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Welcome to the twentieth issue of our *Department Newsletter*. I am very pleased to report that we have had a very busy but productive year (2016-2017). During Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, the department underwent the eight-year (2008-2016) program review. The department hired two assistant professors, one full professor, and one visiting assistant professor in Spring 2017. The department also hosted three national/international conferences consecutively in April, May, and June 2017. I would like to thank all faculty members, staff, and students for their great effort and hard work to complete so many tasks within the same year. The department continues to grow and blossom in all aspects.

Currently, we have 20 tenured and tenure-track faculty members, two visiting assistant professors, three lecturers, two adjunct faculty members, and eight joint faculty members from UCH, Computer science & Engineering, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Allied Health Science, Mathematics, and Nursing Instruction and Research, who have joint appointments with Statistics. In Fall 2017, we also have 117 graduate students enrolled in our graduate program, of whom 46 have received financial support, 143 Statistics major or double major undergraduate students, 83 Math-Stat major undergraduate students including 1 Math-Stat double major, and 103 Stat minor undergraduate students.

I would like to welcome Victor Hugo Lachos Davila to join the Department as a full Professor, who was a full professor at the Campinas State University, Brazil and a Visiting Professor at UConn last year, and Yuwen Gu and HaiYing Wang to join the Department as tenure-track Assistant Professors. I am also pleased to share that Panpan Zhang will continue to be with us as a Visiting Assistant Professor for another year, and Néhémy Lim has joined the Department as a Visiting Assistant Professor. It is great to have Yong Shang of Henan University of Economics and Law to visit us as a Visiting Research Professor and stay in Storrs until March 2018.

I would like to congratulate Professor Jun Yan on being elected to Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA). Congratulations also go to our Alumna Rongwei (Rochelle) Fu (Ph.D. 2003) on her election to Fellow of ASA. I would like to congratulate our colleagues, Professors Kun Chen, Zhiyi Chi, and Dipak K. Dey on recently receiving research grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and Travelers.
Ph.D. student Jing Wu was selected to receive one of the International Biometric Society Eastern North American Region’s (ENAR) Distinguished Student Paper Awards for the 2017 ENAR Spring Meeting (March 2017). Jing Wu also received the poster award at the 2017 Conference on Lifetime Data Analysis in May 2017. Ph.D. student Gregory Vaughan won the Student Paper Award Competition by the Mental Health Section of the ASA and presented his paper at 2017 JSM in Baltimore. Ph.D. students Wenjie Wang and Yeongjin Gwon each received the IBM Best Paper Award at the 31st New England Statistics Symposium held in April 2017. Ph.D. student Yang Liu won an ACTNext Travel Award to attend the 2017 International Meeting of the Psychometric Society in Zurich, Switzerland. Our undergraduate students, Francisco Tomas Cifuentes Villarroel, Sarah Cynthia Crothers, Jessica Hope Lerner, Samuel Schick, and Emily Elizabeth Stiles were elected to Phi Beta Kappa in March 2017. Congratulations to these students for their hard work and research and academic excellence!

The department eight-year (2008-2016) program review went really well. I would like share with you some highlights from our self-study report. During the period of 2008-2016, the department faculty members published 580 peer-reviewed articles in leading journals, 61 book chapters, and 28 proceeding articles. They edited 19 books or proceedings and produced 6 patents. Active extramural awards (2008-16) totaled $4,122,198 with our faculty as PI and $8,963,083 with our faculty as Co-PI. Active intramural awards totaled $550,414 with our faculty as PI or Co-PI. During this review period, our 17 regular faculty members, with 5 hired after 2012, delivered 233 invited talks in major national and international conferences, 222 colloquium talks, and 62 workshops/short courses. The department has been actively engaging in research collaborations and educational exchanges within the University, as well as across the world. Within the University, the department maintains strong ties with many other departments and units. Statistical Consulting Services (SCS) provides research support on an extensive scale to graduate students and faculty within the University. Internationally, the department signed four memoranda of agreements with universities in China and Brazil. The department has been welcoming a steady stream of visitors and students from universities around the world. I am very proud of our department accomplishments during the last eight years. Thanks to our faculty members, staff, and students for their contributions and great effort. I would also like to thank Professor Rick Vitale for chairing the Program Review committee and playing a critical role in writing such a very informative and comprehensive self-study report.

It was the first time in the department history that three national/international conferences were hosted by the department. The 31st New England Statistics Symposium (NESS) was held on April 21 and 22 and about 250 participants were in attendance. I would like to thank Professors Haim Bar, Kun Chen, Jun Yan (Chair) and Yuping Zhang for organizing this symposium. I would like to acknowledge Haim for taking over the chair role during Jun’s medical leave. The 2017 Conference on Lifetime Data Analysis was held at Storrs on May 25-27, 2017. Jun Yan and myself co-chaired the local organizing committee. This conference was sponsored by ASA LIDA-IG. The conference was a great success. There were approximately 340 registrants and 63 sessions organized with many excellent presentations over the course of the conference. QPRC 2017: the 34th Quality and Productivity Research Conference was held on the Storrs campus during June 13-15, 2017. About 200 participants attended this three day conference. Thanks to Professors Nalini Ravishanker and
Haim Bar for their exceptional organizing work towards making the conference a huge success. These symposium and conferences help improve the visibility of the department, as well as the University, since many participants visited the Storrs campus for the first time and they were impressed by how beautiful the campus was.

UConn Statistics Department Alumni and Friends Dinner was successfully held in Tokyo Seafood Buffet restaurant in Windsor Mill, MD on Monday, July 31, 2017, during the 2017 JSM. Over 20 guests attended the dinner. Several former students had not seen each other for many years after they graduated from UConn. I would like to thank our alumna, Lan Huang (PhD 2004) of FDA, for organizing this event. I would also like to thank our staff, Tracy Burke, and Andrew Kim of Alumni Relations, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for their help and support. Without them, it would be impossible for us to have such a successful event. I expect that we will host another Department Alumni and Friends Dinner during the 2018 JSM in Vancouver.

The UConn Health Center has continued to support our students both from joint research grants as well as from internship programs. We thank Professor Robert Aseltine, Interim Chair, Division of Behavioral Science and Community Health and Deputy Director, Center for Public Health and Health Policy, for his continuous sponsor of research collaborations with our faculty and graduate students. We also thank Professor James Grady, Director of Biostatistics, Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, for providing financial support and research opportunities for our graduate students. We are also enjoying close research collaboration with the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIPT). Our Statistical Consulting Services (SCS) is continuing with great success. Currently, SCS provides three types of full-consulting: project service, walk-in services, and online services. SCS hosted two workshops in Fall 2016 and three workshops in Spring 2017. In addition, the second SCS workshop day was held on Wednesday, May 10, 2017. I would like to thank Professor James Grady for participating in the SCS workshop day as a guest presenter for one of the three workshops. I would also like to thank our graduate students who worked at the SCS for their great effort and hard work. We are grateful for the financial support we have received for our SCS from the Office of Vice President for Research, and the Dean’s Offices of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. The Pfizer Global Research & Development Student Fellowship Program has been extended through Summer 2018. Our collaboration with the School of Nursing will also continue through Spring 2018. I would like to thank Pfizer and the School of Nursing for their continuous support of our graduate students.

Finally, I would like to share with you an exciting development. This year marks the 31st anniversary of the New England Statistics symposium. Ever since its launch at UConn in 1987 at the suggestion of Herman Chernoff, the symposium has been an intimate annual gathering of our large statistical family in the region. Through its course, it has greatly fostered the growth and unity of our community. To sustain such a success and build upon the lasting legacy of the symposium, the department initiated the founding of a new statistical society called the New England Statistical Society. The first interest group meeting was held on January 28, 2017 and 19 representatives from 13 universities or companies in New England and New Jersey participated in this historic event. Three task groups including Journal, Strategies and Development, and Education were formed. This
new society was incorporated as a non-profit organization on March 2, 2017 and received IRS Tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) status on March 28, 2017. The society website, www.nestat.org, was online on April 15, 2017. The new society was officially announced by the founding president, Xiao-Li Meng, of Harvard University in the afternoon of April 22, 2017 during the 31th New England Statistics Symposium at Storrs, CT. The office of this new society is located on the third floor of the Philip E. Austin building on UConn Storrs campus. I cordially invite all of our alumni to become permanent, lifetime members of the New England Statistical Society. You all are welcome back to Storrs to have a visit to the department and to meet our new faculty members and students. Thank you all for your continuous support!

*Ming-Hui Chen (ming-hui.chen@uconn.edu)*

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**From the Director of the Graduate Program**

Our department has three graduate programs: Ph.D. in Statistics, M.S. in Statistics, and Professional M.S. in Biostatistics. These programs provide excellent learning and research experiences to prepare students for a successful career in statistics. We offer a broad spectrum of modern courses in statistics and probability, covering advanced theories and methodologies, statistical computing, data management, consulting, and practical skills that are sought after in industry or health related fields. In advanced seminar courses, students are exposed to exciting areas of current research. Through our Statistical Consulting Services, students are engaged in research in many areas of science and technology, and provide support to the research community of the University of Connecticut. We have an extensive collaboration with faculty members in educational, medical, biological, health and environmental sciences, and our graduate students have the opportunity to be employed as research assistants on many of their funded research projects.

I am glad to announce that the first year of our new Professional M.S. program in Biostatistics was a great success. We have 37 students currently enrolled in the program. Established in Fall 2014,
the Professional M.S. program in Biostatistics focuses on practical skills that are sought after in health related fields. Like our M.S. program in Statistics and Ph.D. program, this program provides exciting opportunities to students.

During the past academic year, 47 new students were enrolled in our graduate programs, 9 of them with support in the form of teaching or research assistantship from the department or a variety of other sources. A total of 138 graduate students were enrolled, out of which 46 were supported. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from the Dean's Office of the College of Liberal Arts and Science (CLAS), Dean's Office of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CAHNR), Office of the Vice President for Research, and Pfizer, Inc.

Our graduate programs are highly competitive and visible around the world. This year over 561 students all over the world applied for admission to the programs. I would like to thank the members of the graduate admission committee, Professors Harel (Director of Graduate Admissions), Chen, Kuo, Ravishanker, Vitale, and Yan, for their hard work in reviewing the applications. Thanks are also due to our administrative staff, Megan Petsa and Tracy Burke, for their hard work throughout the application and admission processes. This Fall 2017 semester, we welcomed 47 new students, 17 in the M.S. program in Statistics, 12 in the Professional M.S. program in Biostatistics, and 18 in the Ph.D. program, with 9 of the new Ph.D. students supported by the department.

