Welcome to the 23rd issue of our Department Newsletter. We had a special but difficult year (Fall 2019-Fall 2020). The pandemic has changed our life. Since March 2019, online teaching and distance learning has become the new normal. I am pleased to report that even during this difficult time, the department has still been very active and productive and we have achieved a lot. Currently, we have 21 tenure and tenure-track faculty members, 2 Assistant Professors in Residence, 1 Visiting Assistant Professor, two Lecturers, 3 adjunct faculty members, 11 faculty members from Allied Health Science, Mathematics, and Nursing Instruction and Research, UCHC, Computer science & Engineering, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, who have affiliated appointments with Statistics. In Fall 2020, we have 129 graduate students enrolled in our graduate program, of whom 66 have received financial support, 77 Stat major or double major undergraduate students, 96 Math-Stat major or double undergraduate students, and 92 Stat minor undergraduate students. I am very pleased to report that the Statistics program at the University of Connecticut is featured on the 2020 Best Colleges list: 2020 Best Bachelor’s Statistics Degrees: #17. The rankings are the first to be based on median early-career salary data of over 5 million graduates from the U.S. Department of Education’s resource, College Scorecard. For more detailed information, please visit the following link: https://www.gradreports.com/best-colleges/statistics?atid=jtxETJFd2tOSn5rL5ywZyW9stf2RqV&utm_action=click

I would like to congratulate Elizabeth Schifano and Yuping Zhang for their promotion to Associate Professor with tenure (effective in August 2020). I would also like to welcome Timothy Fortune and Shaymal Halder to join the department as Assistant Professor in Residence and Assistant Visiting Professor, respectively. Our lecturer Robert Apruzese was retired in summer 2020 after teaching in our department over the past 12 years. Néhémy Lim went back to France in summer 2020 after he had been with us as Visiting Assistant Professor for the past 3 years. After staying here for one year, Sangwook Kang, Visiting Associate Professor, returned to Yonsei University, our alumnus Marcos Prates, Visiting Assistant Professor, went back to Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, and Min Shu, Assistant Professor in Residence, left us to join the Department of Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science at University of Wisconsin-Stout as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in August 2020. After being a postdoc for the two and half years, Guanyu Hu joined the Department of Statistics at the University of Missouri-Columbia as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Fall 2020. We really miss them and wish all of them well and healthy.

Congratulate Kun Chen and Robert Aseltine from UCHC joint with Fei Wang from Cornell Medicine for receiving a four-year multi-PI NIH grant on developing suicide risk algorithms for diverse clinical settings using data fusion (R01-MH124740, 09/2020 - 06/2024); Yuping Zhang for receiving a three-year award (08/2020 – 07/2023) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) as PI for her project titled “Correlated Graphical Models for High-Dimensional Heterogeneous Data: Theory, Optimization, and Applications”; Ofer Harel (UConn PI) for receiving NSF award (2020-2023) on “Collaborative Research: Shape-based Imputation and Estimation of Fragmented, Noisy on to the Reconstruction of Fossil Bovid Teeth”; Dipak Dey for continuing to receive a large research grant on “Modeling and analysis of large insurance claim and occurrence data: A partnership between UConn and Travelers” from Travelers Insurance; and Xiaojing Wang for receiving a Research Excellence Program (REP) award for AY 2019-2020 entitled “The Promise of Bayesian Learning in Mobile Health”.

Congratulate Kun Chen and Robert Aseltine from UCHC joint with Fei Wang from Cornell Medicine for receiving a four-year multi-PI NIH grant on developing suicide risk algorithms for diverse clinical settings using data fusion (R01-MH124740, 09/2020 - 06/2024); Yuping Zhang for receiving a three-year award (08/2020 – 07/2023) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) as PI for her project titled “Correlated Graphical Models for High-Dimensional Heterogeneous Data: Theory, Optimization, and Applications”; Ofer Harel (UConn PI) for receiving NSF award (2020-2023) on “Collaborative Research: Shape-based Imputation and Estimation of Fragmented, Noisy on to the Reconstruction of Fossil Bovid Teeth”; Dipak Dey for continuing to receive a large research grant on “Modeling and analysis of large insurance claim and occurrence data: A partnership between UConn and Travelers” from Travelers Insurance; and Xiaojing Wang for receiving a Research Excellence Program (REP) award for AY 2019-2020 entitled “The Promise of Bayesian Learning in Mobile Health”.
Also, congratulate Ofer Harel for being selected as a 2020 Presidential M1 Mentorship Awardee from the Connecticut Convergence Institute for Translation in Regenerative Engineering (CCI) at the University of Connecticut. I am also very pleased to report that Vladimir Pozdnyakov received the MAA Chauvenet Prize at the 2020 Joint Mathematics Meetings; and Dipak Dey was selected by the 2020 IISA Awards Committee to be a recipient of the IISA (International Indian Statistical Association) Service Award. Very proud of our faculty’s achievements. Lastly, I would like to share with you that I received the 2020 International Chinese Statisticians Association (ICSA) Distinguished Achievement Award on December 15, 2020 during the ICSA 2020 Applied Statistical Symposium.

