OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

Keynote: AI for Good: Powered by Data, Value, Trust, and Adoption

Joe Depa
Keynote Speaker
EY Global Chief
Innovation Officer

Bio: OMS Analytics alumnus and MS Analytics Board Member Joe Depa is the driving force behind EY's AI, data and innovation strategy. He oversees the firm's flagship program EY.ai and the global data office, integrating AI-ready data and cutting-edge technologies across EY's operations and client services. His teams manage more than one trillion lines of financial data for Fortune 500 companies. Joe also is EY's global spokesperson on innovation and technology disruption. He passionately shares how applied innovation, through AI ready data, next generation AI, and "innovation muscle" can drive adoption and empower EY's people and clients to unlock value.

Before joining EY, Joe was a Senior Managing Director and lead for Data & AI at Accenture globally, where he managed a team of 5,000-plus data scientists, engineers and AI strategists and delivered board-level initiatives across various industries. He also served as Chief Data and AI Officer at Emory University and Emory Healthcare where he focused on integrating research data and AI into the clinical care setting to improve health outcomes.

A purpose-driven leader, Joe uses innovation to serve others and drive positive societal impact. He has received numerous industry honors, including being named among the World Summit AI Top 50 Data and AI Leaders, Fast Company's "World Changing Ideas", and #1 on Technori's 2025 "Top 10 Innovation Leaders to Follow" list.

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

Privacy at the Crossroads: Data, AI, and What Comes Next

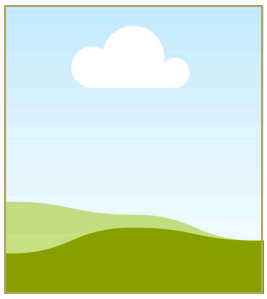
Description: In this session, we'll explore the evolving landscape of privacy and its intersection with data. From personal information to predictive algorithms, we'll discuss how privacy is shaped—and sometimes challenged—by cybersecurity practices, artificial intelligence, and emerging technologies. Together, we'll consider what the future holds for data protection, ethical tech development, and the rights of individuals in a digital world.

DaBrae Kennedy-Mayo, JD
Professor,
Scheller College of Business

DeBrae Kennedy-Mayo is a faculty member at the Georgia Tech Scheller College of Business. Kennedy-Mayo co-developed and currently co-teaches "Privacy for Professionals," a graduate-level online privacy class, where she has received numerous Thank-a-Teacher recognitions. Her research focuses on legal and policy implications of technology, privacy, and cybersecurity. Kennedy-Mayo is also a Senior Fellow with the Cross-Border Data Forum.

Kennedy-Mayo is the co-author of several editions of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) book entitled U.S. PRIVATE-SECTOR PRIVACY: LAW AND PRACTICE FOR INFORMATION PRIVACY PROFESSIONALS – the book used by individuals preparing for the IAPP certification exam on U.S. private-sector privacy. Kennedy-Mayo is the co-author of numerous articles related to technology, privacy and cybersecurity, with particular focus on the implications of data localization as well as the challenges of law enforcement in accessing electronic evidence. Kennedy-Mayo regularly speaks at conferences around the world on these topics.

Prior to joining Georgia Tech's faculty, Kennedy-Mayo served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Georgia and an Assistant District Attorney in several counties in Georgia. During this time, Kennedy-Mayo litigated in state and federal courts, and also handled the appeals of her cases.
Kennedy-Mayo graduated with honors from the Emory University School of Law, where she was a managing editor for the Emory International Law Journal and was the founder of the Atlanta Bureau of the Internet Law Journal. At Emory Law, Kennedy-Mayo was named an Atlanta Law School Foundation Fellow. Kennedy-Mayo graduated with honors from Winthrop University, where she was the recipient of the Wylie Mathematics Scholarship.



Jake Gord

Bio coming soon!

Harold "Hal" Overman

Hal Overman has had an interest in computers since grade school when we wrote his first programs on a Commodore 64 and TRS80. In high school he worked as a contractor to TVA as a desktop support tech. Hal graduated from NC State with degrees in computer and electrical engineering while working to pay for school at a local IT company. After graduating, he spent the first 6 years of his post college career as microchip and circuit board designer before moving into IT. As part owner, he ran a MSSP business for several years in the southeast United States where he mainly managed the field engineering team and acted as the primary network and security architect for a variety of businesses. He re-entered corporate America working as a security consultant for large companies in the private sector around proactive security and penetration testing. He then moved into sales for a managed IT service provider. During this time he graduated from GA Tech with his Masters in Cyber Security. He is currently a sales engineer for a global pure play cyber-security company.

Georgia Tech

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

Using Experimental Design to Co-build Startups & Beyond

Clarence Lam
Co-Founder
Stealth Startup

Description: OMS Analytics students and alumni will learn how a Design of Experiments (DoE)-first approach can accelerate learning and innovation, especially when resources are limited. - They will learn from concrete studies of how DoE enables startups to reach market readiness faster and optimize complex systems more effectively than trial-and-error or black-box methods. - Attendees will gain practical insights into techniques like fractional factorial design and response surface methodology and how these can be applied to problems such as hyperparameter tuning and response surface methodology. They will leave with a framework for applying structured experimentation to drive measurable improvements in precision, recall, and overall business outcomes.

