

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ANALYTICS  
CLASS OF 2016**

**STUDENT PROFILES**

Employer information sessions: September–January  
On-campus interviews: January–March  
Graduation date: April 30, 2016

For information, please contact:

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Updated: December 4, 2015

## MSA CLASS OF 2016 DEMOGRAPHICS

Number of students enrolled:	114
U.S. citizens or permanent residents:	85%
North Carolina residents:	48%
Number of countries of origin:	18
Prior states of residency (27):	AL, AZ, CA, DC, FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, NC, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA
Percent who are women:	41%
Average age / Median age:	26 / 24
Average number of years since undergraduate degree:	4
Graduating with academic honors as undergraduates:	63%
Average undergraduate grade point average:	3.59
Percent enrolled with a prior graduate degree:	16%
Previously employed full-time (3 or more years):	41%

## Julia ALLCOTT

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S. and Canada



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.S.P.H., with distinction, Environmental Health Sciences with minors in  
Chemistry and Creative Writing, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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A childhood spent playing with mind puzzles, Sudoku, and problem-solving toys evolved into a university career composed of upper level mathematics, statistics, and chemistry courses. However, it was during her internship with EcoLand Institute that Julia was introduced to data analytics.

As a member of EcoLand's Food System's Committee, Julia collaborated with a student team to develop a decision-support tool that informed public stakeholders of nutritional, money-saving, and environmental assets for hundreds of produce items. In this project, she managed the nutritional database portion and orchestrated the final editing of both summer and fall final reports. Julia's ability to combine big dreams with realistic decisions made her a key member in brainstorming and scoping the project. Through this experience, Julia found that data analytics united both her enthusiasm for upholding public well-being and her analytical adeptness. Julia's affinity for numbers and her humanitarian mindset led her to see analytics as a means to foster community well-being and promote sustainability in order to improve communities, civic systems, and urban design.

While well accomplished in academics and analytics, Julia enjoys many hobbies including painting, hula hooping, snowboarding, and traveling. Before diving into her Master's, Julia enjoyed backpacking solo around Europe where she ventured through foreign streets, navigated mountainous hiking trails, and connected with many people. Such individuals and experiences inspire her creative writing. One day, she hopes to publish her collection of travel and fiction stories.

## Carlos H. BLANCARTE II

Hometown: Tucson, Arizona  
Citizenship: U.S.  
Language: Spanish



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Arizona  
B.A., Economics with minor in Business Administration, 2011
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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During an undergraduate course, a simulated visualization of the central limit theorem awakened Carlos to the diverse applicability of statistics. There, he developed an insatiable desire to work with data, culminating with an entry-level position with a marketing research firm. Although Carlos did not have an advanced degree, his determination, support by his mentor, and countless late nights of self-study, earned him a promotion within the analytics team.

Hard working, personable, and dependable, Carlos continues to be drawn to analytics for its power to capture complex relationships and influence decision-making. At a particular highpoint in his career, Carlos took the lead in developing and executing an analyses plan that touched on every part of the project lifecycle. From data collection and cleaning to data modeling, Carlos' technical expertise ensured that the project would be completed efficiently. The final deliverable went on to influence the direction of a multi-million dollar advertising campaign.

Carlos' desire to immerse himself in statistical techniques and the latest technology has gained him a reputation for developing innovative and efficient solutions. His commitment to life-long learning continues to benefit him even outside of the workplace when learning to code, mastering the classical guitar, or building statistical models to predict the results of soccer matches.

## Daniel BRANNOCK

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.S., Chemistry with minor in Biology, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As a child, Daniel's favorite subject was science. However, when his brother was diagnosed with Fanconi Anemia, Daniel's interest in science suddenly had a focus. In seventh grade, that meant he carefully studied the single chapter in his textbook devoted to genetics. When Daniel spent a month in a hospital in Cincinnati being his brother's friend, support, and bone marrow donor, he also asked every doctor he could about the field of genetics. By the time he graduated college, his interest in genetics had generalized to biology, transitioned to his physical chemistry research, and resulted in a job in analytical chemistry. At every step, the science had become increasingly quantitative.

At Catalent Daniel did the work he thought he wanted—applying analytical chemistry to pharmaceuticals. However, his interest in mathematical theory led him back to classes during his lunch break. His passion for numerical analysis made him a resource for his colleagues at Catalent, who would come to him for statistical work and trend spotting. Three semesters after he first chose math over lunch, Daniel left Catalent to actively pursue an ever more quantitative field at the Institute for Advanced Analytics.

Aside from studying science, in middle school Daniel used sticks in his backyard to calculate his free throw percentage. His calculations have grown more robust, but he still loves playing basketball and rooting for the Tar Heels. To relax he escapes into epic fantasy books, the longer the better.

## Ryan BURKHARDT

Hometown: Indian Springs, Alabama  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ Brigham Young University Idaho  
B.S., *cum laude*, Economics, 2013
  - ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015
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Ryan is driven to stand out and execute flawlessly, which leads him to roads untraveled. While he is travelling down those roads he constantly finds new and improved ways to create efficiency for any issue he confronts. In order to create these efficiencies, Ryan has focused on recognizing trends and believes patterns exist in everything. Once those patterns are understood, they unlock knowledge and potential that should be capitalized upon.

While working in the President of the University's Office during college, he consulted with a multi-million dollar oil support company. In addition, he held management and data analyst roles at a billion dollar unicorn, where he discovered inefficiencies in their processes. His love of pattern recognition and masterful knowledge of Microsoft Excel has helped him substantially improve processes reducing week and month-long tasks to half-day or mere minutes of work.

When Ryan is not engaged in his work, he is very intensely focused on spending time with his family. The activities they love to do together range from watching movies with ice cream sundaes to hitting the waves at the beach. In all aspects of life, Ryan believes we should all do the best we can, because, as Einstein simply said, "This is our sacred human responsibility."

## Kevin BUSFIELD

Hometown: Mebane, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Elon University  
B.S., Mathematics, 2000
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As a 15-year teaching veteran, Kevin developed a sense of dedication for his community alongside his love for the field of mathematics. By engaging in multiple professional development opportunities, Kevin gained exposure to the excitement that a career in analytics can offer. Kevin participated in seminars at SAS, which furthered his understanding of the analytics field and its applications. Ultimately, Kevin intends to take a career path that will in some way serve others through solving big data problems.

While teaching, Kevin worked with his colleagues to navigate many of the problems that face the modern education system. Kevin's open door policy led him to work with many students who were not his own, as well as mentor peers looking for guidance. Kevin was a go-to resource for many of his colleagues who would pose challenging questions, including questions on grade analysis and probability theory. Because of Kevin's proven leadership abilities, he was asked by his principal to sit on the Superintendent's Advisory Counsel. As a result, he made impactful contributions towards improving the education for all students throughout Orange County Schools.

When not involved with analytics or serving in his community, Kevin enjoys spending quality father-son time with his 10 year-old son, Rand. He also challenges himself by training for Spartan Obstacle Course Races by running, rock climbing, swimming, and engaging in competitive team sports.

## Kelsey CAMPBELL

Hometown: Ft. Wayne, Indiana  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Purdue University West Lafayette  
B.S., with distinction, Economics, 2011
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Enamored by research on economic disparities, accessibility, and racial and gender inequalities, Kelsey is especially passionate when analytics are used to shed light on social problems. She is committed to the belief that data can be used not only to understand the complexities of these issues, but to also identify potential solutions.

Kelsey's social conscience developed during her undergraduate years. While working as a research assistant, she was exposed to a number of topics within family contact and support. Kelsey collaborated on a service-learning project with a team of engineers attempting to design and build a soapbox derby car capable of accommodating children with disabilities. As her senior thesis project, Kelsey explored income differences for gay and lesbian Americans in states with varying marriage equality laws.

Working after graduation as an Economist at RTI International, a non-profit research organization, Kelsey was able to look at many factors related to tobacco policy research. She particularly enjoyed projects focusing more on social justice aspects, such as behaviors, beliefs, and access among different demographic and age groups. She also served as the main data analyst for a project evaluating the impact of tobacco education TV ads on calls to quit-smoking helplines.

Kelsey does her best to stay engaged with these issues within the community as well. An active volunteer, she recently travelled to Kenya to work with a charity supporting orphans in the areas hit hardest by HIV/AIDS.



## Hylan CARTER

Hometown: Richmond, Virginia  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Virginia Commonwealth University  
B.S., Finance, 2007
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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From tracking the development of Hurricane Andrew at age 7 to studying financial markets at age 27, Hylan has always had an interest in discovering what influences events and outcomes in the world around him. Over the years, he has come to appreciate the value that analytics offers and views himself as a treasure hunter trying to find that small but valuable “nugget of gold.”

Hylan began working as a financial analyst at an agricultural retail company. There he learned the impact that data analysis can have on business decision-making. Collaborating with a colleague, Hylan analyzed customer locations and market potential to develop metrics for sales expectations. He presented these findings through mapping solutions using ArcGIS to visualize findings and highlight areas for growth. More recently, Hylan has performed analytics of cash and resource management for federal agencies in Washington, DC including the DEA and NASA.

During his time in a graduate certificate analytics program, Hylan analyzed and presented findings on play-by-play data from the 2013 NFL regular season. He combined statistical analysis with data visualization techniques to determine situational play-calling trends and statistical differences between teams who made the playoffs and teams who do not make the playoffs.

Every fall, Hylan enjoys participating in fantasy football with his close friends. Hylan loves to play basketball and flag football to maintain an active lifestyle. He also likes to swim, bike, and run, and has completed multiple 10Ks, half-marathons, and a triathlon.

## Joy CHEN

Hometown: Luohe, China  
Citizenship: U.S. Permanent Resident, China



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Ph.D., Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, 2011
- ▶ Nankai University  
B.S., Biological Science, 2006
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2014  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Joy's greatest passion has always been discovering hidden patterns and making predictions. Her record of achievement has demonstrated her motivation, intelligence, critical thinking and analytical aptitude. As recognition of her outstanding research in the cancer genetics field, she was awarded a grant as the principal investigator by the U.S. Department of Defense in 2013.

During her Ph.D. studies and post-doc, Joy devoted herself to discovering genetic determinants for human diseases and developing disease predictive models. It was a tough task to identify the real disease-associated genetic variations. But to Joy, this analytical process was just like finding grains of gold amid the sand—arduous but exhilarating. Building disease predictive models gave Joy an even stronger sense of accomplishment, because the models may be applied in personalized medicine.

Joy's diligence and enthusiasm in analytics has led to remarkable achievements. She has co-authored 27 highly influential journal articles, which have been cited over 470 times worldwide. While Joy enjoyed her analytical explorations in genetics, she does not want to restrict her talent within a specific field. She is passionate about translating plain numbers to promising conclusions to solve real-world problems.

Outside of work, Joy expands her horizons by exploring new places. During the past four years living in the U.S., she has been to the four corners of the lower 48 states: Bar Harbor in Maine, Key West in Florida, San Diego in California and Port Angeles in Washington. As in her work, Joy never fears new adventures in life.

## Virginia CHRISCOE

Hometown: Angier, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *cum laude*, Civil Engineering with a concentration in Structures, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As a member of the North Carolina State University Concrete Canoe team, Virginia quickly gained a “sink or swim” attitude as a Civil Engineering student. She learned the skills needed to adapt to constantly changing tools and methods in order to efficiently solve problems. This skill set was further developed while working as a Project Engineer Intern at FDH Engineering. With little previous experience, she became a valuable member of her team by completing the same average number of structural analysis projects and reports each week as the full-time engineers on her team. Virginia is excited to now dedicate these analytical and teamwork skills to the exciting field of data analytics.

As the President of her university’s National Association of Home Builders Student Chapter, Virginia learned leadership skills while developing a passion for building homes for low-income members of her community. She took this opportunity to involve the club in volunteer work by organizing a student group to participate in construction and deconstruction projects with Habitat for Humanity. Virginia was also selected to be the student spokesperson on her department’s advisory board, where she was responsible for communicating and addressing student concerns with a board of faculty and industry professionals. Through this process, she assisted in adding a new software elective to the Civil Engineering curriculum.

Virginia also enjoys nourishing her competitive nature by challenging her friends to a game of tennis or basketball and running 5k races.

## Rich CONBOY

Hometown: Hopewell Junction, New York  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Boston College  
B.S., Management with concentrations in Information Systems, Accounting, 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Rich learned the true meaning of hard work on the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts. A New York native and former member of the Boston College Men's Rowing team, Rich discovered that the sport was a natural parallel to other aspects of life—improvement comes as a direct result of putting in the effort. The only way to make a boat move faster is to pull harder. With this lesson in mind, Rich has applied his relentless ambition for self-improvement to every aspect of his life.

Rich first discovered the world of analytics while interning in the Business Intelligence department at Gemvara, an online custom-jewelry retailer based in Boston. In one year, Rich halved the time spent on periodic reporting by writing database procedures to automate many formerly manual tasks. This allowed Rich to focus his efforts on ad-hoc reporting for business owners, where he proved that he could function effectively as a well-rounded analyst.

Upon his graduation, Rich joined Ernst & Young's Advisory practice to put his data analytics background to good use in the public accounting space. A consistent high-performer within EY's Risk Assurance group, Rich specialized in testing internal controls in support of integrated audit engagements. Additionally, Rich worked as a member of the regional Data Analytics team, which completed analytical procedures around huge transactional data sets to detect evidence of potentially fraudulent activity.

In addition to his studies at the Institute, Rich enjoys sharpening his golf swing, cheering on BC football (yes, even against NCSU), and jogging around Lake Raleigh with his rescue dog, Blair.

## George (Taylor) CORBETT

Hometown: Seattle, Washington

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Occidental College  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, departmental honors in Diplomacy & World Affairs and Economics, 2012; Phi Beta Kappa
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Taylor is a strategic thinker and creative problem solver with a track record of embracing complex problems and delivering compelling data-driven solutions. Over the past four years he has led projects with UN Agencies, Federal and State governments, Oxford and Stanford Universities, as well as numerous companies and NGOs on topics ranging from disaster management to social network analysis. Taylor has seen that it is not usually technical but human factors that keep organizations from realizing their data's full potential. For this reason, his work has largely focused on integrating traditional statistical analyses with human-centered design, data visualization, storytelling, and systems thinking techniques.

While in Nigeria, he led a team to design and deploy a UNICEF system to distribute monthly community vaccination profiles. These profiles, comprised solely of data visualizations, enabled everyone, even those who are illiterate, to track communities' progress against polio. Recently, he assisted SOS Venezuela, a nonprofit promoting human rights in Latin America, in creating a data-driven outreach strategy that attracted over 200,000 Facebook followers and generated 8.4 million interactions and over 100 million impressions in its first 3 months. Given these and other successes, Taylor has spoken on the importance of data visualization and data-driven cultures at numerous events held by the U.S. Department of State, United Nations Development Programme, and World Bank.

Having lived in three countries and traveled to an additional 28 more, Taylor is an avid traveler and proud "third culture kid."

## Jonathan DANIELS

Hometown: Pleasant Grove, Utah  
Citizenship: U.S.  
Language: Japanese



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Pennsylvania State University  
Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics, 2014
- ▶ Utah Valley University  
B.S., Information Systems, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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By prioritizing and being diligent, it took only six months for Jon to become fluent in Japanese. This same dedication to hard work proved useful when balancing a full time position and a full course load as an undergrad in Information Systems. During his studies, Jon went above and beyond course expectations when he interviewed several business intelligence specialists and compiled the findings into a paper that he presented at the IACIS Conference in October 2014.

For the last seven years, Jon has been an influential and versatile part of a digital encryption and authentication company. Jon started at an entry-level position and was quickly promoted to marketing, where his analytical skills were greatly appreciated and enhanced. Next in enterprise sales, his strong communication aptitude was demonstrated. Most recently, as reseller partner manager, he played a major role in redefining the reseller program. He was an integral part in developing partnerships with companies worldwide, and his Japanese skills led him to travel to Japan several times. Jon is often the catalyst for increasing value and efficiency. His work is powered by his passion for analytics, and he enjoys diving into the data and using his findings to build a framework of actionable insights.

Jon was raised on the saying, "Make it a good day." His positive attitude is infectious and he is often the source of energy that lifts those on his team. When he is not working, he is usually "fighting imaginary monsters," playing hide and seek, or sitting at family dinner with his wife and two children.

## Erin DAVIS

Hometown: Shreveport, Louisiana  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.S., Mathematical Decision Sciences, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015

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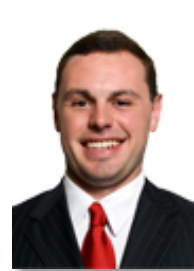
Erin fell in love with statistics by accident. When she began her undergraduate career at the University of Arkansas, majoring in business seemed like the safe and practical choice. She didn't anticipate that taking her first required statistics course would foster such intense interest. Statistics seemed to fit her curious nature so much that she left to pursue the field more intensely at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

While she enjoyed her major, it didn't satiate her desire to investigate, collaborate with others, and create original content, so she applied for a staff writing position at the renowned student run paper: *The Daily Tar Heel*. It was there that she was introduced to the powerful data visualization tool, Tableau. Using this new skill, Erin springboarded into communicating complicated data to the masses, which became the foundation of her role at her internship with The 614 Group, an online advertising consulting startup. In her final project with The 614 Group, Erin presented an improved process for entering demographic data that streamlined communication with all the company's clients. The purpose and pride Erin felt when discovering data solutions motivated her to pursue a career in analytics.

Whether it's working on a project or running her daily 5k, you won't find Erin without a music playlist built specifically for the occasion. Erin also turned this love for creating playlists into gifts for loved ones. If you're close to her you can expect a CD full of ukulele covers recorded and sung especially for you, every holiday season.

## Cory DELANEY

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Cory's passion for analytics began when his grandfather introduced him to the strategic game of golf. Cory learned to account for many factors such as distance, slope, weather, and areas of risk in order to make the most efficient golf shot. The concept of estimation became clearer when he realized controlling variability plays a huge role in his golf game. Later, during a college-level statistics course in high school, Cory decided to further his education in a field that revolved around smarter decision-making.

Cory's academic success gave him the opportunity to be part of two statistical research projects. In addition, his data analyst internship for Liberty Healthcare Corporation of North Carolina resulted in an expanded employment role. There he gained the reputation amongst his colleagues for being a dedicated worker who often exceeded expectations. As an intern, he made several presentations to management regarding company performance and areas of improvement. As an employee, Cory was trusted to be part of an elite team constructing a data warehouse for analytics use. Even with limited experience, his perseverance allowed him to be a highly contributing member to the team and point of contact for the data vendor.

