

Ronald J. Yurko Jr.

Curriculum Vitae

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🐙 Github

Positions

Department of Statistics & Data Science, Carnegie Mellon University

Fall 2022 – **Assistant Teaching Professor.**

Fall 2024 – **Director**, *Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Center.*

Summer 2022 **Special Faculty.**

Education

2017–22 **PhD in Statistics**, *Carnegie Mellon University.*

Thesis supervised by Kathryn Roeder and Max G'Sell, titled "Selective inference approaches for augmenting genetic association studies with multi-omics metadata"

2017–18 **MS in Statistics**, *Carnegie Mellon University.*

2012–15 **BS in Statistics**, *Carnegie Mellon University*, University Honors.

Publications

Journal Articles

- 2026 **Ronald Yurko**, Quang Nguyen, and Konstantinos Pelechrinis. NFL Ghosts: A framework for evaluating defender positioning with conditional density estimation. *The Annals of Applied Statistics*. JSTOR, 2026.
- 2026 Scott Powers and **Ronald Yurko**. Swinging, fast and slow: Interpreting variation in baseball swing tracking metrics. *The American Statistician*, pages 1–19. Taylor & Francis, 2026.
- 2025 Alex Reinhart, Ben Markey, Michael Laudенbach, Kachatad Pantusen, **Ronald Yurko**, Gordon Weinberg, and David West Brown. Do LLMs write like humans? Variation in grammatical and rhetorical styles. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, volume 122, page e2422455122. National Academy of Sciences, 2025.
- 2025 Quang Nguyen and **Ronald Yurko**. A multilevel model with heterogeneous variances for snap timing in the National Football League. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A: Statistics in Society*, 2025.
- 2025 Quang Nguyen, Ruitong Jiang, Meg Ellingwood, and **Ronald Yurko**. Fractional tackles: leveraging player tracking data for within-play tackling evaluation in american football. *Scientific Reports*, volume 15, page 2148, 2025.
- 2025 Ryan S Brill, **Ronald Yurko**, and Abraham J Wyner. Exploring the difficulty of estimating win probability: a simulation study. *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports (to appear)*, 2025.
- 2025 Ryan S Brill, **Ronald Yurko**, and Abraham J Wyner. Analytics, have some humility: a statistical view of fourth-down decision making. *The American Statistician*, pages 1–41. Taylor & Francis, 2025.
- 2025 Zach Branson, Monica Paz Parra, and **Ronald Yurko**. The Landscape of College-level Data Visualization Courses, and the Benefits of Incorporating Statistical Thinking. *Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education*, pages 1–25. Taylor & Francis, 2025.

- 2024 Yujin Kim, Minwoo Jeong, In Gyeong Koh, Chanhee Kim, Hyeji Lee, Jae Hyun Kim, **Ronald Yurko**, Il Bin Kim, Jeongbin Park, Donna M Werling, Stephan J Sanders, and Joon-Yong An. CWAS-Plus: estimating category-wide association of rare noncoding variation from whole-genome sequencing data with cell-type-specific functional data. *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, volume 25, July 2024.
- 2023 Quang Nguyen, **Ronald Yurko**, and Gregory J. Matthews. Here Comes the STRAIN: Analyzing Defensive Pass Rush in American Football with Player Tracking Data. *The American Statistician*, volume 0, pages 1–10. Taylor & Francis, 2023. ASA Editor’s Choice Collection.
- 2021 **Ronald Yurko**, Kathryn Roeder, Bernie Devlin, and Max G’Sell. An approach to gene-based testing accounting for dependence of tests among nearby genes. *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, volume 22, 08 2021.
- 2021 **Ronald Yurko**, Kathryn Roeder, Bernie Devlin, and Max G’Sell. H-MAGMA, inheriting a shaky statistical foundation, yields excess false positives. *Annals of Human Genetics*, volume 85, pages 97–100. Wiley Online Library, 2021.
- 2021 Riccardo Fogliato, Natalia L Oliveira, and **Ronald Yurko**. TRAP: a predictive framework for the Assessment of Performance in Trail Running. *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, volume 17, pages 129–143. De Gruyter, 2021.
- 2020 **Ronald Yurko**, Francesca Matano, Lee F Richardson, Nicholas Granered, Taylor Pospisil, Konstantinos Pelechrinis, and Samuel L Ventura. Going deep: models for continuous-time within-play valuation of game outcomes in american football with tracking data. *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, volume 16, pages 163–182. De Gruyter, 2020. Editor’s Choice free access article.
- 2020 **Ronald Yurko**, Max G’Sell, Kathryn Roeder, and Bernie Devlin. A selective inference approach for false discovery rate control using multiomics covariates yields insights into disease risk. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, volume 117, pages 15028–15035. National Academy of Sciences, 2020.
- 2020 Sarah Mallepalle, **Ronald Yurko**, Konstantinos Pelechrinis, and Samuel L Ventura. Extracting NFL tracking data from images to evaluate quarterbacks and pass defenses. *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, volume 16, pages 95–120. De Gruyter, 2020.
- 2020 Rishav Dutta, **Ronald Yurko**, and Samuel L Ventura. Unsupervised methods for identifying pass coverage among defensive backs with nfl player tracking data. *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, volume 16, pages 143–161. De Gruyter, 2020.
- 2019 **Ronald Yurko**, Samuel Ventura, and Maksim Horowitz. nflWAR: a reproducible method for offensive player evaluation in football. *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*, volume 15, pages 163–183. De Gruyter, 2019. Editor’s Choice free access article.