An updated graduate brochure, providing information about the department, our graduate programs and application forms along with instructions, is available on the department website: www.stat.uconn.edu.

Zhiyi Chi (zhiyi.chi@uconn.edu)
Let me start by congratulating all of our recent graduates for obtaining their Bachelor’s degrees and wishing them success in all of their future endeavors!

The Undergraduate Program continues to grow and flourish. As of Fall 2017, there are nearly 225 majors in Statistics and Mathematics-Statistics. Of these, 15 are double majors. There are also over 100 students who plan to minor in Statistics. An individualized major in Data Science has just been approved. We expect this to soon become a popular major.

All our course offerings remain in high demand with near-full enrollment. In Spring 2018, we will offer a course on Data Science (STAT 4185) and a course on GLM (STAT 4188). Our summer session offerings (STAT 2215 and STAT 3025) also continue to attract many undergraduate students. Our graduates continue to achieve success in their academic careers, many being accepted to some of the country’s leading graduate programs for statistics. We also continue to connect students with undergraduate research opportunities, internships, and other resources. Our participation in the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) Program, which allows interaction between UConn and high schools across the state, also continues. By creating even more resources for potential and current statistics majors, we have kept very busy, and we expect to achieve continued growth for the program in the coming years.

Please visit the department website at www.stat.uconn.edu for the undergraduate brochure, information about our undergraduate program, and information for prospective majors and minors.

Let me conclude by thanking Elizabeth Schifano, Faculty Academic Advisor, for sharing the undergraduate advising this past year and Lynn Kuo for holding the fort during my sabbatical leave in Spring 2017. Alyssa O’Keefe from the CLAS Academic Services Center started advising freshmen and sophomores starting Fall 2017. I also thank all the faculty who have been active in mentoring our majors for UG Research through STAT 4389; the students have truly appreciated this.

Nalini Ravishanker (nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu)
Haim Bar gave the talk, “A Scalable Empirical Bayes Approach to Variable Selection in Generalized Linear Models” at the 24th Quality and Productivity Research Conference, Storrs, CT June 2017 • the 10th ICSA International Conference, Shanghai, China, December 2016 • Temple University, Research Colloquium, Department of Statistical Science, April 2017 • Baruch College, CUNY, Colloquium, Department of Information Systems and Statistics Zicklin School of Business, November 2016.

Grants

PI, NSF Award #1612625. Variable Selection in the High Dimensional, Low Sample Size Setting Beyond the Linear Regression and Normal Errors Model • Co-PI, Travelers. Modeling and analysis of large insurance claim and occurrence data: A partnership between UConn and Travelers.

Outreach

Haim Bar is a co-chair of the organizing committee of the 31st New England Statistics Symposium, Storrs, CT, April 2017 • Co-chair of the organizing committee of the 24th Quality and Productivity Research Conference, Storrs, CT, June 2017.

Selected Publications


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**Kun Chen**

Assistant Professor

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**Editorial Boards**

Associate Editor of *Sankhya*, the Indian Journal of Statistics, January 2016 - Present

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**Selected Invited Talks**

Kun Chen was invited to give invited talks at the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA in October 2016 • AMIA 2016 Annual Symposium, Chicago, IL in November 2016 • The 31st New England Statistics Symposium, Storrs, CT in April 2017 • IMS/ASA Spring Research Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ in May 2017 • Modern Modeling Methods Conference, Storrs, CT in May 2017 • 2017 ICSA Applied Statistical Symposium, Chicago, IL in June 2017.

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**Grants**


Selected Publications


Ming-Hui Chen
Department Head

Editorial Boards

Editor of *Bayesian Analysis* • Editor of *Statistics and Its Interface* • Associate Editor of *Journal of the American Statistical Association* • Associate Editor of *Lifetime Data Analysis* • Associate Editor of *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*

Ming-Hui Chen is a Co-PI of NIH R01 grant on “Bayesian Approaches to Model Selection for Survival Data” for 2016-2021; NIH P01 grant on “Statistical Methods for Cancer Clinical Trials” for 2015-2020; NIH R01NR grant on “Multi-Omics Analysis of Pain/Stress Impact on Neurodevelopment in Preterm Infants” for 2017-2021; and NIH R01 grant on “Metabolomics Tools for Biomedicine” for 2015-2019. He is a Co-PI on an NSF grant on “Estimating the Bayesian Phylogenetic Information Content of Systematic Data” for 2014-2018 and an American Cancer Society grant on “Activatable Nanoparticles for Radiotherapy of Metastatic Ovarian Cancer” for 2015-2019. He is a Co-PI (PI: George Bollas) of the UConn Provost Academic Plan grant
Ming-Hui Chen was a reviewer of the grant proposals of the Research Grant Council (RGC) of Hong Kong (2013 – 2017). • Served as the Co-Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, the 10th ICSA International Conference, Shanghai, China, December, 19-22, 2016 and the Co-Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, the LiDA Conference on Data Science, Precision Medicine and Risk Analysis with Lifetime Data, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, May 24-27, 2017. • President Elect Appointee to serve on the Committee on Nominations, American Statistical Association for 2016-2017. • Serves as a member of the International Advisory Committee for the discipline of statistics of Shanghai Jiaotong University, 2013 -- present. • Chair-Elect of the Eastern Asia Chapter of International Society for Bayesian Analysis for 2017-2018 and President-Elect of the New England Statistical Society for June 1, 2017 - May 31, 2020.

**Selected Publications**


### Published Books


### Zhiyi Chi

**Professor,**  
**Associate Head,**  
**Director of Graduate Program**

### Editorial Boards

Associate Editor for *Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry.*

### Selected Invited Talks

Zhiyi Chi gave an invited talk at the 2016 International Workshop on Applied Probability, Toronto, Canada.
Outreach

Member of the Scientific Program Committee and Session Organizer for the 8th International Workshop in Applied Probability – IWAP 2016, Toronto, Canada, June 20-23, 2016.

Selected Publications


Dipak Dey

Distinguished Professor

Editorial Boards


Grants

Modeling and Analysis of Large Insurance Claim and Occurrence Data: A Partnership Between UConn and Travelers. Training grant for Travelers Companies, partially supporting four Ph.D. students as research assistants and five faculty members within the Department of Statistics.
Outreach

Member, Core Research Group of the Center for Health Communication and Marketing • Member, Advisory Committee of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE) • Member, Institute for Collaboration on Health Intervention and Policy (In CHIP) • Fellow, Institute for Public Health Research • Member of the Hong Kong Research Grant Council and UAE.

Selected Invited Talks

Presented invited talks at Social Decision Analysis Laboratory, Virginia Tech at Arlington, VA, May 2016 • International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics conference, Barcelona, Spain, June 2016 • International Society for Bayesian Analysis World Congress, Cagliary, Sardinia, Italy, June 2016 • Department of Mathematics, University of Nottingham, England, September 2016 • Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Southampton, England, September 2016 • Department of Mathematics, University of Glasgow, Scotland, September 2016 • Department of Economics, Heriot Watt University, Scotland, September 2016 • Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Southampton, October 2016 • Department of Statistics, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, November 2016 • Invited presentation at the workshop for Sankhya at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, December 2016 • Invited Speaker, The First Eastern Asia Meeting on Bayesian Statistics, Shanghai, China, December 2016. • Invited Speaker, The 10th ICSA international conference, Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China, December 2016 • Invited Speaker at the conference on Quantitative Methods for Public Health Researchers in SAARC Countries, sponsored by International Statistical Institute and World Bank, Kolkata, December 2016 • Applied Statistics Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, India, January 2017 • Indian Institute of Management, Analytics group, Calcutta, India, January 2017 • Invited Speaker, ENAR meeting, Washington, D.C., March 2017 • Invited Speaker, 2017 Conference on Lifetime Data Science: Data Science, Precision Medicine and Risk Analysis with Lifetime Data, Storrs, CT, May 2017 • Invited Speaker, QPRC 2017: The 34th Quality and Productivity Research Conference Quality and Statistics: A Path to Better Life, Storrs, CT, June 2017 • Keynote Speaker, 2nd International Society of Bayesian Analysis- East Asia Chapter conference, North East Normal University, Changchun, China, July 2017.

Selected Publications


**Published Books**


**Editorial Boards**

Editor-in-Chief of *Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability* • Associate Editor of *Sequential Analysis* • Contracted to edit, jointly with Professor Markos Koutras, University of Piraeus, Greece, a two-volume *Handbook on Scan Statistics*, to be published by Springer.

**Selected Invited Talks**

Outreach

Member of the Board of International Workshops in Applied Probability (IWAP). IWAP 2016 was held on June 20-23, 2016 in Toronto, Canada. IWAP 2018 will take place June 18-21, 2018 at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary • Member of the Scientific Program Committee of the International Symposia on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis – ASMDA. ASMDA 2017 was held in London, UK in June 2017 • Member of the oversight committee for an undergraduate minor in bioinformatics • Affiliated faculty with Booth Engineering Center for Advanced Technology (BECATS).

Selected Publications


Published Books


Presented invited talks at the New Researchers Conference, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2017 • The New England Statistics Symposium, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, 2017

Yuwen Gu
Assistant Professor

Selected Invited Talks

Selected Publications


Yuwen Gu
Assistant Professor

Ofer Harel
Professor

Editorial Boards

Associate Editor for *Statistics in Medicine* and *Sankhya*, the Indian Journal of Statistics, Series B • On the Editorial Board of *The Open Medical Informatics Journal* and *AIDS and Behavior*. 
**Selected Invited Talks**

Presented invited talks at the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM), Baltimore, MD, August 2017 • The 21st IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, San Francisco, CA, July 2017 • Statistics seminar Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel, June 2017 • Department of Statistics at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel, June 2017 • Department of Biostatistics, UCLA, Los Angeles CA, April 2017 • the Eastern North American Region (ENAR) of the International Biometric Society (IBS), Washington, DC, March 2017 • Division of Biostatistics, College of Public Health, The Ohio State University (December, 2016)

**Grants**

Subcontract PI on “Enhancing the Capacity of School Nurses to Reduce Excessive Anxiety in Children” supported by Department of Education (IES) • Co-PI on “Single Cell Lineage Map (SCLM)” supported by the University of Connecticut • Subcontract PI on “State Innovation Model/Round Two of Funding for Design and Test Assistance,” supported by Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services via grant awarded to the State of Connecticut Office of Healthcare advocate • Ofer also has several sub-contracts from UCHC to fund a number of graduate students.