Congratulate Jackson Lautier (PhD student) for being selected to receive a 2020 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF). The Graduate Research Fellowships are highly competitive. See https://www.research.gov/grfp/Login.do for a list of 2020 awardees. Each Fellowship consists of three years of support during a five-year fellowship period. Currently, NSF provides a stipend of $34,000 to the Fellow and a cost-of-education allowance of $12,000 to the graduate degree-granting institution for each Fellow who uses the fellowship support in a fellowship year. Also congratulate Prince Allotey for receiving an Honorable Mention for his application for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine’s Ford Foundation Fellowship (2020). He also won one last year, so this is the second year in a row. I am very pleased to report that our PhD students have received many prestigious awards from various statistical associations and statistical conferences.

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, Chair, Division of Behavioral Science and Community Health and 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 Department of Facilities Operations, School of Nursing, School of Pharmacy, and College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. Our Statistical Consulting Services (SCS) is continuing with great success under Director Timothy Moore.

Even during the difficult pandemic time, the department has still been very active in hosting and organizing various events and conferences. The department held the 25th Distinguished Statistician Colloquium on October 14, 2020 from 3:00-5:00pm EST, which featured Nan Laird, Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of Public Health, Emerita, T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University. Visit https://stat.uconn.edu/pfizer-colloquium/ for more information. Thank Haim Bar, Dipak Dey (Chair), Yuping Zhang and Yao Zheng for their great effort and hard work for organizing such a successful event. Built upon the success of the 2019 symposium, the 2020 UCONN Sports Analytics Symposium was held on October 10, 2020. A detailed report of the 2020 symposium can be found at https://today.uconn.edu/2020/10/uconn-holds-second-annual-sports-analytics-conference/. Jun Yan is the founder and main organizer of the UCONN Sports Analytics Symposium. Congratulations to Jun on launching and maintaining such a successful new symposium series. The 2020 New England Statistical Society NextGen Data Science Day (DSD) was held virtually online through UConn WebEx on Saturday, November 7, 2020. Over two hundred participants joined the conference, and the majorities of the participants are students and experts from the government and different industries. Thanks to HaiYing Wang for serving as the chair of the local organizing committee. The third UConn Statistics Biopharmaceutical Summer academy was held virtually on August 10-21, 2020. 150+ students attended the third summer academy. Visit https://events.stat.uconn.edu/BI-UConn/ for more information, activities and photos.

Congratulations to Sudipto Banerjee, ’00 PhD for being elected the President-Elect of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) in 2020; and Marcos Oliveira Prates, ’11 PhD, and former Visiting Assistant Professor, for being elected President of the Brazilian Statistics Association (ABE) for the 2020-2022 term. Also congratulate Larissa Avila Matos and Celso Romulo Cabral, who were Visiting Research Scholars at UConn in 2015 and 2017, for being elected Secretary and treasurer, respectively. The recipient of the next UConn Statistics Department Distinguished Alumni Award is Bani K. Mallick, who received Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Connecticut in 1994. Bani is a Distinguished Professor and Susan M. Arseven ’75 Chair in Data Science and Computational Statistics in the Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University in College Station. Bani plans to come to Storrs in fall 2021 to receive this award.
This fall, we celebrate Dipak Dey’s commitment to the students of UConn for 35 years. Dey began his tenure at UConn in 1985 as an associate professor of statistics, served as the Statistics Department Head from 1997 to 2011, the Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 2011 to 2016, and continues to teach and advise doctoral students as a University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Statistics. In celebration of this milestone and his commitment to PhD students in the field of statistics and data sciences, Dey and his wife, Rita, have created the Dr. Dipak and Mrs. Rita Dey Doctoral Fellowship. This award will support incoming or continuing doctoral level students pursuing a program of study in statistics or data sciences. To celebrate all that he has contributed to UConn and the field of statistics, I invite you to honor Dipak’s legacy by making a gift (https://www.foundation.uconn.edu/giving-details/). Through your gift to the Dr. Dipak and Mrs. Rita Dey Doctoral Fellowship, you will make a difference in the lives of our students.