Under Review

- 2026 Shannon K Gallagher, Swati Rallapalli, Tyler Brooks, Chuck Loughin, Michele Sezgin, and **Ronald Yurko**. Analysis and Explainability of LLMs Via Evolutionary Methods. (*in preparation*), 2026.
- 2025 Ivan Ramler, **Ronald Yurko**, Rachel Gidaro, Gordon Weinberg, and Brian Macdonald. SCORE with Data: Open Access Educational Materials for Teaching Statistics with Sports. (*in preparation*), 2025.
- 2025 Quang Nguyen and **Ronald Yurko**. A bayesian circular mixed-effects model for explaining variability in directional movement in american football. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2507.06122*, 2025.

Books

- 2027 **Ronald Yurko**, *Statistical Methods in Sports Analytics*, Chapman & Hall/CRC Texts in Statistical Science Series, Taylor & Francis.
(Signed contract to prepare textbook for 2027 release.)

Invited Commentaries and Popular Press

- 2024 Adriana Gonzalez Sanchez, Sierra Martinez, **Ronald Yurko**, Ryan Elmore, and Brian Macdonald. Beyond the Box Score: Does Icing the Field Goal Kicker Work in the NFL? *CHANCE*, volume 37, pages 41–48. Taylor & Francis, 2024.
- 2023 **Ronald Yurko** and Rebecca Nugent. Discussion on “Flexible marked spatio-temporal point processes with applications to event sequences from association football” by Narayanan et al. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series C*. Oxford University Press, 2023.
- 2019 Konstantinos Pelechrinis, **Ronald Yurko**, and Sam Ventura. Reducing Concussions in the NFL: A Data-Driven Approach. *CHANCE*, volume 32, pages 46–56. Taylor & Francis, 2019.

Book Chapters

- 2025 **Ronald Yurko**, *An Introduction to Sports Analytics Research with Expected Goals*, An Invitation to Undergraduate Research in Risk Management: Actuarial Science, Mathematical Finance, and Sports Analytics, Springer.
<https://link.springer.com/book/9783031985874>

Miscellaneous Articles

- 2024 **Down, set, hut! Explaining variability in snap timing on plays with motion**, *Joint work with Quang Nguyen*, NFL Big Data Bowl 2025.
Kaggle: <https://www.kaggle.com/code/tindata/down-set-hut>
- 2023 **Momentum-based fractional tackles**, *Joint work with Quang Nguyen, Larry Jiang, and Meg Ellingwood*, NFL Big Data Bowl 2024 (Finalist).
Kaggle: <https://www.kaggle.com/code/tindata/momentum-based-fractional-tackles>
- 2021 **Evaluating defender ability to limit YAC**, *Joint work with Kostas Pelechrinis*, NFL Big Data Bowl 2021 (Honorable Mention).
Kaggle: <https://www.kaggle.com/ryurko21/evaluating-defender-ability-to-limit-yac>
- 2019 **Detecting data analysis patterns in text and graphs to characterize student workflows**, *Advanced Data Analysis report*, Advised by Rebecca Nugent.

Teaching

Courses Taught at Carnegie Mellon (*ordered by course level*)

- Fall 2025 **46–937 Deep Learning (*mini*)**.
Elective course on deep learning for the Master’s in Computational Finance program; created course curriculum and materials from scratch.
- Fall 2023–25 **46–924 Natural Language Processing (*mini*)**.
Elective course on natural language processing for the Master’s in Computational Finance program, including text mining, topic models, and transformers; created course curriculum and materials from scratch.
- Fall 2022–25 **46–926 Machine Learning I (*mini*)**.
Core course on statistical machine learning for the Master’s in Computational Finance program, including regression, classification, and tree-based methods.
- Spring 2024–26 **36-460/660 Special Topics: Sports Analytics**.
Elective course for advanced undergraduate and master’s level students on sports analytics methods, including multilevel models, Bayesian statistics, and spatio-temporal data; created course curriculum and materials.
- Fall 2022–24 **36–613 Data Visualization (*mini*)**.
Master’s level course on creating and understanding data visualizations and interactive tools from a statistical perspective; created course curriculum and materials.
- Summer 2024, Spring 2025 **36-642 Telling Impactful Stories with Data Visualization (*online mini*)**.
Data visualization course in Foundations of Data Science online graduate certificate program.