**Outreach**

Elected to co-chair the International Conference for Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS), 2020 • Elected to teach five short courses related to missing data as part of the Council of Chapters traveling courses series • Expert reviewer, Yale Pepper Center, Yale Medical School • Member, Biostatistical Methods and Research Design (BMRD) Study Section, Center For Scientific Review, National Institute of Health • Member, Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for NCCIH grant “Mobile mindfulness to improve psychological distress after critical illness” • Member, Special Emphasis Panel - Artificial Gravity Bed Rest - AGBRESA Sensorimotor, NASA/ESA • Member, Special Emphasis Panel - Musculoskeletal Alterations, NASA HERO Musculoskeletal Panel; Member, Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for NIDA grant “Behavioral intervention to enhance HIV test/treat” • Member of the Program Committee for the 2017 meeting of the Eastern North American Region (ENAR) of the International Biometric Society (IBS) meeting • Member of the scientific organizing committee for the International Conference for Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS), 2018 • Mentor, Diversity Mentoring Program, Joint Statistical Meeting, Baltimore, MD • Mentor, Math Alliance.

**Selected Publications**


Immune Deficiency Syndromes, 72(4), 462-464.


Published Books


Lynn Kuo
Professor

Editorial Boards

Lynn Kuo is an Editor for Advances in Statistics.

Selected Invited Talks


Grants

Lynn is a biostatistician for the grant “Disparities in Breast Cancer: Is Elevated Serum sLag-3 Predictor of More Aggressive Disease in African-American Women with Breast Cancer?” with Henry Smilowitz (PI)

Outreach

Member of the CDC Special Emphasis Panel ZDP1 KVA (01) of National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion to review RFA-DP-15-0020301SUPP17: Supplement to Enhance Laboratory and Statistical Support of the Population Registry of Diabetes in Youth, 2017 • Served at the student paper award review committee for the 31st New England Statistics Symposium, 2017 • Served at the Program Committee for the 2017 Conference on Lifetime Data Science and organized two invited sessions on survival analysis • Organized an invited paper session, “Novel Approaches to Genomics and Computational Molecular Evolution,” for the 10th International Chinese Statistical Association International Conference: Shanghai, 2016 • Treasurer of the New England Statistical Society, Inc. • Faculty advisor for the UConn Taiwanese Student Association.

Selected Publications


Published Books

Associate Editor of Sankhya, the Indian Journal of Statistics, January 2016 - Present

Keynote Speaker and short-course at 12th Congreso Latinoamericano de las Sociedades de Estadística, Chiclayo, Peru, October 2016 • Colloquium talk at Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, January 2017 • Invited Speaker at Modern Modeling Methods Conference, Storrs, CT in May 2017 • Invited Speaker at 2017 Conference on Lifetime Data Science: Data Science, Precision Medicine and Risk Analysis with Lifetime Data, Storrs, CT, May 2017 • Invited Speaker at 1st International Conference on Econometrics and Statistics, Hong Kong, June 2017 • Talk at Department of Statistics, Feng Chia University, Taichung, Taiwan, June 2017 • Talk at Department of Statistics National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan, June 2017.

Selected Invited Talks

Member of the scientific committee of the Model-Based Clustering and Classification (MBC2), Catania, Italy, September 2016 • Chair of the scientific committee of the 15th Brazilian School of Regression Models (EMR 15), Goiania, Brazil, March 2017 • Member of the scientific committee of the 14th Brazilian Meeting of Bayesian Statistics (EBEB-2018). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 2018 • Member of the scientific committee of the 4th Workshop in Survival Analysis and Applications (WASA-2017). Bahia, Brazil, March 2018.

Selected Publications


Nitis Mukhopadhyay is the Editor-in-Chief of *Sequential Analysis* (since 2004) • Co-Editor (jointly with Carlos A. Coelho and Thomas Mathew) for a special issue of the *Journal of Statistical Theory and Practice* (JSTP) in honor of the 70th birthday of both Professors Bimal K. Sinha and Bikas K. Sinha • Member of the Advisory Board for SLJAS • Member, Advisory Editorial Board, *Sri Lankan Journal of Applied Statistics* • Associate Editor of *Communication in Statistics—Theory & Methods*, *Communication in Statistics—Simulation and Computation*, and *Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin*.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay gave the invited plenary lecture, “Sufficiency-Ancillarity-Information: Inferences on “Nile”-type Examples and a Common Mean” at the Probability & Statistics Day 2016: A Celebration of Bimal Sinha’s 70th Birthday hosted by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, May 2016 • An invited paper in a session organized by Professor S. Zacks at the 8th International Workshop in Applied Probability held in Toronto, Canada, June 2016 • A full length colloquium on “Walking on a Thin Bridge Linking Teaching-Research-Teaching Excites and Rewards Me” in the UConn Department of Statistics, November 2016 • A plenary lecture on “Non-sequential and Sequential Binomial Sampling with Applications” at the 3rd African International Conference, University of Limpopo, South Africa, March 2017 • An invited paper on “Sequential Binomial Sampling with Applications” at the QPRC in the session on Sequential Methods in Quality Control (organized by Michael Baron), June 2017 • A plenary
lecture on “Recent Trends” in Sequential Estimation” at the 6th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies, University of Rouen, Rouen, France, June 2017.

Grants

Nitis Mukhopadhyay received travel grants from UCRF-AAUP and Taylor & Francis Group (publisher of Sequential Analysis) to partially fund his travel to present invited talks.

Outreach

Vice-President, Calcutta Statistical Association and a Member of the Council, Calcutta Statistical Association (2010-present) • Member of the International Program Committee for the 8th International Workshop in Applied Probability at Toronto, Canada held in June, 2016. Organizer and Chair for four invited paper sessions • Volunteered to be mentor at the Joint Statistical Meeting in Chicago, August 2016 • Co-chair for the 6th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies at the University of Rouen, Rouen, France, June 2017 • Member of the International Program Committee for the 9th International Workshop in Applied Probability to be held in Budapest, Hungary, June 2018.

Selected Publications


Published Books


Vladimir Pozdnyakov is an Associate Editor of *Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications*.

Vladimir Pozdnyakov gave the following invited talks this year: “Discretely Observed Brownian Motion Governed by a Telegraph Process: Estimation,” at the 8th International Workshop on Applied Probability, June 2016, Toronto, Canada and at the 34th Quality and Productivity Research Conference, June 2017, Storrs, CT.

Member of the Scientific Program Committee and Session Organizer for the 8th International Workshop in Applied Probability – IWAP 2016, Toronto, Canada, June 20-23, 2016.

**Selected Publications**


Nalini Ravishankar
Professor

Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *International Statistical Review*, January 2016 - Present • Associate Editor of the *Journal of Forecasting*

Presented “Dynamic Models for Multivariate Time Series of Counts” at Rice University (February 2017), UC Riverside (April 2017), the Spring Research Conference at Rutgers University (May 2017), and the International Society of Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS) at IBM Watson Research, Yorktown Heights (June 2017). She presented “Modeling Inter-event Financial Durations using Martinglae Estimating Functions” at Virginia Tech (April 2017) and “Dynamic and Static Statistical Approaches for Transportation Data” at the Federal HighWay Administration (FHWA, May 2017). “Fast approximate Bayesian analysis of multivariate count time series with a marketing application” was presented at JSM 2016 in Chicago, IL (August 2016), and “Dynamic Modeling of Transportation Data” was presented at SAMSI Summer Program on Transportation Statistics in Durham, NC (August 2017).
Grants

Co-P.I. with John Ivan (Civil and Environmental Engineering), and Rebecca Townsend, (Manchester Community College) on a Year 25 New England University Transportation Center Grant, Social Network Effects on Attitudes about Pedestrian Street Crossing Behavior, 2015 -2017. She also received a grant from NSF for student support at the Quality and Productivity Research Conference 2017 (www.qprc2017.org).

Outreach

President of the International Society of Business and Industrial Statistics (2017-2019). She is the Vice President for Education of the New England Statistical Society. She continues to serve as the statistics faculty coordinator for the UConn Early College Experience Program (www.ece.uconn.edu).

Selected Publications


Published Books


Elizabeth Schifano presented invited talks at the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, November 2016, the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) International Conference, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China, December 2016, and the International Society of Business and Industrial Statistics Conference, Yorktown Heights, NY, June 2017. She was also an invited speaker at the Department of Statistics, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, September 2016.

Elizabeth Schifano is currently a co-investigator on a grant funded by Travelers Insurance entitled “Modeling and Analysis of Large Insurance Claim and Occurrence Data: A partnership between UConn and Travelers Insurance” with PI Dipak Dey (2017-2018). She is also a co-investigator in an American Heart Association study with PI Beth Taylor, entitled “Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) to Diagnose Statin Myopathy” (2017-2019). With co-PIs Kun Chen and Jun Yan, Elizabeth was also awarded a grant funded by the University of Connecticut entitled “Data Science Lab: Real World Data Science Problems Meet Future Data Scientists” (2017-2018).

Elizabeth Schifano is an elected member of the Applied Public Health Statistics Section Council of the American Public Health Association (APHA).


Richard Vitale is on the Editorial Board of Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability.


HaiYing Wang gave the invited talk “Informative Subdata Selection for Big Data Regression” at the ICSA-Canada Chapter 2017 Symposium, Vancouver, BC, Canada, August 2017 and the China National Institute of Standardization, Beijing, China, June 2017. He gave the invited talk “Information Based Optimal Subdata Selection for Big Data Linear Regression” at the ICSA China Conference: Focus on Lifetime Data Science, Jilin, China, July 2017; the IMS-China International Conference on Statistics and Probability, Nanning, China, June/July 2017; the Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, Beijing, China, June 2017; and Capital Normal University, Beijing, China, June 2017.

Principal investigator of Simons Foundation Collaboration Grant (09/01/2017-08/31/2022).

Taught a short course entitled, “Statistical Inference for Big Data,” at Qingdao University, Qingdao, China, June 2017.


PI on a research grant from Sanofi-Aventis, U.S., for “Development of Statistical Methodology for Identifying Respondent Subgroups Using Biomarker Signature” from 05/23/2016 to 08/22/2017 • Serves as a Co-PI on a research training grant from The Travelers Companies for “Modeling and Analysis of Large Insurance Claim and Occurrence Data: A Partnership Between UConn and Travelers.”

Member of the Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment for American Statistical Association from 2016 to 2018 • Organizing Committee of 34th Quality and Productivity Research Conference, June 2017 • Invited Session Organizer for International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics 2017 Meeting, June 2017.