Finally, I would like to thank to all of our alumni for your continuous support to the Department and for your generous donations to support our undergraduate and graduate programs and our students. I wish all for having safe, healthy, and happy holidays. You are always welcome to come back to visit us once the pandemic is over.

Ming-Hui Chen : Ming-hui.chen@uconn.edu
A message from the Director of the Graduate Program

Our department has three graduate programs: the Ph.D. program, the M.S. program in Statistics, and the Professional M.S. program 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 science, and consulting. 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. During the 2019-20 academic year, over 129 graduate students were enrolled in our graduate programs, 66 of them with support in the form of teaching or research assistant ship from the department or a variety of other sources. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from Dean's Office of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), Dean's Office of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CANR), Office of the Vice President for Research, Pfizer, Inc. Our graduate programs are highly competitive and visible around the world. This year over 600 students all over the world applied for admission to the programs. I would like to thank the members of the graduate admissions committee, Professors Harel (Director of Graduate Admissions), Ming-Hui Chen (Department Head) for their hard work in reviewing the applications. Thanks are also due to our administrative staff, Anthony Luis and Tracy Burke, for their hard work throughout the application and admission processes.

For more information about our graduate programs, including course offerings, research and other academic activities, news updates, and admissions, please go to the department website: www.stat.uconn.edu.

Zhiyi Chi (zhiyi.chi@uconn.edu)
Allow me to begin by congratulating all of our recent graduates for obtaining their Bachelor’s degrees and wishing them success in all of their future endeavors. Graduation looked a bit different this past year, but that does not diminish the great accomplishments of our graduates.

Our department offers a major in Statistics, a major in Mathematics-Statistics, an Individualized major in Data Science, and a Minor in Statistics. All our course offerings remain in high demand with near-full enrollments. Although courses have all adapted to various online formats this year, we continue to offer multiple sections of many core classes, and have added several new elective courses to complement the recent growth in the statistics and data science fields. Our summer session offerings of STAT 2215 and STAT 3025 attract many undergraduate students, allowing them to complete their degrees on time. We also continue to connect students with undergraduate research opportunities, internships, and other resources. Please visit the department website at www.stat.uconn.edu for more information about our undergraduate program, and information for prospective majors and minors.

Congratulations to all the graduates this year; I wish them well in their future careers, either as they head out to graduate programs around the country, or accept jobs in industry or government.

Elizabeth Schifano (elizabeth.schifano@uconn.edu)
Section I
Recent Department Activities
This fall, we celebrate Dr. Dipak Dey's commitment to the students of UConn for 35 years. Dr. Dey began his tenure at UConn in 1985 as an associate professor of statistics, served as the Statistics Department Head from 1997 to 2011, the Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 2011 to 2016, and continues to teach and advise doctoral students as a University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Statistics.

In celebration of this milestone and his commitment to PhD students in the field of statistics and data sciences, Dr. Dey and his wife, Rita, have created the Dr. Dipak and Mrs. Rita Dey Doctoral Fellowship. This award will support incoming or continuing doctoral level students pursuing a program of study in statistics or data sciences.

Gifts supporting PhD students are important, as they help attract outstanding and aspiring graduate students from diverse backgrounds to join the PhD program in the Department of Statistics and provide them with the necessary financial means to excel in their graduate study and achieve excellence in their dissertation research.

I invite you to honor Dipak's legacy by making a gift to celebrate all that he has contributed to UConn and the field of statistics. Through your gift to the Dr. Dipak and Mrs. Rita Dey Doctoral Fellowship, you will make a difference in the lives of our students.

Ming-Hui Chen
Department Head, Statistics
With all our members’ and friends’ support, the New England Statistical Society (NESS) has continued to make significant progress on various fronts in 2020. It has been a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but our society has stayed active by offering/sponsoring several virtual events. As of December 15, we have close to 900 registered members, a nearly 50% increase from a year ago.

The 34th New England Statistics Symposium, originally planned to be held in May 2020 in Rhode Island, had to be postponed due to the pandemic. The event will be hosted by the Department of Computer Science and Statistics at the University of Rhode Island (URI), but the new date is yet to be determined. Please contact Dr. Gavino Puggioni for any inquiries or check the official event website at https://symposium.nestat.org for updates.