Bio: **Clarence Lam** is in his penultimate semester in the OMS Analytics program at Georgia Tech. He has more than a decade of experience in analytics across the technology and manufacturing industry. He was previously a machine learning engineer at AI Singapore, working on foundation models for multilingual ASEAN datasets, as well as computer vision related problems in image segmentation. Prior to this, he worked in the EMEA region on supply chain and marketing analytics problems.

OMS ANALYTICS
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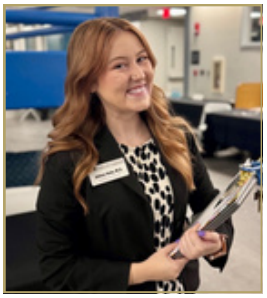
Networking Workshop

Description: Join us for an interactive session designed to help you connect with fellow students and alumni, share experiences, and build meaningful relationships within the OMSA community. Through guided small-group conversations, you'll practice low-stakes networking, reflect on your goals, and walk away with new insights—and new connections.



Abbey Hale
Moderator
Manager of Career Programming & Corporate Relations

Bio: Abbey Hale is a dedicated career services practitioner with a deep passion for relationship building. She fosters genuine and mutually beneficial connections between students, employers, higher education faculty & staff, and fellow career services professionals.

Megan Elrath
Moderator
Manager, Online Career Services

Bio: Megan Elrath, a Professional Career Coach who joined the OMS Analytics support team Fall semester, will be leading this session. Since joining our team, she has proved to be a tremendous asset! Megan is a Certified Professional Resume Writer and has more than 15 years of experience in her field, including serving as a Senior Career Consultant and the Interim Director for Alumni Career Services at the University of Georgia (UGA). Prior to working at UGA, Megan was Associate Director of Academic Services for Drexel University in Philadelphia.

Georgia Tech

OMS ANALYTICS
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Scaling Intelligence: LLMs and the Future of Data Science

Description: Emerging trends in LLMs are helping businesses become more strategic in solving for challenges in a variety of industries. Based on their experiences, panelists will detail how LLMs can be integrated into enterprise workflows to unlock new opportunities in operations, analytics and knowledge management.

Nimisha Roy, Ph.D.
Moderator
Lecturer,
College of Computing

Dr. Nimisha Roy is a Lecturer in the School of Computing Instruction within the College of Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where she teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in Computer Science and serves as an instructor in the Online Master of Science in Analytics (OMSA) program. Her teaching and research intersect artificial intelligence, computing education, and data analytics.

Dr. Roy's current work explores the integration of generative AI into computing curricula to enhance student engagement, automate feedback, and advance AI literacy. She also leads initiatives on sustainable computing and AI-driven decision-making frameworks that have earned recognition at the Quacquarelli Symonds Reimagine Education Awards (2025).

She is the recipient of the William D. "Bill" Leahy Outstanding Instructor Award (2025), the Provost Teaching and Learning Fellowship (2024–26), and multiple innovation grants for embedding AI tools and sustainability in large-enrollment CS courses at Georgia Tech. Dr. Roy serves on the Editorial Board of Scientific Reports (Nature Portfolio) and was named among the Top 75 Indian Women Leaders in Geotechnical Engineering worldwide.

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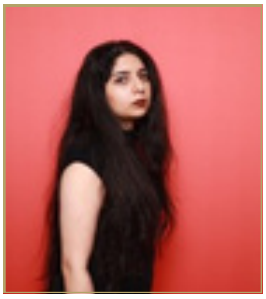
Scaling Intelligence: LLMs and the Future of Data Science

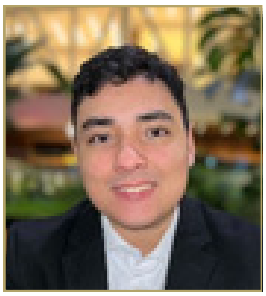


Snigdha Kanuparthy
Principal AI Analyst,
Hubspot

Snigdha Kanuparthy is a data and AI leader who helps teams turn ambiguous problems into measurable growth. As a Principal AI Analyst at HubSpot, Snigdha partners with engineering, product and marketing to design experiments, build practical machine-learning solutions, transform operations teams with methodology and grow revenue. Previously, Snigdha led machine-learning engineering at Swayable, standing up production pipelines, automating model evaluation and mentoring a cross-functional team. Earlier roles spanned data science and analytics across SaaS and edtech, including SMART Technologies. Snigdha holds an M.S. in Analytics from Georgia Tech and a B.S. in Bioengineering from the University of Washington. A frequent speaker on practical AI, experimentation, and the realities of deploying models, Snigdha enjoys bridging research and execution and has appeared on industry podcasts and panels.

Dana Golden
Ph.D. Candidate,
Stony Brook University

Dana Golden is a PhD candidate in Economics at Stony Brook University whose expertise lies at the intersection of economics, analytics and operations. Her research bridges operations, market design and data-driven analytics. Dana develops computational frameworks to analyze how infrastructure investments, market rules, and technological change shape outcomes in complex systems. She combines structural economic modeling with machine learning and large-scale data integration, drawing on sources like SEC filings, ISO market data, and international trade flows. At Stony Brook, Dana has designed and taught courses in data science and environmental economics, creating interactive modules that connect theory to applied analytics.