In his free time, Cory enjoys being active, whether he is working out, or playing golf or basketball. He also enjoys applying his analytical talents outside of the work environment through some friendly competition of fantasy football.



## Mallika DEY

Hometown: Siliguri, West Bengal, India

Citizenship: India

Languages: Bengali, Hindi



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Delhi  
M.A., Economics, 2008
- ▶ Jadavpur University  
B.A., Economics Honours, 2006
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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While in high school, Mallika discovered a penchant for plotting mathematical equations to generate interesting shapes and curves. But it was not until her internship experience in an analytics company that she found her calling for a career in analytics. As an intern, she developed a statistical model to predict “time on wings,” the time gap between two shop visits of aircraft engines for maintenance or overhaul. Her work experience started with credit card acquisition risk analytics, and she gained exposure in diverse areas such as direct marketing campaigns, retail pricing, promotions, and category solutions.

As a highly motivated analytics professional, Mallika is always committed to delivering high quality work. In her previous role as a lead analyst in a boutique retail analytics company, she developed retail category segmentation and strategy recommendations, which were not only implemented by her client, but also replicated across several other clients. She is always willing to go the extra mile to explore the immense scope that data driven analytics can bring to businesses. Her passion for data and ambition to develop advanced and impactful business solutions motivated her to join the MSA program at the Institute for Advanced Analytics.

Her favorite activities in childhood—painting and sketching—sparked her interest in photography later on. She loves experimenting with different styles, but urban photography excites her the most. One of her photographs has been featured in the annual calendar of her previous organization.

## Michael DICKEY

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Statistics with minor in Economics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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From the time he could walk, computers enamored Michael. By 3 years old, he often played math games at the computer with a pacifier in his mouth. His interest in computers grew into an interest in quantitative studies, which led him to find his niche studying statistics.

As an undergraduate, Michael found truth in the renowned 20<sup>th</sup> century statistician Tukey's statement that "the best part about being a statistician is that you get to play in everybody's backyard." Michael's experience includes designing interactive applications, analyzing employee performance while interning at SAS, and assisting a text analysis project involving Victorian era British newspapers. He also had the privilege to "play in another backyard" by being one of the founding officers of the Sports Statistics Club at NC State. During his experience with the club, he completed several projects related to his favorite sports. Two of these projects allowed him to present at the Joint Statistical Meetings, one of the largest gatherings of the world's statisticians with over 6,000 in attendance.

Michael has a special place in his heart for team sports. A longtime swimmer, Michael discovered that his favorite sport to play is water polo. In college, he served as the president of the NCSU Club Water Polo team for two years. On game days you can always be sure that he is cheering on his beloved Wolfpack and San Diego Chargers.

## Mirna DOMANČIĆ

Hometown: Hvar, Croatia  
Citizenship: Croatia



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Zagreb  
M.S., Computer Science, 2015  
B.S., Computer Science, 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Mirna's greatest ambition is creating opportunities for self-improvement by constantly placing herself in challenging situations. This drive for personal growth is what made her fly from her idyllic hometown on a Croatian island to only slightly less idyllic Raleigh in order to pursue a second master's degree, only five days after defending her computer science thesis.

While interning at KOIOS, a banking consulting company, Mirna helped evaluate prototype mobile applications designed to assess customer behaviour. That experience revealed Mirna's fascination in data analytics and the vast amount of knowledge that can be extracted using it. She published a research paper written in cooperation with a school in Singapore, which dealt with the benefits of an educational mobile app to student performance and motivation. This sparked her love for describing behavioral patterns hidden in data. She began to see analytics as a universal language that can beautifully describe many facets of our world.

Commitment and enthusiasm are the traits Mirna brings to a team, always encouraging and supporting her teammates' innovative ideas in order to find out where the road less travelled leads. She tries to widen her horizons by exposing herself to different cultures and points of view, which was a motivation to spend an exchange semester in Stockholm and to use every spare moment to travel. She has great passion for dance, which enables her to express her love of music, art, and athletics.

## Keona DRAKEFORD

Hometown: Central Islip, New York  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Statistics with minor in Mathematics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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In the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Keona was selected for the Minorities in Engineering Program at Lockheed Martin in Moorestown, NJ, and there she learned the endless possibilities that her interest in mathematics could offer. After channeling her hard work and desire for success into her degree in statistics, Keona felt ready to make an impact with data, and she began studying analytics.

Keona strives to excel at everything she does. She was named as one of the top sales people with high customer satisfaction at Cablevision for taking ownership of every customer and working across business entities to provide the best possible service. As a reward for her achievements, Keona was granted an appearance in a Cablevision commercial.

Keona is passionate about exposing children to the benefits of education, especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Her desire to see others succeed has compelled her to volunteer as a tutor at different elementary schools in New York and the Raleigh Boy's Club. To help as many students as possible, Keona is collaboratively developing a cell phone and web app that connects students with tutors through a bidding war.

After standing in the Grand Canyon, Keona's goal is to visit all seven natural wonders of the world. When not traveling, Keona enjoys spending time with her family and reading from the *New York Times Best Sellers* fiction list.

## Meredith DRUMMOND

Hometown: Richmond, VA  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Cornell University  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Applied Economics and Management, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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From the day Meredith dove into the water at her first swim practice, she was driven by a desire to excel and achieve her goals. This determination and competitive drive led her to compete for Cornell's Varsity Swimming team, pushing through 20 hours a week of practice alongside her academic obligations. Meredith was the 2014-2015 recipient of the Cornell Women's Swimming and Diving Team Overall Achievement Award, presented to the athlete who significantly contributed to the team over the course of her career while excelling academically. She also has two standing team records. In her final season, Meredith was chosen as team co-captain by her teammates—a leadership role that included developing strong team dynamics and leading the team through grueling practices and swim meets. Being part of a varsity team for four years taught her the importance of working together with team members to achieve a common goal while also building relationships and having fun.

In high school, Meredith excelled in quantitative courses, leading her to follow a triple accelerated math track. While studying at Cornell's Dyson School, Meredith gained a strong business foundation and also discovered an affinity for statistics and a drive to pursue analytics. She believes she can make lasting impacts in helping to solve challenges with a data driven approach.

Outside of the classroom, Meredith is passionate about staying active and can be found running or cycling on Raleigh's beautiful greenways every morning before class. She also loves all kinds of food, from Carolina barbeque to rich Indian cuisine.

## Malorie EDGE

Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Stetson University  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Biology with minor in Applied Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Malorie is passionate about making valuable, honest decisions that help people and improve existing conditions. Her interest in analytics was sparked when she conducted undergraduate research specializing in neurological pathways that affect taste processing and behavior. Under the supervision of a renowned neurobiologist, she was responsible for methodically collecting data on activated neurons in rat brain tissue and analyzing differences between treatment groups. When not engaged in research or course work, she enjoyed mentoring fellow students. From providing first year students with assistance on developing college-level writing skills to offering advice on how to adjust to the new atmosphere of undergraduate life, Malorie finds joy in witnessing people succeed.

Malorie's attitude towards learning and challenging herself enabled her to develop strong leadership and communication skills. She worked her way through high school and college in the restaurant industry and served her lacrosse team as captain after only two years of experience. No matter the environment she is engaged in, Malorie holds herself to the highest performance standards and prioritizes treating others with respect, thus gaining the reputation of being a dedicated and agreeable team player.

In the spirit of making people feel at home, Malorie loves hosting friends and family for parties, often serving homemade meals on her personalized, hand painted platters. She expresses her warm personality through decorating her home with bright and creative pottery and canvas pieces.

## Chris EISCHEN

Hometown: Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Georgia Institute of Technology  
B.S., with highest honor, Industrial Engineering, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Visiting over 23 countries across 6 continents instilled in Chris an appreciation for cultural diversity, a respect for nature, and a curiosity for history. From safaris in Kenya to walking atop the Great Wall of China, travel ignited a passion for photography as a means to capture, understand, and analyze the world. Through photography, Chris developed a keen eye for detail, balanced by artistry, to create illustrations for calendars, postcards, and magazines.

During an internship at Capital One, Chris became intrigued with the analytics and data driven culture. After graduation, he joined Capital One's innovations team to push the boundaries of big data analytics to solve complex business problems beyond the scope of traditional methods. As a member of a small agile project team, he supported development of risk models to predict subprime credit risk, emphasizing alternative data sources to generate descriptive features in Python. As obstacles emerged, Chris took the initiative to learn new analytics tools to solve problems. Chris coordinated data transfer from legacy systems, delivered the final production model validation, and provided scaling for business deployment teams.

In his free time, Chris enjoys challenging outdoor activities. Although he usually favors summer sports, including wakeboarding, tennis, and swimming, he recently found snowboarding to be a great winter alternative. He is presently in training for a triathlon and half-marathon in the North Carolina Outer Banks.

## Cory Dashiell EVERINGTON

Hometown: Norfolk, Virginia  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
M.S., Biology, 2010  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, university and department honors in Biology, 2008
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Cory has had a lifelong passion for science and technology—even winning the Great Computer Challenge back in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. This passion intensified with time, and led Cory to pursue research opportunities at UNC-Wilmington and obtain a CSURF Research Award to study algae for an undergraduate honors thesis. After finishing her undergraduate degree in three years, she sharpened her skills of investigation and inquiry with a Master’s in Biology and went on to obtain a research job in the cutting-edge field of genomic science.

While a research technician in a DNA sequencing lab, Cory acquired hands-on experience with project and time management, coordinating and processing hundreds of samples and projects for customers all over the world. This opportunity first exposed Cory to the unique challenges of generating, managing, and distributing terabytes of genomic data, and sparked her interest in data science. In addition to presenting talks and posters at conferences, Cory was able to further hone her communication and presentation skills as the teaching assistant for Deep Sequencing Technology, a biotechnology course at NC State University. In this course, Cory helped to explain advanced sequencing technology and its implications and importance to Master’s and Ph.D. candidates.

Outside of work, Cory enjoys reading about current events, as well as fiction and fantasy novels. She can often be found hiking or biking around Raleigh, or trying out a new recipe for friends and family.



## Steven FALGOUT

Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Arizona  
B.S.B.A., Business Economics with minor in Classics, 2015  
B.S., Information Science and Technology, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Steven remembers playing video games on a Windows 98 PC with his father. The entire experience—the precision controls, the visuals—helped shape Steven’s interest in video games. Combining that interest with a strong drive to learn led him to work on many creative projects and ultimately to pursue analytics.

A high school entrepreneur, Steven worked in application development and game design. Alongside a childhood friend, he produced graphics for the first homework management application on the Apple App Store in September 2008—two months into the App Store’s life. Titled “Homework,” the application saw over 13,000 lifetime sales. The following summer, Steven designed and generated the pixel graphics for a platform game. A self-learner, he mastered pixel art, sprite sheets, and animation to coproduce a fully functioning level. He went on to be part of a team that won a Microsoft PixelSense competition fan vote for a tabletop hockey application developed in one day.

More recently, Steven interned in the ever-changing world of Medicaid at Mercer Government Human Services Consulting where he utilized SAS for data manipulation. Responsible for analysis projects involving the New Jersey Affordable Care Act expansion population, he was promoted to project manager and became the primary point of contact with actuarial senior management.

When not in the classroom, Steven enjoys playing violin and ukulele, creating art with pencil and paper or in graphics tools such as Photoshop, and keeping up with the latest video game releases.

## Bailey FLORES

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., Civil Engineering, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As a former Lego enthusiast, Bailey was destined to build. With an affinity for math and a mind for creation, it was a natural choice for her to study engineering. Bailey began her career as a consultant swiftly rising into the role of lead consultant. Focused primarily on dispute resolution and cost estimating services, Bailey worked on over 50 projects. She gained exposure spanning various sectors, including commercial, education, government, power & energy, and transportation.

In a time of need, Bailey stepped up into a project manager capacity for a claim on a megaproject exceeding \$3 billion in construction costs. She proved to be an integral part of the team by working tirelessly to drive the project to completion. Within two and a half years, Bailey won several awards for her efforts for being steadfast and doing what it takes to get the job done.

Analytics has been in the back of Bailey's mind for several years. She was at a stage in her career where she could no longer shake the idea that she was settling for a path that did not align with her core interests. With her natural ability to engage data and technology coupled with a knack for complex problem solving, her passion for analytics emerged—there was no turning back.

Bailey owes her strong will and determination to yoga. Focused on the power of positive intention she stays grounded and grateful through all of the experiences life is offering. One of Bailey's most memorable qualities is her laughter—a characteristic her friends and family can attest to.

## Todd FULLER

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Applied Mathematics with minor in Statistics, 1996;  
Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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In high school, Todd's physics teacher challenged someone in the class to build a hovercraft using a discarded Electrolux vacuum motor. Todd eagerly accepted the challenge, successfully built the hovercraft, and even tested its weight capacity, earning the Most Interesting Project award for the science fair.

In college, Todd received an offer to represent his university as their Rhodes Scholar nominee, but instead chose to pursue a career in professional basketball in the National Basketball Association, which took him all over the United States, and also around the world to compete at the highest level. Midway through his career he began guiding business decisions, as both an agent and team player representative, assisting in negotiating a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the NBA.

After professional athletics, Todd worked as a financial planner, an athletic director, and math instructor. He was also selected by the Charlotte City Council for the Airport Advisory Committee for the city's airport, CLT, where he served for five years. During his tenure, CLT earned the prestigious Eagle Award—World's Best Airport in 2010, from the International Air Transport Association.

Todd's life experiences continue to deepen his craving to develop solutions for businesses utilizing data while leveraging the power of teamwork. In his free time, Todd enjoys piloting his Cessna, participating in triathlons, basketball, tennis, and spending time with his family.

## Luis G. GARCIA

Hometown: Houston, Texas  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Princeton University  
A.B., Economics, 2001
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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A natural leader, problem solver, and critical thinker, Luis was recognized early by peers and management as a valuable broad-perspective thinker. At El Paso Corp, after completing only three months of a traditional two-year analyst program, he was promoted to commodities trader, one of the youngest at the firm.

During his fourteen-year commodities career, one of his proudest achievements took place during the global financial crisis in 2008. Consistently recognized for his dedication and quick problem solving skills, senior management selected him to serve on the exclusive deal team dedicated to constructing and implementing the plan to sell its natural gas division to another trading firm. Upon completion of this project, the new firm invited him to join their team, continue to trade, and expand opportunities. On top of his daily roles of trading, managing a natural gas options desk, and managing a structured portfolio of commodities (Natural Gas, Crude Oil, Electricity), he was continually selected to be on integration and deal teams. Whether integrating a new Canadian office, or bridging teams across the US and UK to create binational commodity swaps, Luis has always been willing to put in the extra effort to contribute to the firm's profit and success.

Luis enjoys attending live sporting events. He would like to add a Houston World Series and the Monaco Grand Prix to his list that includes the Super Bowl, Kentucky Derby, and Premier League games.

## Ashutosh GARG

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.  
Language: Hindi



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., Aerospace Engineering, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Ashutosh has always been inquisitive about how things work; as a kid he was notorious for taking apart his toys. When he grew out of toys, he transitioned into Science Olympiad, a non-profit science and engineering tournament, where he built wooden towers, Rube Goldberg machines, and bottle rockets. As he matured, his interest evolved into getting things to work and he used this drive to pursue an undergraduate degree in Engineering.

After graduating as an Aerospace Engineer, Ashutosh taught himself Java programming in his free time. He used this skill to develop and publish two apps, a rewards tracker and a soundboard, in the Google Play store. His next great opportunity came at IBM where he joined as a global business consultant. Ashutosh worked on a project with the National Archives and Records Administration where he collaborated with a team to maintain the system and resolve issues. One of these issues required Ashutosh to monitor network traffic to study data usage. This was his first professional experience utilizing data and it quickly sparked his interest in analytics.

Ashutosh likes to unwind by cheering for NC State athletics, watching movies, playing board games, and starting home-improvement projects with his wife. When he finds sufficient time, Ashutosh also enjoys the thrill of traveling, with India and Japan being his favorite destinations. He hopes to explore the southern hemisphere in the near future. His broad experience and willingness has helped Ashutosh become a “Jack-of-several-trades” and he is eager to pursue more knowledge.

## Sarah GAUBY

Hometown: Hilton Head, South Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ Furman University  
B.S., Physics, 2015
  - ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015
- 

Whether she is hiking in Patagonia, researching water resources in rural Guatemala, working with nanoparticles, or teaching herself to play the ukulele, Sarah thrives on finding new challenges and maximizing opportunities for growth.

As part of her quest for new challenges, Sarah took on a research assistantship at the Advance Material Research Laboratory at Clemson University. She worked with two teams whose common goal was to develop a new type of cancer treatment involving magnetic nanoparticles. Although this research assistantship satisfied Sarah's desire to make a difference in the world, she found that she was most drawn to the data analysis portion of the project. Sarah's passion for applied mathematics and affinity for problem solving inspired her to pursue a career in predictive analytics.

Sarah's passion for exploring new places has driven her to visit over thirteen different countries. She has enjoyed a variety of experiences from swimming in glacier water, to watching lions sleeping in the African savannah, to constructing roads in rural Guatemala. Sarah relishes the opportunity to volunteer both abroad and at home. When there are houses to be built for Habitat for Humanity, or kids to be tutored, Sarah will help in whatever way she can. Sarah likes to stay busy; however, she always treasures the moments when she can just sit outside on a cold winter night with a cup of hot chocolate and stargaze.

## Viola GLENN

Hometown: Crestview, Florida

Citizenship: U.S. and E.U.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
M.S., Natural Resources, 2012
- ▶ Stetson University  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Economics, 2004
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Viola does not shy away from the complex questions. She has spent her career working on the most difficult questions she can find—questions about climate change, deforestation, global food security, and U.S. agricultural policy—pushing the boundaries of what’s possible. Despite being told it was impossible, she managed the first ever nonprofit-led original research project to utilize the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s only national farm level dataset.

Other projects have put her at both ends of the data extreme—working from a province to a global scale. Viola led a team in conducting a 400-farm survey with NC State and the World Agroforestry Centre’s Southeast Africa office. She has also served as a consultant to the EPA, analyzing the results of a suite of six global partial and general equilibrium and optimization models to inform U.S. bioenergy policy.