Jun Yan is an Associate Editor of *Ecological and Environmental Statistics*.

### Selected Invited Talks

Balancing the Bias-Variance Tradeoff in Extreme Value Modeling with Application to Return Level Mapping, 08/31/2017, Center for Mathematical Research, University of Montreal • Stagewise Generalized Estimating Equations with Grouped Variables, 03/02/2017, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Boston University • Online Updating Method with New Variables for Big Data Streams, 10/12/2016, Department of Statistics and Biostatistics, Rutgers University.

### Grants


### Outreach

Editor of LIDA-IG Newsletter, the newsletter of the Lifetime Data Analysis Interest Group of the American Statistical Association • Chair of the organizing committee of the 31st New England Statistics Symposium • Co-Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, the LIDA Conference on Data Science, Precision Medicine and Risk Analysis with Lifetime Data, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, May 24-27, 2017.


**Published Books**


Yuping Zhang

Assistant Professor

**Editorial Boards**

Yuping Zhang is a member of the editorial board of *Frontiers in Bioinformatics* and *Computational Biology*.

**Selected Invited Talks**

Grants

University of Connecticut Research Excellence Program Award (PI) • University of Connecticut Scholarship Facilitation Fund (PI).

Outreach

Grant panelist for Alzheimer’s Association Research Grant Program, 2017 • IBM Best Paper Award and Liberty Mutual Best Poster Award Committee Chair, the 31st New England Statistics Symposium, 2017 • Young Researcher Award Committee, The 10th International Chinese Statistical Association International Conference on Global Growth of Modern Statistics in the 21st Century, 2016.

Selected Publications


The Statistical Consulting Services (SCS) had another busy and productive year. In the fall 2016, the SCS team consisted of Abhishek Bishoyi, Sarah Crothers, Ved Deshpande, Yeongjin Gwon, Yujing Jiang, Hao Li, M. Henry Linder, Paul McLaughlin, Aditya Mishra, Chen Zhang, and Fan Zhang. In spring 2017, Gregory Vaughan and Yan Zhang joined the team in addition to those who had worked in the SCS while Yujing Jiang left the SCS for the other assignment. During the academic year, the SCS was jointly funded by Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), Dean’s Offices of CLAS and CAHNR, School of Pharmacy, and Department of Statistics. In spring 2017, one full consulting project (1 full GA, 20 hours per week) was supported by UConn Facilities Operations & Building Services. This project has also been extended to the fall 2017 semester with the same amount financial support from UConn Facilities Operations & Building Services. With the support from the Department of Statistics, SCS offered full-consulting project and walk-in services in June, July, and August 2017. Wei Shi and Yan Zhang were the two graduate assistants who provided statistical consulting services in the summer. Sarah had been working in the SCS in the summer as well. In addition, a full consulting project (1 full GA, 20 hours per week) was supported by Mott Corporation.

In fall 2016, SCS provided three types of full-consulting project service, walk-in services, and online services. Walk-in services with 17 and 16.5 walk-in hours per week in fall 2016 and spring 2017, respectively, were held in AUST 340. Two graduate assistants were assigned to provide online services. In the fall 2016, we had 10 full-consulting projects and provided our walk-in consulting services to 32 clients and online services to 15 clients. In spring 2017, the SCS provided services to 26 clients for full-consulting projects, 73 clients for walk-in services, and 19 clients for online services. In summer 2017, SCS provided services to 3 clients for full-consulting projects and 33 clients for walk-in services.

SCS hosted a second round of workshops in the fall semester of 2016. The first workshop section was a two-hour session held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 and it covered introductory material to power analysis and sample size calculation. The second workshop section was a two-hour session held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 and it covered survey design.

- Where: Austin (AUST) 105
- Session 1: Power Analysis and Sample Size Calculation: 3:30pm-5:30pm, Wednesday, October 26, 2016
- Session 2: Survey Design: 3:30pm-5:30pm, Wednesday, November 16, 2016
- Who: Any UConn or UCHC faculty, students, or affiliated persons are welcome to attend.
In the spring semester 2017, SCS offered a series of 3 workshop sections entitled “Introduction to R”, “Introduction to R graphics with ggplot2”, and “Basic Statistical Analysis in R”, which were held on April 12, 19, and 26, 2017 respectively. About 30 participants attended each workshop section. Paul McLaughlin, Ved Deshpande, and Fan Zhang prepared and presented these three workshop sections, respectively.

On May 10, 2017, SCS launched the second annual workshop with a series of three sessions that cover model selection and dimension reduction in high-dimensional data, statistics for collaborative research grants, and repeated measure analysis. The first and last session provide an overview of each topic and a hands on, live demonstration of actual case studies and the second session is on how to develop a comprehensive Statistical considerations section for an external National Institute of Health (NIH) R01 research grant when collaborating with statisticians.

Session 2 Presenter on May 10

- Location: Laurel Hall 201
- Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2017
- Sessions:
  1. Model Selection and Dimension Reduction: Dealing with High-Dimensional Analysis
  2. Statistics for Collaborative Research Grants-Strategies for Power Analysis and Statistical Plans
  3. An Overview of Repeated Measure Analysis

Lunch was provided to all participants in the Union Street Market (USM). All participants picked up lunch cards during registration on May 10th. About 70 participants attended this workshop. Our PhD student Gregory Vaughan presented the first session, and Dr. James Grady, Director of the Biostatistics Center for the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) at the University of Connecticut and Professor in the School of Medicine, delivered the second session. The third session was co-presented by our own PhD students, Chen Zhang and Yeongjin Gown. Yeongjin was also the overall coordinator of the second SCS annual workshop.
November 2008, the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut and the Global Research & Development of Pfizer Inc. signed a joint agreement for the extension of the Fellowship program. Miaomiao Ge became the second Student Fellow under this agreement. This agreement was extended several times. Ms. Ge was the Student Fellow until August 2011. In fall 2011 to fall 2014, Ouyang Guang was the third Pfizer Student Fellow. Jing Wu became the fourth Pfizer Student Fellow in spring 2015. Ms. Wu worked as a student fellow at Pfizer in the 2015-2016 academic year and continues to work in the summer and fall of 2016 as well. Daoyuan Shi was the student fellow at Pfizer in spring and summer 2017. Pfizer has extended this fellowship program to 2017-2018 for the academic year as well as the summer. Lijiang Geng is the student fellow at Pfizer in fall 2017.

Collaboration with School of Nursing (Fall 2007-Spring 2018)

From fall 2007 to spring 2011, the School of Nursing hired Ms. Miaomiao Ge, a Ph.D. student of the Department of Statistics, as a half-time student assistant under supervision of Professor Ming-Hui Chen. In August 2011, the School of Nursing hired Ms. Danjie Zhang as Miaomiao Ge’s replacement. Ms. Zhang worked at the School of Nursing 10 hours each week as a half-time graduate assistant in 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 academic years. In the 2014-2015 academic, Ms. Jing Wu replaced Ms. Danjie Zhang. Ms. Wu worked at the School of Nursing in the 2015-2017 academic years. The School of Nursing has extended a half RA support for the 2017-2018 academic year. Ms. Hao Li is the current graduate assistant, who spends 10 hours per week in the School of Nursing.
By Dipak Dey

Brief bio:
Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (born June 29, 1893, in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India —died June 28, 1972, Calcutta), was instrumental in formulating India’s strategy for industrialization in the Second Five-Year Plan (1956–61).

Born to an academically oriented family, Mahalanobis pursued his early education in Calcutta. After graduating with honors in Physics from Presidency College, Calcutta, in 1912, he moved to England to study physics and mathematics at the University of Cambridge. Just before Mahalanobis left the university in 1915, he was introduced to statistics by one of his teacher. When he returned to India, he accepted a temporary position teaching physics at Presidency College (now Presidency University), and he became a professor of physics there in 1922. However, his interest in statistics had evolved into a serious academic pursuit, and he applied statistical methods to problems in anthropology, biology and meteorology. On December 17, 1931, he established the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Calcutta.

As a Statistician, Mahalanobis is most known for the development of a measure of comparison between two data sets which is known as the Mahalanobis distance. He also introduced innovative techniques for conducting large-scale sample surveys and calculated acreages and crop yields by using the method of interpenetrating sub sampling. He devised a statistical method called fractile graphical analysis, which could be used to compare the socioeconomic conditions of different groups of people. He also applied statistics to economic planning for flood control. With the objective of providing socioeconomic statistics, Mahalanobis established the National Sample Survey Organization in 1950 and also set up the Central Statistical Organization to coordinate statistical activities in India. He was also a member of the Planning Commission of India from 1955 to 1967. The Planning Commission’s Second Five-Year Plan encouraged the development of heavy industry in India and relied on Mahalanobis’s mathematical description of the Indian economy, which later became known as the Mahalanobis model.

Mahalanobis held several national and international portfolios. He served as the chairman of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Sampling from 1947 to 1951 and was appointed the honorary statistical adviser to the government of India in 1949. For his pioneering work, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, one of India’s highest honors, by the Indian government in 1968.
My days at ISI:
At the young age of 17 when I joined ISI, some elements of the fabric of ISI looked bizarre to me. Soon after I joined with bunch of my fellow students, we were told that we had one of the largest library in Asia with many books and journals in Mathematics, Statistics, Economics and many other subjects. We were also told that there was a computer center with main frame computing (Honeywell 480). Perhaps that was the first computer in India for civilians’ use. Soon after I realized that, ISI had three types of people, students like us, Professor Mahalanobis (he used to be known as simply the Professor) and rest of the people were all workers. Surprisingly, we students also found that there were only around 150 students combining B. Stat. and M. Stat. and approximately 400 professors and research scholars in ISI. Also besides Statistics, there were various units, e.g., Anthropometry, Biometry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, Geological Science, Human Genetics, Plant science, Physics, Psychometry, Sociology, Zoology and so on.

The whole affair seemed to me like a small town that was attempting to be self-sufficient and self-reliant, which seemed to be quite odd to us students. Why on earth should there be so many units and we had to take so many courses outside statistics? Of course that became clear when I was in B. Stat 4th year and I had a course called “Application of Statistics to Sciences”.

