* John Bollenbacher Data Scientist at Research Triangle Institute International
  + non profit
  + Government and grants
  + Social science
  + Center for data science–very much a place I believe I would enjoy working
    - A group of about 30 within RTI
    - Made up of about ⅔ data scientists and about ⅓ software engineers
    - They write most of their own programs/apps
      * Example: recently created an app to monitor, search, organize, store public comments on public policy changes
      * Importance of understanding how to communicate between technical and non-technical audiences
      * Importance of defining the research question
    - Currently working on a team of 4 on geospatial data
  + Advised that often you can find old email contacts for the researcher if the research is done by academic institution in order to find out more information about the data you are researching
    - However, warned that often you just will not know more about the data than what is given to you in the dataset and basic metadata, so this must be considered when defining the research question, completing the work, and presenting any findings.
  + Difficulty adjusting to corporate life after years of academia: this job allows for a lot of flexibility, but he missing fully setting hours, working on your own projects. Social workflow cognitive adjustment.
  + Surprised by higher degree of specialization than expected. Full stack hasn’t been necessary within this large group of data scientists and instead each works in the specializations they are strongest/most comfortable with.
  + Recommended weird studies podcast–\*follow-up with him after listening to a few episodes
* Dan Thompson Presale systems engineer at SAS
  + Moved from more technical roles into business-focused responsibilities
  + Mostly financial work with some data science
    - Found that his background in data science allows him to work well between technical and non-technical teams/individuals
    - This is an advantage in his current position
  + Daily tasks mostly meeting with people, planning, brainstorming, and communicating, but some technical work in data storage and security, designing prototypes, planning solutions, app/web development/maintenence
  + Less specialized than earlier work but more use of interpersonal skills. Lots of opportunities for diverse work and professional growth
  + Did not find the transition into this position particularly challenging
    - Moving roles within the same company made this simpler
    - Works with a broader group of people than before
  + This sounds like a position I would not prefer.
* Melissa Overdorf Product manager at Accenture
  + No background in data before studying at UNC
    - Worked casually in product at a couple of local companies while in school
  + Began position a little less than a year ago after a job search of about 4 months
    - This gives me some hope for my own search although she believes that the market has gotten more difficult since and rarely sees open entry-level jobs
    - Less hands-on machine learning and analytics herself but enjoys working within the field
    - her team makeup is pretty gender balanced and has some other diversity. The company supports and values diversity, so she cannot say whether other data science/machine learning groups in the area would be as balanced as this one
  + Focused on product development
    - Coming up with solutions, working with customers, developing prototypes
    - Creative, fast-paced
    - Minimal coding but role is technical in prototyping sometimes
    - Not the kind of position I would most enjoy
    - Communication skills and empathy but more importantly creativity with and passion about developing solutions
    - No time to get bored