Her interest is not limited to agricultural work, but extends to complex issues in any field. Past experience has led her to an approach rooted in a deep understanding of the problem and the data as well as a commitment to actionable and meaningful insights. Viola is known for her ability to comprehensively understand difficult issues and present them without bias. For leisure, you can find her tending to her flock of backyard chickens or showing off her knife skills while cooking with friends. Any time left over is spent actively engaged with Resource Generation, a nonprofit that works to address income inequality in the U.S.

## Anna GODWIN

Hometown: Wilson, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Biomedical Engineering, 2009  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Textile Engineering, 2009
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Anna's teammates gave her the nickname, "Silane," which was the chemical in her research team's process that allowed everything to bond together. By calling her Silane, her colleagues recognized Anna's strength lies in her ability to unite people. She develops a team that, much like that chemical process, results in something much greater than the sum of its individual parts. By leveraging the team's strengths while lending her sunny disposition to the team dynamic, Anna has a proven track record for seamlessly motivating her teams towards efficient project completion.

In her position at a contract manufacturer, Anna's manager commended her: "Everyone can learn something from you when it comes to managing our customers." Anna's strong project management practices coupled with her interpersonal skills allowed for her to clearly and effectively communicate challenging technical concepts with her customers. Her diplomatic approach was especially successful when it came to balancing the customer's needs with the demands of sensitive timelines, scope creep, and resource management. After interacting with projects formerly managed by Anna, several colleagues have praised her penchant for managing customer expectations and documentation.

Anna relishes the challenge of weight training. Each day that she steps up to the barbell is an opportunity to realize goals and improve herself as an individual. If you weigh less than 175 pounds, she will deadlift you.



## Elom Quarm GOKA

Hometown: Accra, Ghana  
Citizenship: Ghana



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Beloit College  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Economics; Mathematics, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Basketball was Elom's passion when he started high school. His dream was to pursue a career that would link his academic study with his passion for the sport. In his junior year of college, Elom took an econometrics class where he learned that statistical methods could be applied in many fields, including basketball. For his final semester project, he performed regression analysis to determine what teams in the National Basketball Association could do to improve their winning record. This experience sparked his interest in analytics as he realized it was not only a gateway to be involved in professional basketball, but also a gateway to work in almost any industry.

While at Beloit College, Elom tutored math at a local church every Saturday for three years; he received the Ulysses Smith Award for his commitment to helping students improve their performance and feel more confident. After graduating, he worked as an Advanced Placement Statistics instructor at the Fryeburg Academy in Maine for a year. There, he taught fifty-one students across three course sections. He gained valuable experience while preparing for lectures, witnessing his students' performance improve over time, and sharpening his knowledge of the fundamentals of statistics.

When not working, Elom likes to play along to popular songs on his guitar and watch his favorite basketball and soccer teams, the Los Angeles Lakers and Manchester United respectively. Lately, he has also developed a passion for dancing which continues to grow, although his ability has not.

## Ivan GOMEZ

Hometown: Caracas, Venezuela  
Citizenship: Venezuela  
Language: Spanish



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Computer Engineering, 2013  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Electrical Engineering, 2013
  - ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015
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Coming to N.C. State as an undergraduate student, Ivan found himself 2,000 miles away from home and family and immersed in a radically different language and way of life. Despite the cultural shift, he got involved in campus activities by joining the racquetball, soccer, and aikido clubs. He excelled in academics graduating valedictorian with a double major in Engineering.

Ivan exceeded expectations at his first full-time job as Test Automation Engineer at Oracle, where he worked in teams to ensure the proper behavior of carrier-grade operating systems and applications. Within a month, Ivan's performance set him apart. His responsibilities shifted towards technical leadership of the team. He was entrusted with making decisions to improve the quality of the products as well as with mentoring and delegating assignments to new team members. Being passionate about finding unprecedented solutions to challenging problems, Ivan developed internal tools to automate critical project tasks and reduce their completion time from 15 days to 8 hours. His appreciation of the value of adaptability and efficiency also inspired him to lead efforts to restructure the entire code base owned by his team to reduce complexity and maintenance cost.

Ivan stays active and takes pleasure in fitness, getting to know people, and discovering the world. His bucket list includes visiting the Angel Falls in Venezuela, the seven natural wonders of the world, and backpacking across all of Europe.

## Manuel (Manny) GOTI

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S. and Japan  
Language: Spanish



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Nuclear Engineering, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Throughout his entire life, Manny has shown incredible ability in problem solving and analytics with anything from completing a Rubik's in 30 seconds, to developing a mathematical model for a big four bank. Excelling at math and science at an early age, Manny believed his natural course of action was to pursue a career in engineering; however, it wasn't until the summer of 2014 that Manny discovered his love for data analytics at Wells Fargo Securities.

While working at Wells Fargo Securities, Manny was tasked with aggregating trading data and developing descriptive statistics using SQL. Manny took this task one step further and used the descriptive statistics to develop a mathematical model that scored and ranked clients of Wells Fargo Securities. This model was then implemented into a capital markets trading platform and used to assist dealers in making more informed decisions.

Having a Japanese mother and Cuban father, Manny grew up in a culturally diverse household, which sparked his love of travel and food. Manny has visited many countries including Japan, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, France, Peru, Belize, Mexico, The Bahamas, and Cuba. In addition to traveling, Manny enjoys any kind of adrenaline-filled outdoor activity such as wakeboarding, snowboarding, or mountain biking, as well as the occasional round of golf. He is also a self-taught musician who loves to play the piano and guitar.

## Andrew J. GULLY

Hometown: Washington, DC  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Texas at Austin  
B.A., with high honors, Middle Eastern Studies; Religious Studies, 2010
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Although he had an aptitude for mathematics and programming—having written his first computer program at the age of 8—Andrew decided to pursue his undergraduate studies in the humanities. This discipline honed his communication and critical thinking skills as he analyzed the impacts of broader global trends. Standing at the intersection between the humanities and sciences gives Andrew a passion for solving problems through analytic techniques and telling accessible stories about data.

Andrew has earned a reputation among friends and coworkers for being a motivated self-starter who is constantly learning new skills in order to fulfill his natural intellectual curiosity. After graduating, he joined the Pew Research Center where he worked with a small team of demographers to develop estimates of global religious populations. Working with a variety of data sources, he taught himself Stata and designed a method to more efficiently and accurately process datasets. He then transitioned to working with various U.S. Government agencies on analytic and data-driven projects.

In his spare time, Andrew's friends know him as an enthusiastic hobbyist who is always picking up new skills or exploring different parts of his imagination. From building small electronics to brewing beer, he views life as a continuous opportunity to learn something new. Andrew hopes to work in an environment where he is consistently challenged to develop innovative solutions to complex problems.

## Riaz HEDAYATI

Hometown: Tucson, Arizona

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Arizona  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Economics (Honors) with minors in Mathematics and Spanish, 2010; Phi Beta Kappa
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Riaz was born and raised in the Sonoran desert, among the jagged mountains and saguaro cacti of Tucson. After graduation, he moved to the swamps of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he was a Research Analyst at LSU's Ourso Business School. At LSU he was deep in the weeds of various datasets, working on projects like forecasting which applicants for unemployment benefits were most likely to find a job quickly, and determining whether the local tax assessor was accurately assessing home values. In Louisiana, he enjoyed biking along the Mississippi river and experiencing Cajun culture—the seafood gumbo and zydeco music in particular.

Eager for adventure, Riaz moved to the urban Los Feliz neighborhood of Los Angeles, where he worked as a Research Manager at a boutique market research firm. His projects included creating customer segmentations of organic baby food buyers and coordinating ideations for new fast-casual sandwich restaurants. Here, he learned about the importance of storytelling and presenting the results of any analysis in a visually appealing and easily understandable way. In Los Angeles, Riaz spent his weekends playing with a Hawaiian ukulele group in a park down the street and enjoying improv comedy shows at the UCB theatre.

Most recently, Riaz lived in castle-walled Talavera, Spain—a traditional Spanish town southwest of Madrid. In Talavera, he taught classes at a private English academy, where he quickly learned patience and discipline while managing classrooms of rowdy ten-year-olds.

## Sarah HERBERGER

Hometown: Buffalo, New York  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ State University College at Buffalo, New York  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Applied Mathematics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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For as long as she can remember, Sarah has been highly self-motivated. From playing the piano since the age of 7, expressing herself in her love of art, or challenging her mind in puzzles and games, Sarah puts passion and purpose in all that she does. Her hard work and eagerness to learn was recognized when Sarah received the 2015 Ruth E. Heintz Award, which was given to the graduating senior with the most potential in the field of mathematics.

In the summer of 2013, Sarah was accepted into the Summer Institute for Biostatistics program at North Carolina State University. She was introduced to applications of statistical methods in biomedical and clinical research. This process of finding solutions to problems through data led Sarah to discover the field of analytics. As part of a capstone applied math project, Sarah worked with a mentor to identify factors associated with the risk of survival of patients in the ICU using logistic regression. While in both instances she enjoyed working in the health care field, Sarah revels in the fact that analytics transcends industries.

Sarah's love of piano and art continues today as she participates in these activities whenever an opportunity arises. Although she is fond of all kinds of crafts, drawing and painting are her favorites, and she takes pride in creating gifts for family and friends. Sarah also enjoys spending time with her family in a wide range of activities including their traditional family outing to Letchworth State Park during the fall.

## Leigh HERHOLD

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Statistics, 2014
  - ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015
- 

Growing up, Leigh Ann was always highly motivated and gregarious. As an undergraduate, she was an instrumental leader for Catholic Campus Ministry in mentoring students while coordinating campus-wide advertising and events. Leigh Ann is dedicated to making a positive impact in other people's lives. Although squeamish with medical devices, her main hope is to improve quality of life for patients by applying analytical skills to health care data.

After receiving a B.S. in Statistics, she worked alongside Dr. Ed Hammond and Dr. Vivian West to develop visualization tools to analyze large quantities of EHR (Electronic Health Records) at Duke University in the Duke Clinical Health Informatics Department. In only six months, she learned how to program using the D3 visualization library in JavaScript, CSS, HTML, and SQL. She created interactive web visualizations and performed data cleaning and imputation techniques. She also designed and conducted a survey to collect information about how Duke physicians interpret graphical displays.

Leigh Ann has demonstrated excellent professional communication skills and enjoys public speaking. She has given over 30 oral presentations as an undergraduate to a variety of audiences, including six conferences across the nation, the Air and Waste Management Association, and the American Statistical Association.

Leigh Ann enjoys weekend hiking and kayaking trips in North Carolina, salsa and ballroom dancing, painting, and tennis. Her long-term goals include having a family and making a substantial contribution to health care and analytics. She aspires to be on the Amazing Race and is constantly up for a challenge.

## Taylor HERSON

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Alabama  
M.A., Economics, 2014
- ▶ University of Alabama  
B.S.B.A., *summa cum laude*, University Honors in Economics; Finance, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Taylor's zeal for exploration and his taste for adventure have led him to the farthest corners of the globe. His most memorable trips include a six month study abroad stint in New Zealand, where he embarked on kayaking excursions across the rivers of the country, as well as an extended stay in rural Belize, where he learned about the vibrant culture while working to raise awareness for a women's shelter.

In college, Taylor combined his altruistic spirit and his love of sport by serving as a tutor in economics, finance, and statistics for student athletes. Taylor's undergraduate career is dotted with accomplishments, most notably his receipt of the prestigious Tom Canterbury Academic Achievement award, given to the top student in the business school. While participating in a data mining competition hosted by SAS, he discovered his passion for analytics. There, he and his team utilized weather, socioeconomic, and demographic data to predict crime activity and optimize police allocation nationwide. Due to his exemplary results, he was given the opportunity to work as a contractor with SAS where he authored an econometric code supplement for one of the major textbooks. His work resulted in a supplement that was concise and reproducible by students of virtually any level.

When not in school or backpacking to exotic locales, Taylor can be found attempting to visit every restaurant in the area or hiking and playing sports.



## Tim HETHERINGTON

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Appalachian State University  
B.S.B.A., *summa cum laude*, Computer Information Systems with minor in Supply Chain Management, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Seven years ago, Tim's curiosity for analytics was sparked when he began a part-time job as a Front End Associate for Harris Teeter. As Tim scanned customers' reward cards, he wondered how Harris Teeter utilized the extensive data about individual customers and their purchasing habits. With this curiosity in mind, Tim focused his undergraduate experience on maintaining a working understanding of team dynamics, gaining valuable leadership experience, and pursuing internship positions to gain real-world experience.

During his time at Appalachian State, Tim held various leadership roles, including serving as the President of the Association of Information Technology Professionals, which is an organization focused on networking with industry professionals. Several of his leadership positions have enabled Tim to acquire a tailored leadership approach and understand the power of communication within teams.

During the first of Tim's three internships at Premier Inc., he taught himself SQL to manipulate databases and extract pertinent information for several projects. Tim used SQL to automate several production tasks, including data cleansing of hospital names, which saved the team fifteen minutes per occurrence. Throughout Tim's internships at Premier, his curiosity transformed into career aspirations and led to his overall career goal of leveraging data to solve business problems.

After analyzing data for the day, he enjoys playing basketball to stay active, which also helps him to continuously work on his teamwork, leadership, and communication skills.

## Michael HIERONYMUS

Hometown: Pinehurst, North Carolina

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.S.P.H., Biostatistics with minors in Chemistry and Mathematics, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Michael's love for math developed at an early age while he worked through extra textbooks assigned by his math-teacher-mom. He has always seen the practicality and immense potential in applying math to inform decisions. He works diligently to combine and balance his mind's impulse to apply objective logic with a heart inclined to serve.

As a volunteer for the UNC Dance Marathon, Michael quickly noticed inefficiencies and recognized opportunities for improvement in organizational processes and event logistics. After sharing his insights, he was encouraged to apply for a position on the organization's executive board. As the Operation's Chair on this passionate team, he used data from previous years to improve the logistics of the event and helped achieve a record breaking fundraising total of \$480,000. Michael's eye for inefficiencies and his natural problem solving ability continue to serve him and those around him well.

In his professional experience at RTI, he contributed to the development and implementation of an analytic tool that was used to improve sampling efficiency for a government-funded project. Michael's efforts to automate tasks were critical to his team's ability to meet client demands under tight budget and time constraints.

Michael stays active playing and refereeing soccer year round, volunteering with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and serving as a deacon at his church. Between work and all these activities, Michael is always looking for a new adventure. He has run a half-marathon at the Outer Banks, hiked to the depths of the Grand Canyon, and rappelled through Zion National Park.

## Jason HILL

Hometown: Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Stanford University  
M.S., Chemical Engineering, 2000
- ▶ Washington University in St. Louis  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Chemical Engineering, 1998
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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While his diverse professional background spans chemical process engineering, aerosol science, and quantitative digital imaging, Jay consistently gravitated toward and found the most enjoyment in data analysis tasks. His colleagues actively sought his expertise in manipulating data, identifying insights, and clearly presenting results. Filling his team's need to better monitor the conditions in an aerosol test chamber, Jay seized an opportunity to design and build a computer interface. He welcomed the challenge of learning a new programming language and created a real-time dashboard of sensor readings, which automatically produced reports.

As a self-motivated, lifelong learner, Jay has continuously sought personal improvement. While employed at RTI International, he completed the company's project management certification in 2006. He was a 2014 recipient of a competitive professional development award, allowing him to complete a Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics from Penn State University. In May of 2015, Jay completed the ten-course Data Science specialization through Johns Hopkins University's offerings on Coursera. Additionally, he strives to remain current on the latest developments in data science, technology, politics, and international affairs.

Jay is passionate about NFL football, and as a diehard Washington Redskins fan he always makes time to watch the game on Sunday. He enjoys attending live concerts at small venues of his favorite rock, indie, and Americana musicians.

## Hannah HINES

Hometown: Winterville, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
B.S.B.A., *summa cum laude*, Management; Management Information Systems, 2014  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Criminal Justice, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015

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Hannah has always been intrigued as to why people commit crime. This curiosity led her to a criminal justice education where she quickly realized the importance of the proper use, storage, and retrieval of data. Seeking further knowledge, Hannah discovered her passion for logical analysis through a unique combination of criminal justice and business courses. As a testament to her commitment and enthusiasm, she received an Outstanding Senior Award.

As a Global Security Intern at Ingersoll Rand, Hannah gained hands-on experience compiling and analyzing security data. The Global Security Director immediately recognized her as an asset to the team because of her dedicated hard work. When a key security team member left the company, Hannah successfully stepped up to the challenge of managing the daily aspects of the Travel Security Program. One example of how she generated new insight and value was in the creation and implementation of a travel security survey, which was utilized to measure employee awareness of security procedures.

Hannah is detail-oriented and thoroughly enjoys learning new concepts. She takes pride in her organizational skills plus embraces a strong desire to help those around her succeed. This was developed through her participation in team sports and enhanced by her role as captain of the high school tennis team. Hannah also has a love for nature and outdoor adventure. Outside of the classroom, she might be found whitewater rafting or on any trail between the Shenandoah Valley and the beaches of Ocracoke Island.

## Mark HOFFMANN

Hometown: Lansing, Illinois  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Augustana College  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Engineering Physics with minors in Mathematics and  
Computer Science, 2015; Phi Beta Kappa
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Mark's passion for creativity in a variety of disciplines led him to complete many original projects and do consulting work to help others implement their creative solutions. Enjoying these side projects so much, he formed a freelance software group. No matter the project at hand, Mark carefully considers every aspect of what he does. He takes the minute aesthetic and technical details and connects them to larger picture ideas.

Throughout college, Mark was heavily involved in his school's Office of Student Life and Leadership. As executive director, he managed and inspired 14 different committees tasked with shaping and branding the college's student life. Mark still found time to commit to his academics, and he was named a Rossing Scholar, which is an annual prestigious scholarship given to one student studying a physics related discipline in the United States. His academic research projects included topics in nuclear physics, quantum optics, and clinical radiation physics.

Along with his academic and side project interests, Mark has a deep passion for music. Trained as a percussionist and pianist since an early age, he enjoys playing and composing. In addition, Mark also enjoys being active outdoors, playing pick up soccer, and exploring new places. He has a habit of always saying yes to opportunities and challenges that may arise. Mark is hoping to take his strong analytical and real-world experiences and apply them to solve critical issues.