Along with the 2020 New England Rare Disease Statistics (NERDS) Workshop organizing committee, the society hosted a series of virtual webinar sessions throughout November and December. We had a very successful NERDS 2019 workshop last year on Oct 11, where more than 160 participants got together in Downtown Boston. This year, we hoped to keep the conversation going with virtual webinars that help our rare disease community stay connected and be informed of recent advances in statistical and clinical research in rare disease drug development. Webinar topics included updates from Complex Innovative Trail Designs (CID) program, gene therapy in rare disease development, and case studies in rare disease drug development. We were honored to have had a list of distinguished speakers, including Sandeep Menon from Pfizer, L.J. Wei from Harvard, Ying Yuan from MD Anderson, Steve Lake from Wave Life Sciences, Dionne Price from FDA, Michelle Casey from Pfizer, Marie-Laure Névoret, and John Zhong from REGENXBIO, Margaret Gamalo from Pfizer, Glen Laird from Vertex, and Cindy Lu from Biogen. Joe Cappelleri, our NESS President, gave welcoming remarks from the society. There were 299 registered participants, and all the webinars were well attended. More details and talk slides/video recordings can be found at https://nerds.nestat.org.

The 2020 NextGen Data Science Day (DSD), organized by the NextGen Committee of NESS, was held virtually on Saturday, November 7, 2020 (https://nestat.org/nextgen/dsd2020). In keeping the NextGen Committee’s mission of supporting the next generation of statisticians and data scientists, the DSD conference provided a platform of resources to help guide students and early career professionals. Two hundred and fourteen registered for the conference, with over one hundred and fifty students registering from nearly sixty different schools from around the country and beyond. More details about the success of DSD can be found in the report by Professor Haiying Wang in this newsletter.
In June of this year, Nathan Lally (HSB) began his tenure as the VP for Education, taking the reins from Dr. Nalini Ravishanker under whose guidance the Education committee was established and developed. In 2020 the committee began holding formal bi-weekly meetings and added 12 new active volunteers and several other part-time contributors. Given the growth in participation and building on the momentum and experience from the past two years, the committee has decided to continue expanding both youth outreach and short course offerings while adding two new programs. As a result, the education committee is now organized into four subcommittees: short courses and professional education, youth outreach, a Schwartz fund for underrepresented students in statistics and data science, and ethics in science and data science education.

The society has created the Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award to honor Herman Chernoff and his outstanding, long-term contributions to the field of statistics. These contributions include large sample theory, experimental design, sequential analysis, methods of presenting statistical data in visual form, and statistical decision making. The Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award is the most prestigious award bestowed by the NESS, given to an individual who, in the tradition of Herman Chernoff's work, has made exceptional contributions to theory, methodology, or novel applications to statistics or data science. Last year's inaugural winner of the Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award was Professor Shaw-Hwa Lo from Columbia University. Because the 2020 Chernoff Excellence in Statistics Award has not yet been announced (there was no NESS 2020 symposium due to the COVID-19 pandemic), an award winner will not be chosen for 2021. Instead, the 2020 winner will be officially awarded at the next NESS symposium. For more details on this award and for making nominations and donations, please visit https://nestat.org/hcaward/.

The society has made significant progress towards launching its flagship journal, the New England Journal of Statistics in Data Science (NEJSD). The journal aims to create an interface between statistics and other disciplines in data science, provide a platform to exchange innovative ideas, and be a promoter of data sciences to scientific communities. The NEJSD is proud to be a pioneer to reform the traditional peer review process by introducing a two-step hybrid review process: (1) an author-led online open review/revision to facilitate on-line discussions and instant dissemination of submitted work, and (2) an invitation-only close-door peer review process to ensure quality of accepted articles. The journal will initially launch with the following sections:

Ø Biomedical Research (Paul S. Albert & Colin O. Wu)
Ø Cancer Research (Yuan Ji & Ying Lu)
Ø Data Mining & Machine Learning (Ali Shojaie)
Ø Engineering Science (Feng Guo)
Ø NextGen (Moinak Bhaduri)
Ø Statistical Methodology & Theory (Grace Yi)
Ø Software (Haim Bar)

We are very delighted that Dr. Ming-Hui Chen and Dr. Min-ge Xie will be named the Inaugural Co-Editor-in-Chief.

As of June 1, 2020, Dr. Joseph C. Cappelleri has become the President, Dr. Ming-Hui Chen has become the Past President, and Dr. Eric Kolaczyk has become the President Elect. To learn more about NESS, please visit https://nestat.org.

We sincerely invite you to join us.
In spite of the challenging circumstances, the Statistical Consulting Services (SCS) has had another busy and productive year, with the majority of our consultations taking place remotely via WebEx and Zoom. Xiaojing Wang continued in her role as the SCS Faculty Advisor. In the spring 2020, the SCS team consisted of Yulia Sidi, Joochul Lee, Shuang Yin, Xiaomeng Li, Jinjian Mu, Austin Menger, Zhe Wang, and Jiyeon Song. In fall 2020, Joochul Lee, Xiaomeng Li, Jiyeon Song, Soumik Banerjee, Hao Wu, Yifan Li, and Katherine Zavez served as SCS consultants. The SCS also operated over the 2020 summer, with Shuang Yin, Joochul Lee, Xiaomeng Li, and Jiyeon Song working as consultants. Joochul Lee continued to serve as the administrative specialist for the SCS for the last two semesters. 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, the Provost's Office, and the Department of Statistics.

