding access.

Grant Opportunity for Data Science in Injury and Violence Prevention

Run by APHA and the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, this initiative aims to enhance public health capacity by supporting organizations

engaged in data science practice.

They are seeking applications from organizations with existing data science projects looking to expand their efforts. Each site will be awarded up to $200,000 to assist with project implementation.

Applications are due by Feb. 05

Learn More

Office of Undergrad Research (OUR) Summer Faculty Recruitment

Deadline January 30th, 2024

The OUR Scholars program can help you find and employ students in collaborative learning through undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activities. The summer program is 10 weeks long and students can log up to 400 hours working on a research project!

Learn More

Data Science and Analytics Newsletters

Data Science Community Newsletter- One more resource to keep in the know for new tools, events, job postings, and developing trends in data science- **subscribe today.**

ADSA
Data Science
Community
Newsletter

The 2025-26 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Competition opens in February 2024

The **Fulbright Scholar Program** is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). The Program offers U.S. faculty, administrators and professionals grants to lecture, conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, or participate in seminars.

ICPSR Summer Program Scholarship

Apply now for 2024 ICPSR Summer Program scholarships! Customize your curriculum in the General Sessions with our scholarships. Check out the full list, including partnerships with other organizations. Deadline: February 26.

See all scholarships

Choose in-person or online options for the General Sessions, available live or asynchronously until December 31, 2024. These courses provide a rapid boost in statistics, data analysis, and quantitative skills. Apply with a cover letter, CV, and one recommendation letter, tailored to specific scholarship requirements.

Apply for a scholarship

$150k available!

ICPSR Summer Program scholarships now open!

Apply by February 26

Attend in person or online

Learn more: myumi.ch/ICPSRscholarships

RESOURCES, HACKATHONS, AND MEET-UPS FOR STUDENTS

Rising Stars in Computational and Data Sciences, USA, Apr 2024

The 5th Rising Stars in Computational and Data Sciences Workshop is being held April 30-May 1, 2024, at the Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences at UT Austin. The event is co-organized by the Oden Institute and Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, and Sandia National Laboratories. Rising Stars is an intensive workshop for graduate students and postdocs who are interested in pursuing academic and research careers. A primary focus of the workshop is increasing the participation of underrepresented gender identities in computational and data sciences. They are seeking nominations for outstanding candidates in their final year of Ph.D. or within three years of having graduated (and not yet in a permanent faculty or staff position). All gender identities are welcome as nominees. We will select approximately 30 participants to come for two days of research presentations and interactive discussions about academic and research careers, with financial support for travel provided. The nomination consists of sending (1) a letter of nomination and (2) a copy of the nominee's 2-page resume to Karissa Vail at **karissa.vail@austin.utexas.edu** with the subject line 'Rising Stars Nomination. More information can be found **here**. Please consider nominating one of your outstanding current/recent Ph.D. students or postdocs. **Nominations are due January 29, 2024**

Societal Impacts Research Scientist at Anthropic San Francisco, CA

As a societal impacts research scientist, you'll devise new ways to measure and assess Anthropic systems for societally or policy-relevant traits and capabilities and will discuss what your team discovers in their research publications and policy campaigns. Strong candidates will have a track record of running experiments relating to machine learning systems, working in a fast-paced startup environment, and an eagerness to develop their own technical skills so they can best interface with our systems. The ideal candidate will enjoy a mixture of running experiments and doing research, developing new tools and evaluation suites, and evangelizing this and other work to key stakeholders and communities. Learn more on their website.

Just Tech Fellowship
Applications due January 31

The Social Science Research Council is proud to announce that we are seeking applicants for the third cohort of the Just Tech Fellowship. This fellowship supports and mobilizes diverse and cross-sector cohorts of practitioners to imagine and create more just, equitable, and representative technological futures. Fellows have committed to identifying and challenging injustices emerging from new technologies and pursuing solutions that advance social, political, and economic rights. Fellows receive two-year awards of $100,000 annually, robust supplementary funding to subsidize additional expenses, and separate seed funding to collaborate with other Just Tech Fellows. The fellowship believes that this model of Whole Person support provides the space and time necessary for deep reflection, an engaged community, and opportunities for ambitious co-creation.