Leonel Castillo
Director of Finance,
Futurad

Leonel Castillo holds a degree in Mathematics from Universidad de Panamá and is an OMS Analytics student with a concentration in Computational Data Analytics. He specialized in mathematical finance before beginning a career at Panama's largest bank. This early exposure to finance positioned Leonel at the forefront of applied machine learning, as the sector rapidly embraced data-driven decision-making. Leonel also earned the Certified Financial Risk Manager designation. His strong mathematical foundation allowed him to transition from banking to other industries including a Fortune 500 company in the cosmetics sector, where he focused on analytics, data visualization and financial strategy, and serving as technology advisor to the mayor of Panama City. He now holds a leadership role at a Panamanian start-up in the Digital Out-of-Home industry, where he is responsible for budgeting, designing, deploying and measuring the business impact of production AI systems.

Kishore Sannepalli
Data Engineer,
Press Ganey

Kishore Sannepalli is a Data Engineer with expertise in building scalable data platforms and enabling advanced analytics for enterprise solutions. He specializes in data engineering, cloud technologies and AI-driven architectures that support reliable, high-performance systems. Kishore has led key initiatives to unify data sources, ensure data quality and drive operational efficiency across complex organizational ecosystems. His work bridges traditional data engineering with applied machine learning, natural language processing and data visualization—delivering insights that support strategic decision-making. Passionate about innovation, Kishore explores emerging trends in AI, large language models (LLMs) and automation to address real-world business challenges. He is particularly focused on how LLMs can integrate into enterprise workflows to unlock new opportunities in operations, analytics, and knowledge management.

Georgia Tech

OMS ANALYTICS
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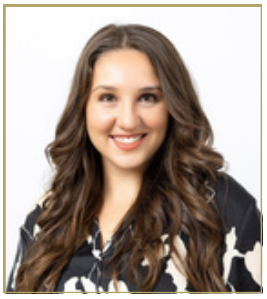
Sports Analytics Panel



Ally Blake Ally Blake got her undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee with a major in Business Analytics. She interned in 2019 at the NBA League Office's Basketball Strategy and Analytics team where she worked on various projects related to officiating. After college, she worked two years at IBM as an analytics consultant before moving to New York City in 2022 to work for the NFL on the Football Data & Analytics team. In her current role, she provides Officiating, Replay, and Football Operations reporting, while also using Next Gen Stats and other advanced data sets to improve the game. Ally has spent the last three and a half years working at the NFL, while also finishing an MS in analytics degree from Georgia Tech in August 2025.

Ally Blake
Senior Coordinator, Football Data Analytics
NFL

Bio coming soon!

Sig Mejdal
VP & Assistant GM,
Baltimore Orioles

Dr. Daniel Taylor is a performance scientist and innovation leader with over 15 years of experience advancing high-performance systems across the NBA, NCAA, and elite global institutes. He has a proven track record of integrating sport science, biomechanics, and data analytics into athlete support and organizational decision-making. Widely recognized for his ability to build athlete trust, shape interdisciplinary departments, and spearhead forward-thinking initiatives, Dr. Taylor consistently delivers transformative results that elevate both individual and team performance.

Daniel Taylor, Ph.D.
Director of Strategic Development & Global Partnerships,
Joe Gibbs Human Performance Institute

Georgia Tech

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The Role of Neurodiversity in Data Analytics

Description: This panel explores the intersection of neurodiversity and the field of analytics, highlighting the unique strengths neurodivergent individuals bring to data-driven work, the barriers they often face, and the importance of fostering inclusive environments in both academic and professional settings. Panelists will share personal and professional insights from their journeys as graduate students and analytics professionals, offering perspectives on cognitive diversity, and innovation.

Brianna Palmer is the Student Engagement & Events Manager for Georgia Tech's OMS Analytics program, where she oversees meet-ups, community-building initiatives, and more than 250 events annually across 22 academic programs.

Diagnosed with ADHD, Autism, and OCD, Bri brings both professional expertise and lived experience to her advocacy for neurodiversity. She is deeply committed to fostering psychological safety and valuing diverse cognitive styles, both in academic spaces and beyond. Her approach blends creativity, data-driven strategy, and a passion for building environments where everyone feels seen, supported, and empowered to thrive.

Bri Palmer
Moderator
Student Event & Engagement Manager, College of Lifetime Learning

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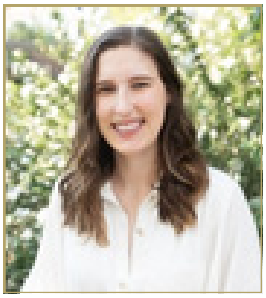
The Role of Neurodiversity in Data Analytics



Courtney Steichen
Senior Process Improvement Consultant, ONE Gas

Courtney Steichen is a Senior Process Improvement Consultant at ONE Gas, where she specializes in data integrity and operational efficiency. She brings a powerful perspective to the panel, having navigated life and work with both narcolepsy and ADHD. Her lived experience informs her approach to problem-solving and process design, making her a strong advocate for neuroinclusive practices in analytics.

