



Thomas Nash »

# DATA SCIENCE

IF YOU GREW UP WATCHING YOUR DAD DO cool stuff in IT like Thomas Nash, you might buy into data science early on as well. Or, you might find it through other channels. Either way, if you choose this major, you'll be getting involved in the country's first undergraduate program in this rapidly developing field.

Nash had no background in computer science when he first heard about the College's data science program. Still, it grabbed him. "I enjoy math, problem solving and computers, so when I learned that this program combines those, I said 'This sounds awesome. I can take this major wherever I want. I can make it work for me.'"

He took a programming class his first semester. "I was so nervous. I was thinking 'how am I going to make it in a degree where I have no idea what I'm doing.' But I realized that I could do this; I could learn new programming skills. I ended up loving that class, and discovered early on that this is what I want to do."

These days, Nash doesn't just study data science, he's contributing to the field as well. "I work in the College's IT department as a student network engineer, and I also conduct research for the data science program, which focuses on developing and refining an open source software program called Learn2Mine. It's essentially a data mining teaching tool that helps introduce students to data mining techniques." His work has been partially supported by Boeing South Carolina, which named him a Boeing Scholar each of the past two years.

Nash traveled to Lithuania to present Learn2Mine at a conference. Along with two other students and a professor, he also traveled to New York City for another conference. "We visited several tech companies there and came away with great insight into the industry. Because our professor is well connected, it was an exceptional networking opportunity. Now, whether I go on to work in cybersecurity, the aerospace industry or for a local startup, I know I'll have a strong background, and continue to have great support from my professors." 📷



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## DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

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