- Spring 2023, **36-493 Sports Analytics Capstone.**
2025 Undergraduate capstone course using data provided by CMU athletics for sports analytics research projects. Advised five groups of student projects (three in 2023, two in 2025), all presented at Meeting of the Minds.
- Fall 2025, **36-396 Tartan Athletics Analytics.**
- Spring 2026 Undergraduate course providing students with hands-on experience applying statistics and data science methodologies to real-world datasets, and communicating results to stakeholders in the Carnegie Mellon Athletics Department (aka Tartan Athletics).
- Spring 2022–25 **36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization.**
Undergraduate course on creating and understanding data visualizations from a statistical perspective.
- Spring 2026 **66-155 Sports Betting, Highs and Lows: Your Brain on Stats.**
Co-instructor with Prof. Linda Moya. Pitched idea for Grand Challenge seminar course; created course curriculum and materials from scratch, including an internal sportsbook app for students to use throughout the semester.
- Summer 2020–22 **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience in Statistics, Lead Instructor and Director.**
8-10 week program with 12-16 students selected each year nationally with an emphasis on diversity. Experience includes client-facing capstone with real-world problems and datasets. Created course curriculum, materials, and advised student projects: <https://www.stat.cmu.edu/cmsac/sure/2022/materials/>
- 2015 **Introduction to Sabermetrics and Exploring Baseball Data with R.**
Instructor and created course materials in undergraduate student-taught course program.

Workshops

- 2022 **Big Data Bowl Workshop Sponsored by SumerSports.**
Created workshop materials and instructor with live coding demonstrations of accessing and analyzing player-tracking data: <https://www.stat.cmu.edu/cmsac/conference/2022/workshop/slides.html>
- 2018–2019 **Carnegie Mellon Football Analytics Workshop.**
Created workshop materials and instructor with live coding demonstrations of accessing and analyzing NFL play-by-play with introduction to ELO ratings: <https://www.stat.cmu.edu/cmsac/football/>
- Summer 2019 **Wharton Moneyball Academy and Training Camp.**
Assisted in development of course materials and course instructor for week-long introductory statistics course for high-school students.
- 2018–2019 **Carnegie Mellon Football Analytics Workshop.**
Created workshop materials, organized Q&A session with Pittsburgh Pirates, and instructor with live coding demonstrations of accessing and analyzing baseball data: <https://ryurko.github.io/Carnegie-Mellon-Baseball-Analytics-Workshop/>

Executive Education

- 2022 – **Data Science Executive Education programs, In progress for multiple global/national finance institutions and pharmaceutical companies (company names not allowed to be public yet).**
Instructor role providing feedback in custom ISLE analytics platform.
- 2022 – 2023 **Data Science for Business Leaders, Optum/United Health Group.**
Instructor for data visualization content.

Courses Served as Teaching Assistant at Carnegie Mellon (ordered by course level)

- Spring 2021 **46-927 Statistical Machine Learning II, (mini).**
Core course on statistical machine learning for the Master's in Computational Finance program, including clustering, classification, dimension reduction, and deep learning.
- Summer 2018 **36-315 Statistical Graphics and Visualization.**
Undergraduate course on creating and understanding data visualizations from a statistical perspective.
- Spring 2018 **36-462 Data Mining.**
Undergraduate course on statistical learning including clustering, classification, dimension reduction, and tree-based models.
- Fall 2017 **36-350 Statistical Computing.**
Undergraduate course introducing programming for statistical analysis in R.

Fall 2013–14, **36-201 Statistical Reasoning and Practice.**
Spring 2014 Undergraduate introductory statistics for humanities and social sciences majors.

Courses Served as Grader at Carnegie Mellon

Fall 2015 **36-225 Introduction to Probability Theory.**
Undergraduate course introducing mathematical probability theory for statistics, math, and other majors.

Spring 2015 **36-226 Introduction to Statistical Inference.**
Undergraduate course introducing mathematical statistics for statistics, math, and other majors.

Advising / Supervising

PhD Students

2025 – **Michele Sezgin**, *Advanced Data Analysis project on estimating the effect of lasix usage in horse racing.*

Co-advising with Professor Joel Greenhouse.

2023 – **Quang Nguyen**, *Statistical modeling problems for player movement in sports with tracking data,*
Completed thesis proposal in Spring 2025..

2023 – **Meg Ellingwood**, *Modeling sentence-level rhetorical structure in student writing in statistics,*
Completed thesis proposal in Spring 2025..

Co-advising with Professor Alex Reinhart.

Senior Honors Theses

Fall 2025 – **Adarsh Suresh**, *Expected Threat Modeling in Soccer: A Model-Based Framework Using Event Data,* QSSS and Tepper College Honors Thesis.

Co-advised with Professor Peter Stuetgen.

Fall 2024 – **Anahita Hassan**, *Predictive Modeling for Injury Risk and Recovery Time for WNBA Athletes,*
Spring 2025 Dietrich College Senior Honors Thesis Program.

Fall 2023 – **Xuduo Victor Wen**, *Cardiac Arrhythmia in Equine Health: A Statistical Perspective on Electrocardiogram Data Analysis,* Dietrich College Senior Honors Thesis Program.

Co-advised with Professor Joel Greenhouse and external collaborator Dr. Katharyn Mitchell.

Independent Study

Spring 2023 **Samuel Yu**, *Decreasing TTO Rates in Baseball by Adjusting the Strike Zone.*

Advised undergraduate computer science student on project working exploring and modeling umpire strike zones in Major League Baseball. Student presented poster at Meeting of the Minds.