Chris Lindeman
Instructional Associate
ISYE 5740

Chris Lindeman is a multi-domain technical consultant for a major government firm, with expertise in data science, computer vision, generative AI, and rapid prototyping. An alumnus of the OMSA program, he also serves as an Instructional Associate for ISYE 6740 (Computational Data Analysis). Chris's journey into analytics began in undergrad with a reinforcement learning project for a nonprofit, and continued through entrepreneurial ventures before returning to tech. Since joining OMSA in 2021, he's delivered solutions for small businesses, multinationals, and government clients — all driven by a passion for solving big problems with smart tools.

Syed Hussain Ather
CEO & Founder,
Janus Sphere Innovations

Syed Hussain Ather is the CEO and Founder of Janus Sphere Innovations, where he builds tools and frameworks that bring together neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and decision science. Trained as a neuroscientist and AI researcher during his doctoral studies at the University of Toronto, his work bridges technical rigor with broader questions of cognition, ethics, and adaptability. Hussain has been recognized through fellowships and invited science communication projects, including contributions to interdisciplinary books and public engagement on the philosophy of technology. His research background includes modeling how minds change under uncertainty, designing algorithms that reflect human adaptability, and exploring how analytics can be used not only for efficiency but also for fairness and long-term resilience. At Janus Sphere, he leads efforts to move beyond conventional analytics, emphasizing cognitive flexibility and human-centered design as essential elements of future systems. His perspective combines the precision of science with the imagination of invention - aligned with the spirit of OMS Analytics & Beyond.

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Beyond the Algorithm: Accountability in AI Development

Description: The development of AI is a complex, multi-stakeholder effort requiring thoughtful, ethical and regulatory frameworks. Our panelists balance their real-world experience in the development and deployment of AI with a strong commitment to ethics and social justice. They will offer insights into how to use data and analytics to build a more just and equitable future.

Kartik Goyal, Ph.D.
Moderator
School of Interactive Computing

Kartik Goyal is an assistant professor in the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Tech. His research interests are in natural language processing and machine learning problems that involve developing probabilistic models of latent structure in naturally occurring data with capabilities of interpretability and control. His recent work has focused on developing machine learning techniques for various problems in cultural analytics and digital humanities. Prior to Georgia Tech, he was a research assistant professor at Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago. He received his PhD from Language Technologies Institute at Carnegie Mellon University.

Georgia Tech

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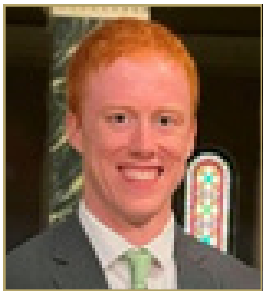
Beyond the Algorithm: Accountability in AI Development

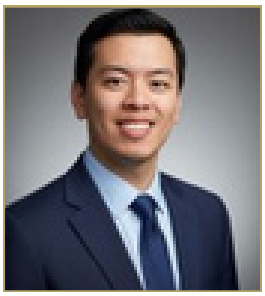
A.J. Angus is a product and analytics leader dedicated to building equitable and responsible AI. With a background in analytics from Georgia Tech and more than a decade of experience at companies, including Google, Elastic and Observable, A.J. brings a data-driven approach to the challenges of product development. In his role leading Responsible Innovation at Axon, he is at the forefront of implementing practices for responsible innovation. His work on Axon's Justice product, which serves district attorneys and defenders, provides him with a unique perspective on the real-world implications of AI in the justice system.

A.J. Angus
Principal Product Manager,
Axon



Michael Smith is a data science leader with more than six years of experience as a data scientist. Holding a B.S. in Statistics and Economics from the University of Notre Dame and residing in Cincinnati, OH, he is an OMS Analytics student that specializes in translating complex data into actionable business insights for major CPG and retail clients. As a Manager of Data Science, he leads a team dedicated to advancing AI innovation and new analytics capabilities within a commercial analytics platform. Michael's real-world experience in the development and deployment of AI is balanced by a strong commitment to ethics and social justice. He encourages developers to think more broadly about the societal impact of their work. His commitment to social good is also reflected in his skills-based volunteering initiative, which provides pro bono analytics expertise to charities in need.

Michael Smith
Data Scientist Manager,
84.51°



Son Tran is an accomplished technology professional with a strong background in the financial and information services sectors. In his role as IT Audit Manager at Wolters Kluwer, Son plays a pivotal role in fostering innovation and integrating advanced data analytics into audit practices. Son is recognized as a Fellow of Information Privacy by the IAPP and holds multiple industry certifications, including AI Governance Professional, Certified Information Privacy Professional and Certified Information Systems Auditor. With deep expertise in risk management and a passion for responsible technology adoption, he brings valuable insights into how organizations can effectively navigate today's evolving digital landscape.

Son Tran
Global Technology
Audit Manager,
Wolters Kluwer

Georgia Tech

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

The Art of Analytics: Crafting Impactful Data Stories

Description: When it comes to data visualization, seeing is believing. As datasets become more complex, data scientists can help organizations effectively visualize and communicate insights from advanced models and high-dimensional data. Panelists share best practices for bridging technical execution with strategy to improve efficiency and performance.