## Laura KAIL

Hometown: West Lafayette, Indiana  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ George Washington University  
B.B.A., *summa cum laude*, Finance with minors in Statistics and German, 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Laura's interest in both organization and mathematics dates to her Halloween Trick-or-Treating adventures as a young child. She loved to sort her Halloween haul by candy type. Then, she would beg to stay up an extra hour to create a tally of candies as well as calculate the total amount of candy acquired.

Laura's love for mathematics blossomed in a high school statistics class when she discovered she could apply her affinity for numbers to real-world problems. She honed her statistical skill in college by completing a minor in statistics. During her senior year, Laura interned at Fors Marsh Group, where she put her new skills to use, analyzing data for various Department of Defense projects using Stata and SPSS. Over the next three years, Laura's problem solving skills, initiative, and fantastic attention to detail enabled her to rise quickly from intern to researcher. Laura utilized her planning and organization skills to successfully lead 27 Food and Drug Administration tasks for her team's most profitable project—her proudest accomplishment.

When not tackling complicated projects at work, Laura loves to tackle opponents on the soccer field, a passion since she was five. She is also a self-proclaimed "foodie" who is always on the search for new tastes and new restaurants. This same desire to try new cuisines and experience different cultures inspired Laura to visit 30 countries across the world, including studying abroad in Europe twice as an undergraduate.

## Saad KARIM

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.  
Languages: Urdu and Hindi



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Computer Engineering with minor in Business Administration, 2010
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Saad possesses an innovative aptitude with a desire to solve challenging problems, leading him to develop skills in programming at an early age. He built his first custom PC and developed his first website at the age of 11. He expanded his skills in problem solving, programming, and critical thinking through his education at NC State and work experience.

During his undergraduate education, Saad worked as a Systems Engineer Intern on a digital signal processing project at Raytheon. He was able to make a strong impact during his internship, developing new and advanced algorithms that successfully met project requirements. His work centered on developing a configurable sample rate conversion algorithm, which resulted in two patents being filed and getting approved by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. His desire for success and innovation helped Saad advance his career as a software engineer at IBM. There he was able to make solid contributions in developing and supporting enterprise applications, not just through programming, but also through the use of analytics. Saad analyzed which areas of the applications were problematic through the use of various metrics then provided suggestions and actions for improving the product.

Outside of school and work, Saad enjoys playing basketball, tennis, and reading books on investing, science, and science fiction. He is also an avid traveler and has visited eight different countries across two continents in the past 3 years and travelled to different locations in the continental United States and its territories.

## Harish KAUSHIK

Hometown: Hyderabad, India  
Citizenship: India  
Language: Hindi



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Madras, Defence Services Staff College  
M.S., Defence and Strategic Studies, 2007
- ▶ Jawaharlal Nehru University, National Defence Academy  
B.S., 1992
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2014

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As an officer in the Indian Navy, Harish has lived by its core values of honor, integrity, pride, and loyalty. While in the Navy, he was intrigued by *The Hunt for Red October* and the world of underwater acoustics. This interest sparked a quest for knowledge and led him to become involved with the operational development and evaluation of indigenous sonars. Never satisfied with the status quo, during his tenure as Chief Instructor of the Anti-Submarine Warfare School, he was awarded the Chief of Naval Staff Commendation for local development of training simulators at a fraction of the import cost of similar equipment. Later, as the Executive Officer of an Indian Naval Ship, he led a team of 300 men in transitioning the ship out of extensive repairs to being awarded “Best Ship of the Fleet.”

Throughout his diverse naval career, Harish derived the greatest satisfaction in applying analytical techniques in order to find solutions to problems such as improving efficiency at a naval detachment in St. Petersburg, Russia or tracking performance of ship sensors. He loves the challenge in deconstructing seemingly unstructured problems into measurable components and the subsequent application of quantitative techniques to achieve a coherent outcome. Recognizing his critical and analytical thinking abilities, the Navy deployed him as an operations analyst to work on anti-submarine tactics and future combat development.

Harish loves running and enjoys watching sci-fi flicks. He lives by his favorite movie quote: “Your focus determines your reality.”



## Kevin KELLEHER

Hometown: Grayslake, Illinois  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.S.B.A., with highest distinction, Business Administration, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Kevin's affinity for using numbers to support his point of view dates back to elementary school when he argued with classmates that Kobe Bryant was overrated due to his low field goal percentage. During an undergraduate business analytics class, Kevin's interest in using data to make decisions inspired him to enroll in statistics classes. Armed with a deeper understanding, Kevin enjoyed applying analytics to sports as a hobby and helped to organize the second annual Basketball Analytics Summit at UNC.

Work experiences taught Kevin the importance of using data to make business decisions. During his time as an intern at Rust-Oleum, he developed solutions so that the company could continue running smoothly while it integrated its business systems and data with those of a new acquisition. He also worked on a student consulting team with UNC undergraduates and MBAs to analyze customer survey data for Bayer CropScience; his team delivered insights that challenged the company's assumptions about their customers.

Kevin dedicates way too much time analyzing data to try to gain an edge in his fantasy football leagues and NCAA Tournament bracket pools. Kevin also likes to spend as much time with family and friends as possible. His favorite pastimes are playing basketball, going camping, playing video games, and reading everything from Malcolm Gladwell to Stephen King. He has traveled to Ireland, France, and Italy in the past and hopes to continue to explore the world in the future.

## Ryan KING

Hometown: Germantown, Tennessee  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *cum laude*, Mechanical Engineering, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Ryan discovered a passion for analytics while working for General Motors as a Visiting Scholar in Research & Development. Working on a variety of projects, Ryan text mined warranty data and engineering documents in order to prioritize engineering design decisions for future vehicles. He developed ontologies for vehicle subsystems and investigated their re-use. Ryan also developed a working prototype of a new vehicle infotainment system related to autonomous driving, and conducted a market research study to understand a customer's willingness to pay and market segmentation.

Possessing a zeal for public service and leadership, Ryan was selected as a recipient of the Park Scholarship to support his studies in mechanical engineering at NC State. He also has a passion for combining two seemingly disparate ideas together: competitive running and glazed doughnuts. The Krispy Kreme Challenge is an annual event where 8,000 competitors run five miles, eat one dozen doughnuts, and complete it all in under an hour. Founding the Sponsorship Committee for the non-profit, Ryan developed and managed partnerships with businesses, helping raise over \$384,000 for the North Carolina Children's Hospital. He hopes to continue his work in future years by analyzing racer registration data.

In addition, Ryan strives to inspire future generations to pursue STEM careers. Previously coordinating and managing events at a local children's museum, he helped develop a curriculum that is used in outreach events across the state of North Carolina. Ryan also loves to travel and experience different cultures, having visited 45 states and 15 countries.

## Sean KOSOWSKY

Hometown: Wilmington, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Mathematics, 2015  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Business Administration, concentration in Finance, 2015  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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A world traveler since a young age, Sean has traveled to 11 countries across the Americas, Europe, and Asia, and has aspirations to see the entire world. Constantly learning to embrace the areas outside of his comfort zone, Sean thrives in fast-paced, dynamic environments where he can push himself to new limits every day. As an undergraduate, he developed an interest in the cutting-edge field of quantitative finance. His Alma Mater did not have a degree program to satisfy his interests, but he did not give up. Instead, Sean relentlessly pursued three degrees in math, statistics, and finance with the goal of breaking into this field.

As a junior, Sean developed his quantitative and analytical skills while interning with the model risk management group at Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi in a position typically held for graduate students. During his time at the bank he was introduced to the challenges associated with big, unstructured data sets. Later that year, Sean and a team of his peers took second place out of 11 competing teams in the North Carolina chapter of the internationally esteemed CFA Research Challenge. These experiences gave him the insight he needed to begin understanding the immensity of the opportunities existing within the analytics industry.

Currently, Sean is building an R-based platform to test and execute algorithmic trading strategies. In his free time, Sean enjoys surfing and fishing at the beach.

## Aditya KRISHNAN

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Earlham College  
B.A., with college and departmental honors in Economics, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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A lifetime of playing basketball and ultimate frisbee taught Aditya the importance of practice, teamwork, and perseverance in achieving goals. He was the captain of his middle school's Raytheon MathCounts team and finished 12<sup>th</sup> individually in the state of Indiana. In high school, Aditya was a three-time National Speech & Debate Qualifier and named an Academic All-American his senior year. He also helped to start his high school's Ultimate Frisbee program, which finished second in the state his junior year.

In college, Aditya used his analytic skills to gain a better understanding of the subjects that interested him most. In his senior year, he completed a literature review covering the demand side of the labor market in sports, and was invited to be a part of a faculty-student collaborative team that studied the impact of climate change on national success in the Winter Olympics. For his senior thesis, he developed an alternative method of aggregation for the United Nations Human Development Index. This work has been presented at two economics conferences and in a paper that he co-authored with his thesis advisor. At the end of his senior year, he was awarded the Claude Stinneford Award, which was given to the top economics student.

To relax Aditya enjoys working on his jump shot and absorbing as much information he can about his favorite teams, convincing himself that "this is finally their year."

## Michael KURTTI

Hometown: Novi, Michigan  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ United States Military Academy at West Point  
B.S., Mechanical Engineering, 2003
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015

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Even at a young age, Mike's passion and talent for leadership emerged. During his senior year of high school, he captained his swim team to an undefeated season and led the trombone section of the marching band to state finals. Those leadership skills continued to develop both as a Cadet and a company grade armor officer. He led soldiers at different levels during three combat tours to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. During his first deployment, Mike discovered analytics while leading his 20-man platoon on over 300 combat patrols in Western Baghdad. Leaning on his problem solving and analytical skills, he looked at attack patterns to determine enemy operating and support areas. This led to the discovery of several weapons caches, which reduced the number of IED attacks in his unit's Area of Operations from a high of two per day in July to less than three per week in November.

After nearly ten years as an armor officer, Mike followed his love of data and problem solving and became a military analyst. As a programming analyst in Afghanistan, he led a team of four that helped develop a program and budget estimate for the Afghan National Security Forces. His team compiled and analyzed more than 300 programs with a budget in excess of \$30 billion over five years.

Outside of the office, Mike enjoys spending time exploring museums and Civil War battlefields with his son. He also likes running, hiking, and taking his dog for walks.

## Catherine LaCHAPELLE

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.A., with distinction, honors in Political Science; Women's and Gender Studies,  
with minor in Mathematical Decision Sciences, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Upon taking her first statistics course in high school, Catherine was hooked. She became passionate about using data to uncover themes and phenomena in the world around her. Having glimpsed the power of data driven decision-making, she knew she wanted to pursue a career involving data science. During each summer between her undergraduate years, she explored her interest in analytics as a Research & Development intern at SAS Institute. As an intern, Catherine primarily worked with the Warranty Analysis team whose mission was to develop software to predict when warranted automobile parts would fail.

Catherine is a SAS Student Ambassador, an award given to students who exemplify innovative and impactful applications of SAS software in their academic research. She received this honor as a result of her undergraduate honors thesis, which used text analytics to examine the impact of gubernatorial rhetoric on mass incarceration. As a Student Ambassador, she received a scholarship to attend SAS Global Forum and present her findings to a diverse group of analytics professionals.

Catherine is passionate about helping others and contributing to her community, notably evident in her desire to utilize analytics for social good. In recent years she has spent much of her free time supporting survivors of sexual assault as a Crisis Companion at the local rape crisis center. When not studying or volunteering, Catherine loves to cultivate her vegetable garden and challenge herself with jigsaw puzzles. Sifting through large quantities of information to detect patterns not readily apparent energizes her, and she derives satisfaction from fitting each piece into the larger picture.

## Nadav LAPIDOT

Hometown: Haifa, Israel  
Citizenship: U.S. Permanent Resident, Israel  
Language: Hebrew



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Georgia Institute of Technology  
B.S.B.A., with highest honor, Management with concentration in Finance; minor in Law, Science and Technology, 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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From the outset of his college career, Nadav recognized the potential of a customized undergraduate education. He realized he had to seize control and make this “a Nadav experience at Georgia Tech” and not a “Georgia Tech experience Nadav had.” Over the years, that mindset led him on a path where he was able to attain a minor in pre-law, learn Italian at Emory University, gain a year of work experience through a co-op, study Mandarin, and spend a semester in China. All the while, he continued to thrive in his degree program, earning highest honor upon graduation.

The natural curiosity and well-rounded experiences that fueled Nadav in his undergraduate studies also placed him on a trajectory to discover his passion in analytics. During his time as an Operations Analyst, Nadav continued to look for new challenges and learning opportunities. He began serving as the liaison between his department and the Business Intelligence group, and through that interaction, he was introduced to SQL, Tableau, and other data concepts and tools. His analytical mindset and newly gained skills were recognized by senior management, pegging him to serve as the dedicated analyst for high-profile and challenging customers. Nadav was able to boost customer retention efforts by constructing insightful Tableau dashboards and other reporting packages for these accounts.

Today, Nadav continues to follow his passions. From visiting base camp at Mt. Everest to hiking along the fjords in Norway, discovering the outdoors continues to fascinate him. That same inclination to explore motivates Nadav to delve deeper into the constantly evolving world of data analytics.

## Yang Li

Hometown: Shanghai, China  
Citizenship: China  
Language: Mandarin



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Wheaton College (Massachusetts)  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Mathematics and Economics, 2013; Phi Beta Kappa
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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While working as an analyst at an economic consulting firm, Yang's dedication led her to discover a subtle yet disconcerting decline in product sales at a multinational chemical company after its patents were infringed. The analysis was presented in exhibits and reports, which served as crucial evidence in the courtroom of the US International Trade Commission, a federal agency that provides trade expertise pertaining to issues such as intellectual property. This experience drove Yang's passion for becoming an analytics professional who assists companies in turning data into valuable business insights.

With the desire to diversify her experience, Yang interned at BCG and PwC where she further developed her business acumen. Whether researching emerging markets in the auto industry or developing tax minimization strategies for internationally deployed staff, Yang earned the reputation for quickly synthesizing complex information into concise and easily understandable output. The exposure to multiple consulting engagements made Yang realize that extracting business value from complex data and turning it into actionable strategy presents great opportunities and challenges for many companies. Therefore, she is determined to sharpen her skillset in analytics and help companies make data-driven decisions.

Having lived in China, the U.S., and the UK, Yang's cross-cultural experience fostered her appreciation of the differences between the east and west. She never gets tired of watching *Iron Man* or *Gone with the Wind*, and she enjoys shuffling between Taylor Swift and Peking Opera while running. Yang is always eager to explore new cities and has a personal goal of sending out 500 postcards from 100 countries.



## Christopher LIEDTKE

Hometown: Asheville, North Carolina

Citizenship: U.S. and Canada



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Asheville  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, with distinction in Economics; Philosophy with minor in Mathematics, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Christopher's natural curiosity for solving problems by finding meaningful patterns in massive amounts of data was ignited in the U.S. Navy as he exploited cascades of data to hunt submarines. When not operating as an anti-submarine warfare specialist, he also served as a rescue swimmer—deploying four times in support of joint humanitarian and counter-piracy operations. Upon his honorable discharge from service, Christopher was decorated for exceptional achievement and outstanding performance.

As an undergraduate, Christopher participated in multiple internships and research projects. His work was recognized when he won the prestigious Zimmerman Award for excellence in economics. Christopher served as president of the Veterans Club and was a volunteer in veterans' shelters. As the president of the Economics Club he organized charity events for local youth outreach programs.

Passionate about using data towards real-world ends, Christopher worked as an economist at RTI while further improving his programming and analytical skills. Christopher continued to exercise his team-oriented personality, honed his communication skills, and provided analytic consulting services to large clients.

Although his years of hunting submarines and pirates are over, Christopher still embraces a zeal for travel and challenge. As an avid hiker and outdoorsman, Christopher never shies away from an adventure—a marathon, dogsledding expedition, or travelling to nearly 30 countries.

## Marcela LIMA

Hometown: Recife, Brazil  
Citizenship: U.S. and Brazil  
Languages: Portuguese and Spanish



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Maryland College Park  
B.A., Economics with minor in Leadership Studies, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2014  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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With over a quarter million miles traveled and over 850 hours spent in an airplane since the age of 3, Marcela has become a guru of dealing with airport security. But most importantly, her admiration for different people and unique cultures has rocketed, along with her frequent flyer miles. Living in 11 cities and 4 countries has exposed her to various environments that made adaptation and communication second nature for Marcela.

Though fluent in multiple languages, Marcela's favorite is the universal language: numbers. From holding the position of Chief Information Officer of a governing organization that served over 12,000 students, to studying abroad in Turin, Italy where she patronized a small café at Piazza Vittorio while exploring the effects of economic integration, Marcela feels most at home when analyzing data, regardless of her physical location.

A curious, hard-working individual, Marcela's passion is evident when presenting her work and data findings. She strives to fully immerse herself into the task at hand in order to deliver an exceptional end product by combining her global experiences with those of her team.

If Marcela isn't analyzing data, you can find her in the gym or reading articles and listening to podcasts on technology, human behavior, and business. She is an active mentor in a community service organization that focuses on educating minority youth. Her other hobbies include doing freelance graphic design and experimenting with healthy, clean eating recipes like making pasta out of zucchini.

## Noah LINGER

Hometown: Waynesville, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Industrial Engineering, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Noah was widely regarded as the best drummer in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Junaluska Elementary School talent show, blowing away the competition. During his drumming career of 17 years, he further developed his skills by playing with garage bands, drum lines, and large groups on Sunday mornings. Through applying the advice of his instructors, he has sought to continually improve his level of playing.

Noah chose to pursue a degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering, a field that focuses on process improvement. This reflected his desire to continuously improve within academia and his music. While completing a cooperative education rotation at Bosch as an undergraduate, Noah requested the opportunity to completely replace a bothersome and expensive product-tag printing program. He succeeded by developing a replacement from scratch using macro programming techniques in Microsoft Excel. While performing time studies at the Bosch manufacturing plant, Noah learned the importance of providing clear and affable communication when speaking to non-technical shop floor associates.

Pursuing a degree in analytics was a natural next step for Noah. He appreciates that there is a seemingly immeasurable quantity of data that the working world may not know how to best approach or interpret. Noah is eager to do the heavy lifting and unearth data driven insights.

When not working, Noah enjoys participating in half marathon road races, playing his drum set, and reading epic fantasy fiction. Perhaps Noah will use a predictive analytical model to determine which multivolume book series to invest in next.