The SCS assisted over 150 clients across its three consulting modes in 2020. During the spring and fall semesters in 2020, the SCS offered full-consulting projects, walk-in consulting, and online services. Walk-in services were provided daily for a total of 10 hours per week in the spring, and 12 hours in the fall. Online consulting was provided by Yulia Sidi in the spring, and Joochul Lee in the fall.

In total, the SCS assisted with 34 walk-in cases over the spring semester. In addition, a total of 19 clients made use of the online consulting service. Finally, a total of 14 full consulting projects were engaged in by the SCS team in the spring. These projects and clients came from across campus (e.g., Marine Science, School of Law, and Human Development and Family Sciences).

In spite of the increased demands on researchers, the summer and fall also saw healthy usage of the SCS. A total of 25 full consulting projects were taken on in this time. We are excited by the number of researchers using the SCS for assistance with grant applications. Among other applications by UConn faculty, the SCS assisted with the UConn Proteomics & Metabolomics Facility's successful NIH S10 High-Ed Instrumentation grant application. In addition, the SCS assisted with an external grant application by researchers from the Department of Veteran Affairs. The SCS assisted with 41 clients via the online service over the course of the summer and fall. The SCS also assisted with 26 walk-in consultations over the fall semester. Another exciting development for the SCS is a partnership with the School of Dental Medicine. For the spring 2021 semester, the SDM will cover the costs of using the SCS by all of its faculty, staff, and graduate student researchers. This is an exciting opportunity for the SCS to broaden it user base.

A major highlight for the SCS this year was the successful running of our fall workshop series. This series covered three key topics: Exploratory Data Analysis, Power Analysis, and Linear Regression. We also ran an Introduction to R workshop. Each topic was covered over two 1-hour online workshops, with instructors live coding in R and participants encouraged to follow along in their own scripts. Despite many participants never using R before, and running the workshops on WebEx, this format was incredibly successful, with all workshops receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback. The workshops were extremely popular, with over 140 researchers from UConn, and elsewhere, participating. We hope to build on this success in the coming semester, by providing workshops on more advanced topics like mixed-effects and generalized linear models.

Finally, I would like to extend a special thanks to the consultants who worked for the SCS this year. It has not been easy to transition to fully remote consulting, but they have made it a resounding success. The SCS will be stronger for years to come because of the work, effort, and dedication that they have put in.
The 2020 UConn Sports Analytics (UCSAS) was held virtually on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020. This is the second time UConn hosts the UCSAS. Being virtual makes it easy for people to attend. The conference attracted over 360 registered participants from all over the world. This is three times the size of last year. About two-thirds of the registrants were students, including 5 from high schools. We had international hubs in Brazil and China broadcasting the plenary events, facilitated by, respectively, Dr. Marcos Prates (UConn Ph.D. 2011) and Dr. Hansheng Wang. The event was covered by UConn Today as well. https://today.uconn.edu/2020/10/uconn-holds-second-annual-sports-analytics-conference/

The conference was motivated by the tremendous interests of UConn students in sports analytics and data science. In Spring 2019, an undergraduate advisee of mine in data science, Taaj Cheema, then Vice President of the UConn Data Science and now at IBM, told me that he and his friends were interested in the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference but the tickets were sold out, despite how expensive the price was. Convinced that sports analytics was a perfect handle to attract students into data science, I reached out to our alumnus Greg Matthews (UConn Ph.D. 2011), Associate Professor of Statistics at Loyola University Chicago. Greg does real-life sports analytics, in addition to his teaching and research commitments, and knows almost everyone in the sports analytics community. We positioned our conference to be one focusing on students, accessible in terms of technical level, cost, and space. The 2019 UCSAS was held on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019, with 3 keynote talks by Drs. Meredith J. Wills of SportsMedia Technology Corp, Brian Macdonald of ESPN, and Brian himself, a poster session, and 5 training workshops led by our graduate students.

The program of the 2020 UCSAS included 4 keynote talks: 1) Thompson Bliss of National Football League: Estimating the Impact of Travel, Rest, and Playing at Home in the National Football League; 2) Ronald Yurko of Carnegie Mellon University: Going Deep: Models for Continuous-Time Within-Play Valuation of Game Outcomes in American Football with Tracking Data; 3) Stephanie Kovalchik of Zelus Analytics: Making the Intangible Tangible: Using Mixture Models for Estimating Latent Quantities in Sports; and 4) ESPN Sports Analytics Team: Redesigning NBA Basketball Power Index. In particular, the last keynote presentation was special with 8 presenters from the ESPN Sports Analytics Team, covering the whole production line!