Fall 2022 **Jacob Muskovitz**, *Modeling Defensive Outcomes from Linear Distances Between Players.*

Advised Heinz College master's student on project working exploring and modeling spatio-temporal data provided by a professional soccer team.

Master's Projects

Spring 2026 **Alex Hill and Pramit Vyas**, *Computer Vision for Carnegie Mellon Basketball.*

Advised master's students on project converting basketball court video feed into player-tracking data.

Fall 2025 **Tyler Quinn, Avery Wang, Alex Hill, and Pramit Vyas**, *Calculated Risks: Quantifying Coverage Tendencies in NFL Defenders.*

Advised master's students on NFL Big Data Bowl 2026: <https://www.kaggle.com/competitions/nfl-big-data-bowl-2026-analytics/writeups/strain-quantifying-a-defenders-coverage-ability>

Fall 2024 **James Lauer, Larry Jiang, Nicco Jacimovic, and Jason Andriopoulos**, *CHASE: A New Metric for Receiver Spatial Impact.*

Advised master's students on NFL Big Data Bowl 2025: <https://www.kaggle.com/code/lauerjames/chase-a-new-metric-for-receiver-spatial-impact>

Spring 2024 **Lawrence Jang**, *blitzFlag: predicting pass rushers with player-tracking data.*

Advised master's student machine learning project for 10-718 Machine Learning in Practice.

Fall 2023 – **Shane Hauck, Marion Haney, Devin Basley, and Vinay Maruri**, *No Edge No Chance: The Impact of Setting the Edge on Zone Run Plays*.

Advised master's students on NFL Big Data Bowl 2024 submission that was selected as finalists for presentation at NFL Combine: <https://www.kaggle.com/code/devinbasley26/no-edge-no-chance>

Undergraduate Research Supervision

Summer 2025 **Summer Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship, Faculty Advisor.**

Advised three undergraduate research projects: (1) exploring differences between playing styles of women's soccer player (Theresa Pham), (2) gathering and wrangling shot level tennis data (Peter Spivack), (3) comparing CMU women's basketball performance by line-up type (Nicole Timko and Tate Helms).

Fall 2024 **Abhishek Varadarajan, Trench Chess: How Defensive Lines Create Opportunities by Changing The Picture.**

Advised undergraduate project selected as semifinalist in NFL Big Data Bowl 2025: <https://www.kaggle.com/code/abhishekvaradarajan/trench-chess>

Summer 2024 **Summer Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship, Faculty Advisor.**

Advised two undergraduate students on summer research projects: (1) exploring changes in NFL salary cap construction over time (Abhishek Varadarajan) and (2) analysis of equine ECG data (Jiashen Wang).

Fall 2023 **Undergraduate Research Course, Faculty Advisor.**

Advised team of undergraduate students to build simulation approach for predicting the number of medals won by US Olympics Gymnastics team for USOPC Data Challenge.

Fall 2023 – **Undergraduate Research Course, Faculty Advisor.**

Spring 2024 Advised two teams of undergraduate students working with equine ECG data provided by external collaborator Dr. Katharyn Mitchell.

Fall 2022 **Undergraduate Research Course, Faculty Advisor.**

Advised two teams of undergraduate students working with spatio-temporal data from: (1) Big Data Derby and (2) Big Data Bowl.

Fall 2021 **Data Science Initiative, PhD Project Fellow.**

Advised two teams of undergraduate students working with United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee.

Fall 2021 **Quantitative Social Science Scholars (QSSS) Program Senior Thesis, Advisor.**

Advisor of undergraduate senior thesis on measuring latent attributes for NBA players.

Summer 2019 **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience in Statistics, Teaching Assistant.**

Advised multiple undergraduate student projects and created datasets for program labs.

Presentations

Invited Talks

Aug. 2026 **Joint Statistical Meetings, College Football Volatility: A Bayesian State-Space Model of the Transfer Portal**, Invited Paper Session: Statistical Modeling for Sports Performance and Injury Analytics, Boston, MA.

Mar. 2026 **DataSci+AI Forum, Featured Speaker: DS/AI for Sports**, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

Mar. 2026 **CMU's AI Institute for Societal Decision Making, Sports Analytics 101: Using AI and Data Science to Change the Game**, Pittsburgh, PA.

Mar. 2026 **Department of Statistics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Swinging, Fast and Slow: Untangling intention and timing error from bat speed and swing length in Major League Baseball**, Madison, WI.

Dec. 2025 **International Joint Conference on Computational and Financial Econometrics (CFE) and Computational and Methodological Statistics (CMStatistics), College Football Volatility: A Bayesian state-space model of the transfer portal and NIL impact**, Birkbeck, University of London.

Oct. 2025 **Pittsburgh TechFest 2025, Sports Analytics in the Post-“Moneyball” Era**, Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business.