Michael Petrey is a data analyst earning his OMS Analytics degree. He has more than seven years of experience in coding, assessment report creation, quality control and statistical analysis. Before transitioning into technical field, Michael was a veteran mathematics instructor and refined his skills in team building, conflict resolution and presenting. He is proficient in SQL, R programming, Tableau Data Visualization, Google Apps Script, Javascript, VB Macros, Microsoft Office, and Macintosh software.

Michael Petrey
Moderator
Senior Data Analyst,
Erickson Senior Living

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

The Art of Analytics: Crafting Impactful Data Stories

Thomas LaRock
Data Engineer IV
Farm Credit Financial Partners, Inc.

Thomas LaRock is a solutions-focused data engineering leader with more than 20 years of experience driving advanced analytics, data platform architecture, and scalable ETL/ELT processes. His passion lies in harnessing the power of data—ensuring it's secure, reliable and ready to fuel data-driven decisions across organizations. Throughout his career, Thomas has guided high-performing teams, optimized resource allocation and championed continuous improvements for performance and efficiency.

Wole Oyekanmi
Data Engineer,
Munich Re

Wole Oyekanmi is a data and analytics professional with more than seven years of experience driving impact across fintech, consulting and insurance. He has worked on initiatives that redefined fraud detection, compliance and underwriting—delivering millions in savings and improving decision-making at scale. His work bridges technical execution with strategy, focusing on how data and AI can transform legacy industries.

Hans Sucerquia
Data Team Lead,
Endava

Hans Sucerquia has more than 10 years of experience in data analytics in marketing, healthcare and insurance sectors. He began his career in aviation, fulfilling regulatory requirements for Civil Aviation Authorities and managing the airworthiness of more than 30 aircrafts. Hans now leads data teams to drive scalable and efficient data solutions. His technical expertise includes SQL, Python, Apache Superset, Looker, Tableau, Jupyter Notebooks and Microsoft Power BI. He also holds an Azure Cloud certification.

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Applying Data Science to Healthcare

Description: The healthcare sector is swimming in data. Predictive analytics can help improve healthcare access, personalize patient care and innovate drug development. This panel highlights how combining their knowledge of health information with data analytics is transforming health systems.

Sneha Joshi
Moderator
Bioinformatics Data Scientist,
Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Sneha Joshi is a bioinformatics and computational biology professional who thrives at the intersection of biology and data science. She specializes in designing high-throughput pipelines for genomic, transcriptomic, and proteomic datasets, and is deeply involved in next-generation sequencing (NGS), pathway analysis, and machine learning.
Her passion lies in transforming complex biological data into actionable insights that drive innovation in areas such as vaccine development, oncology, infectious disease research, and toxicogenomics. Whether building computational models or developing advanced visualizations, Sneha ensures that data is not just processed—it tells a story and informs strategic decisions.
Sneha has led interdisciplinary teams, mentored emerging talent, and fostered collaborations that accelerate scientific progress. Her work is grounded in innovation, data integrity, and regulatory compliance, with expertise spanning biomarker discovery, translational research, and clinical decision-making.

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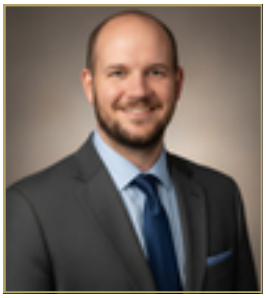
Applying Data Science to Healthcare

Adam Howsare, MPH
Senior Epidemiologist,
New Jersey Department of Health

Adam Howsare is an OMS Analytics student and has worked in public health since 2012, holding positions with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health in the Immunization Program. He became an Immunizations Epidemiologist in 2020 and now works for the New Jersey Department of Health as Senior Epidemiologist for New Jersey's Early Intervention program. In his role, Adam uses healthcare databases to provide metrics for federal reporting, develop abstracts and research projects, and determine disparities in healthcare access and outcomes.



Ben Clough
Software Developer,
Epic Systems

Ben Clough is a detail-oriented professional with a strong background in data science and back-end infrastructure. As a Software Developer at Epic Systems, he leverages advanced technologies to drive significant improvements in clinical workflows. He successfully integrated GenAI to optimize home care intake processes and developed a deep learning model for 3D wound measurement, which reduced nurse documentation time and improved measurement consistency. His work also includes training clinical models on billions of data points, leading to improvements in predicting critical health conditions, including sepsis and hypertension. Ben built his machine learning foundation through a degree in Computer Science at BYU, where he was involved in research on deep neural networks for fine-grained image recognition. He's continuing his education through the OMS Analytics program.

Miguel de la Rocha,
Founding Software Engineer,
Granted

Miguel de la Rocha has worked in consumer-facing healthcare and advocacy for the last two years, primarily in an AI engineering capacity. He applies multiple Data Science and Machine Learning disciplines in production, such as processing unstructured data via OCR, and creates a consistent ETL pipeline for FHIR data ingestion. Miguel also works in design systems that utilize intelligence and reasoning with LLM models and rules engines to provide meaningful experiences to users through an application and product.

Georgia Tech

OMS ANALYTICS and Beyond!