A total of posters were presented in the virtual poster session. Most of the presenters were undergraduate/graduate students. Our poster session was an invention under the pandemic. It was a combination of individual WebEx meeting rooms and a Twitter discussion handle under #UCSAS2020. Each poster presenter had his/her own room to present to and discuss with visitors dropping by. Besides, each poster was uploaded onto Twitter with a 2x2 image layout style several days before the event. A poster award committee led by Dani Chu of Seattle Kraken judged the presentations. Based on their recommendations, we gave two first prizes: 1) Nate Rowan, Baylor University, for "The Whiff Effect: Do Pitchers Repeat a Pitch More Often After a Swing-and-Miss?" 2) Brendan T. Kumagai, McMaster University, Canada for "Point Trend Values: An Analysis of Cumulative Point Production Among Junior Hockey Forwards." An honorable mention went to Bria Cratty, University of Miami, for "Redefining the Penalty Kick: Does the Punishment Fit the Crime?"

The 6 training workshops were in parallel threads, each of 50-minute. They were all well-attended: 1) Introduction to R by Tuhin Sheikh; 2) Introduction to Python by Jun Jin; 3) Baseball Analytics with R by Dr. Zhe Wang; 4) Basketball Analytics with R by Jackson Lautier; 5) Web Scraping for Sports Data: Yaqiong Yao; 6) Data Visualization with R by Yiming Zhang. It was great that Zhe, who taught last year and is now an Assistant Professor of Denison University, could help us again. Also, Tuhin, Jun, and Yiming taught last year and make their workshops better this year. Yaqiong took over Web Scraping from Wanwan Xu, who was busy with her thesis research.
Jackson prepared Basketball Analytics with short notice, and the workshop turned out to be one of the most popular. The teaching materials are archived in public GitHub repos with links on our website. The conference was supported by the UConn community and the sports analytics community. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Carl Lejuez, UConn Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs; Anthony Grasso, UConn Football Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach; Devin Pleuler, Director of Analytics, Toronto Football Club; and Michael Lopez, Director of Football Data and Analytics, National Football League. Coach Anthony Grasso made exciting remarks about using sports analytics with local data, a project presented by our undergraduate student Georgia Kasperowicz. We look forward to joining forces of sports analytics talents with UConn sports teams.

The steering committee of the conference consisted of Brian Macdonald, Greg Matthews, and myself. We thank all the presenters, chairs, welcoming remarkers, and all participants, including those at our international hubs, for being with us the whole day. We are very grateful to our colleagues and students who helped with the conference one way or another. Special thanks go to our technical support team, Daniel Jakubiak of UITS, and our students Lucas Godoy, Jun (Bruce) Jin, Heeju Lee, and Yan Li, student volunteers Taaj Cheema, Lucas Godoy, Liam Hamilton, Xiaoqing Li, and Guandi Xu, who set up the individual poster meeting rooms, and Anthony Luis, who maintained the online registration store.

I look forward to the 2021 UCSAS!
The department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut was honored to hold the 25th Distinguished Statistician Colloquium. The Pfizer colloquium series ran from 1978 until 2012 and was renewed in 2018. The colloquium series featured C. R. Rao, Bradley Efron, D.R. Cox, Grace Wahba and many more. For a complete list, see https://stat.uconn.edu/pfizer-colloquium/. The purpose of the Colloquium is to provide a forum for a distinguished statistician to share and disseminate their unique perspective and work in the theory and/or application of statistics. Starting from 2018, the series has been co-sponsored by Pfizer, the American Statistical Association, and the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this year we celebrated the Distinguished Statistician Colloquium Series through Webinar. With generous funding from Pfizer, the American Statistical Association, and the Department of Statistics at UConn, the 25th colloquium in the series was held on October 14, 2020 from 3:00-5:00pmEST and featured Nan Laird, Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of Public Health, Emerita, from T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University.

Prof. Laird is renowned for her work in statistical theory and the development of efficient numerical and statistical methods for large data sets, and has developed methods with applications in biostatistics, weather prediction, machine learning, climate science, and more. She was interviewed by Christoph Lange, Professor of Biostatistics (T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University) and Joseph Hogan, Carole and Lawrence Sirovich Professor of Public Health, Professor of Biostatistics, and Deputy Director of Data Science from Brown University.