- Sep. 2025 **New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports**, *College Football Volatility: A Bayesian state-space model of the transfer portal and NIL impact*, Harvard University.
- June 2025 **Conference on Predictive Inference in Sports Statistics**, *NFL Ghosts: A framework for evaluating defender positioning with conditional density estimation*, Iowa State University.
- May 2025 **AUEB Sports Analytics Workshop**, *Momentum Interference: A Hierarchical Framework for Modeling Tackling Ability in American Football*, Athens University of Economics & Business, joint work with Ruitong Jiang, Meg Ellingwood, Quang Nguyen.
- Apr. 2025 **Connecticut Sports Analytics Symposium**, *Momentum Interference: A Hierarchical Framework for Modeling Tackling Ability in American Football*, Yale University, joint work with Ruitong Jiang, Meg Ellingwood, Quang Nguyen.
- Sep. 2024 **Cascadia Symposium on Statistics in Sports**, *Momentum Interference: A Hierarchical Framework for Modeling Tackling Ability in American Football*, Vancouver, Canada, joint work with Ruitong Jiang, Meg Ellingwood, Quang Nguyen.
- Sep. 2024 **Cascadia Symposium on Statistics in Sports**, *Swinging, Fast and Slow: Untangling intention and timing error from bat speed and swing length in Major League Baseball*, Vancouver, Canada, joint work with and presented by Scott Powers.
- June 2024 **Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics**, *Creating and Sharing Sports Data Content with the SCORE Network*, organized and led breakout session with Ivan Ramler, Rebecca Nugent, Nicholas Clark, Michael Schuckers, Robin Lock, and Rodney Sturdivant.
- March 2024 **Simon Fraser University Sports Analytics Group Virtual Seminar Series**, *NFL Ghosts: Evaluating pass defense with high-dimensional CDEs*, Simon Fraser University, Virtual.
- May 2023 **United States Conference on Teaching Statistics**, *Building a SCORE module to teach with sports data*, Pennsylvania State University, joint workshop with Michael Schuckers, Robin Lock, Rebecca Nugent, Brian Macdonald.
- Nov. 2023 **MSCF Speaker Series**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era*, Carnegie Mellon University.
- Sep. 2023 **New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports**, *NFL Ghosts: Evaluating pass defense with high-dimensional CDEs*, Harvard University.
- Sep. 2023 **Information Technology, Analytics, and Operations Seminar**, *NFL Ghosts: Evaluating pass defense with high-dimensional CDEs*, University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business.
- Nov. 2021 **Center of Modeling, Simulation and Interactions (MSI) Seminar**, *Selective inference approaches for augmenting genetic association studies with multi-omics metadata*, Université Côte d'Azur, Virtual.
- July 2020 **International Seminar on Selective Inference**, *Adaptive approaches for augmenting genetic association studies with multi-omics covariates*, Virtual, presented by Kathryn Roeder.
- Oct. 2020 **UConn Sports Analytics Symposium (Keynote Speaker)**, *Going Deep: Models for Continuous-Time Within-Play Valuation of Game Outcomes in American Football with Tracking Data*, Virtual.
- Aug. 2020 **Joint Statistical Meetings**, *Going Deep: Models for Continuous-Time Within-Play Valuation of Game Outcomes in American Football with Tracking Data*, Virtual, Presented by Lee Richardson.
- Sept. 2019 **New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports (Featured Talk)**, *Going Deep: Models for Continuous-Time Within-Play Valuation of Game Outcomes in American Football with Tracking Data*, Harvard University.
- May 2019 **United States Conference on Teaching Statistics**, *Many Students, One Dataset: Using ISLE to Teach Reproducibility and the Impact of Data Analysis Decisions on Conclusions*, Pennsylvania State University, joint presentation with Rebecca Nugent, Philipp Burckhardt, Frank Kovacs.
- Sept. 2018 **Pittsburgh useR Group**, *Exploring NFL data with nflscrapR*, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Aug. 2018 **RIT Sports Analytics Conference**, *nflWAR: a reproducible method for offensive player evaluation in football*, Rochester Institute of Technology.

- Oct. 2017 **Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Conference**, *nflWAR: a reproducible method for offensive player evaluation in football*, Carnegie Mellon University.
- Oct. 2017 **Computational Sports Informatics Colloquium**, *nflWAR: a reproducible method for offensive player evaluation in football*, University of Pittsburgh.
- Sept. 2017 **New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports**, *nflWAR: a reproducible method for offensive player evaluation in football*, Harvard University.

Contributed Talks

- Aug. 2024 **Joint Statistical Meetings**, *SCORE Sports Data Repository*, Portland, OR.
- Aug. 2023 **Joint Statistical Meetings**, *CMSACamp: A Summer Undergraduate Research Experience with Sports Analytics*, Toronto, Canada.
- Aug. 2020 **Joint Statistical Meetings**, *A selective inference approach for FDR control using multi-omics covariates yields insights into disease risk*, Virtual.
- Aug. 2018 **Cascadia Symposium on Statistics in Sports**, *Multilevel models to measure player, team, and stadium effects on NFL injury risk*, Vancouver, Canada, presented by Zachary Binney.
- June 2018 **Classification Society Annual Meeting**, *A case study in reproducibility: detecting data analysis patterns in text and graphs to characterize student workflows*, Stony Brook University.
- May. 2018 **Symposium on Data Science & Statistics**, *Variable selection for consistent clustering*, Reston, VA.
- July 2017 **Great Lakes Analytics in Sports Conference**, *NFL player evaluation using expected points added with nflscrapR*, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point.
- June 2017 **Classification Society Annual Meeting**, *Variable selection for consistent clustering*, University of California, Santa Cruz - Silicon Valley Campus.
- Apr. 2017 **UP-STAT (Second Place, Best Young Researchers' Award in Category C: Application)**, *nflscrapR: an R package for easy access to NFL data and a new model for expected points and win probability*, Canisius College.

