

DIPLOMA CEREMONY

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
OLD CABELL HALL AUDITORIUM



UNIVERSITY
of VIRGINIA

SCHOOL *of* DATA SCIENCE

***“WE TEACH AND PRACTICE
RESPONSIBLE DATA SCIENCE
FOR THE COMMON GOOD.”***

*–Philip E. Bourne, Stephenson Dean
School of Data Science*

PROGRAM

MAY 18, 2025 | 2:00 PM
OLD CABELL HALL AUDITORIUM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

*Jeffrey Blume, Quantitative Foundation Associate Dean for
Academic and Faculty Affairs in Data Science*

PROCESSIONAL

WELCOME

Renée Cummings, Assistant Professor of Practice in Data Science

HOODING CEREMONY

*Thomas Stewart, Associate Professor of Data Science and
Program Director, Ph.D. in Data Science*

IN REMEMBRANCE

*Jonathan Kropko, Quantitative Foundation Associate Professor of
Data Science and Program Director, M.S. in Data Science Online*

DEGREE CONFERRAL

*Prince Afriyie, Associate Professor of Data Science and
Program Director, M.S. in Data Science Residential*

WOOD FAMILY AWARD

*Oscar Wood, Founder and CEO of NNData
Advisory Board Member 2015-Present*

WANDA SANFORD AWARD

Chrissie Holt-Hull, Administrative Generalist

GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL REFLECTIONS

*Jonathan Swap, Graduate Data Science Council President
Finn Mokrzycki, Graduate Data Science Council Vice President*

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

*Scott G. Stephenson, School of Data Science Advisory Board Chair
Founder, SGS Capital, Chairman of Avetta, Chairman of One Inc
Former Chairman, President & CEO, Verisk Analytics*

EDGAR F. SHANNON AWARD

Gifted by the Z Society, Presented by Dean Philip E. Bourne

CLOSING REMARKS

Philip E. Bourne, Stephenson Dean

GRADUATES

PH.D. IN DATA SCIENCE

Zachary David Blanks

*Advisor: Donald E. Brown; Dissertation Title: Entropy Analysis of Short Time-Series Data:
Advancements and Applications*

Jade Frances Preston

*Advisor: William Basener; Dissertation Title: Advancement of Hyperspectral Image Unmixing and Analysis:
An Application in Mineral Detection and Identification*

M.S. IN DATA SCIENCE

Afnan Alabdulwahab	Devon Alexandra Hathaway	Mercedes Mora-Figueroa
Angela Albarano	Aidan Herzig	Luke Joseph Napolitano
Javier Francisco Alonso	Tyler Hinnendael	Naomi Ohashi
Daniel Jacob Anthony	Courtney Dianne Hodge	Doruk Ozar
Benjamin Gerard Ballard	John Anthony Hope	Hallie Jill Parten
Katherine Harley Barker	James Dylan Hopper	Kennedy Reyne Patterson
Matthew Timothy Beck	Ashley Jie Huang	Max James Pearton
Brian Anthony Blancato	Fadumo Mukhtar Hussein	Benton Joseph Pelczynski
Jonathan Donald Brandin	Brendan Darab Jalali	Carlos William Perez
Nicholas Vincent Cagliuso, Jr.	Chloe Sabrina Japic	William Gray Peritz
Abner Casillas-Colon	Samantha Anne Johnson	John David Pinto
Brett Matsutoshi Castro	Akaash Kamdar	Wyatt Wilcox Priddy
Gabriella Eva Marie Cordelli	Samy Adel Kebaish	Isidro Romille Pride II
Andrew Nathan Cornfeld	John Alline Kenzakowski	Riya Krishna Pulla
Lorinda Jean Couch	Aveline Danielle Knoop	Mustakim Muhurto Rahman
Cassidy Marie Cuba	Hannah Emiko Koizumi	Samantha Quinn Remmey
Kiana Gabrielle Dane	Richard Prinz Kuehn	Austin Taylor Rivera
Rachel Madison Daniel	Krishna Arjun Kumar	Justin Randolph Roberts
Georgia Grace Davidson	Peter Daniel Landers	Karis Anna-Violet Roberts
Carter Laurence Day	Colby Ba Le	Eric Rodriguez
Rebecca Demotte Desrosiers	John Khoi Le	Lea G. Runesha
Chi Do	Kayla Lee	Kurt Louis Christian Samuels, Jr.
Disha Dubey	Christa Leshner	Luke Patrick Schneider
Mohamad El Moheb	Isaac McCusker Levy	Wyatt Scott
Sarah Medhat Elmasry	Zachary Jalen Lisman	Daniel Michael Sery
Adetokunbo Adewale Faparusi	Justin David Liss	Rishi Sharma
Mohammad Bin Farooq	Charles Sheridan Lotane	Lucille Grace Shichman
Rachel Sinai Fellman	Daniel Luettgen	George Samir Shoriz
Alexandra Tiffany Ferentinos	Michael Duncan Macfarlan	Rohan Shroff
Mahin Ganesan	Aqsa Majeed	James Patrick Siegener
Ran Gao	Wilmer Maldonado	Taylor James Skomp
Brett A Genz	Charbel Antoine Marche	Lindley Rose Slipetz
Christine Emi George	Ainsley Anne McLaughlin	Trenton Paul Slocum
Connor Glowacki	Neil Henry McPherson	Karthika Solai Venkatesh Babu
Anjali Radhika Goel	Abhinandan Mekap	Kanitta Srichan
Bernard Luke Gonzales	Dmitry Mikhaylov	Sanjana Srivastava
Tyler Thomas Gorecki	William Roger Robert Milch	Zachary Edward Stautzenbach
Christopher Greer	Ashley Stephen Miller	Patrick O'Rielly Stone
Lathan William Gregg	Nicholas Ray Miller	Alden Daniel Swain
Alanda Guan	Brandon Mistry	Jonathan Joseph França Swap
Vishwanath Premanand Guruvayur	Finn Mokrzycki	Bereket Teklu Tafesse