Anyone Can Build a Gen AI App: Unlock Your Potential

Jiazhen Zhu
Senior Lead Software Engineer,
Capital One

Description: In this session, students and alumni will learn how to rapidly design, build, and deploy production-grade GenAI applications—even without a deep machine learning background. They will explore the full lifecycle from prompt design and data integration to model orchestration, governance, and real-time analytics. Using real-world examples from Fortune 100 environments, the session will highlight best practices for building auditable, secure, and scalable GenAI systems that align with business and compliance needs. Attendees will walk away with practical frameworks, open-source tools, and actionable steps to transform OMS data into intelligent, decision-ready applications.

Bio: **Jiazhen (Caleb) Zhu**, MBA (NYU Stern) is a senior engineering leader at the intersection of applied AI and enterprise-scale data infrastructure. He serves as a Senior Lead Software Engineer at Capital One, shaping governed, real-time AI platforms for decisioning, marketing analytics, and risk management. Previously a Senior Engineering Manager at Walmart Global Tech, he led mission-critical ML systems—including a patented escalation detection platform (US 2023/0245136 A1)—that improved time-to-resolution by 70% across millions of SKUs and established reference architectures for trustworthy, human-in-the-loop AI at Fortune-1 scale. A member of the Forbes Technology Council, Jiazhen publishes on enterprise GenAI, Text-to-SQL and data governance. His work has been featured on Forbes.com. He has created widely adopted open-source tools used to simplify cloud-native ML pipelines and secure AI-to-SQL access. As an adjunct faculty member at Northeastern University, he teaches graduate courses in data architecture and AI systems, bridging research and industry practice.

OMS ANALYTICS
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Designing Smarter Tests to Guide Better Decisions (DOE)

Ryan Cooper
Systems Engineer,
JMP Statistical
Discovery

Description: OMS Analytics students and alumni will learn how Design of Experiments (DOE) helps teams solve real business and technical problems faster by reducing the number of tests needed while still uncovering key factors and interactions. The session highlights how DOE is used across industries like energy, semiconductors, and manufacturing to reduce costs, shorten timelines, and support confident decision-making. Attendees will see practical examples (such as improving processes, tuning models, and guiding R&D) that show how DOE goes beyond one-factor-at-a-time testing and complements the analytics skills from OMSA. Even if they never design formal experiments, participants will leave with strategies to structure studies more efficiently and deliver clearer, data-driven results.

Bio: Ryan Cooper is a Systems Engineer at JMP Statistical Discovery, where he helps scientists, engineers, and analytics professionals across the Gulf Coast region leverage interactive, visual, and predictive analytics. He works with users in industries such as semiconductors, energy, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing, guiding them in exploring data, visualizing trends, designing experiments, and building predictive models to accelerate insights and improve decision-making. Prior to joining JMP, Ryan spent more than a decade in the semiconductor industry, specializing in photolithography equipment, materials, and quality data analysis. He discovered JMP in this fast-paced manufacturing environment where quick, reliable decisions were essential, and it soon became his go-to tool for statistical analysis and predictive modeling. He also used JMP extensively during the OMSA program at Georgia Tech, applying it to coursework and projects to explore data and build models. Ryan holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.S. in Analytics from the Georgia Institute of Technology. While at Georgia Tech, he authored a project that won JMP's Best Poster award at Discovery Summit Americas 2021.

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

Learning by Doing: DIY Solutions to Complex Problems

Description: DIY data science projects provide unique hands-on learning experiences. Largely self-taught, this panel will share how they gained expertise by navigating the process of learning, building and adapting in real time.

Emmett Drake is a recent OMS Analytics alumni and passionate about using data science skills to solve problems inside and outside of the workplace. As a senior data scientist at GoTo Foods, he works with building, maintaining and improving recommender engines for each of the company's seven brands in mobile apps and on the web. He credits the OMS Analytics program with teaching him the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in his current role. Emmett also enjoys working on his own DIY data science projects in sports modeling/analytics and stock trading. He views each DIY project as a unique learning experience and stands by the belief that there's nothing better than true hands-on experience.

Emmett Drake
Moderator
Data Scientist,
GoTo Foods

Gabrielle Widjaja, Michele Fernandez, Ashria Arora, Hyemin Yoo, Fabian Wangsawijaya

This panel has a unique form of expertise. With a non-traditional background, each of them are largely self-taught and grounded in the OMS Analytics program—learning and building an LLM model. Their expertise is not quantified by time in the industry but rather in navigating the process of learning, building and adapting in real time, as technology rapidly evolves.

Georgia Tech

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

From Models to Markets: Finance Analytics in Action

Description: Financial data scientists use machine learning, AI and statistical analysis to perform a range of tasks, from detecting fraud to optimizing investment portfolios This panel offers a compelling perspective on how analytics can evolve from operational support to enterprise transformation—bridging the gap between data science, product innovation and guest-centric outcomes in the finance sector.

Alex Hsu, Ph.D.
Moderator
Scheller College of Business

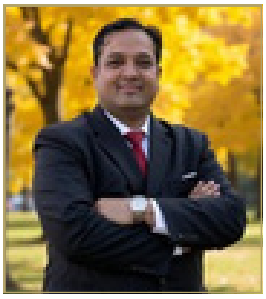
Alex Hsu is associate professor of finance in the Scheller College of Business at Georgia Institute of Technology. He holds undergraduate and Master degrees from Brown University and Ph.D. in finance from the University of Michigan. His research focus is on bond yields, equity returns, and macroeconomics. He builds theoretical models to examine the impact of monetary policy and fiscal policy on interest rate term structure. He also studies the empirical effects of government policy and legislation on firm outcomes such as returns and investment.