Is Statistics a branch of Probability?
In one of the fine winter morning in 1971, suddenly Professor came to our Statistical methods class. He gave a nice presentation on applications of Statistics with lots of examples followed by a lecture on probability. Then the question came, Is Statistics a branch of Probability? We were told to write our answers on a piece of paper, which were collected by Professor at the end of class. We found that was a small survey and realized much latter the value of that question. Actually it was a kind of tricky question. In my perspective, Statistics is primarily a branch of applied mathematics, which tries to make sense of data in the real world whereas, Probability is primarily a theoretical branch of mathematics, which studies the consequences of events. Both subjects are important, relevant, and useful. But they are different, and understanding the distinction is crucial in properly interpreting the relevance of analytical evidence.

Statistics as a Key Technology:
At the 125th American Statistical Association Meeting, Mahalanobis gave a speech entitled, “Statistics as a key technology”, which was echoed at the 1971 convocation in ISI, Kolkata. In his speech, Mahalanobis highlighted the need of reliable statistics is as great or even greater today for the rapid economic growth of all the countries. In his talk, he emphasized the strong need of applications of mathematical statistics and probability to real world problems. Mahalanobis mentioned, “Science can advance only through a careful accumulation of facts and observations and critical study of their inter-relations which have their foundation in nature itself and which cannot be changed or upset by any human authority however high”. This lecture motivated many of us in the era of development of statistical sciences through cross disciplinary and interdisciplinary research.
**ISI and Sankhya:**
Perhaps the two most important contributions by Mahalanobis, other than his scientific papers, were setting up the ISI and the founding of the journal *Sankhya*. The ISI began life in around 1920 as an unofficial group working on statistical problems in Presidency College. It soon acquired the name of the Statistical Laboratory and was located in Mahalanobis’s room in the Physics Department. It was formally registered on 28 April 1932 as a non-profit distributing learned society under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. Basically through the 1920s and up to 1931 almost all statistical work done in India was by Mahalanobis. However, after setting up the ISI, as Director and Secretary on 17th December, 1931, he started building up the Institute with new appointments. For example, in December 1932 Mahalanobis offered R C Bose a part-time post at the Indian Statistical Institute and S N Roy who had been appointed to a part-time post a few months after Bose. Today, ISI has centers in Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and the north east center at Tezpur and experimental stations at Giridih, Jharkhand. They all operate at different educational and research levels.

The other major achievement of Mahalanobis was the founding of the statistics journal *Sankhya* in 1933 as a publication of the Indian Statistical Institute. I quote from Mahalanobis’s own words, “Those of us who are actively engaged in starting this journal are doing so because of our interest in statistics and our belief that a journal devoted to statistics will be useful in India. ... The spirit and outlook of 'Sankhya' will be universal, but its form and content must necessarily be, to some extent, regional. We shall keep the special needs of India in view without, however, restricting the scope of the journal in any way. We shall naturally devote closer attention to the collection and analysis of data relating to India, but we shall try to study all Indian questions in relation to world problems. A research journal serves that narrow borderland which separates the known from the unknown, and it is not always possible to see clearly the lines of future developments. We shall, therefore, invite papers of all kinds appraising them only on the basis of observational accuracy and logical reasoning.....”

**Mahalanobis’ in today’s big data era:**
Digital data are increasingly changing the shape of our world. In an era with a plethora of cheap, vast data in which buzzwords such as Big Data, data analytics, and data mining have been integrated into the common vernacular, it is worth to be noted that Mahalanobis distance is still of paramount important in various statistical problems, e.g., sparse reduced rank multivariate regression, high dimensional factor analysis model, clustering and classification. Functional Mahalanobis distance is being used for outlier detection, influential diagnostics etc.

In recent years, Mahalanobis distance being heavily used in computer vision. A common usage in computer vision systems is for comparing feature vectors whose elements are quantities having different ranges and amounts of variation, such as a 2-vector recording the properties of area and perimeter. Also learning for large margin nearest neighbor classification and learning a Mahalanobis distance based dynamic time warping measure for multivariate time series classification are one of current interest. Application of Mahalanobis distance metric for data clustering and classification in pattern recognition and in machine learning are being used
extensively. Financial Applications of the Mahalanobis distance are also playing major role in portfolio analysis.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of conveying to the readers that Mahalanobis’s work will remain immortal to our and next generation of statistical scientists. His influence on interdisciplinary research will exist forever.

**Two Announcements:**
The Indian Statistical Institute is commemorating his 125th Birth Anniversary in 2017-18.

On this occasion, a conference in Statistics and Probability is being organized at the Kolkata campus of the Institute, to be held on January 2-4, 2018. We hope you will consider joining us in these celebrations and participate in this conference. For more information, visit: [http://www.isid.ac.in/~pcm125spconf/](http://www.isid.ac.in/~pcm125spconf/).

*Sankhya* is bringing out two special issues (Series A and Series B) celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of PCM. For more information, please visit: [http://www.springer.com/statistics/journal/13171](http://www.springer.com/statistics/journal/13171) and [http://sankhya.isical.ac.in/index.html](http://sankhya.isical.ac.in/index.html).

*Dipak K. Dey, University of Connecticut & Editor-in-Chief, Sankhya*

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**An Update from the New England Statistical Society**

By Kun Chen, NESS Secretary

As we are enjoying the most beautiful season in New England, there are exciting developments happening in our young society. The society council is formed by 15 society council members from 14 different institutions/companies over the New England area and the neighboring states ([https://nestat.org/about/council/](https://nestat.org/about/council/)). Five Vice-Presidents have been appointed to lead the developments and operations of NESS in different areas, including Strategies & Development (Joseph Cappelleri, Pfizer), Young Group (Jessi Cisewski, Yale), Education (Nalini Ravishanker, UConn), Scientific Program (Nicholas Reich, UMass), and Journal & Publication (Min-ge Xie, Rutgers); see details at [https://nestat.org/about/structure/](https://nestat.org/about/structure/). More and more enthusiastic members are getting involved in the committees organized by the five VPs.
We envision NESS to be an engine to mobilize the abundant pedagogical and research resources in the New England area and beyond, and in doing so, to promote and sustain the growth and expansion of statistical science as one of the two fundamental pillars of Data Science (the other being computer science). With the emergence of data science and the growth of technological innovations including social media, we see tremendous opportunities, as well as urgency, to integrate statistical research and education. With NESS, we are able to pool our rich regional talents to produce educational products and organize professional activities, including NESS Distinguished Colloquium Series, short course offerings/videos, online tutorials, and special events for young statisticians, among others. In particular, we are in the process of establishing a rather unique journal: The New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science. It is unique because it will focus on the roles of statistics (and statisticians) in Data Science.

I would like to take this opportunity to make a few announcements:

1. **Special rate for life membership**, and joint membership with Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS). We are offering a founding-year special rate of $500 for NESS life membership. Starting on January 1st, 2018, the life membership rate will be $600. You may also get 25% off the IMS regular membership fee ($79 per year after discount) if you register IMS through NESS. Please join us if you share our vision and want to help to make it a reality. For more information on registration and making a donation, please visit NESS website at [http://www.nestat.org/](http://www.nestat.org/). You may register online or send the registration form (attached) and a check directly to NESS business address:

   New England Statistical Society (Attn: Lynn Kuo)
   Room 306, Philip E. Austin Building
   215 Glenbrook Rd., U-4120
   Storrs, CT 06269-4120

   We greatly appreciate your generosity in supporting our mission.

2. **2018 New England Statistics Symposium.** The 32nd New England Statistics Symposium will be held on April 13–14, 2018 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. The symposium will be hosted by the Department of Mathematics & Statistics and the Department of Biostatistics & Epidemiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

   - Dates: Friday, April 13 – Saturday, April 14, 2018
   - Location: University of Massachusetts, Amherst
   - Contact:
     - Nicholas G. Reich, nick@schoolph.umass.edu
     - Anna Liu, anna@math.umass.edu

   The New England Statistics Symposium is an annual conference that moves throughout the region. In odd-years the conference is held at the University of Connecticut. Short courses, break-out groups, poster sessions and keynote addresses are spread over two days. In
recent years, there has been a student paper competition and various other sponsored awards. For information about past symposiums, please check www.nestat.org/history/symposium/. More details regarding the 2018 symposium will be posted soon.

3. Celebrating the Foundations and Impact of Statistics: A Symposium Honoring the 95th Birthday of Herman Chernoff. This event is co-sponsored by NESS, ASA Boston Chapter, and Department of Statistics at Harvard University, which will take place on May 4th at Harvard University. More details will be posted on NESS website soon.

4. NESS Colloquium Series. Brown University will host the first colloquium of this new series. The detailed information of the speaker, and the presentation title and abstract will be posted at www.nestat.org as soon as they become available. We greatly appreciate the support from the Center for Statistical Sciences and the Department of Biostatistics at Brown.

Kun Chen, University of Connecticut & NESS Secretary (kun.chen@uconn.edu)
Student Membership is free. Regular membership is $30 per year.

Special rate for life membership: We offer a founding-year special rate of $500. Starting from January 1st, 2018, the life membership rate is $600.

Joint membership with Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) is $109 per year.

Please send the form and a check to:
New England Statistical Society (Attn: Lynn Kuo)
Room 306, Philip E. Austin Building
215 Glenbrook Rd. U-4120
Storrs, CT 06269-4120
Joseph Cappelleri

Ming-Hui Chen
Was recognized for 15 years of service at the University of Connecticut.

Ofer Harel
P.Stat – Accredited Professional Statistician by the American Statistical Association

Victor Hugo Lachos Davila
Received an Honorary doctorate from the Universidad Pedro Ruiz Gallo, Lambayeque, Peru, in October 2016

Vladimir Pozdnyakov
Together with Michael Steele (University of Pennsylvania), received the 2017 Carl B. Allendoerfer Award for excellent mathematical writing published in the Mathematics Magazine, a journal of the Mathematical Association of America. Vladimir Pozdnyakov and Michael Steele were honored for their publication, “Buses, Bullies, and Bijections.” Vladimir also was recognized for 15 years of service at the University of Connecticut.