Invited Panels

- Mar. 2026 **DataSci+AI Forum**, *DS/AI for Sports*, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Mar. 2026 **MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference**, *Building the Academic Playbook for Sports Analytics Education*, Boston, MA.
- Oct. 2025 **Corporate Entrepreneurship Forum**, *From Moneyball to AI: The Evolving Sports Analytics Industry*, Hosted by CMU's Corporate Startup Lab, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Aug. 2025 **Joint Statistical Meetings**, *The past, present, and future of sports analytics in industry and the academy*, Nashville, TN.

Invited Guest Lectures

- Sep. 2025 **The Ohio State University Sports and Society Initiative**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era: How technology and machine learning are changing the way professional sports teams evaluate players*, The Ohio State University.
- May 2025 **PT MSBA May Immersion**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era: How technology and machine learning are changing the way professional sports teams evaluate players*, Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business.
Part-time Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) Program.
- May 2024 **In-Person MSBA Immersion Campus Experience Weekend**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era: How technology and machine learning are changing the way professional sports teams evaluate players*, Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business.
Online Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) Program.

- Feb 2024 **PT MBA Virtual Session**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era: How technology and machine learning are changing the way professional sports teams evaluate players*, Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business.
Part-time, Online Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program.
- Sept 2023 **MSBA-SA Guest Lecture**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era: How technology and machine learning are changing the way professional sports teams evaluate players*, University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business.
Sports Analytics concentration of the Master of Science in Business Analytics program.
- May 2023 **In-Person MSBA Immersion Campus Experience Weekend**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era: How technology and machine learning are changing the way professional sports teams evaluate players*, Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business.
Online Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) Program.
- July 2022 **PT MBA Access Weekend**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era: How technology and machine learning are changing the way professional sports teams evaluate players*, Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business.
Part-time MBA Program.
- May 2022 **In-Person MSBA Immersion Campus Experience Weekend**, *Sports Analytics in the Post-Moneyball Era: How technology and machine learning are changing the way professional sports teams evaluate players*, Carnegie Mellon University, Tepper School of Business.
Online Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA) Program.
- Apr. 2022 **Human Genetics 2080 Statistical Genetics**, *An approach to gene-based testing accounting for dependence of tests among nearby genes*, University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, invited by Professor Daniel Weeks.
Graduate course in the principles and practice of statistical genetics.
- Mar. 2022 **STATS 100: The Mathematics of Sports**, *An introduction to NFL analytics research*, Stanford University, invited by Instructor Xavier Gonzalez.
Undergraduate course on statistics, probability, and mathematics in sports.
- Oct. 2021 **Foundation Seminar: Sports, Statistics and Society**, *An introduction to NFL analytics research*, Bucknell University, invited by Professor Abby Flynt.
First-year undergraduate course on statistics in sports.
- Oct. 2021 **STAT401 Sports Analytics**, *Going Deep: Models for Continuous-Time Within-Play Valuation of Game Outcomes in American Football with Tracking Data*, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, invited by Professor Abraham Wyner.
Advanced undergraduate course introducing students to the growing field of sports analytics.
- Sept. 2020 **Foundation Seminar: Sports, Statistics and Society**, *An introduction to NFL analytics research*, Bucknell University, invited by Professor Abby Flynt.
First-year undergraduate course on statistics in sports.
- Mar. 2020 **Human Genetics 2080 Statistical Genetics**, *Application of post-selection inference to multi-omics data yields insights into the etiologies of human diseases*, University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health, invited by Professor Daniel Weeks.
Graduate course in the principles and practice of statistical genetics.
- Feb. 2020 **BUSMG 7334 - Sports Analytics**, *Going Deep: Models for Continuous-Time Within-Play Valuation of Game Outcomes in American Football with Tracking Data*, Ohio State University, invited by Professor John Draper.
Course introducing students to the current state of sports analytics.
- Feb. 2018 **INFSCI 1091: Special Topics - Moneyball 2.0: Winning in Sports with Data**, *nflWAR: a reproducible method for offensive player evaluation in football*, University of Pittsburgh, invited by Professor Kostas Pelechrinis.
Special topics course introducing students to data collection, analysis, and visualization in sports.

Conference Poster Presentations

- July 2025 **United States Conference on Teaching Statistics**, *The Landscape of College-level Data Visualization Courses, and the Benefits of Incorporating Statistical Thinking*, Iowa State University. Joint work with Zach Branson.
- Oct. 2019 **Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics**, *Application of post-selection inference to multi-omics data yields insights into the etiologies of human diseases*, Houston, TX.
- Nov. 2019 **Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Conference (Best Poster Prize)**, *TRAP: a predictive framework for the assessment of performance in trail running*, Harvard University, presented by Riccardo Fogliato.
- Sept. 2019 **New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports (Best Student Poster Prize)**, *TRAP: a predictive framework for the assessment of performance in trail running*, Harvard University, presented by Natalia L. Oliveira.
- Apr. 2018 **Pittsburgh ASA Chapter Spring Banquet**, *Variable selection for consistent clustering*, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Nov 2015 **Dietrich Undergraduate Colloquium**, *Improving predictions of ensemble methods using distributions of estimated probabilities*, Carnegie Mellon University.
- May 2015 **Meeting of the Minds (First Place, Statistics Poster Competition)**, *Classifying Kepler objects of interest*, Carnegie Mellon University.