Professor Hsu has presented at annual meetings of the American Finance Association, the Western Finance Association, and the Society of Financial Studies Cavalcade. He has given invited talks at the Federal Reserve Board and many regional Reserve Banks. His work includes articles in the Journal of Finance, the Journal of Political Economy, the Review of Financial Studies, the Journal of Financial Economics, the Journal of Monetary Economics, and Management Science. He teaches finance theory to doctoral students and fixed income to undergraduate and Master's students.

Professor Hsu is a two-time winner of the Scheller College Brady Family Award for Excellence in Research.

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

From Models to Markets: Finance Analytics in Action



Raj Kumar Parihar
Account Executive,
HK Tax & Accounting Inc.

Raj Kumar Parihar is pursuing his Master of Science in Analytics at Georgia Tech and has more than 14 years of diverse experience spanning data analytics, finance, HR and marketing. His passion lies in using data-driven insights to solve complex business problems; whether it's improving financial forecasting, optimizing marketing campaigns through customer segmentation, or streamlining operations with predictive analytics. He has worked with Python, R, SQL and recently contributed to projects, including bond price modeling using Taylor Series and financial forecasting models.

Sidharth Parwani
Senior Decision Science
Product Consultant,
Walt Disney Company

Sidharth Parwani is a Senior Decision Science Product Consultant with a strong foundation in industrial engineering and advanced analytics. He began his career in the Industrial Engineering department at Disney, supporting Parks & Resorts, Disney Cruise Line and Consumer Products, where he focused on optimizing operations and enhancing guest experiences. Prior to joining Disney, Sidharth worked at Delta Air Lines in the Operations Analysis & Performance department, applying data-driven strategies to improve airline operations. Sidharth holds both a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering, specializing in Economic and Financial Systems, and a Master's in Analytics from Georgia Tech. Sidharth leads the development of revenue management and data science solutions that drive profitability and personalization across Disney's diverse business units. His work includes modernizing legacy systems through Python and GitLab, ideating and building new revenue driving products, and delivering scalable insights that support strategic decision-making.

Anna Ozcullu
Sr Analyst, Finance Systems
& Analytics,
Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Anna Ozcullu is an accomplished data analyst with nine years of experience in data analytics and operations across investment and finance domains. Ganna is skilled in leveraging statistical and analytical solutions, machine learning and advanced data visualization to deliver data-driven insights that meet stakeholder objectives. She has a strong track record of gathering business objectives and translating them into technical requirements focused on problem solving. She has vast experience in automating and troubleshooting processes and workflows to drive business impact. Her collaboration with cross-functional teams, clients and aligning analytics with business knowledge provides actionable insights and opportunities.

Georgia Tech

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and Beyond!

Learning to Earning: Maximizing Your Skills & Salary

Heather Arenstson
Principal Data Scientist,
Atlassian

Description: Join us for a session with Heather Arentson, Principal Data Scientist and Tech Lead at Atlassian, as she shares her journey from professional ballerina to data scientist. Heather will share her personal journey, providing insights into: - How to identify transferable skills from seemingly unrelated fields - Strategies for successfully navigating a career transition - The importance of education and networking in accelerating career growth - How to chart and charge a path for success in any role.

Bio: Heather Arentson got into Data Science in an interesting way. Her career journey is a testament to the power of transformation. A former professional ballerina, she transitioned to the field of data science with determination and a passion for learning. After earning her Master's from Georgia Tech, Heather quickly excelled in building impactful data solutions for organizations of all sizes. Now a Principal Data Scientist and Technical Lead at Atlassian, she combines creativity and analytical skills to build robust data infrastructure, mentor others, and empower organizations to use data-driven insights.

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

From Words to Insights: NLP Tools for the Modern Analyst

Description: This panel of experts will share actionable insights into the current state of NLP, practical application strategies and emerging trends to stay ahead in the field. From integrating AI into the healthcare sector to helping breweries identify emerging consumer themes, the panelists explain how to leverage NLP to gain data-driven insights that translate to actionable results.

Professor
Wafa Louhichi
Moderator

Wafa Louhichi is a Solutions Architect at Databricks and an Instructor at Georgia Tech, where she created and teaches the graduate-level Applied Natural Language Processing (NLP) course. She holds a Master's in Computational Science and Engineering from Georgia Tech and brings a unique blend of academic rigor and industry expertise to her work in Machine Learning (ML), Artificial Intelligence (AI), NLP, and analytics.

Passionate about empowering students and professionals, Wafa focuses on bridging theory and practice to advance the field of data science and NLP.