Shanahan Foundation Fellowship | Applications due February 1

The Shanahan Foundation Fellowship at the Interface of Data and Neuroscience was created to provide freedom and flexibility to promising young scientists from diverse fields, as they work alongside neuroscientists at the Allen Institute and the University of Washington. The three-year fellowship provides Ph.D.s from data science, computer science, physics, mathematics, and many other fields the mentorship and support to pursue their research interests with our data.

Web3 Hackathon World League

Registration Opened January 8, 2024

Sia Partners and *Tezos* are proud to announce the New York edition of the **Web3 Hackathon World League**, a dynamic and inspiring student-driven competition that brings together the brightest minds to solve real-world problems through technology. Web3 Hackathon World League is not just a competition; it's a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and technological breakthroughs. **For more information and to register.**

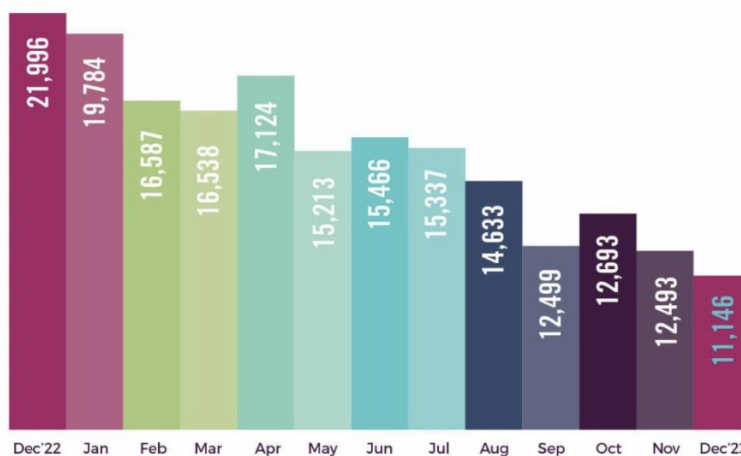# IT Job Trends Report for December 2023: NC Tech Association

T h e **North Carolina Technology Association (NC TECH)** has released its **monthly report** of available IT positions in the state, broken down in several ways (top ten listings by MSA, job type, skillset, and employers). This Tech Talent Trends Alert is a snapshot of the previous month (as well as a rolling thirteen-month chart of total IT job openings such that trends can be observed).

More Info

NC IT JOB POSTINGS / PAST 13 MONTHS

NCTECH Association

*Reporting as of 01/08/24 – Ongoing data updates/revisions may cause fluctuation in job numbers contained in previous monthly reports

Dec'22	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec'23
21,996	19,784	16,587	16,538	17,124	15,213	15,466	15,337	14,633	12,499	12,693	12,493	11,146

Data pulled from NC IT Job Trends Report produced by North Carolina Technology Association
919-856-0393 / **nctech.org**

Data Science and Health Analytics In The NEWS

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

WHO issues guidelines for ethical AI in healthcare
Training large multi-modal language models with datasets that omit representative data from people in low-income countries and under-resourced places raises the risk

of amplifying inequities and biases and should not be used for health care, according to a World Health Organization report. WHO guidance for ensuring that LMMs promote and protect public health recommends international cooperation on regulations for AI development and use and warns against "industrial capture" of AI. Full Story: Nature (1/18)

How the world is preparing for the next Disease X

Preparation for Disease X, a currently unknown pathogen with pandemic potential, includes developing vaccine, diagnostic, and therapeutic platform technologies that can be adapted rapidly. Other Disease X preparation initiatives include the World Health Organization's Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence, the Global Virome Project, Project NextGen, a US network for detecting and responding to public health emergencies, and a global center for therapeutics. Full Story: The Seattle Times (tiered subscription model)/Bloomberg (1/17), New Scientist (free content) (1/17)

Researchers develop AI Mathlete

Google DeepMind's AlphaGeometry artificial intelligence correctly solved 25 of 30 geometry problems from the International Mathematical Olympiad, researchers reported in Nature. Computer scientists developed a language with a rigid syntax for writing Euclidean geometry proofs and embedded basic geometry rules, then trained the AI on 100 million computer-generated proofs. Full Story: Nature (1/17)

NIH chief wants to see better systems for sharing data

NIH Director Monica Bertagnolli would like to leave a legacy of improvements in healthcare delivery and data sharing among researchers, and she wants to see action on "multiple user communities centered around innovative approaches to data sharing and analytics" within a year. Bertagnolli says the NIH is focusing on two "big areas of need"-- data systems and translational and clinical research that reaches new populations. Full Story: Nature (1/15)

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE | SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

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