## Ellie (Po-Chen) LO

Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan  
Citizenship: Taiwan (R.O.C.)  
Language: Mandarin



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ National Taiwan University  
B.B.A., Business Management, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As a child of two successful entrepreneurs, Ellie learned not to be satisfied with the status quo. While studying business, Ellie realized that the decision making process of many corporations are based mostly on intuition, making them unsound. Seeking a better solution, Ellie found herself in the fascinating world of analytics.

Her first taste of a real-world analytics project came during a project with If Kids Theatre Co. She worked on finding factors that affected the revenue of each performance and communicated the results to executives. Perseverant and diligent, Ellie continued to teach herself programming and machine learning, which helped her secure a job at the Intel-NTU Connected Context Computing Center. As part of the data analysis team, she worked to predict aggressive driving behaviors. Her unique background was proven to be a valuable asset and led her to several different roles, such as teaching basic machine learning concepts in a workshop for law school faculty and students. Due to her ability to speak both the business and technical languages, she was involved in a project between Machine Discovery and Social Network Mining Lab at NTU and KPMG Advisory, where she facilitated communication between both sides. Ellie is eager to utilize her business background and analytical skills to help companies make data-driven decisions.

Ellie loves to watch movies and decipher their underlying messages, which led her to found a studio with a friend. While there she gained leadership experience by coordinating the work of 36 members and produced a two-hour movie. Ellie is always on the look for something new—whether it is a new restaurant or a new challenge at work.

## Jesse LUND

Hometown: Folsom, California

Citizenship: U.S.

Language: Spanish



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Texas at Austin  
M.S., Economics, 2013
- ▶ Brigham Young University  
B.A., Economics with minor in Mathematics, 2011
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Throughout his life, Jesse has been attracted to opportunities that challenge him. At age 13, when he started learning bass guitar, his brother told him the bass guitar was “just a phase.” He took that as a challenge and devoted countless hours to mastering the bass. Two years later, as the bassist for his high school’s vocal jazz ensemble, he impressed a visiting jazz pianist during a master class who asked him perform with her twice during her short visit to the city. Jesse still plays regularly.

In his studies, Jesse was first attracted to economics because of the theory. However, as he got deeper into his undergraduate studies, he found the program’s difficulty to be one of its appeals. Lacking a strong math background when first entering college, he overcame this shortcoming and finished with a minor in mathematics and even contributed to a USDA-funded project, co-authored a paper, and presented research at an academic conference while working as a research assistant.

Working at Sapling Learning, Jesse volunteered for the challenge of leading a project to review and edit the economics content library for their interactive homework product. His efforts to build consensus about effective pedagogy and his meticulousness were significant contributing factors to the resulting increase in the product’s Net Promoter Score, a measure of customer satisfaction.

In his free time, Jesse enjoys his three passions of music, learning, and family.

## Udit LUTHUR

Hometown: Gurgaon, India

Citizenship: India

Languages: Hindi, Punjabi



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Institute of Management Technology, Hyderabad  
Post Graduate Diploma in Management (Marketing), 2013; Silver Medalist
- ▶ Punjab Technical University  
B.Tech., 1<sup>st</sup> division with distinction, Computer Science and Engineering, 2011
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Udit has always been interested in knowing how businesses are run. Growing up, he was taught the importance of properly managing limited resources. As a result, he strives to identify emerging trends and adapt best practices for management from businesses around the world.

During his undergraduate studies, Udit decided to pursue a computer science degree in order to be best prepared for the technological challenges of the workplace. Wanting to build on his programming skills and gain a better understanding of businesses, Udit then focused on learning the art (or science) of management for his Master's where he received the Silver Medal for graduating second in his class. Throughout his education, he was introduced to analytics, and he viewed it as a powerful tool that businesses could use to beat their competition.

Udit immersed himself in analytics, which led him to work at a niche analytics service provider for a few Fortune 500 companies. Next, he worked for Moody's Analytics team where he liaised with the London and New York offices serving reputable clients. One of his projects involved setting up the analytics practice in India for one of the big four consulting companies.

Udit has been an avid soccer player since high school and grabs on to any opportunity to play even today. When he is not in the classroom or on the field, he makes sure he spends quality time with his family.

## Binit MALLA

Hometown: Kathmandu, Nepal  
Citizenship: Nepal  
Language: Hindi (Nepali)



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Bates College  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Physics; Mathematics, with minor in Economics, 2008  
Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Coming to the United States as a teenager with nothing but a suitcase in his hand and a few hundred dollars in his pocket, Binit was determined to not only survive, but to thrive. Living in Kathmandu, Budapest, and New York, as well as traveling to many places in between, he has been exposed to a multitude of cultures and people. These experiences have taught him to be independent, adaptive, and always eager to take on new challenges.

Binit was hired straight out of Bates College to work as a researcher for an economic consulting firm; there, he made a strong impression by improving the quality and speed of several projects. His mastery of analytical tools and exceptional project management were a major asset to his team. In recognition of his critical thinking and creativity in problem solving, he was promoted frequently and managed a team of researchers in multi-million dollar projects for security fraud, labor discrimination, and mass tort cases. It was this experience that sparked an abiding interest in analytics.

In addition to his passion for analytics, Binit loves to play soccer and has successfully captained his amateur team of young professionals in New York City to multiple championships. He loves to travel and gain new experiences—whether by hitchhiking in Germany and Austria or boarding a local train to cross the entire breadth of Ukraine. When he is not traveling or kicking a ball, he is learning to play the tabla, a classical Indian percussion instrument, in memory of his grandfather who was his first instructor.

## Maria MATKOVSKA

Hometown: Ternopil, Ukraine  
Citizenship: U.S.  
Languages: Ukrainian and Russian



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., Food Science with minors in Biomanufacturing and Statistics, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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While maintaining good grades as a sophomore in college, Maria impressed coworkers at Biogen as a contract employee. She contributed to re-developing the cell culture process for the coagulation Factor IX, known on the market as Alprolix, which is used for patients with Hemophilia B. Alprolix was approved by the FDA in 2014 and by the end of the year, its revenues were \$76 million. Maria also contributed as an intern at Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics where she closely monitored the laboratory cell culture process of the flu vaccine.

Maria was an active member of the International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers and served as Public Relations Officer, Membership Director, and President. She was recognized as one of the most outstanding students of 2013-2014 and was awarded a scholarship from KBI Biopharma, where she later obtained a full-time position as an associate scientist in the Process Development Department. Despite her strong interest in the biotechnology field, Maria found her dream career during a statistics elective. After completing a minor in statistics, Maria knew she would like to further her studies in a related area after graduation.

In addition to Maria's career drive and analytic prowess, she has a creative personality. Possessing a passion for piano, Maria went to the school of music and obtained a 5-year music diploma by the age of 14. She loves playing classical music of world famous composers—Bach is her favorite. Maria was awarded second place in the state Piano Championship in Ukraine. Overall, Maria is a reliable, open minded and well-rounded person. She enjoys playing ping-pong, exercising, learning more about health and nutrition, and taking care of her houseplants.



## R. Evan MIRACLE

Hometown: Peachtree City, Georgia

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of California at Davis  
M.S., Food Science, 2003
- ▶ University of Georgia at Athens  
B.S., with honors, Microbiology, 1999
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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The flavor of fresh beer off the production line, the smell of new cheese from the vat, and the heady aroma of fresh baked bread from the oven are what led Evan to follow his nose to the world of science. Evan began his journey into flavor analysis as an art student when a chance discovery of the joy of brewing beer during his college years in Georgia led to graduate school and a Master Brewers Certification in California. From there he was on to Sierra Nevada Brewing Company where he combined real production line experience with cutting edge instrumental flavor analysis to affect quality control.

A move across the country for a unique customer-focused job in academia, managing flavor chemistry research and contract work for the Sensory Service Center, brought him to NC State. With a commitment to delivering on-time customer results of the very highest quality to clients in the food and beverage industries, Evan and his team made connections between diverse data and elucidated patterns in these complex data sets. The realization of the power of analytics to enhance companies' ability to navigate the divide between what customers say they want and what they actually desire drew Evan to further pursue the field of data science.

An avid board game hobbyist, Evan collects and plays games with family and friends. Evan is a motivated board game advocate, committed to bringing others into the hobby and exemplifying the central tenets of fun and intellectual discovery in a social environment.

## Sarah MOHAMED

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.S., Clinical Laboratory Science, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Sarah's love for science alongside her persistent curiosity about data-driven decision-making led her to work at the crossroads of health sciences and data. This passion for health and data first flourished when Sarah worked at a public health organization on an ongoing maternal health aid project based in Guatemala. As an intern, Sarah transformed the project's monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure the data collection process provided data that could accurately support the project's metrics. Building on these skills, Sarah entered the private sector as a project specialist on an oncology clinical trials study. There, Sarah was recognized and valued by her team for her ability to find innovative ways to provide client deliverables through data manipulation and automation. Sarah also trained and mentored her colleagues to standardize her technical tools across three other projects.

Sarah is dedicated to bringing diverse communities together. During her undergraduate career, Sarah was part of a team awarded the Davis Projects for Peace grant to establish a summer camp for youth living in Bosnia affected by post-war ethnic divides. Developing and teaching an interactive curriculum focused on community service and teamwork, Sarah experienced how a collaborative mentality built upon mutual respect is a key to success for all ages across all borders.

Whether it's backpacking from Istanbul to London, climbing Egypt's Mount Sinai, or kayaking through the NC Outer Banks, Sarah feels most at home in the outdoors. Sarah runs half marathons and enjoys biking and paddle boarding around local parks.

## Kate MOHORN

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Florida Southern College  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Business Administration, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Kate's immense curiosity, ambition, and desire to learn shaped her diverse experiences. After high school graduation, Kate headed south to Florida Southern College to pursue a degree in business administration and play scholarship golf for the FSC Women's Golf team. She was able to succeed as a team player not only on the golf course, but also in the classroom.

Upon graduation, she returned to Cary, NC to further explore opportunities in the vast world of business and technology. Kate worked two project management internships at SAS Institute, where she was exposed to the world of business analytics. She received a third internship at SAS with a team of data analysts within the SAS Research and Development department. Kate participated and contributed to ongoing analytical projects involving pharmacy and health insurance claim data.

Along with devoting herself to school and work, Kate volunteers her time with Citizen Schools, an educational program that helps develop students in low-income communities. The rest of her time is spent with family and friends, most often traveling to the Charleston, South Carolina area. Kate currently enjoys long distance running, dining experiences, and traveling. You can also still find her golf clubs stowed in the trunk of her car.

## Nicole MONCOURTOIS

Hometown: Oak Ridge, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *cum laude*, Applied Mathematics with minor in Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Mathematics and design have fought for Nicki's attention throughout her life. As a child she would steal her older brother's math workbooks and complete them for fun, make jewelry, and build scrapbooks. As she got older, she became fascinated with computers and played with code to design and personalize web pages. In college she was introduced to more advanced programming, applied mathematics, and statistics, and these three subjects soon became her passion. She was thrilled to pursue analytics, which incorporated her favorite subjects, to gain insights into complex concepts.

As an undergraduate Nicki found great enjoyment teaching programming as a Computer Science Teaching Assistant. Each week she looked forward to teaching multiple classes of engineering students how to use Matlab and programming logic to solve problems. Through this experience she was given opportunities to help design projects to test the students' skills and give guest lectures to classes of over 150 college students. In her studies Nicki used programming to complete projects such as building user interfaces and creating multiple regression models to predict prices of antique cars.

Along with teaching, Nicki continues to help people throughout the community by donating her time to charity. Nicki is involved with the Models for Charity program, where she plans and models in fashion events to raise thousands of dollars for charity. She also loves being behind the camera, expressing her creativity by wandering throughout Raleigh with her dog Ollie, taking any picture that catches her eye.

## Tanya MOORE

Hometown: Cape Coral, Florida  
Citizenship: U.S.  
Language: Russian



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ New College of Florida  
B.A., Economics/Applied Mathematics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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How did assisting fellow undergraduates write humanities and social science papers set the stage for a career in analytics? For Tanya, working as a peer tutor at her college writing center meant helping others derive insights from abstract, unorganized information. Tanya found satisfaction listening to her peers' ideas and helping to transform them into outlines and next steps such as a 20-page critical film analysis or a chapter for a classics thesis. She also developed her skills in explaining and presenting complex information as a macroeconomics teaching assistant at a summer camp for gifted high school students at Duke University.

Tanya's undergraduate career allowed her to receive an innovative liberal arts education and push the boundaries of her academic capabilities. At New College of Florida, the honors college of Florida's public university system, she engaged in stimulating discussions in small classes with professors and peers, wrote a 50-page undergraduate economics thesis on the U.S. profit rate, and received narrative evaluations in lieu of letter grades. These experiences led her to develop a stronger appreciation for diverse perspectives and learning for the sake of learning. Moreover, Tanya came to thrive in small group environments centered on lively discussion and collaboration.

Tanya is working on making her cooking skills on par with her analytics proficiency, and she enjoys trying new restaurants with international cuisines, especially Indian and Mediterranean. She hopes to one day make trips to Australia and Antarctica to realize her dream of visiting all seven continents.

## Charles MORRIS

Hometown: Boston, Massachusetts  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Boston University  
B.A., Economics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Charles is a passionate and motivated individual with a desire to improve both himself and the world around him. He thrives in novel and challenging environments and greets new experiences with enthusiasm and determination. His drive and undeterrable work ethic have resulted in success in a wide variety of endeavors.

As a sophomore in college, Charles became the general manager of BUTV10, Boston University's student managed television station. During his tenure as GM, he planned and facilitated several large-scale projects, including a live 4-hour multi-studio coverage of the 2012 general election and the production of original content for airing at the Men's Home Hockey games. His experience working in the creative and collaborative media world was a rewarding and life-changing experience.

After taking several economics courses, Charles became enthralled by the insights and analytical methodologies. He immersed himself in the subject fully, reading mountains of papers from top economics journals and enrolling in several graduate level courses. His professors quickly recognized his aptitude and passion for the subject, and he was invited by one of his professors to enroll in a Ph.D. level course. Originally planning to pursue his Ph.D. in economics, Charles supplemented his own education by teaching himself to program in several languages. After learning about the MSA program, Charles set his sights on a career in advanced analytics where he seeks to merge his love for communication, creativity, and analysis. In his spare time he can be found playing guitar, writing short works of fiction, or reading in a comfortable armchair.

## Jared MORRIS

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As early as elementary school, Jared had an infatuation with baseball. His favorite childhood memory is playing catch in the yard with his dad. Jared spent much of his time analyzing the statistics on the back of the baseball cards in his collection. This love for baseball developed into a penchant for numbers and statistics. He applied these interests during his undergraduate practicum while working with the North Carolina Climate Office in an effort to predict the landfall of hurricanes in the Atlantic Basin.

When Jared was not in class, he was working as a rental representative for Penske Truck Leasing. His position required managing the accounts of several Fortune 500 companies, including UPS and Cardinal Health, as well as managing equipment and utilization. While in this role, Jared gained invaluable experience working with a team to accomplish a common goal. He helped generate over \$21 million in revenue in 2014 and was promoted to a fulltime position, which he balanced with a fulltime schedule at school.

Jared enjoys escaping to the North Carolina coast for a weekend of fishing and relaxing, but he also lives for seeing his favorite rock bands and comedians perform live. When he has the chance to get away, Jared loves to visit his sister who lives in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## Tim MULLIGAN

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
B.S.B.A., *magna cum laude*, Marketing Analytics with minor in Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Tim's first cross-country road trip sparked a love of discovering new things, exploring exciting opportunities, and meeting new people. As a student of analytics, Tim's experience has been no different. Although interested in marketing, Tim began seeking a discipline more built on quantitative measurement and technical skill sets. Tim was drawn to the many tools, applications, and opportunities of data science.

Grabbing the bull by the horns, Tim jumped feet first into entrepreneurship. He started a digital marketing consultancy while in school to capture small businesses' need for affordable and flexible marketing services. As the VP of Analytics for Brewpublik, a beer delivery startup in Charlotte, he created a culture of data-driven decision making by utilizing in-depth customer analytics, which is integral to effective expansion in the rapid-growth environment of a start-up. Tim also helped start a brain cancer awareness non-profit, and even directed and produced a feature-length documentary that has raised \$30,000 (and counting!) for brain cancer research.

Outside of work and study, Tim has developed a love for craft beer and coffee. He's addicted to road tripping, has made the journey coast-to-coast several times, and hopes to do so again soon.



## William R. NADOLSKI

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Bowling Green State University  
M.A., Economics, 2009  
B.S.B.A., *cum laude*, Economics, 2008
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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From a young age, people, societies, and complex systems have fascinated William. His drive to understand how they operate and how to both model and predict their behavior naturally led him to pursue a graduate degree in economics. Throughout his life, he has had an uncanny ability to translate an understanding of these issues into easily grasped concepts fit for broader audiences. During his studies, William honed his communication skills by serving as both a graduate teaching and research assistant as well as presenting to a variety of different audiences.

After working as a quality assurance analyst for the 2010 Census, he answered the call to share his knowledge and inquisitiveness by teaching economics and statistics at the college level. While teaching, his ability to effectively implement educational technologies led him to host a number of panel discussions and seminars on innovative teaching methodologies for his fellow instructors. Additionally, this expertise allowed him the opportunity to serve on a task force, hand-picked by the Dean of the College of Business, entrusted with developing an actionable roadmap for the college-wide adoption of emerging educational technologies.

When he's not researching politics or the economy, William can be found planning his next outdoor adventure. He recently summited his first two 14,000 foot peaks, solo-raftered the lower half of the Cumberland River, and he has twice circumnavigated the continental United States as part of a field-based academic program known as GeoJourney, which involved driving over 14,000 miles across 25 states and camping in 30 national parks.

## Benjamin NEUSSE

Hometown: Smyrna, Tennessee

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ California University of Pennsylvania  
M.S., Exercise Science, 2015
- ▶ United States Military Academy at West Point  
B.S., Economics, 2004
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Ben's deep, critical, and analytic thinking saves lives. As an Army Fire Support Officer in Iraq, he developed a patrol brief dashboard in MS Excel that enabled his unit to avoid roadside bomb attacks. Ben trained his team to record data into a custom Visual Basic interface so that it always provided patrol leaders with real time analysis of the relative risk of specific travel routes.