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

From Words to Insights: NLP Tools for the Modern Analyst

Michael Varda
Analytics Lead,
Capital One

Michael Varda is an OMS Analytics student, Head of Analytics for Talent Marketing at Capital One and founder of Craft Beer Advisory Services, a market research and analytics firm dedicated to the craft beverage industry. Recognizing a lack of structured consumer intelligence in the craft beverage industry, Michael developed ConsumerPulse, a proprietary social listening platform built on natural language processing (NLP). The platform ingests unstructured consumer reviews, applies text processing and sentiment analysis resulting in insights across 10 key dimensions of a brewery's taproom experience. By leveraging NLP, Michael helps breweries understand their brand associations, identify emerging consumer themes, and benchmark performance against competitors. In addition to client work, Michael publishes annual industry research insights, which have been featured in Forbes, leveraged to lobby state legislatures, and delivered in keynote addresses at industry conferences.

Yanni Jin

Yanni Jin is a seasoned medical management professional focused on integrating artificial intelligence into the healthcare sector. Drawing on her extensive background in managing medical institutions, she leads the development of innovative AI solutions at LangBit. Her work involves creating systems to analyze and struc verbal communications, providing data-driven insights to improve traditional medical management.

Joe Domaleski
CEO & Founder
Country Fried Creative

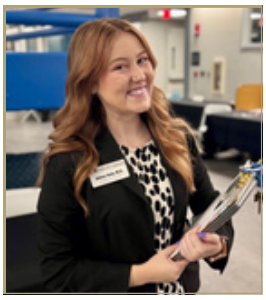
Joe Domaleski is an energetic & experienced executive with a passion for BETTER MARKETING. He is the CEO and founder of Country Fried Creative, an award-winning digital marketing agency based in Peachtree City, GA. Joe and his team use data science & machine learning to improve marketing. For the past few years, Joe has been using Natural Language Processing (NLP) to help clients with social listening, online reputation management, and aspect-based sentiment analysis (ABSA). Joe has a BS in Mathematics/Computer Science from UNG, an MBA from GSU, and is currently in the OMSA program. He is a proud US Army Veteran and Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket.

Georgia Tech

OMS ANALYTICS
and Beyond!

Career Insights Panel

Description: This session will give students the opportunity to hear real-world insights from alumni and professionals working in analytics roles across industries. The focus will be on career journeys, day-to-day realities, and practical advice to help students navigate their own paths with more confidence and clarity.



Abbey Hale
Moderator
Manager of Career Programming & Corporate Relations

Abbey Hale is a dedicated career services practitioner with a deep passion for relationship building. She fosters genuine and mutually beneficial connections between students, employers, higher education faculty & staff, and fellow career services professionals.

Megan Elrath
Moderator
Manager, Online Career Services

Megan Elrath, a Professional Career Coach who joined the OMS Analytics support team Fall semester, will be leading this session. Since joining our team, she has proved to be a tremendous asset! Megan is a Certified Professional Resume Writer and has more than 15 years of experience in her field, including serving as a Senior Career Consultant and the Interim Director for Alumni Career Services at the University of Georgia (UGA). Prior to working at UGA, Megan was Associate Director of Academic Services for Drexel University in Philadelphia.

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and Beyond!

Career Insights Panel

Randy Short
Analytics Data Science Consultant,
Augment Analytics

Randy Short has 10 years of experience in the financial services and fintech industries focusing on credit risk and consumer financial products with roles at Capital One, AppFolio and Stripe. He works as an analytics consultant at a Fortune 100 bank. Randy's data science projects include credit card valuation models, credit underwriting policies, causal inference studies and a price elasticity experiment. He has lived across the country in Colorado, Washington, DC; San Diego; and resides in Charlotte, North Carolina. An avid sports fan, Randy writes two blogs on sports analytics, volunteers as a coach for a high school football team and seeks to work in the analytics department for an NFL football team. Having kept a daily journal for the past eight years, Randy has traced the highs and lows of his career, including applying to and graduating from the Georgia Tech program; landing a job as a data scientist; navigating a lay off; and going 0/8 on interviews for his dream jobs.

Sean Meisler
Lead Quantitative Risk Analyst,
USAA

Sean Meisler serves as a Lead Financial Crimes Model Validator at USAA, where he assesses model risk across the fraud and anti-money laundering portfolio. His role blends technical modeling expertise with financial crime prevention strategy. Sean's career began in economic consulting, where he developed strong analytical and programming capabilities, but more importantly, honed his communication skills that continue to serve him today. After five years in consulting, he transitioned into financial services, taking on modeling and analytics roles at Bank of America, BMO Financial Group, and now USAA. He has contributed to a wide range of projects in Credit Risk and Financial Crimes modeling, including developing a machine learning model for fraud alert prioritization and conducting a deep-dive into over-draft accounting policy. While his path has taken many turns, across industries and functions, the constant has been a focus on using data and analytics to solve complex business problems.

Mary Washington
Senior Data Scientist,
RTX

Mary Washington is an OMS Analytics alum with a background in hospitality, computer science, statistics and machine learning. She is pursuing a Doctor of Engineering degree from Penn State and serves as an advisory board member for College of Charleston where she mentors students and helps shape academic AI/ML curricula. Mary has more than six years of experience applying AI and Generative AI solutions, including LLMs and RAG pipelines, to enterprise-scale challenges. As a senior data scientist in the defense industry, she specializes in building intelligent automation systems, optimizing information retrieval and designing neural network architectures for predictive analytics. Through her work, she delivers measurable improvements in efficiency, cost savings and decision support.