HaiYing Wang
Received the Microsoft Azure for Research Award

Xiaojing Wang
Became an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute

Jun Yan
Elected as a 2017 Fellow of the American Statistical Association

Visiting Professors
The department welcomes Visiting Assistant Professor, Néhémy Lim, and is delighted to continue the appointment of Visiting Assistant Professor, Panpan Zhang, for the 2017-2018 academic year.
Every year, the Department of Statistics hosts an annual Fall picnic to allow new students to get to know the current students, faculty, staff and their families, as well as to acknowledge and provide well-deserving students with Academic and Service Awards. Continuing with recent tradition, the 2017 picnic was held at Patriots Park Lodge which overlooks the lovely Coventry Lake. The Graduate Student Committee organized a wonderful afternoon with over 80 people in attendance. It was a beautiful crisp day, made complete with delicious food, great conversation, and a variety of games and sports. We are already looking forward to next year’s event!
Left to right:  **Wenjie Wang** (Service Award), Professor Ming-Hui Chen,  **Yeongjin Gwon** (Service Award),  **Yang Liu** (Best Performance in Inference),  **Jiaying Jiao** (Gottfried Noether Award for Mathematical Statistics),  **Yan Li** (Gottfried Noether Award for Mathematical Statistics, Mark of Excellence),  **Lijiang Geng** (Best Performance in Probability),  **Qingyang Liu** (H. Fairfield Smith and Dolores S. Smith Award for Excellence in Applied Statistics, Mark of Excellence),  **Hao Li** (Service Award),  **Yulia Sidi** (H. Fairfield Smith and Dolores S. Smith Award for Excellence in Applied Statistics), Professor Lynn Kuo, Professor Zhiyi Chi
Not pictured: Cheng Zhang (Mark of Excellence)
Colloquia

We continue to have a stream of excellent colloquia:

**Robert E. Kass**  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Statistical Thinking in Neuroscience

**Marcos Prates**  
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais  
Where Geography Lives? A Projection Approach for Spatial Confounding

**Taeryon Choi**  
Korea University  
Bayesian Shape Restricted Regression Models Using Gaussian Processes Priors

**Panpan Zhang**  
University of Connecticut  
Joint Distribution of Nodes of Different Out Degrees and the Degree Profile in Preferential Dynamic Attachment Circuits

**Yahzen Wang**  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Quantum Computation and Statistics

**Neal Thomas**  
Pfizer, Inc.  
Using Meta-Analyses to Guide Statistical Methodology for Clinical Dose Response Studies

**Kung-Sik Chan**  
University of Iowa  
Inference for Threshold Diffusions

**Kun Chen**  
University of Connecticut  
On Large-Scale Predictive Modeling of Mixed and Incomplete Outcomes  
Joint UConn/ UMass Statistics Colloquium at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
Sumona Mondal  
Clarkson University  
Sample Size Determination for Power Analysis Using Hierarchical Designs

Ben Shaby  
Penn State University  
Spatial Extreme Value Analysis for Fire Risk Assessment

Heping Zhang  
Yale University School of Public Health  
Statistical Strategies in Analyzing Data with Unequal Prior Knowledge

David Banks  
Duke University  
Statistical Issues with Agent-Based Models

Nitis Mukhopadhyay  
University of Connecticut  
Walking on a Thin Bridge Linking Teaching-Research-Teaching Excites and Rewards Me

Jim Booth  
Cornell University  
Table Counting and Exact Conditional Inference for Contingency Tables

Fangfang Wang  
University of Connecticut  
On the Estimation of Integrated Volatility in the Frequency Domain

Victor Hugo Lachos Davila  
University of Connecticut  
Heavy-tailed Longitudinal Regression Models for Censored Data: A Likelihood Based Perspective

Yuwen Gu  
University of Minnesota  
High-dimensional Generalizations of Asymmetric Least Squares and Their Applications

Vishesh Karwa  
Harvard University  
Differentially Private Statistical Inference

Nhat Ho  
University of Michigan  
Parameter Estimation and Multi-level Clustering with Mixture and Hierarchical Models
HaiYing Wang  
University of New Hampshire  
Information-Based Optimal Sub Data Selection for Big Date Linear Regression  

Jon Steingrimsson  
John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Doubly Robust Survival Trees and Forests  

Kuang-Yao Lee  
Yale School of Public Health  
On Additive Conditional Independence for High-dimensional Statistical Analysis  

Gongjun Xu  
University of Michigan  
Identifying Latent Structures in Restricted Latent Class Models  

Robert W. Makuch featuring Andrea B Troxel, Sc.D.  
New York University School of Medicine  
Statistics Issues in Pragmatic Behavioral Clinical Trials  

Donghui Zhang  
Sanofi, U.S.  
Statistical Collaborations in Drug Discovery: Challenges and Opportunities  

Xiwen Ma  
Sanofi, U.S.  
Some Statistical Issues in Biomarker Identification for Clinical Study  

Bani K. Mallick  
Texas A & M University  
Bayesian Gaussian Graphical Models and their Extensions  

Gen Li  
Columbia University  
A General Framework for the Association Analysis of Heterogeneous Data
It was our great pleasure to host the 2017 Conference on Lifetime Data Analysis (LIDA) at University of Connecticut. The conference theme was “Data science, precision medicine and risk analysis with lifetime data,” held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, on May 25–27, 2017. The aim of the conference was to promote and support the development and application of statistical methods for lifetime or time-to-event data. The primary sponsor of the conference was the LIDA Interest Group of the American Statistical Association, in which many our faculty
members are actively involved. The conference was jointly-sponsored by the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), the University of Connecticut, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, and the American Statistical Association. The conference chair was Professor Jack Kalbfleisch of University of Michigan. The program chair was Professor Mei-Cheng Wang of Johns Hopkins University. Our own faculty members Professors Ming-Hui Chen and Jun Yan served as co-chairs of the local organization committee, with members including our own faculty members, Professors Dipak Dey and Elizabeth Schifano, and our student webmaster, Henry Linder.

The keynote speakers were two highly accomplished leaders in the field: Professor Niels Keiding from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, and Professor Lee-Jen Wei from Harvard University. Four short courses before the technical sessions were taught by five leading experts in their respective areas: Drs. Mitchell Gail, Joseph Ibrahim, Ruth Pfeiffer, Joanna Shih and Xiao-Hua (Andrew) Zhou. There were 63 sessions organized by a large and very distinguished program committee led by Prof. Mei-Cheng Wang. About 340 participants enjoyed the pleasant spring weather at Storrs and the warm hospitality of the faculty and students of UConn. A student and postdoctoral paper and poster award competition was held, with a review committee led by Prof. Zhezhen Jin of Columbia University. The committee gave out three paper awards and three poster awards. Our own student Jing Wu (PhD 2017) was one of the poster award recipients for her poster “Online updating of survival analysis in the big data setting.”
This was a big gathering of people working on lifetime data science, researchers and practitioners, seniors and juniors, novices and experts. We strove to provide the best support to the colleagues coming to the conferences from all over the world despite a limited budget and resources. The conference started from four short courses on Thursday, May 25. With a friendly registration fee ($160 for non-student participant), we were able to provide a mixer reception on Thursday evening, two breakfasts, one lunch at the Student Union on Friday, and one barbecue lunch on Saturday. 120 guests joined the banquet dinner on Friday at Chang's Garden, where the authentic, multiple-course Chinese food became a lasting memory. We are grateful to those who kindly send us encouragingly positive feedbacks about their conference experience.

According to Professor Jack Kalbfleisch, the conference was a great success by any measure for many participants. The success of the local organization depended on a spectacular team work. We thank Drs. Ray Liu and Jonathan Siegel for their efforts in facilitating the sponsorship from Takeda and Bayer, respectively. Our student webmaster, Henry Linder, did an excellent job; he communicated closely with the program committee chair, Dr. Mei-Cheng Wang, from a very early stage, initiated/maintained the conference website, and developed tools for the registration, abstract submission, and program book generation. Our graduate student volunteers were the best helpers and played a critical role to ensure the smoothness of the conference in all aspects. The coordinator, Hao Li, successfully recruited 26 student volunteers. Under the leadership of Hao Li, Disheng Mao, Jing Wu, Yeongjin Gwon, and Aritra Halder, they tended the registration desks continuously for three days, provided technical support on presentations at every single session, took photos for almost every presenter, and did many other things to make all participants to feel warmly welcomed. We would also like to thank the UConn Statistics Department staff, Megan Petsa, Tracy Burke, and Hannah Melroy, for their endless support and preparation for this conference. Finally, we would like to thank Anne Hill of UConn Events & Conference Services for having done such an outstanding job for taking care of all detailed logistics, arrangements, and preparation for this conference. We would not have such a successful conference without her great effort, hard work, and dedication.

We thank all participants for visiting UConn and hope they have marked UConn as an interesting stop in their journey of lifetime data science.

Ming-Hui Chen (ming-hui.chen@uconn.edu), Jun Yan (jun.yan@uconn.edu)
QPRC 2017
The Quality and Productivity Research Conference

By Nalini Ravishanker and Haim Bar

QPRC 2017 Quality and Statistics: Path to a Better Life, was held June 13-15, 2017 at the University of Connecticut, Storrs CT, together with a one-day short course on June 12, 2017. The co-chairs were Haim Bar and Nalini Ravishanker. Haim Bar will be a guest editor of the upcoming special issue of the Wiley journal Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry, based on talks at this conference.

QPRC 2017 is the annual meeting of the Quality and Productivity section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). There is a long history of successful annual QPRCs, which have provided a large group of statisticians and inter-disciplinary professionals unique opportunities to meet and exchange ideas related to methods relating to a broad set of topics. The conference had three plenary speakers, Shelly Zacks, Vijay Nair, and Bill Meeker. There were several invited sessions with strong speakers, as well as contributed sessions and poster sessions. The poster session presenters were graduate and undergraduate students. There were parallel Technical visits to BIRC, CHASE, and IMS at UConn which everyone enjoyed. An excellent short course on June 12 titled Computational Bayesian Methods for Big Data Problems was offered by Steve Scott from Google Inc. The conference was sponsored by NSF, SAS, Minitab, StatEase, TriloByte, UConn CLAS, and the UConn Department of Statistics. Support from an NSF grant for QPRC 2017 enabled the participation of a large and diverse group of graduate and undergraduate students, who benefited enormously from the short course and the conference. In addition to getting an opportunity to interact with professionals from academia, government, and industry, they were able to disseminate their research in a poster session and secure feedback that would enhance their future research.

All the information about the conference and short course, including the technical tour has been archived here: http://archive.stat.uconn.edu/qprc17/

Nalini Ravishanker (nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu), Haim Bar (haim.bar@uconn.edu)
The department applied and became a graduate member of the Math Alliance (https://mathalliance.org/welcome/). The National Alliance for Doctoral Studies in the Mathematical Sciences, now best known as the Math Alliance, was founded in 2001 as a partnership between the math sciences departments at three Iowa State Regents universities. It later grew to encompass mathematics departments across the U.S. and recently also Statistics departments. There are currently 37 Doctoral programs affiliated across mathematics, statistics and biostatistics.

