

Claudia Castagna

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EDUCATION

University of Virginia (UVA) | Charlottesville, VA **Expected: May 2028**
Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and Minor in Data Science **GPA: 4.0**

- Dean's List (Fall 2025)

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) | Annandale, VA **Aug 2024 - May 2025**
Undergraduate Studies Computer Science **GPA: 4.0**

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Java, Python, Bash, YAML, PyQt, Pytest, Matplotlib, Excel, Git

EXPERIENCE

UVA CS Department, Chandra Robot Autonomy Lab | **Undergraduate Researcher** **October 2025 - Present**
Charlottesville, Virginia

- Assisting in research to enhance robot autonomy by developing and testing advanced simulation environments for reinforcement learning (RL) models
- Automated simulation environment setup using **Bash** scripts to streamline workflow
- Utilizing UVA servers and **Linux** command line to run experiments and perform debugging of simulation pipeline
- Contributing to experiment planning, data analysis, and documentation for upcoming conference submissions

NASA Langley | **Software Engineering Intern** **June 2025 - August 2025**
Hampton, Virginia

- Developed a **Python** tool with **YAML** parsing and a **PyQt** UI to configure robot component parameters, run physics-based calculations, visualize results, and export data to CSV
- Debugged computational logic and created **Pytest** unit tests to ensure numerical accuracy and code quality
- Used **Git** for version control and participated in feature-branch workflows and code reviews
- Collaborated with materials and mechanical engineering teams to gather requirements and translate workflows into UI and feature designs

United States Geological Survey (USGS) | **Volunteer Data Scientist** **January 2025 - June 2025**
Reston, Virginia

- Contributed to developing a comprehensive digital fossil dataset in **Excel** for the New England Conodont Data Repository, ensuring data accuracy and consistency to support geological research.
- Co-author: Parker et al., USGS Data Release (2026). <https://doi.org/10.5066/P13ARJNP>

Apple Store | **Product Specialist** **Aug 2024 - Jan 2025**
Fairfax, Virginia

- Identified customer needs and communicated technology solutions in an accessible, user-centered way
- Guided customers through device setup and troubleshooting, including interactive demos of the Apple Vision Pro, introducing spatial computing

INVOLVEMENT

NOVA Women in STEM Club | **Secretary** **Aug 2024 - May 2025**
Annandale, Virginia

- Led outreach campaigns to encourage young women to pursue STEM fields and managed club communications
- Organized and facilitated weekly meetings with team-building, career prep, and guest speakers
- Presented at local elementary schools to inspire young girls to pursue STEM and explore future careers