The emcee of the program was Dr. Dipak Dey, UConn Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Statistics, and brief remarks were made by Dr. Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director, ASA; Dr. Kannan Natarajan, Head of Global Biometrics and Data Management at Pfizer. Dr. Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Professor of Statistics at UConn.

The videos are added to the ASA YouTube channel. First video for the colloquium: https://youtu.be/9pJcuZLGMuQ
Second video for the interview: https://youtu.be/zIq2oIuQbhI

We thank Pfizer and the ASA for their generous financial support. We also thank the members of the selection committee – Dan Meyer and Demissie Alemayehu from Pfizer, Ron Wasserstein and Nancy Flournoy from the ASA, and Joseph Glaz and Ming-Hui Chen from UConn. Professor Chen also represents the New England Statistical Society (NESS). We also thank the project manager Juliet Kapsis from UConn. This event was attended by 227 registered participants from 8 different countries.
The 2020 NextGen Data Science Day (DSD) was held virtually online through UConn WebEx on Saturday, November 7, 2020. The NextGen sub-committee of the New England Statistical Society seeks to support the next generation of statisticians and data scientists. In keeping with our mission, the DSD conference aims to provide resources for students and young data scientists to understand the field and the associated opportunities better, to get dream jobs, and to share some of their thoughts.

The conference featured two distinguished keynote speakers. Dr. Andrew Gelman, Higgins Professor of Statistics and Professor of Political Science from Columbia University, gave a talk entitled: “Election Forecasting: How We Succeeded Brilliantly, Failed Miserably, or Landed Somewhere in Between”. Dr. Rebecca Nugent, Stephen E. and Joyce Fienberg Professor of Statistics & Data Science from Carnegie Mellon University, presented “Demystifying Data Science: Starts with People, Ends with People”.

We had five panel discussions throughout the day on different topics. The theme of the morning panels is “Explore your options”. They featured experts and professionals from various fields share their job finding experience and provide guidance on resume writing and leveraging LinkedIn. In the afternoon, the panel sessions were geared to help “Understand the Jobs and their Impact”. Panelists from academia, government agencies, finance, start-ups, big-tech, insurance, pharmaceuticals were there to introduce their world and answered burning questions! We had a total of twenty two speaks from various fields related to data science.

The poster session and social networking session also provide opportunities for students and potential employers to meet and interact. Sixteen student joined the poster competition, and presented their work through the Virtual Poster Session platform.

Over two hundred participants joined the conference, and the majorities of the participants are students and experts from the government and different industries. Due to this event, we had over ninety new members joining the New England Statistical Society.

The conference was support by the NextGen committee, many volunteers, and multiple financial sponsors. Special thanks to the following students for supporting the conference.

Webmaster: Heeju Lim
Sessions hosts: Md. Tuhin Sheikh, Ziyang Wang, Yaqiong Yao, Wenlin Yuan, Yiming Zhang
The third summer academy (virtual) sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Inc. was successfully held on August 10-21, 2020. There were 150+ students who attended this year's summer academy. Dean Juli Wade gave closing remarks. This was the first time that this summer academy opened to students outside of UConn. This summer academy was also co-sponsored by Biogen, Pfizer, Servier, Vertex, and UConn Center for Career Development (CCD). The organizers consisted of Qiqi Deng and Dooti Roy (Boehringer Ingelheim Inc.), Peng Sun (Biogen), Steven Gilbert (Pfizer), Zhaoyang Tang (Servier), Bingming Yi (Vertex), and Ming-Hui Chen and HaiYing Wang (UConn). There were 15 presenters from Boehringer Ingelheim, 13 presenters from Biogen, 12 presenters from Pfizer, 5 presenters from Vertex, and 9 presenters from Vertex. UConn CCD, Lisa Famularo, Kay Gruder, and Eran Peterson hosted a one-day event on finding Jobs and Internships, understanding job postings and applicant tracking systems, resume/CV presentation and lab, building a LinkedIn profile, and optimizing your use of LinkedIn. UConn Student Volunteers include Eric Baron, Xiaolin Chang, Simiao Gao, Cheng Huang, Zijian Huang, Daniel Kpormegbey, Hongfei Li, Jiarui Liu, Peiran Liu, Brisilda Ndreka, Md. Tuhin Sheikh, Hao Wu, Wenlin Yuan, and Yiming Zhang. The administrative support was provided by UConn Department of Statistics staffs Anthony Luis and Tracy Burke and the webmaster Heeju Lim.

More detailed information and photos can be found at https://events.stat.uconn.edu/BI-UConn/.

The summer academy is an immersive, collaborative, dynamic and academic experience for students who are planning to pursue a career as a statistician/programmer in pharmaceuticals and health analytics. This program aims to bring together statisticians, clinicians, regulators, drug safety, medical writers, marketers and academics who will provide guidance on drug development, their perspective on an outstanding statistician/programmer and what can get you there.