Our department joined the alliance in order to increase diversity in our student population. This year, we are working hard in order to recruit more students from commonly considered under represented populations.

*Ofer Harel* (ofer.harel@uconn.edu)

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The 31st New England Statistics Symposium

April 21-22, 2017 at UConn

By Haim Bar and Jun Yan

Our department proudly hosted the 31st New England Statistics Symposium (NESS) on Saturday, April 22, 2017. The purpose, as usual, was to bring together statisticians from all over New England to a central location to share research, discuss emerging issues in the field, and network with colleagues. The annual conference was started back in 1987 by our department. It is held at UConn in odd-years and elsewhere in New England in even-years. This year, we celebrated the 30 years of NESS since its inception. Over 250 participants attended the conference.
On the first day, three full-day short courses were taught: Fitting mixed-effects models using the Julia language by Douglas Bates (University of Wisconsin—Madison); Practical Integrative Statistical Learning: Recent Developments and Case Studies by Robert Aseltine (University of Connecticut Health Center) and Kun Chen (University of Connecticut); and Subgroup Analysis and Treatment Scoring with Application in Precision Medicine by Menggang Yu (University of Wisconsin—Madison). About 60 participants took the short courses.

On the second day, welcome and opening remarks were delivered by UConn’s Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Jeremy Teitelbaum, CLAS associate dean, Robin Côté, and the Head of the Department of Statistics at UConn, Ming-Hui Chen.

Two keynote speakers were Professor Xihong Lin of Harvard University and David Madigan of Columbia University. The talks were titled “Hypothesis Testing for Weak and Sparse Alternatives With Applications to Whole Genome Data” and “Honest Learning for the Healthcare System: Large-scale Evidence from Real-world Data”, respectively.

During the conference, Xiao Li Meng from Harvard University announced the establishment of the New England Statistics Society. More information on the new society can be found in this newsletter and at http://nestat.org.

There were 24 invited sessions, including a panel discussion on careers in statistics, with 12 sessions in the morning and 12 in the afternoon. The topics of the invited sessions cover Bayesian statistics, big data, biopharmaceutical statistics, causal inference, dependence modeling, extremes, finance, genomics, graphical models, high dimensional data, health analytics, insurance, machine learning, space-time models, social network, subgroup analysis, survival analysis, and applications from many fields.

A special memorial session in honor of Stephen Feinberg, University Professor of Statistics and Social Science at Carnegie Mellon University, was organized and chaired by Dipak Dey, entitled “Bayesian Statistics with Applications.” The three speakers were Edoardo Airoldi of Harvard University, Bani Mallick of Texas A&M University, and Sudipto Banerjee of University of California Los Angeles. Professors Mallick and Banerjee are both UConn Statistics alumni.

A poster session was held during lunch. The Student Poster Award was sponsored by Liberty Mutual, and was facilitated by our alumnus Chun Wang (PhD 2016) who works at Liberty Mutual. There were 34 posters, and the award winners were: David Cheng from Harvard University, Timothy Leonard from University of Rhode Island, Qiongshi Lu from Yale University, and Xinran Li from Harvard University.
The IBM Watson Research Lab kept sponsoring the IBM Student Paper Award. The recipients of the award were: Wenjie Wang (University of Connecticut), Suzanne Thornton (Rutgers University-New Brunswick), and Elizabeth Upton (Boston University).

The review committee of the Liberty Mutual Student Poster ward and the IBM Student Paper Award, led by Professor Yuping Zhang, consisted of Jacob Bien (Cornell University), Kun Chen (University of Connecticut), Zhiyi Chi (University of Connecticut), Forrest Crawford (Yale University), Victor Hugo Lachos Davila (University of Connecticut), Beatriz E. Etchegaray Garcia (IBM), Patrick Flaherty (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), Yuwen Gu (University of Minnesota), Lynn Kuo (University of Connecticut), Kuang-Yao Lee (Yale University), Nitis Mukhopadhyay (University of Connecticut), Vladimir Pozdnyakov (University of Connecticut), Fangfang Wang (University of Connecticut), Haiying Wang (University of New Hampshire), Pei Wang (Mount Sinai School of Medicine), Jun Yan (University of Connecticut), Panpan Zhang (University of Connecticut), Yuping Zhang (University of Connecticut), and Yizhe Zhao (Cornell University). We thank all the reviewers for their time and effort.
The Travelers Reception, sponsored by longtime industry partner Travelers Insurance, closed the daytime activity, during which the Liberty Mutual Student Poster Award and the IBM Student Paper Award were presented by Xihong Lin, representatives of the sponsors, and members of the organizing and award committees. The traditional NESS banquet was held at Sichuan Pepper in Vernon, a famous authentic Sichuan food in the region. Approximately 60 people participated in the banquet.

The NESS Organizing Committee consisted of Haim Bar, Kun Chen, Jun Yan, and Yuping Zhang. Bar took over the leadership after Yan went on an unexpected medical leave. We thank our sponsors, the ASA CT Chapter, the Department of Statistics, UConn, The Hartford, IBM Watson Lab, Liberty Mutual, Pfizer, and Travelers Insurance. Our student volunteers played a critical role in helping the conference proceed smoothly in all aspects. The chief student leader was Gregory Vaughan (PhD, 2017), and the subcommittee leaders were Jun Hu (sign), Wenjie Wang (IT), Yeongjin Gwon (poster), Sedeep Bapat (registration), Jing Wu (photo), and Yishu Xue (parking). Our student webmaster Henry Linder developed the webpage, the registration system, and the abstract submission system of the conference.

Like always, our department staff Megan Petsa, Tracy Burke, and Hannah Melroy provided tremendous, indispensable support, for which we are very grateful. This year, we used the University Events and Conference Services, which turned out to be a pleasant experience. We thank Kate Copeland and her team for their effort in coordinating the right resources at UConn and taking care of the logistics for the conference.

The 32nd New England Statistics Symposium will be held on April 13–14, 2018, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.
The Symposium local hosts and organizers from the University of Connecticut were Haim Bar (co-chair), Jun Yan (chair), Yuping Zhang, and Kun Chen.

IWAP 2018
The Ninth International Workshop in Applied Probability

By Joseph Glaz

The ninth International Workshop in Applied Probability will take place at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, on June 18-21, 2018. IWAP is a biennial series of conferences launched in 2002 with the aim of fostering exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas on applied probability. It has been held in four continents, and returning to Europe, Budapest will host the event in 2018. On behalf of IWAP International Board and Eötvös Loránd University, the organizers invite you to attend the conference.

The 2018 Conference will provide opportunities for presentations on a wide range of theoretical and applied topics, and recognizes the important role of probability and statistics in science and society. The numerous scientific and social events—including the gala dinner served on a cruise ship on the Danube—will present ample networking opportunities throughout the conference.
Research presenters will be invited to submit for journal publication in a special issue of Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability. With the scenic historic Budapest nearby, the conference venue, the Lágymányos campus of Eötvös Loránd University is part of a recently built innovation park, and provides modern facilities for all needs of the event. For more information visit the workshop website at http://iwap2018.com.

Joseph Glaz (joseph.glaz@uconn.edu)

Alumni News

Deepak Agarwal
Became an ASA Fellow in 2014.

Pantea Alirezazadeh
Is an Analyst for 1010 Data.

Brien Aranov
Is a Senior Consultant of Personal Insurance Research & Development at Travelers Insurance.

Brian Bader
Joined KPMG LLP as a Statistician in Fall 2016.

Sudipto Banerjee
Professor and Chair, Department of Biostatistics, University of California, Los Angeles and has been named Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS).

Swarnali Banerjee
Became an Assistant Professor at Loyola University in Chicago in 2016.

Sudeep Bapat
Is an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Abhishek Bishoyi
Completed his Ph.D. and accepted a research position at Selective Insurance, New Jersey.

Jennifer (Boyko) McGinniss
Is an Associate Director of Biostatistics at Sunovion Pharmaceuticals and ASA CT Chapter President.

Wen Cao
Completed her Ph.D. at Stern School of Business, NYU, and joined Credit Suisse.
Brad Carlin
Chair of Biostatistics at the University of Minnesota and is still enjoying the job for the most part. He continues to focus primarily on methods for Bayesian adaptive clinical trials and network meta-analysis. He is also still leader of “the Bayesian band,” which has a new name and website: www.imposteriors.com.

Bhargab Chattopadhyay
Made full-length invited paper presentation during the IWAP held in Jerusalem, Israel in June 2012 and chaired an invited paper session during the 4th IWSM hosted by the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia-Athens in July 2013.

Saibal Chattopadhyay
Professor, was appointed to the highly prestigious position of the Director at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta in Calcutta, India, effective April 2013.

Ashok Chaurasia
Has accepted a faculty position with the University of Waterloo, School of Public Health and Health Systems, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Steven Chiou
Joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Texas at Dallas, as an Assistant Professor after a two year postdoc position with Harvard University’s Biostatistics Department.

Sourish Das
Has become an Assistant Professor in the Mathematics Group at the Chennai Mathematical Institute, India. Currently, his research interest focuses on solving problems of Financial Mathematics and Applied Statistics via Bayesian methodology.

Ved Deshpande
Received his Ph.D. in August 2017 and joined eBay (New York, NY) as a Research Engineer.

Ulysses Diva
Is now working with AstraZeneca in Wilmington, DE as a Principal Statistician.

Gulsum Cinar Dolgun
Is an Expert Assistant at TCMB.

Rongwei Fu
was promoted to the rank of Full Professor at the Oregon Science and Health University, Portland, OR, and became an ASA Fellow in 2017.

Elijah Gaoioni
Has joined New York Life Insurance Company as a Corporate Vice President, Data Science.

Miaomiao Ge
Was recently promoted to Principal Biostatistician at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Samiran Ghosh
Assumed the position of Director of Biostatistics at the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Research Design Core at Wayne State. Samiran also became an editor of *PLOS-one* and joined a NIH study section as reviewer.

**Sujit Ghosh**
Was selected to serve as one of the Program Directors in the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) within the National Science Foundation (NSF) beginning September 2013. Recently, he was offered the position of the Deputy Director of Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) beginning September 2014. He was elected to serve as the President of the NC Chapter of American Statistical Association (ASA) for year 2013. He was awarded the 2013 Thammasat University Honorary Plaque by the Government of Thailand. He has been given the 2013-2014 Cavell Bowrie Mentoring Faculty Award by Department of Statistics at NC State University.