During his second deployment, Ben supported his commander's efforts to reconcile feuding sects by managing reconstruction projects. To maximize impact of these projects, he quickly developed a systems-based understanding of the local drivers of conflict. By scoping, tendering, and supervising projects to build water pipelines, solar powered water filters, and drip irrigation systems, Ben fostered peace in Iraq.

Ben spent two years leading a unit of soldiers that trained and prepared others for combat deployment to Afghanistan. Again using analysis and a systems approach, he enhanced the quality of training and reduced its timeline by one third. This allowed individuals more time to hone additional critical skills and resulted in Ben's selection for the Command and General Staff Officer College.

Ben loves to get his hands dirty, spending time growing garlic, Swiss chard, and broccoli in the garden or performing vehicle maintenance in the garage. He also enjoys learning about and using medicinal herbs, such as *plantago*, yarrow, and dandelion, while pursuing certification as an herbal medic.

## William NIFONG

Hometown: Durham, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *cum laude*, Industrial Engineering with minor in Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Curiosity may have killed the cat, but it has not killed Bill, at least not yet. For as long as he can remember, curiosity has driven Bill to take apart anything he could get his hands on. Whether it was his sister's toy jeep or his dad's car, if it could be disassembled, then he was going to find out how it worked. Brimming with imagination, he learned best from exploring and delving into fundamental components. These experiences enabled Bill to be engrossed in the details without losing sight of the big picture.

Bill's interest in analytics began during the pursuit of his degree in Industrial Engineering. An engineering professor close to Bill felt that analytics would be a superb use of his talents and a continuation of the skills learned in Industrial Engineering. Bill researched the possibilities associated with an analytics degree and he was amazed at the variety of unique opportunities for exploration and discovery that were provided by data analytics. Bill found himself no longer wondering what kind of career he wanted and set out to make analytics his future career.

When Bill is not off exploring the unknown, he enjoys building relationships through playing team sports and working on older cars with his brother. He also takes on many personal projects; his favorite projects are restoring broken electronics and doing home renovations, as he loves the satisfaction that comes from the results of hard work.

## Deborah OLUWANIYI

Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria  
Citizenship: Nigeria



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Minnesota–Twin Cities  
B.S., Economics with minor in Management, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Noted for her intellectual curiosity and uncommon knack for data, managers and peers have described Deborah as an ambitious and results-driven self-starter who consistently delivers and exceeds expectations. Deborah's passion for deriving insight from data started at the age of 12 when she visited America for the first time. As a child, she could not fathom the staggering discrepancy between the U.S. Dollar and the Nigerian Naira exchange rate. This innocent curiosity led her to the world of economics and the life-long pursuit of data analytics.

Deborah excelled as a strategic data analyst at Target Corporation. As a core member of a highly cross-functional team, she analyzed and interpreted large data sets of system integration errors in a high-pressure, global IT landscape which included SAP. Her analysis delivered value-added insights that resulted in timely resolution of system issues, significant cost savings, and increased efficiency. Due to her exemplary performance, she was handpicked to train incoming team members.

Additionally, Deborah gained value-added consulting skills as a data analytics intern at a nationwide IT consulting firm. Her commitment to excellence was rewarded when she was selected for the prestigious "Top Performer Award" during her internship. Eventually, she was tasked with senior-level responsibilities.

When she is not working with or daydreaming about data, Deborah splits her time between leading her local church choir and volunteering. Recently, she led a team from Timeless Vision Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to empowering blind individuals, on an impactful mission trip to Africa.

## Rebecca OVERCASH

Hometown: Statesville, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Appalachian State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Actuarial Sciences with minors in Mathematics and Statistics, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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From a very young age, Rebecca's greatest passion has always been numbers. Whether it was asking her parents for mathematics textbooks as gifts in elementary school, or being the only girl on her middle school's MathCounts team, she has maintained an eagerness to apply problem solving through numbers to real world applications.

During her undergraduate studies, Rebecca worked with a medical practice consulting company. One of her roles was to compile customer satisfaction surveys for several clients and create an overall rating system to judge performance of their employees. It was during this exercise that she became intrigued by the connection between results and business value. The understanding that data can, and should, drive both decisions and actions prompted her to pursue a career in the field of analytics. Rebecca looks forward to a career where she can focus on uncovering actionable insights.

In her free time, Rebecca unwinds by playing volleyball and spending time with her close-knit family. She also enjoys spending time in the garage restoring classic automobiles where she can be found sporting her pink mechanics' gloves. This hobby continuously puts her research, collaboration, and decision-making skills to use, while reflecting her belief that goals are most often attained through hard work.

## Matthew PACHECO

Hometown: Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ Ball State University  
B.S., Economics with minor in Military Science, 2004
  - ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015
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As an Army Officer for the past decade, Matt has been leading analytical teams resulting in mission success. He exemplified this during his first deployment as a young Intelligence Officer. Within two months of taking charge of an intelligence cell, he was able to increase the number of High Value Targets detained by his unit by 300%.

More recently, Matt led a multidisciplinary team in the development of a simulation, which helped his organization provide better support to refugees by enhancing the understanding of refugee movement patterns. He was able to bring the synergies of different disciplines together and keep them on schedule resulting in timely support to the Army. Matt receives consistent compliments from decision makers on his ability to take complex information, like the refugee movements, and present it in a straightforward manner.

Matt discovered his passion for analytics after a deployment to Afghanistan where he was tasked with measuring effects for operations impacting all of Afghanistan. His efforts resulted in an assessment tool that facilitated a clearer understanding of how operations were affecting governance and security for his leadership. The complexity and difficulty of the problem excited Matt and led him to seek further challenging analytical jobs and become an Operational Research Systems Analyst in the Army.

Matt is an avid reader of books on economics and political stability of nations, with *The Origins of Political Order*, by Francis Fukuyama being a favorite. He also enjoys watching the Patriots and cooking for his wife and children.

## Nick PELZ

Hometown: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
M.S., Chemistry, 2006
- ▶ Pennsylvania State University  
B.S., Chemistry, 2002
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Nick is an award-winning scientist recognized for individual and multidisciplinary project-team excellence as evidenced by receiving the Richard Evans Team Award. While in the medical field, Nick combined his need to solve pioneering puzzles with a strong sense of purpose to improve our quality of life. His unique perspective, imagination, intense curiosity, and drive garnered him a reputation as a highly adaptable resource with the ability to find solutions that resonate with teammates.

During his career Nick has discovered new methodologies for asymmetric synthesis, designed a drug candidate for glaucoma, been awarded patents for novel cancer therapies, and published in multiple journals. Key to these accomplishments was mastering the data, identifying main-effects, and possessing the drive to track down anomalies of interest. Witnessing the power of iterative hypothesis testing and honing his ability to clarify nebulous challenges sparked Nick's desire to apply his scientific expertise to a career in analytics.

Nick is not only a lifetime learner driven by unsolved puzzles, but an adventurer who loves to experience new locales and cultures. He's skied the Alps, holidayed across Australia, and recently survived a bus-trip to Mount Rushmore. When unable to travel, Nick enjoys cooperative gaming and team sports, and relies upon his love of the arts or an imaginative story to recharge his creative battery.

## Caitlin PHELPS

Hometown: Clemmons, North Carolina

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Applied Mathematics, 2015  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Economics, 2015  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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At the early age of three, Caitlin's passion for sports was sparked when she joined her local YMCA soccer and tee-ball teams. From this passion grew a love of numbers, which led Caitlin to study statistics and co-found the Sports Analytics Club. She earned the position of club president based on her strong work ethic, leadership abilities, and organizational skills. Within the club, Caitlin and a team of fellow undergraduates developed a predictive model for the NCAA Tournament. Caitlin and her club teammates presented this research at the Joint Statistical Meetings, the largest statistical conference in the world. Through her work on this project, Caitlin discovered her adeptness for bringing data to life through stunning visualizations.

Caitlin's analytical skills were expanded to economics midway through her undergraduate degree when she earned a prestigious internship as a summer analyst at Atlas Diligence, an investment management firm. At this internship, Caitlin mastered critical skills in Microsoft Excel, performed analytics on private equity firms, and learned the due diligence process. Caitlin quickly absorbed so much new material that Atlas expanded her responsibilities to include producing interpretable summaries of the data. Most importantly, however, it was Atlas that first noticed Caitlin's inclination toward visualization, asking her to create visual aids to better educate customers on the strengths of certain private equity firms.

Caitlin loves to spend her spare time smashing aces on the tennis court, cheering on the Wolfpack in every sport, and singing along at local musical theater productions.



## Allison PHILLIPS

Hometown: Abilene, Texas  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Abilene Christian University  
B.B.A., *magna cum laude*, Marketing, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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At age 19, Allison spent ten weeks in a remote Ukrainian village managing groups of up to 100 volunteers as they ran camps for orphaned and at-risk youth. With no optimization experience, Allison struggled to manually create work schedules for such large taskforces. Frustrated by her lack of technical knowledge, she returned to school, where she began developing her quantitative capabilities through academic research assistantships with three different professors.

Allison enjoyed academic research in business ethics, cognitive psychology, and consumer behavior; however, she was intrigued by the possibilities of practical application, leading her to pursue a market research internship at World Vision USA, a \$1 billion humanitarian firm. Her analysis of the organization's experiential marketing team formed the basis for a \$1.5 million decision and drove strategic planning to target specific population segments. In her senior year of college, Allison built on this experience by launching a student-run market research firm. As CEO, she simultaneously managed a four-student team and up to seven client relationships at a time, generating profit margins above 50%. In each of these experiences, Allison witnessed analytics' power to positively alter organizational behavior, fueling her passion for analytics.

Allison also enjoys traveling off the beaten path. In the past year, she has "ashboarded" (sledded) down a volcano in Nicaragua, paraglided off a mountain in Washington, and day-hiked the Grand Canyon. Allison loves to share the outdoors with others, and, at any given time, may be found lobbying friends to grab books and coffee and head to the mountains.

## Jennifer PHUNG

Hometown: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Citizenship: U.S.  
Language: Chinese



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Haverford College  
B.A., Anthropology, 2010
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Jen's non-linear path to analytics has helped her to develop a focused and well-rounded approach to data-driven work. As a student in the social sciences, she honed her qualitative research skills studying cultural trends, behaviors, and interactions. Jen's curiosity to see more of the world led to stints in China and Taiwan, where she studied and lived while in college and after graduation.

Her internships with local nonprofit organizations gave her a glimpse into how crucial working with the right information can be when resources are limited. From there, she delved deeper into quantitative work at a research and consulting firm. There her appreciation and interest in data analytics continued to grow as she saw firsthand the importance of having the necessary skills and tools to interpret data. Jen worked on strengthening her technical skills and applying what she had learned to research projects across a variety of different industries such as manufacturing and retail and service. Her qualitative background helped her to more effectively frame questions and to bring a different perspective on the data analysis in order to deliver the most relevant results to her clients.

Jen's curiosity extends across all facets of her life, especially in her love of traveling. One of her lifelong goals is to visit as many cities as she can. She is always on the lookout for new learning experiences and the next great adventure.

## Chelsi PINKETT

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Claflin University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Mathematics with minor in Business Administration, 2014
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Chelsi developed her passion for mathematics and science by taking home first place wins in both computational and reasoning mathematics competitions and science fairs. This passion continued to grow through high school where Chelsi achieved valedictory honors and was selected as a LEAD Summer Engineering Institute scholar for two consecutive summers. As a LEAD scholar, she learned how to use HOMER Energy Modeling software to map renewable energy sources from California to Manyinga, Zambia. In addition, she learned PSpice Circuit Analysis software and used it to model a circuit that could detect ion concentrations in water, which she later built herself.

During her undergraduate years, Chelsi participated in the Mathematical Biology Workshop for Undergraduate STEM students and did a research project using MATLAB and Mathematica computing software to model nerve impulse transmission and ion channels. Presenting this research as her thesis topic coupled with hard work inside of the classroom earned her the Unit Award for Mathematics and Computer Science at Claflin University, which is awarded to the senior with outstanding achievement and the highest cumulative average in the department.

Constantly striving for excellence, Chelsi also managed to balance her academic endeavors with her extracurricular by being a cheerleader on high school, competition, and collegiate teams, leading each to championship titles as a captain. Her beloved sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, recognized her accomplishments in cheerleading at the Annual South Atlanta Region Conference by awarding her with the Clemontine F. Washington Athletic Award for 2012-2013.

## Liliya POPOVA

Hometown: Sliven, Bulgaria  
Citizenship: U.S. and E.U.  
Language: Bulgarian



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi  
B.S., International Economics, Management, and Finance, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As one of eight recipients of Bocconi's full merit-based scholarships, Lili moved at the age of eighteen to attend Italy's most prestigious economics and finance university. There, she co-authored a paper on cross-country similarities of social protection attitudes and welfare regime typologies in Europe, which is currently in the process of submission at the *Cambridge Journal of Social Policy*. Additionally, Lili was a research assistant for a public opinion study regarding immigration in border regions of Europe. Working in depth with Stata and SPSS to clean and parse large data sets inspired her to conduct her own study on trust and legitimacy of European criminal justice systems, which culminated in her final thesis. Her work using analytical methods for empirical projects motivated her to pursue analytics as a career.

As an international student in Milan, the cultural learning was as important as the academic learning. During the school year, Lili supplemented her studies with constant travel by visiting fifteen countries in three years. Between school years, she spent her summers working at her family's construction business in Bulgaria on accounting, warehouse management, and supply chain management activities. Concurrently, she volunteered for Y-Peer Bulgaria, an organization that raises awareness of HIV and AIDS and teaches young students about sexual health. In her spare time, Lili enjoys promoting a healthy lifestyle by experimenting with nutritious recipes and staying fit both through regular exercise and part-time coaching at her home fencing academy.

## Hamza QURESHI

Hometown: Lahore, Pakistan  
Citizenship: Pakistan  
Language: Urdu



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Lahore School of Economics  
B.S. (Honors), Accounting and Finance, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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From an early age, Hamza realized that hard work and patience were the keys to success. During his freshman year of college, he embraced his entrepreneurial spirit and started a small Chinese takeout near his home. By the time he graduated, the small takeout had grown into a full-fledged catering business, providing services to the cafeterias of two major private schools. His partner valued his keen eye for detail and ability to detect patterns that greatly affected profitability. These attributes proved valuable when he noticed that reducing inventory purchases during the last few days of each month could save the business thousands in lost inventory. Experiences like these greatly influenced Hamza's love for detecting and solving problems by identifying trends and evaluating data for insights.

As a self-proclaimed "Finance-a-holic," Hamza developed a deep understanding about financial analysis and risk management through his coursework and projects. His performance earned him academic recognition and a teaching assistantship in the business communication department. He seized various leadership roles, including being the group lead in the Lahore School Case Study competition, and he also tutored freshman students in basic accounting principles.

Outside of work and school, Hamza challenges himself to reach new levels of physical and mental fitness, whether it is shadowboxing in the gym or reading science fiction novels. A true car lover at heart, he spends his weekends restoring an old Nissan he found rusting away at a junkyard back home.

## Jeremiah RIDDLE

Hometown: Brandon, Florida

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Stetson University  
Bachelor of Music, *magna cum laude*, Outside Field–Business with minors in Applied Statistics and Finance, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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The day Jeremiah could not go to the gifted math class with the rest of his 3<sup>rd</sup> grade friends was the day that sparked his strong sense of self-motivation, determination, and intellectual curiosity. Embracing those skills, he joined the gifted math class the following year. This experience ultimately drove Jeremiah to pursue a multifaceted college education, which focused on classical music, finance, statistics, and business.

As a violinist, Jeremiah had the privilege to serve the Stetson University Orchestra as a section leader and most recently as co-concertmaster during the Orchestra's recent tour through the U.K. In addition to studying violin, Jeremiah worked as a conductor leading ensembles in performances of contemporary classical music as well as student compositions.

Jeremiah garnered experience in finance and statistics working as a political research intern for an estate advisory firm and as an equity security analyst for Stetson's student-run multi-million dollar investment portfolio. He was both a teaching apprentice, co-teaching a capstone course in Corporate Finance, and the statistics tutor for the Department of Decision & Information Science. Through these experiences, Jeremiah realized his passion for teaching and his aptitude for leading.

In addition to cultivating his skills as a violinist and focusing on his studies, Jeremiah co-created two award-winning short-films, one of which screened at the international Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France. He also helped double the size of his fraternity as an Officer of Membership Development. In his free time, Jeremiah enjoys writing electronic music, playing racquet sports, and making sushi.

## Kate RODRIGUES

Hometown: Murfreesboro, Tennessee  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ Missouri State University  
M.S., Mathematics, 2013
  - ▶ Evangel University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Mathematics; Spanish, 2011
  - ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015
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From an early age, Kate was fascinated by puzzles and problems. She was continually inspired by both the passion and the expertise of her math teachers and aspired to follow in their footsteps. The affirmation and encouragement she received from her teachers along the way led her to pursue extensive mathematical study at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

However, after beginning a Ph.D. in pure math, she soon realized that although she enjoyed the challenge of theoretical math, she was becoming more eager to apply her knowledge to the real world. She saw more potential for fulfillment in learning and teaching more practical areas of mathematics. This also coincided with her longstanding desire to teach and interact with diverse groups of people. Evidenced by her time studying Spanish in San Jose, Costa Rica, Kate has always enjoyed combining her desire to teach and learn with her desire to broaden her horizons. All these factors ultimately compelled her to pursue a career in analytics—something she saw as a prime opportunity to utilize her mathematical and interpersonal skills while developing connections with people outside the world of academia.

Aside from the world of analytics, Kate loves playing board games with friends and family, spending time on her parents' farm in Tennessee, picking fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden, and playing with her feisty Husky, Juneau.

## Matthew RUSSELL

Hometown: Wilmington, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
B.S., Business Administration with minor in Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As a child, Matt developed and applied strong organizational skills to a variety of pursuits including voracious reading, participating in multiple sports, making short films, and winning gold medals in engineering at the Science Olympiad. By holding down multiple jobs, Matt was able to fund his college education and be the first in his immediate family to attend a university.

Initially drawn to the artistic world of film and creative writing, a calculus class suddenly shifted Matt's focus to the field of analytics. His passion for analytics was fueled by the innovation needed to interpret and present data effectively. Matt honed his presentation and analytic skills while working with numerous teams on case studies at the Cameron School of Business. His ability to communicate within teams and convey analytic-based ideas using his creative writing background made him a prime candidate for Cameron's renowned mentorship program and Student Rocket Pitch Event.