Electronic Poster Presentations

- Oct. 2020 **Annual Meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics**, *Augmenting gene-level tests based on two-sided summary statistics with multiomics covariates*.
- June 2020 **Symposium on Data Science & Statistics**, *A selective inference approach for FDR control using multi-omics covariates yields insights into disease risk*.
- May 2018 **Electronic Conference On Teaching Statistics**, *Identifying misconceptions of introductory data science using a thinkaloud protocol*, Joint work with S. Hyun, P. Burckhardt, P. Elliott, C. Evans, K. Lin, A. Luby, C. P. Makris, J. Orellana, A. Reinhart, J. Wiecek, G. Weinberg, R. Nugent.
- May 2018 **Electronic Conference On Teaching Statistics**, *Using text analysis to characterize student learning in an introductory statistics & data science course*.

Funding

- 2025 – 2026 **Department of Defense and Software Engineering Institute**, *Expanding Large Language Model Metrics for Defense*, Key Personnel, Funding and advising PhD student Michele Sezgin. \$150,000; two years
- 2024 – **Dietrich College Seed Grant Award**, *Research on how combatants and their supporters describe each other in modern war*, Led by Daniel Silverman (CMIST) with Bill Marcelino (RAND), Anna Pechenkina (Utah State University), and Austin Knuppe (Utah State University).
- 2022 – 2026 **NSF: Improving Undergraduate STEM Education**, *SCORE with Data: Building a sustainable national network for developing and disseminating Sports Content for Outreach, Research, and Education in data science*, Senior Personnel. \$1,100,000; four years

Software

- 2020 **snpcombineR: R package to combine SNP-level test statistics at various region levels**.
GitHub: <https://github.com/ryurko/snpcombineR>
- 2019 **adaptMT: Modifications including wrapper functions for XGBoost implementation with EM algorithm cross-validation tuning**.
GitHub: <https://github.com/ryurko/adaptMT>

- 2018 **fcscrapR: R package to scrape soccer commentary and statistics from ESPN.**
GitHub: <https://github.com/ryurko/fcscrapR>
- 2018 **nflWAR: An R package to compute WAR for offensive players using nflscrapR.**
GitHub: <https://github.com/ryurko/nflWAR>
- 2017 **nflscrapR: Compiling the NFL Play-by-Play API for easy use in R.**
GitHub: <https://github.com/maksimhorowitz/nflscrapR>

Student Research Experience

- 2018 – 2022 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Applications of selective inference in statistical genetics*, Advised by Kathryn Roeder, Max G'Sell, Bernie Devlin.
Research funding provided by Simons Foundation Grant SFARI SF575097
- Fall 2015 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, *PREDS: Prediction with Ensembles using Distribution Summaries*, Advised by Sam Ventura and Rebecca Nugent.
- Spring 2015 **Undergraduate Research Course**, *Classifying Kepler Objects of Interest*, Advised by Peter Freeman and Rebecca Nugent.
- Fall 2014 **Independent Research**, *The Science of Fooling Batters: An Objective Analysis of Pitch Sequencing*, Advised by Andrew C. Thomas.

Industry Experience

- 2024 – **Sports analytics consultant.**
- 2021 – 2022 **Part-time Data Scientist**, *Football Strategy, Zelus Analytics*, Remote.
- 2016 – 2017 **Quantitative Analytics Associate**, *Analytics & Portfolio management, PNC Financial Services*, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2015 **Risk Management Intern**, *Analytics & Portfolio management, PNC Financial Services*, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2014 **Data and Analytics Intern**, *Baseball Operations, Pittsburgh Pirates*, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2013 **Equity Research Intern**, *Equity Analysis, Schenley Park Capital Management*, Pittsburgh, PA.

Fellowships & Awards

- 2022 **Student of the Year**, *ASA Pittsburgh Chapter*.
- 2018 – 2019 **Carnegie Mellon Presidential Fellowship.**
- 2015 **Andrew Carnegie Society Scholar.**
- 2015 **Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.**

Service

Organization

- 2024 – **Director**, *Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Center*, <https://stat.cmu.edu/cmsac>.
National leader in sports analytics research and education initiatives.
- 2017 – **Co-Organizer**, *Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Conference*.
200+ attendees from academia, industry, and professional sports. Responsibilities include maintaining and assessing current research in field, website/event/speaker/press management, marketing materials, budgeting, and bringing in sponsors.
- 2018 – **Co-Organizer**, *CMSAC Reproducible Research Competition*.
Inclusive conference competition to promote reproducible research with separate tracks for students and software contributions. Responsibilities include creating competition format, promoting, and organizing evaluation of submissions with review feedback.