**Gyuhyeong Goh**
Has joined Kansas State University as an Assistant Professor.

**Feng Guo**
Has received his tenure with promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.

**Enida Halilovic**
Is an IT Project Analyst for United Health Care insurance company.

**Patrick Harrington**
Is employed by Genomic Health Inc.

**Yujing Jiang**
Started a postdoc position under the supervision of Dan Cooley of the Department of Statistics, Colorado State University, in Fall 2017.

**Xun Jiang**
Has joined Amgen Biopharmaceutical Company in Thousand Oaks, CA as a biostatistician.

**John (Anthony) Labarga**
Is an Advanced Analytics Intern at Travelers Insurance.

**Chantal Larose**
Has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Statistics at Eastern Connecticut State University, where she will join Dr. Marsha Davis, UConn Statistics alumna, who chairs the Math Department at ECSU. Chantal also recently published two research papers.

**Wenqing Li**
Is a Director of Biostatistics and Data Management at Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. in Tucson, AZ.

**Gong-Yi Liao**
Is employed by the Northern Trust Company.

**Qi Liao**
Is a statistician at Merkle.
Dan Liu
Received a letter for Teaching Excellence from the Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.
Is a Statistician at Yale University Careers.

Junfeng Liu
Is a consultant to GCE Solutions, Inc. in Bloomington, Illinois.

Ran Liu
Joined Abbvie Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Chicago, as a Senior Biostatistician.

Xue Liu
Has joined Towers Watson as an Actuarial Analyst.

Zhuping Liu
Is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Texas-Austin in Marketing.

Chongliang Luo
Completed his Ph.D. and accepted a postdoctoral position in the Division of Behavioral Sciences and Community Health, UConn Health.

Bani Mallick
Was elected as an AAAS Fellow.

Madhuja Mallick
Is an Associate Director at Forest Laboratories, Inc.

Gregory Matthews
Won the 2016 SABR Contemporary Baseball Analysis Award and, together with his wife, Sarah, welcomed a baby girl, Amelia Ruth Matthews in September 2016.

Athanasios Christou Micheas
Athanasios Micheas, Associate Professor, University of Missouri, Columbia, serves as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation*. His first textbook, *Theory of Stochastic Objects: Probability, Stochastic Processes and Inference*, is currently in production and is expected to appear in January 2018. He is also completing a second textbook, *Theory and Modeling of Stochastic Objects: Point Processes and Random Sets*, which is expected to be published in the Fall of 2018.

Aditya Mishra
Completed his Ph.D. and received a Simons Foundation fellowship. He will be employed at the Foundation’s Flatiron Institute, New York, NY.

Jaydip Mukhopadhyay
Is the director of Model Risk and Governance at American Express in Gurgaon, India.

Stephen O’Malley
Is an Analytics Manager at Health Dialog.

Guang Ouyang
Joined the Google Mountain View office as a member of the Display and Video Ads team.
Valerie Pare
Is a Professor of Practice at Wesleyan University.

Sankha Muthu Poruthotage
Has joined Plymouth Insurance, Boston, MA, effective September 1, 2013.

Sairam Rayaprolu
Has joined Disney as a Decision Science Consultant in Orlando, FL.

Dooti Roy
Completed her Ph.D. and is working at Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceutical Company in Ridgefield, CT as a Senior Biostatistician.

Abhishek Saha
Is a Senior Consultant at Cognizant.

Hongwei Shang
Joined Yahoo Research as a Research Scientist in 2016.

Daoyuan Shi
Completed his Ph.D. in August 2017 and has joined Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

Wei Shi
Completed his Ph.D. in December 2016 and works at Mapfre Insurance.

Tumulesh K. S. Solanky
Professor and Head, made a full-length invited paper presentation and chaired an invited paper session during the 4th IWSM hosted by the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia-Athens, July 2013.

Elizabeth Tripp
Is pursuing a Ph.D. in the Math Department at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire and a member of the Epsilon of Connecticut Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in recognition of her superlative undergraduate academic achievements.

Gregory Vaughan
Joined the Department of Mathematical Science, Bentley University, as an Assistant Professor for Fall 2017.

Chun Wang

Leo Wang
Has joined Millennium Management Investment Company in New York City as a fixed income trader.

Xia Wang
Received promotion and tenure as Associate Professor at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Xiaojing Wang
At Google, Inc.
Yu-Bo Wang
Is a Post-Doctorate Fellow at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD/NIH).

Yue Wang
Is working for Aetna Insurance Company as an Analyst.

Zhuo Wang
Became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economic Statistics, Shenzhen University, China, in 2016.

Ziwen Wei
Is employed at Merck & Co., Inc.

Jing Wu
Received her Ph.D. in August 2017 and joined the University of Rhode Island, Department of Computer Science and Statistics, in Kingston, RI as an Assistant Professor.

Qianzhu Wu
Completed her Ph.D. in August 2016 and joined Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.

Rui Wu
Is employed at Novartis Oncology.

Hui Yao
Is a Senior Predictive Modeler at Ernst & Young.

Jieyang Zang
Is a Customer Data Analyst at Symphony EYC.

Danjie Zhang
Is a Biostatistician II at Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Yaohua Zhang
Completed his Ph.D. in August 2017 and has joined Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

Bo Zhao
Joined the Liberty Mutual Group, Inc. in Boston, MA.
Student News

Graduate Student Committee 2017-2018

Left to right: Yuan Zhang (Member), Disheng Mao (Secretary), Yang Liu (President), Qingyang Liu (Member), Yixin Xiang (Member), Jiying Jiao (Senator), Wei Shi (Treasurer), Yishu Xue (Vice President), Xiaokang Liu (Senator), Prince Allotey (Member)
Members not pictured – Renjie Chen, Xiuyuan Liu

The Graduate Student Committee is dedicated to serving the graduate students and working closely with the department’s faculty members to organize social and academic events. This year, the Committee has successfully organized two “pizza nights,” which helped newly joined students get familiar with each other. Many members from the Committee also served as volunteers in several academic conferences held by the department, like NESS. The Committee also helps organize the annual department picnic. The Committee is grateful for the generous support from the department and will continue to provide excellent service to the graduate students.

Officers
Yang Liu, President
Yishu Xue, Vice President
Wei Shi, Treasurer
Disheng Mao, Secretary
Jiying Jiao, GSS Senator
Xiaokang Liu, GSS Senator

Members
Prince Allotey
Renjie Chen
Qingyang Liu
Xiuyuan Liu
Yixin Xiang
Yuan Zhang
**Phi Beta Kappa Inductees**
The following undergraduate Statistics majors were elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most widely recognized honors society celebrating achievement in the liberal arts and sciences in 2017:

Francisco Tomas Cifuentes Villarroel
Sarah Cynthia Crothers
Jessica Hope Lerner
Samuel Schick
Emily Elizabeth Stiles

**Lijiang Geng** (Advisor M.-H. Chen)
Best Performance in Probability, AY 2016-2017

**Yeongjin Gwon** (Advisor M.-H. Chen)
Department of Statistics Service Award, AY 2016-2017

**Jieying Jiao** (Advisor M.-H. Chen)
Gottfried Noether Award for Mathematical Statistics, AY 2016-2017

**Hao Li** (Advisor M.-H. Chen)
Department of Statistics Service Award, AY 2016-2017

**Matthew Linder** (Advisor Zhang)
Completed a summer internship at Apple.

**Yan Li** (Advisor Yan)
Gottfried Noether Award for Mathematical Statistics, AY 2016-2017
Mark of Excellence Award for Stellar Performance in the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam, AY 2016-2017

**Qingyang Liu** (Advisor M.-H. Chen)
H. Fairfield Smith and Dolores S. Smith Award for Excellence in Applied Statistics, AY 2016-2017
Mark of Excellence Award for Stellar Performance in the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam, AY 2016-2017

**Yang Liu** (Advisors M.-H. Chen, X. Wang)
Won an ACTNext Travel Award to attend and present at the 2017 International Meeting of the Psychometric Society in Zurich, Switzerland.
Best Performance in Inference, AY 2016-2017

**Disheng Mao** (Advisor Zhang)
Received travel awards for the 24th Quality and Productivity Research Conference and Summer Institutes at the University of Washington.

**Qian Meng** (Advisor Glaz)
Completed a summer internship at the Biostatistics and Computational Biology Branch, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC

**Yulia Sidi** (Advisor Harel)
H. Fairfield Smith and Dolores S. Smith Award for Excellence in Applied Statistics, AY 2016-2017

**Gregory Vaughn** (Advisor K. Chen, Yan)
Won the Student Paper Award from the Mental Health Section of the American Statistical Association in 2017.

**Wenjie Wang** (Advisors Yan, K. Chen)
Won a IBM Student Paper Award at the 31st New England Statistics Symposium, 2017

**Cheng Zhang** (Advisor M.-H. Chen)
Mark of Excellence Award for Stellar Performance in the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam, AY 2016-2017

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**Recent Graduates**

**Recent Bachelor’s**

Recent Master’s
Shaochen Bai, Ved Deshpande, Kelly Duda, Hao Chen, Yuliang Chen, Jialin Han, Zheyu Jiang, John Anthony Labarga, Yi Le, Chaoyu Lin, Muye Lin, Dan Liu, Qinqing Liu, Chongliang Luo, Aditya Kumar Mishra, Dooti Roy, Fei Sha, Xiaoyan Tang, Jing Wu, Bing Yan, Kewe Yan, Kaicun Yuan, Shanglin Zhou, Yichen Zhou, Xiwen Zhu, Zimin Zhuang, Ruochen Zha

Recent Ph.D.’s
Sudeep Bapat, Abhishek Bishoyi, Ved Deshpande, Wei Fu, Yujing Jiang, Chongliang Luo, Aditya Kumar Mishra, Dooti Roy, Daoyuan Shi, Jing Wu, Gregory Vaughan, Yaohua Zhang

Attention, Alumni!
We want to hear from you!

UConn Statistics Alumni:

We would love an update on your current activities. Please send updates (professional and/or personal) to statistics@uconn.edu to be included in the next issue of the newsletter. Please be sure to include the year you graduated and the degree received in your email.

Interested in supporting the department? We welcome alumni donations, which may be used for graduate fellowships, travel awards that allows faculty and students to present their research at conferences, and for special events such as seminars and lectures. Please contact us for more information on how you can support the Department of Statistics.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!
The Department of Statistics

Department Directory

Robert Apruzese, Adjunct Lecturer
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aseltine@uchc.edu
Haim Bar, Assistant Professor
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Tracy Burke, Secretary
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