Matt's capabilities ultimately landed him a competitive internship with the tenth fastest growing company in the United States. He became the "right-hand man" to the company's president. His business skills supported the company's needs for brand positioning, competitive analyses using statistical techniques, and cleaning databases with SAS and MySQL.

Matt keeps actively engaged by donating his time to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, playing baseball, or diving into his book collection. No matter the task, Matt is highly motivated to accomplish anything he sets his mind to.



## Mary Wells RUTH

Hometown: Terrell, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.A., with distinction, Economics with minors in Sustainability Studies and Public Relations, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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An interest in human behavior and financial decision-making led Mary Wells to study economics. However, it was not until late in her undergraduate career that an econometrics course introduced Mary Wells to the rewarding opportunities of working with data. She pursued this interest further by working as a data analyst for the Environmental Finance Center, an organization dedicated to finding financially viable techniques to promote the environment. There, she learned about the potential benefits of using data analytics to improve both the sustainability and the financial health of an organization, two goals that often seem so incompatible.

During her time at the Environmental Finance Center, Mary Wells took the lead in conducting and completing three statewide surveys of water and wastewater usage rates. Further, she interpreted nearly 1,000 rate structures and updated a benchmarking tool that assists hundreds of water utilities in assessing their financial well-being. Mary Wells worked diligently to meet numerous project deadlines and became known for her efficiency, enthusiasm, and driven nature.

When she isn't in class, Mary Wells enjoys running and water skiing, and if she can find the time, she likes to travel. Mary Wells has a natural curiosity about the world that began at age six on a trip to London, England. She has since visited eight more countries in Europe and South America and plans to continue her travels in the years to come.

## Supratik SAHA

Hometown: Siliguri, India  
Citizenship: India  
Languages: Bengali and Hindi



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Indian Institute of Management Raipur  
Post Graduate Diploma in Management, 2012
- ▶ West Bengal University of Technology  
B.Tech., Computer Science and Engineering, 2007
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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The wild gush of air, the moonlit roads, and the thrill of adventure draw Supratik towards lone motorcycle rides. It is this same excitement of accomplishing something new that attracts him to tackle, understand, and solve business problems. When his client Johnson and Johnson wanted to create cost-effective web solutions, Supratik successfully led a young and inexperienced team to create effective marketing websites using open source technology. His work won customer accolades for deliverable quality, and he enjoyed creating a logical solution to a business requirement using programming tools.

After his post-graduate diploma in management, his first project as a corporate strategy manager at JCB India was to formulate a business model for the used equipment division of the company. Supratik used his business education to involve existing dealerships and came up with a working model for the division that went on to become a profit center for his organization. During his year as the corporate treasurer at JCB, Supratik earned £5,000,000 for his organization through the liquidity that he managed on a daily basis.

During his undergraduate years, Supratik volunteered to start a vaccination camp for underprivileged children in India, and he managed operations, promotional campaigns, and fundraisers for 2 years. In his free time, his passion for motorcycles has led him to complete a 1000-mile ride in India in 36 hours cutting across the breadth of the country through tough road and weather conditions.

## Vahid SANII

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.A., Economics with minors in Chemistry and Mathematics, 2010
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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For as long as he can remember, Vahid had an affinity for understanding real-world probabilities. Even as a young child, Vahid would spend his vacations analyzing the probable outcomes of various backgammon games being played in Turkish coffee houses. Today, Vahid's love of using analytics to identify creative solutions continues as he utilizes data to solve problems and learn new skills in the process.

As an analyst for a boutique consulting firm, Vahid designed the company's first sales analytics dashboard to monitor and forecast business development activity, which was reviewed daily by the CEO. He also co-pioneered and managed two research-based consortiums. Both of these year-long analytical studies have since evolved into events that host more than 15 Fortune 1000 clients.

Most recently, Vahid coordinated insights and managed relationships for several institutional investment and management consulting firms. In this capacity, Vahid developed a more collaborative process across his research team, leveraging his organizational skills to standardize and enrich previous practices. As a result, Vahid's accounts grew 293% year-over-year and blossomed into the firm's largest business, ultimately being featured as the one of the company's biggest success stories of 2014.

Outside of work, Vahid can be found running the trails of Chapel Hill, reading behavioral economics books, such as *Thinking Fast and Slow*, and avidly rooting for ACC basketball schools. His favorite moments, however, are spent with his fiancée testing new restaurants in the Triangle area and obsessing over potential additions to the *Wizarding World of Harry Potter* theme park at Universal Studios.

## Jennifer SCHAFF

Hometown: Seattle, Washington

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
Ph.D., Plant Pathology, 2006
- ▶ University of Washington  
B.S., Botany, 1996
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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As a young child, Jennifer's penchant for understanding business, math, and negotiating became clear as she convinced her parents to pay her by the hour for pulling garden weeds instead of by the pound, demonstrating an early concept of diminishing returns; the more weeds pulled the more work it took to get the smaller and less profitable weeds. Always looking to improve, Jennifer is at her top performance when meeting a challenge requiring fresh ideas and creative solutions. This propensity was recognized, and Jennifer was recruited shortly after earning her Ph.D. to revitalize the genomics aspect of a customer service lab. Within months, she was promoted to facility director.

Jennifer's interest in evaluating and applying cutting edge analysis began in her graduate studies when she designed her project utilizing the newest data analysis platforms, winning her awards such as the Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Research Foundation Fellow for innovation and resulting in a software invention disclosure. This interest blossomed in her recent employment when she wrote and won funding proposals to place the newest technology in her lab. Jennifer shared her enthusiasm by presenting new or complicated ideas to all levels of audience, in many locations around the world, and especially with students in graduate courses.

In her free time, you will find Jennifer in the outdoors taking advantage of the mild climate. She enjoys running and long bike rides, as well as photography field trips with friends and family, and strolls with long time companion, her dog Fenris.

## Francis SHAO

Hometown: Dalian, China

Citizenship: China

Language: Mandarin



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Vanderbilt University  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Economics; Mathematics, 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Francis is a focused, self-motivated, and result-driven data enthusiast with strong problem solving skills. During her undergraduate studies, Francis leveraged her quantitative skills to complete a research project at Vanderbilt Owen Graduate School of Management, studying the effects of Deferred Prosecution Agreements of corporate fraud on financial markets. Her work contributed to a paper that was published in the *American Criminal Law Review*. This rewarding experience reinforced her desire to become an analytics professional.

While working in the IT department of a global supply chain company in Chicago, Francis was able to strongly influence the company's investment decisions by applying her financial modeling skills. Her business case analysis resulted in a total cost savings of \$9.7 million by evaluating IT projects such as software licensing, hardware upgrade, cloud solutions, and end-user devices strategy. Perceiving the inefficiency in manual creation of the IT operations scorecard, Francis took on additional responsibility by leading the IT scorecard automation project. Francis was able to refine the data process flow, automate global IT scorecard, and implement the standard reporting solution. Francis' fresh perspective, business acumen, and due-diligence gained her a reputation for systematic problem solving and delivering quality results that exceed expectations.

Francis is an adventurous traveler and outdoor enthusiast. Having already traveled to 20 countries, Francis' goal is to reach 30 countries by the age of 30. Whether it's paragliding in Turkey, cooking s'mores over the lava on the Big Island of Hawaii, or hiking the snow mountain in Tibet, Francis always longs for a new experience.

## Craig SHAVER

Hometown: Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.S.P.H., Environmental Health Sciences; Biology with minor in Chemistry, 2011
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Craig envisions the analytics field as the ultimate opportunity to combine his penchant for exploration, applied math and science, and teamwork to harness data and achieve impactful results. From the time he began school, he was actively categorizing his basketball cards based on player statistics and the Beckett Price Guide. Today this hobby manifests itself in the design of more complicated predictive sports models in R, but the passion is the same. As a biology major in college, Craig first recognized the power of large data when accessing gene libraries containing millions of base pairs of DNA code to aid his research in molecular genetics. His fascination with the power of encoded data grew while working as a technologist in Pathology after college where he was intrigued by the idea of automating pattern recognition to identify disease. Later while working towards a certificate in statistical programming, he had the chance to work with biopsy image data to build predictive disease models.

Craig is skilled at coordinating teamwork. In AmeriCorps he developed transferrable leadership skills by working on a team charged with designing and implementing new trails for the City of Bellevue, Washington. Through his experience, Craig found that he enjoys building and becoming a part of high functioning teams. He believes teamwork is the key to success in the workplace.

One day, Craig would like to hike the entire Appalachian Trail. He enjoys back-packing and fishing in the mountains, and he is currently learning to fly fish.

## Dane SHELTON

Hometown: Wilmington, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
B.S., Statistics, 2015
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.A., Economics, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015

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Aristotle's quote "education is the best preparation for old age" has inspired Dane to take on a lifelong quest for knowledge. During his pursuit of knowledge it was only natural for Dane to end up at the Institute for Advanced Analytics, where he could apply his passion for knowledge and contribute to the growing field of analytics. Dane likes to study all disciplines, but he has given the most attention to the fields of computer science, economics, and statistics. Dane's studies led him to hold two positions in the pharmaceutical field where he was an in-house SAS Programmer, writing code, and creating deliverables that were submitted to the Food and Drug Administration for new drug approval.

Dane is known for being easy to talk to, outgoing, and friendly. His communication skills allow him to flourish in teamwork situations, and he receives consistently positive feedback from fellow teammates.

Dane has many passions that lie outside the field of analytics, including music, skimboarding, surfing, and traveling. Dane can play several instruments including the guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, and most recently he has started to learn the drums. Dane has traveled to over ten countries and has experienced many different cultures, which has led him to being a more understanding and well-rounded person.

## Kristi SHEPHERD

Hometown: Ottumwa, Iowa  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Christian Brothers University  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Natural Science with minor in Behavioral Science, 2007
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Kristi is no stranger to starting over in a new place. She has moved to new locations for both job and education opportunities approximately six times, spanning four different states since starting undergraduate school. Although she enjoys the diversity and thrill of new environments, she is looking for a job where she can settle down. Her family would also like this since they are tired of helping her move.

While Kristi's work has primarily been within laboratories, she has had a wide variety of experiences: monitoring hormonal and behavioral changes in pandas at the Memphis Zoo, assisting in multiple research labs at Iowa State University, and ensuring quality control in food and pharmaceuticals. She has shown both independence and adaptability with each new career. Although Kristi has enjoyed all of these opportunities, she realized the unifying factor that really thrilled her was the data and all of the insights and discoveries that can be drawn from it.

Kristi is a huge lover of animals and cannot be trusted alone in any store that has pets for adoption. She currently is trying to limit herself to the two dogs she has, which she enjoys playing with and taking for walks. In her free time she also enjoys relaxing by curling up with a good book.



## Joshua SIEVER

Hometown: Edmonton, Canada  
Citizenship: U.S. Permanent Resident, Canada



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Statistics with minors in Economics and Mathematics,  
2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2014  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Josh has always had a fascination with uncertainty and a propensity for solving problems. An avid hockey fan, Josh would spend his summers pondering how his favorite players would perform during the upcoming season. His exposure to the world of analytics began when he found models that made predictions about players' future production based on data from past seasons. As Josh researched hockey analytics, he realized data analysis combined his knack for crunching numbers with his intrigue for problem solving. It seemed like a perfect fit, which motivated him to study statistics in college.

Over the course of his undergraduate career, Josh has proven to be the kind of team player who is always up for a challenge. As an intern at Chiltern International he learned the importance of leadership and effective communication as the company underwent a merger. He utilized these skills to help his team integrate new members and projects. Josh further developed these abilities to successfully complete a team project for the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources by blending statistics with creativity to discover why two pollution monitors had divergent readings at one of their sites. He learned through these experiences that he thrives in a fast-paced environment where he can work with a diverse team with unique perspectives.

Dedicated to improving his fitness, Josh can usually be found exercising in the gym after he leaves the classroom. He channels his creative energy through creating Polaroid photography and playing guitar and bass.

## Chris SMITH

Hometown: Somerville, Alabama

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Ph.D., Philosophy, 2011
- ▶ Vanderbilt University  
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Mathematics; Philosophy with minor in Psychology, 2004  
Phi Beta Kappa
- ▶ SAS Certified Advanced Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Before he became interested in analytics, Chris spent a decade teaching philosophy at universities across the U.S. The first class he ever taught was Introduction to Symbolic Logic, and he still remembers it as his favorite. Everything about this class excited him: translating ordinary language into rigorous mathematical symbolism, diagramming logical relationships, navigating the blackboard space, and organizing the class time for maximum impact on students. Chris' passion is for applying powerful analytical tools to elements of everyday life and communicating the results to a non-technical audience. He pursued this passion throughout his teaching career by guiding students to think philosophically about topics such as consciousness, language, and politics. He frequently presented his research on the philosophy of visual perception at meetings of the American Philosophical Association.

Chris continues to pursue his passion in analytics, which combines his love of mathematics with the information technology that now defines everyday life for much of the world. Furthermore, analytics connects with Chris' longtime interest in business. As a teacher he taught business ethics to hundreds of students.

Chris' personal experiences are diverse, from growing up in rural Alabama, to touring Europe in high school, to marrying his wife in India. Today he spends much of his personal time singing and reading with his two daughters.

## Rachel SNYDER

Hometown: Bel Air, Maryland  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Temple University  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Mathematical Economics with minor in Statistics, 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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A passion for helping others and a do-good mentality led Rachel to begin her career in the community development finance industry. Working for an information service company that guides capital to underserved markets allowed Rachel to see the positive and real-world impact of data for positive change. As an integral member of the operations team, Rachel collected and cleaned financial performance and impact data for community driven investors on over one hundred community development loan funds with \$5 million to \$300 million in assets. Rachel was instrumental in developing and managing a dashboard to monitor data collection progress and internal operational efficiency to ensure that investors who champion economic justice received clean and timely data.

The passion Rachel feels for doing good expands beyond the workplace. As an avid animal lover and owner of a rescue cat, she combined her strong desire to help others with her love of running. She volunteered for The Monster Milers, a shelter dog running organization in Philadelphia. Proudly running through the city streets with shelter dogs, Rachel provided these dogs with exposure to the community while easing their “shelter stress” as they awaited adoption. She hopes that all shelters will adopt running programs and aspires to rescue a dog, or three, of her own in the near future.

When not actively trying to do good and help others, Rachel can be found glued to the TV loudly cheering on the Baltimore Ravens or exploring new recipes and restaurants for dishes to satisfy her ever-present craving for spicy food.

## Ravi SOLTER

Hometown: Urbana, Illinois

Citizenship: U.S.

Language: French



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Portland State University  
B.S., Mathematics, 2015
- ▶ University of Redlands  
B.S., Economics, 2008
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Ravi became interested in data analytics as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Benin, West Africa while reading *The Economist* by candlelight. Though the articles felt conceptually distant from life in his rural village, their impact was not. The fact that Facebook was subsidizing his neighbors' cell phone bills in exchange for data illuminated the importance of customer data collection to businesses—even in the most remote regions of the world.

Upon returning to the United States, Ravi pursued the study of analytics by enrolling in upper-division statistics courses and serving as a tutor and teaching assistant in undergraduate statistics. In addition to his studies, he taught himself to program in R and SQL. Ravi combined these new skills with a life-long passion for soccer to develop models for predicting match outcomes in European soccer leagues.

Ravi has a diverse background that emphasizes his curiosity and adaptability. He has managed successful projects and completed several internships, including consulting on the economic impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector in the UK. Ravi is bilingual, and using his French skills, co-designed a market study on the impact of mobile banking of B2B transactions in Benin while also leading trainings of several micro-finance groups.

In addition to career interests, Ravi stays active hiking, cycling, and playing soccer.

## Alexander SPANCAKE

Hometown: Cary, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Wake Forest University  
B.S., Mathematical Economics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Alex's inclination towards analytics was obvious at a young age. He always wanted to complete everyday actions in the most efficient manner possible—whether it was deciding where to go for a family dinner in order to maximize utility, or how to navigate the drive to minimize fuel consumption.

This frame of mind led to an internship for three summers at SAS where he worked with the JMP Academic Team. There he grappled with a myriad of data structures and developed textbook applications for JMP that allows students and professors to download and access data sets and other tools. As these apps proved to be a hit, Alex continued to develop them throughout his junior and senior year at Wake Forest.

He was able to further explore his interests by taking classes such as Operations Research and Optimization Theory while balancing a hefty dose of on-campus involvement. Throughout four years of living on campus, Alex served as president of the Resident Student Association, established the E-Sports Association, and played on the club tennis team. By collaborating with his peers and using his analytical mindset to accurately gauge the interests of students and efficiently execute events, he helped improve the campus living experience.

Alex enjoys sharing his skills and experiences with others. As an avid tennis player he spent two years working as a tennis instructor while also playing competitively. In his spare time he enjoys trying out of the ordinary activities such as room-escaping games and jeopardy board making.

## Chas STIKELEATHER

Hometown: Tampa, Florida  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Stetson University  
B.A., Economics with minor in Philosophy, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Watching his father launch a successful IT company, Chas developed an interest in business, which included often raiding dad's bookshelves. After reading *Keeping Up with the Quants*, by Thomas Davenport, Chas was fascinated by analytics with its potential to take his senior research in behavioral economics and apply it to business problems and opportunities. Chas' career choice tipping point was a TED Talk by Hans Rosling, *The Best Stats you have Ever Seen*. The presentation revealed a discipline where Chas could combine his creativity and analytic skills to solve complex problems and discover new business opportunities.

Chas enjoys working with people to accomplish goals, demonstrated by his success as a peer counselor at Tampa Preparatory School. In college, Chas developed his creativity, problem solving, communication, collaboration, and interpersonal skills while helping many organizations, from Greek Life to Student Involvement, succeed at Stetson. As a freshman, Chas was elected as a senator to represent his residence hall in Student Government. And during his junior year, he received the Hatter Leadership Award from the Stetson University Dean of Students.

Chas' commitment to teamwork and success contributed to him winning 3 Florida High School Soccer state championships and a business proposal competition. Always seeking to grow, Chas is an avid reader on various topics (business, Sci-Fi, psychology), he exercises daily, and he constantly challenges himself through acquiring new skills such as CrossFit, wakeboarding, golf, and learning to juggle.