2018 – 2019 **Organizer**, *Carnegie Mellon Football Analytics Workshop*.
80+ attendees from academia, industry, and professional sports. Responsibilities included creating workshop material, website/event/press management, coordinating Q&A session with NFL Director of Data and Analytics.

2018 **Organizer**, *Carnegie Mellon Baseball Analytics Workshop*.

50+ attendees from academia, industry, and professional sports. Responsibilities included creating workshop material, website/event/press management, and coordinating Q&A session with professional baseball team.

Department Service

2022 – **Director**, *Summer Undergraduate Research Experience in Statistics*.

Director of 8 week summer program with 12-16 students selected each year nationally. Experience includes managing admissions, organizing speakers, advising client-facing capstone projects with real-world problems and datasets.

2024 **Committee Member**, *Dietrich College General Education Steering Committee*.

Review courses and discuss changes for Dietrich College GenEd curriculum.

2023 – **Committee Member**, *MSCF Program*.

Discuss and implement changes to program curriculum.

2022 – **Committee Member**, *MADS Program*.

Discuss and implement changes to program curriculum.

2022 – **Committee Member**, *MADS Admissions*.

2023 – **Committee Member**, *Undergraduate Program*.

Discuss and implement changes to program curriculum.

2017 – 2024 **Organizer**, *Statistics in Sports Reading Group*.

2020 – 2021 **Zoom Moderator**, *Statistics & Data Science Research Showcase*.

2019 – 2022 **Organizer**, *Statistical Genetics & Genomics Student Reading Group*.

2019 **Judge**, *Meeting of the Minds*.

2018 – 2019 **Mentor**, *Women in Statistics Matched Pairs Mentorship Program*.

2018 – 2019 **Judge**, *Statistical Graphics Poster Presentations*.

2017 – 2022 **Cohort Representative**, *Student Advisory Committee*.

University Service

2025 – **Athletics Faculty Mentor**, *Carnegie Mellon Football Team*.

2022 – **Faculty Advisor**, *Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Club*.

2017 – 2022 **Graduate Student Advisor**, *Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Club*.

2013 – 2016 **Co-Founder, Vice President, Editor, Writer**, *Carnegie Mellon Sports Analytics Club*.

Professional Service

2026 **Past-Chair**, *ASA Statistics in Sports Section*.

2026 – **Co-Editor**, *Sports column in CHANCE magazine "Beyond the Box Score"*, Co-Editor with Scott Powers.

2025 **Chair**, *ASA Statistics in Sports Section*.

Aug. 2024 **Invited Paper Session Chair**, *Joint Statistical Meetings, Leveraging Player Tracking Data in Sports: Challenges and Opportunities*.

2024 – **Associate Editor**, *SCORE Network*.

2024 **Chair-Elect**, *ASA Statistics in Sports Section*.

Aug. 2023 **Roundtable Organizer and Presenter**, *Joint Statistical Meetings, How Do we Teach Sports Analytics Research?*.

2022 – **Associate Editor**, *Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports*.

2022 **Judge**, *SMT Data Challenge*.

2021 **Mentor**, *NFL Big Data Bowl Mentorship Program*.
Program designed with goal of increasing diversity within sports analytics by advising students from underrepresented groups in sports analytics / STEM fields.

2021 **Judge**, *NFL Big Data Bowl*.

2020 – **Co-Host**, *Open Source Sports*.

Podcast created to serve as public reading group discussing the latest research in sports analytics.

Peer Reviewer *Annals of Applied Statistics, The American Statistician, Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports, GENETICS, PLOS Computational Biology, Journal of Sports Analytics, Journal of Business Analytics, Communications in Statistics, AStA Advances in Statistical Analysis, Operational Research*

Professional Societies

American Statistical Association

International Society for Bayesian Analysis

Media Recognition (click here for links to articles)

Interviews *USA TODAY, The Washington Post, Pittsburgh Business Times, Knowable Magazine, Amstat News, Pittsburgh Post Gazette, theScore*

Citations *FiveThirtyEight, The Athletic, The Wall Street Journal*

Podcasts *Learning Bayesian Statistics, Wharton Moneyball (multiple times), Unexpected Points*

Computer Skills

Expert *R, Stan*

Proficient *Python, SAS, SQL*

Intermediate *C++, Julia*

Beginner *HTML, Clojure, Java*

Activities

Team Sports

2017 – 2022 **Graduate Student Assembly Summer Sports**, *Softball captain*.

2013 – 2022 **Carnegie Mellon Intramural Sports**, *Flag-football captain*.

2018 co-rec champions

2013 **Carnegie Mellon University Club Baseball Team**.

Volunteering

2019 **Campaign Against Cancer**.

Charity Runs

2023 – **Steelers Run Walk**.

<https://www.steelers.com/schedule/event-calendar/steelers-5k/>

2017 – **The Great Race**.

<https://www.rungreatrace.com/>

2016 – **Pittsburgh Penguins 6.6K Run & Family Walk**.

<https://mariolemieux.org/our-events/pittsburgh-penguins-66k/>

2017 - 2019 **Pirates Home Run 5K 10K**.

<https://www.mlb.com/pirates/community/race>