Victor Armand Teelucksingh
Brennan Parker Thompson
Disha Nileshkumar Trivedi
Elena Tsvetkova
Robert Taylor Tucker
Farah Turkistani
Jacob Stephen Turner
Timothy William Tyree
Hannah Marie Valenty

Chris Hendrik Van Niekerk
Colin Lee Wilkie
Sophia Isis Williams
Peumali Surani Withanage
Zhe Yang
Hithesh Yedlapati
Hildegard Lilah Younce
Iman Yousfi
Qais Madhat Youssef

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

SCOTT G. STEPHENSON

*Founder, SGS Capital, Chairman of Avetta, Chairman of One Inc
Former Chairman, President & CEO, Verisk Analytics*

Scott G. Stephenson is the founder of SGS Capital and the former Chairman, President, and CEO of Verisk Analytics, a leading data analytics and risk assessment firm. During his tenure as CEO from 2013 to 2021, Verisk was recognized by Forbes as one of the world's most innovative companies and became a component of the S&P 500 Index. Stephenson was named one of the world's most innovative leaders by Forbes in 2016.



Under his leadership, the company's market capitalization quadrupled, and its global presence expanded significantly. Verisk also earned distinctions such as being named a Great Place to Work™ for six consecutive years and one of America's Most Just Companies™.

Before joining Verisk, Stephenson was a Senior Partner at The Boston Consulting Group, where he worked closely with Fortune 50 CEOs and was the founding partner of the firm's southeastern U.S. practice. He serves on several corporate and nonprofit boards, including PSEG (NYSE), Definitive Healthcare (NASDAQ), The Bowery Mission (Chair), the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard, and the University of Virginia School of Data Science. He also serves as an elder of Central Presbyterian Church in New York City.

A graduate of the University of Virginia with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Stephenson also holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School. Along with his wife, Beth, he established The Stephenson Dean of Data Science at UVA. He is a member of The Council on Foreign Relations and The Wall Street Journal CEO Council. Stephenson resides in New York City with his family.

SCHOOL OF DATA SCIENCE

The University of Virginia School of Data Science — the first of its kind in the nation — is guided by common goals: to further discovery, share knowledge, and make a positive impact on society through collaborative, open, and responsible data science research and education. Founded in fall 2019 through the largest gift in UVA history, the School positions the University and our community to play a national and international leadership role in the global digital future. The School of Data Science is the newest and 12th school to be formed in the University's 200-year history.

We are leading a movement to drive discovery and innovation across geographic, temporal, and commercial boundaries. Whether in our hiring and promotion guidelines, open data and publication policies, or infrastructure and materials, we are building a school based in a culture of transparency and open access to knowledge.



By working with experts in diverse domains, applying data science to real-world issues, and learning both the practical application of data science and the principles behind it, our students are poised to become leaders and pioneers in the field.

The School of Data Science is driven by a vision to meet the challenges of an increasingly data-driven world through excellence in collaborative, open, interdisciplinary research; education that produces responsible, diverse leaders; and service that leads to products and outcomes that provide societal benefit.

SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION OF DATA SCIENTISTS

As we celebrate the accomplishments of today's graduates, we are reminded of the power of education, innovation, and community. If you're inspired to pay it forward, consider making a gift to the School of Data Science. Your support helps us provide transformative experiences for students, now and in the future.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY



GRATITUDE

The School of Data Science proudly acknowledges the 2025 Final Exercises Planning Committee for their exceptional dedication in creating a memorable celebration for our graduates, their families, and friends.

This year's events are the result of months of thoughtful collaboration, detailed coordination, and a shared commitment to student success. We are grateful for the leadership and hard work of:

- Dahlia Hylton, Associate Dean of Student Affairs & Committee Chair
- Jess Beverly, Assistant Director of Student Affairs
- Kirsten Samuels, Marketing Manager
- Elodie Wolfe, Facilities Manager and Space Planning Coordinator
- Andrew Schwab, Administrative Coordinator, Student Affairs
- Thomas Rowe, IT Technical Analyst

We also extend sincere appreciation to the many faculty and staff volunteers whose generosity of time and spirit helps make this occasion special. Thank you!

Data Science for the Common Good