## William SUTTON

Hometown: Portland, Oregon  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.S., Computer Science with minor in Mathematical Decision Sciences, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Will's curiosity for numbers and his passion for technology, with their ability to change our modern world, led him to the field of analytics. He first found game-changing analytics in an unexpected place in his favorite movie *Moneyball*. Seemingly useless baseball player stats were utilized to transform a low-budget losing team into a championship contender, which changed his favorite sport forever. Similar to the movie, Will pushes the boundary of expectations and innovation, keeping an open mind to the world around him and seeking out creative ways to tackle some of the world's toughest challenges.

These interests were developed while exploring courses offered at UNC. He enrolled in computer science, economics, and biomedical engineering classes in hopes of finding exciting applications for technology. He pursued his interests in programming by interning at SAS during his summers. His duties at SAS started with data organization and visualization and eventually moved to Java application developer. It wasn't until these summer internships at SAS that he recognized that analytics, which has the ability to expose and answer the world's persistent problems, is an extension of programming.

While at UNC, Will was also able to participate in sports and show his school spirit in an unconventional way. Joining the UNC Cheer team allowed him to get up close and personal with all the sports he loved. During his time on the team, he learned the importance of professionalism and presentation associated with being not only part of a team sport, but also the face of the university.

## John TAYLOR

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
B.A., with distinction, Economics; Philosophy with minor in Philosophy, Political Science, Economics (PPE), 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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March, for John, has always revolved around analyzing team and player data in the quest for the perfect NCAA basketball tournament bracket. His interest in data and its practical applications have driven his career development through a variety of professional experiences. As a beat reporter for the leading collegiate newspaper, John specialized in economics and economic development, which gave him an outlet for his fascination with numbers. This helped spawn a number of opportunities in the field of economics, including the chance to study at both Duke University and the London School of Economics.

John learned to effectively communicate complicated material by working in different industries that utilized his passion for data. John interned at a boutique consulting firm responsible for revamping small-town economies recovering from the recession. Upon graduation, he began working for a pharmaceutical market research and consulting firm. There he used complex data and information on unfamiliar topics to help executives at leading pharmaceutical and contract research companies make data-driven decisions that directly impacted their bottom-lines.

Away from the office and classroom, John combines his interests in data and college basketball by relentlessly digging for statistics that favor his Tar-Heels. If he is not digging in data, John likes to wake up early to go running, play pick-up basketball, or attempt to mimic Paul Simon's guitar playing. John also operates a website that helps connect dog-friendly businesses with local dog owners.



## Hiwot TESFAYE

Hometown: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Citizenship: Ethiopia  
Language: Amharic



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Toronto  
B.S. (Honors), with distinction, Economics; Nutritional Science, 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Raised in four different countries in East Africa, Hiwot developed an appetite to understand the interplay between health and economic development. Upon completing her undergraduate degree, Hiwot joined Meal Garden, a small software start-up in Toronto, on a big mission to simplify healthy eating. Although her role was to maintain the nutrition database and develop criteria needed to automate recipe health ratings, the precarious nature of start-ups allowed her to engage in a multitude of tasks outside her scope of expertise. As a result, Hiwot was able to demonstrate her ability to quickly learn and perform new tasks with enthusiasm and dedication.

During her time at Meal Garden, the hunger that exists for data-backed insight became increasingly apparent to Hiwot—not only in the private sector, but even more so in the public and non-government realms. This reignited a passion to pursue a career that would allow her to provide key insights to projects that would improve the lives of others. Hiwot believes leveraging data analytics will have unparalleled social and economic returns in emerging markets and is thrilled at the prospects of being a part of that journey.

In her spare time, Hiwot savors moments reconnecting with family and friends scattered across the globe. She also finds comfort in the kitchen by recreating her mother's Ethiopian recipes.

## Kevin THORUP

Hometown: Salt Lake City, Utah  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Utah  
B.S., Mathematics with minor in Philosophy, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Kevin first gained an appreciation for analytical decision making while playing card games. Having developed a keen mind for numbers at a young age, Kevin recognized that playing well in card games was more about math and logic than it was about luck. These card games helped Kevin see the importance of relying on analytical reasoning even in situations of uncertainty.

Driven by a deep passion for learning, discovery, and understanding the world around him, Kevin was drawn to studying mathematics and philosophy. Through his studies Kevin became intrigued by the ability of mathematical methods to represent and solve real world problems, and he pursued courses in statistics and applied mathematics. A mathematical finance course dealing with statistical modeling had a particularly lasting effect and helped motivate Kevin to pursue a career in analytics.

Kevin had the opportunity to apply his quantitative abilities in the work force as the manager of sales analytics for a growing software company. Using statistical models and techniques, he helped gain new insights into sales performance, as well as developing forecasts for company growth. Kevin often had to communicate results to a non-technical audience, which at times included supervisors as well as executives. Opportunities such as these provided Kevin with invaluable experience that he plans to build upon throughout his career.

When he is not spending time with his wife and kids, Kevin can be found reading from a wide variety of topics including philosophy, history, and cosmology. He also loves snowboarding, playing soccer, and pushing the limits of his physical abilities.

## Wah (Nick) TRAN

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *cum laude*, Nuclear Engineering with minor in International Studies, 2014  
B.S., *cum laude*, Economics, 2014
  - ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015
- 

Nick is driven to create in order to build understanding and structure from a chaotic world. This inclined him to seek diverse training in the sciences, where he gained appreciation for the power of explaining phenomena by modeling data. Nick exercised this power while interning at Principal Global Investors by reconstructing the analytics infrastructure of the high-yield fixed income team. His overhaul automated time-consuming processes and made the system simultaneously more rigorous and user-friendly.

Nick's initiative is mirrored in his artistic pursuits as a ceramicist, pianist, and thespian. Clay particularly resonates with his view that analytics professionals can transmute valuable insight from data; much in the same way, a potter can shape elegant constructs from a lump of earth. Nick makes deep personal investments in each art and strives to find unity among them, as he did in his seemingly disparate academics. His affinity for synthesizing multidisciplinary knowledge culminated in him coauthoring a study on the economics of engineering new transportation infrastructure with the Institute for Transportation Research and Education. The NC Chamber of Commerce praised the study's recommendations, giving Nick immense satisfaction in having been pushed to approach the research from many diverging perspectives from his experience.

Nick continually seeks opportunities to acquire new skills and challenge existing ones. Artistically, he is expanding his repertoire into violin and dance.

## Alyssa TURNER

Hometown: Mocksville, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Business Administration with concentration in  
Operations Management, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Alyssa is driven to excel at academics. She decided to take her first college class beginning the first day of high school. This decision allowed her to graduate with not only a high school diploma, but an associate's degree as well. Subsequently, it only took two years of undergraduate work at a university to receive her bachelor's degree, which is especially impressive considering she is a first generation college student.

One of the highlights of her undergraduate career was receiving an invitation to join Beta Gamma Sigma, an international business honors society that is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive. Her undergraduate major led her to a class in analytics using R. From the first analysis she ran, she knew a career in analytics was the path she was meant to take.

Being an analytical individual means that Alyssa does not always accept concepts at face value. She looks beyond the obvious and digs deep to find underlying meaning in the problem that is presented. This was evident in the work she did as an intern for a large consumer goods corporation; she constantly questioned processes to see if they could be optimized to become more efficient.

When Alyssa is not focusing on her academic studies, you can find her watching *Big Brother* on TV. She analyzes every decision the contestants make, and she has figured out the best strategy for winning the game, which she is determined to do one day.

## David WHEATON

Hometown: Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of South Carolina at Columbia  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Mathematics (Honors College); Economics with minor in Psychology, 2015; Phi Beta Kappa
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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David has been an avid college basketball fan for most of his life. In the eighth grade, he stumbled onto a basketball analytics website that revolutionized the way that he looked at his favorite sport. Deeply fascinated, David immediately saw the potential to predict basketball outcomes better than his friends. He spent countless hours analyzing these statistics, and he took advantage of them by making better decisions about his NCAA brackets.

In college, David developed a broader fascination with human behavior. This led to his extensive study of psychology and economics. For his senior thesis, he conducted research on the use of portable classrooms by educational institutions. This proved to David that formal analytics is essential to the deepest understanding of behavior. The project won a first-place award, and it was so rewarding that David decided to pursue a career in analytics.

David's passion for understanding human behavior has inspired him to explore three very different cultures. As an undergraduate, he enrolled for a summer semester at a university in Bangalore, India. David enjoyed the experience so much that he also spent a spring semester in Taiwan, as the only native English-speaker on campus—and learned basic Mandarin in the process. Immediately after Taiwan, he worked in Nepal for the summer as a volunteer in an orphanage—again, as the only native English-speaker.

## Lauren WILLIAMS

Hometown: Eldersburg, Maryland

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ North Carolina State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Mathematics with minor in Statistics, 2015;  
Phi Beta Kappa, Valedictorian
  - ▶ SAS Certified Advanced Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015
- 

Lauren has always been captivated by the idea that there is one exact, finite answer in mathematics. No matter where her career may take her in the future, Lauren knows that she will always find a home in mathematics. Lauren's love for mathematics led her to Johns Hopkins University, where she quickly realized that there is no finite solution when working with others. As a member of a collaborative biostatistical team, Lauren developed her own leadership style while maintaining a positive group synergy. She has the ability to coordinate others' strengths with the appropriate tasks at hand, thus maximizing results.

It wasn't until her dream internship at the National Security Agency that Lauren discovered her true talent: making a difference in the world while motivating others to do the same. This experience inspired Lauren to want to make a large-scale impact leading her to an analytics internship at Wal-Mart. There, she used her technical expertise and fierce work ethic to create a series of analytical applications. Lauren's interpersonal skills and persuasive energy convinced senior executives to adapt her solutions into their business practices, which ultimately impacted thousands of customers and maximized millions of dollars in business decisions.

Lauren's passion for community service extends well beyond the workplace where she has rejuvenated a collegiate Rotary Club, serving over 500 people and 30 organizations. Whether she is whitewater rafting in Rocky Mountain, Colorado or enjoying a ghost tour of historic Charleston, South Carolina, it is undeniable that Lauren has an adventurous spirit and loves to travel.

## Leah WOLOSIAWSKY

Hometown: Akron, Ohio

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
  - ▶ Ohio State University  
B.S.B.A., *summa cum laude*, Logistics Management with minor in Computer and Information Science, 2011
  - ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015
- 

Leah and her father, an executive with a Fortune 500 company, would often discuss his current projects. Through those question and answer sessions, Leah always enjoyed coming up with innovative and logical approaches to business challenges. This propelled her to pursue a career in business.

When starting her career at Deloitte Consulting, Leah developed a dashboard to increase supply chain visibility for a large industrial products manufacturer. She was able to see the true benefits of the dashboard when a fire at a manufacturing plant disrupted production. The dashboard enabled the company to quickly identify products and customers impacted and develop a strategy to make up lost production time. This experience reinforced her interest in helping companies achieve the benefits available from understanding and drawing deeper insights from data. During Leah's years at Deloitte she became known for her high quality of work and ability to communicate complex ideas to executive-level clients. Leah received multiple awards from project leadership recognizing her exemplary performance, and she was selected for roles designed for practitioners senior to her.

She believes that part of her success has been driven by the principles of self-motivation, team collaboration, and balance learned from dance—particularly as a member of The Ohio State University dance team. She continues to take dance lessons whenever she can.

Leah looks forward to building on principles learned from her multiple diverse experiences and continuing her trajectory of success in the future.

## Lois WRIGHT

Hometown: Iowa City, Iowa

Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
M.S., Physics, 1987
- ▶ Guilford College  
B.S., with honors, Mathematics and Physics, 1985
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Known for her warm smile and ability to put people at ease, Lois is an experienced professional. What excites her most is working on a diverse team, both as a leader and as a contributing team member, to solve complex business problems. Lois was the only research scientist on the matrix team that developed a web-based tool, Discovery Asset Requesting Tool (DART), which automated the work stream for requesting, ordering, and testing drug candidates. Lois' intimate knowledge of the work process and excellent communication skills resulted in a product that saved time and resources. Lois was also extremely productive in the laboratory, generating data that resulted in more than 40 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals. Whether gathering data, or working with colleagues to improve business processes, Lois always brings her positive attitude, attention to detail, and determination for excellence.

Lois led her high school basketball team to a state championship, earned Academic All-American honors twice in college, and was inducted into Sigma Pi Sigma, the national physics honor society. Accolades continued during her career as a scientist with two Exceptional Science Awards and one U.S. Research Excellence Award.

Lois has given back to her community by contributing to a marketed HIV drug, Lexiva, mentoring young women scientists, and working with a local non-profit serving people who are homeless. In her spare time, Lois enjoys watching Duke women's basketball, March Madness, NFL, NHL, and WNBA.



## **Bolun YANG**

Hometown: Toronto, Canada  
Citizenship: Canada  
Language: Mandarin



### **EDUCATION**

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ University of Waterloo  
Bachelor of Mathematics (Honours), with distinction, Statistics with minor in  
Computer Science, 2013
- ▶ Wilfrid Laurier University  
Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours), concentration in Finance, 2013
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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During his undergraduate years, Bolun was presented with a unique opportunity to study at two universities simultaneously. This competitive double degree program allowed him to gain a mathematical foundation while developing a strong business acumen. He loved being immersed in the challenging content and breadth of knowledge offered by the program. Bolun launched his career in analytics as a junior analyst at Pepsi and became the first-ever intern to be recognized as employee of the quarter. The internship opened his eyes to how a dataset combined with insights and an analytical toolset can make a concrete impact on the business.

Following Pepsi, Bolun continued his career as an analyst working in the consumer, banking, and investment industries. His affinity for accessing and analyzing data earned him the 'Data Guru' nickname among his colleagues. In addition to becoming the go-to data expert, he developed a reputation for improving work processes with innovative methods that delivered results in shorter timeframes. Bolun takes great pride in his ability to learn new tools that enable him to perform more efficiently and regularly dedicates time outside of work to expand his analytical tool belt.

Back in Canada, Bolun spent his leisure time volunteering for the local animal shelter. He finds joy in taking care of the abandoned kittens and helping them find their forever home. To wind down after a long day, Bolun likes to relax and enjoy nonfiction audiobooks or podcasts discussing the fascinating new ideas.

## Xun YANG

Hometown: Hengyang, China  
Citizenship: China  
Language: Mandarin



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Cornell University  
M.Eng., Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2011
- ▶ Southern Polytechnic State University  
B.S., *summa cum laude*, Electrical Engineering Technology, 2010
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015  
Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Level 1 Passed  
Financial Risk Manager (FRM) Part I Passed

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Xun is dedicated to applying technology and data analytics to practical applications. He built a portable gadget that remotely sends patients' cardiac data in real-time to doctors for monitoring and diagnostic purposes, making a real impact on everyday life through data analytics. His affordable and convenient solution was a forerunner of the current explosion in the popularity of wearable devices.

In the years after graduation, Xun continued to dedicate himself to combining data analytics and technology. His innovative efforts to build technological solutions that disrupt the traditional workflow helped his education consultancy firm gain an advantage over its competitors. Under his leadership, his team had remarkable success implementing text mining to facilitate social network marketing and undeniably contributed to the tripling of the company's revenue within only three years. The consulting practice also trained Xun to be an effective communicator. His enriched skillset added great value to the firm and people around him. In addition to his own duties, Xun has an inexhaustible and optimistic drive to become a full-stack talent in the business world. He pushes himself to explore relevant domains, such as finance and visualization, during his spare time.

An enthusiastic photographer, Xun travels with his camera to capture natural scenery, society, and culture.

## Christopher YIM

Hometown: Oceanside, California  
Citizenship: U.S.



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo  
B.S., *magna cum laude*, Statistics, 2015
- ▶ SAS Certified Advanced Programmer, 2014  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Chris grew up solving puzzles and challenging others to play strategy games such as *Settlers of Catan*. He would spend hours strategizing and learning the best way to solve a problem. Now, Chris has turned that hobby into a career. When presented with the opportunity to intern at a metabolic engineering biotech company as a data analyst, he jumped at the chance even though he did not have direct experience in that field. Within two months Chris had found previously unknown relationships that helped guide their research and provided them with a recommended workflow. He eventually presented his work to the entire company and the executive board members.

The desire to solve problems and face challenges is also reflected in Chris' academic experience. He often went above and beyond by taking additional courses and engaging in his own projects outside of school. During his time as an undergraduate, he authored and co-authored five different publications/conference proceedings, with topics such as epidemiological research and imputation methods. Two of these proceedings were presented by Chris at the Western Users of SAS Software Conference 2014 and the SAS Global Forum 2015, where he was awarded academic scholarships.

Chris also has an interest in all things cultural. On a typical weekend he can be found listening to live music, attending theatrical performances, or experiencing great local food. While he has performed in choirs and theatre in the past, he now enjoys attending shows and practicing the art of local restaurant hunting.

## Jing ZHU

Hometown: Zhengzhou, China  
Citizenship: China  
Language: Chinese



### EDUCATION

- ▶ North Carolina State University, Institute for Advanced Analytics  
Master of Science in Analytics, expected May 2016
- ▶ Denison University  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Economics, 2012
- ▶ SAS Certified Base Programmer, 2015  
SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst, 2015  
SAS Certified Predictive Modeler, 2015

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Jing has always been a fast learner and has never had trouble adapting to new environments. Born in Zhengzhou, China, she has studied and worked in Columbus, Philadelphia, Charlotte, and Shanghai prior to moving to Raleigh. Jing was selected as a writing center consultant during her first year at a U.S. college to help peers with their academic writing in English. After a short internship at UBS Wealth Management, she left the office with long-lasting relationships with coworkers, including those who were not on her team. Wherever she goes, she strives to make the most of every experience.

Growing up in a family of engineers has fostered Jing's curiosity in how things work and her drive to find practical solutions. This has led her to think creatively and proactively in solving problems. In her most recent role as a product manager at an international e-commerce business, she noticed a dip in profit margin and took the initiative to investigate the root cause of the trend. Ultimately, she made several suggestions to her manager that helped the company reestablish its growth. The satisfaction of bringing tangible results based on data has motivated her to pursue analytics as a career.

Despite being highly analytical by nature, Jing also enjoys oil painting and creating 2D animations using various software tools and techniques. An active runner and outdoor explorer, she has made many happy memories taking road trips with family and friends.