Starting from fall 2020, the summer academy becomes a part of the MS program in Biostatistics as a required 1-credit course BIST 5092 Biostatistics Practicum.

Ming-Hui Chen: (Ming-Hui.Chen@uconn.edu)
See you next year!
This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic our annual Department Picnic was sadly cancelled. Our GSC was able to coordinate some online game nights amongst one another and still stay connected during these tough times!
Section II
Meet our Faculty
Haim Bar
Associate Professor

Editorial Boards
Sankhya A, Associate Editor.

Invited Faculty Talks
- Cornell University, October 2019. “Quantile Regression Modelling via Location and Scale Mixtures of Normal Distributions”

Grants
DHHS/NIH/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
Project Title: “Disease Mechanisms of Prenatal and Pediatric Acquired Hydrocephalus”
PI: Conover, Joanne. Co-PI: Haim Bar. Amount and Period: $1,760,940.00; 02/01/20 - 03/31/25.

Selected Publications
- Bar, H.; Zweifach, A. Z’ Does Not Need to be > 0.5. SLAS Discovery, 2020
Kun Chen
Associate Professor

Editorial Boards
Sankhya, The Indian Journal of Statistics, Associate Editor. (January 2016 - Present)

Invited Faculty Talks
- Southwest University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China. September 2020.
- Department of Computer Science, University of Massachusetts Lowell. September 2019.

Grants
- Developing suicide risk algorithms for diverse clinical settings using data fusion. National Institutes of Health (R01-MH124740). Principal Investigator (with Dr. Robert Aseltine and Dr. Fei Wang); 09/16/2020–06/30/2024.
- Improving suicide prediction using NLP-derived social determinants of health. National Institutes of Health (R01-MH125027). Principal Investigator on sub-award; 09/01/2020–06/30/2024.
- Improving the identification and management of suicide risk among patients using prescription opioids (HEAL Supplement). National Institutes of Health (R01-MH112148-03S1). Principal Investigator on sub-award; 09/18/2020–06/30/2021.
- Reciprocal modulation of the microbiome and cellular senescence in metabolic dysfunction. National Institutes of Health (R01-AG068860). Principal Investigator on sub-award; 09/10/2020–05/31/2025.
- Improving the identification of patients at risk of suicide. National Institutes of Health (R01-MH112148). Principal Investigator on sub-award; 07/01/2017–06/30/2021.

Outreach
Kun Chen serves as the Secretary of the New England Statistical Society and as a member of the Connecticut All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) Data Release Committee under Connecticut State Office of Health Strategy. At UConn, Kun serves as a member of the University General Education Oversight Committee and a co-chair of its Q-Subcommittee.

Selected Publications
Ming-Hui Chen
Professor & Department Head

Professional Societies

Ming-Hui Chen was elected to Fellow of International Society for Bayesian Analysis in 2016, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 2007 and Fellow of American Statistical Association in 2005. He is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, American Statistical Association, The International Biometric Society (ENAR), the International Society for Bayesian Analysis, Section on Bayesian Statistics, International Chinese Statisticians Association, Korean International Statistical Society, and New England Statistical Society. He is also an ASA accredited Professional Statistician (PStat).

Editorial Boards

Ming-Hui Chen is Co Editor-in-Chief of Statistics and Its Interface, Associate Editor of Journal of the American Statistical Association, Associate Editor of Lifetime Data Analysis, and Associate Editor of Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics.

Invited Faculty Talks


He also delivered an invited colloquium talk on “New Bayesian Measures for Information and Data Compatibility” in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Maryland, Maryland on November 21, 2019.
Grants

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 2015-2021; NIH R01NR grant on "Multi-Omics Analysis of Pain/Stress Impact on Neurodevelopment in Preterm Infants" for 2017-2021. He is a Co-PI on an NSF grant on “Estimating the Bayesian Phylogenetic Information Content of Systematic Data” for 2014-2020 and a State of Florida Dept of Citrus, OJ Project RFP#17-01 on “Longitudinal Study Assessing Impact of 100% Orange Juice Intake on Anthropometric and Cardiometabolic Indicators and Health-Related Behaviors in U.S. Children” for 2018-2020. He is a PI of Pratt & Whitney Task 156 Project on "Engine Combustor Life Modeling” for 1/1/2019-12/31/2019. He is the PI on the subcontract from UNC of Amgen grant on “Bayesian Methods for Meta-analysis” for 1/1/2014-12/31/2020 and Merck & Co grant on “Bayesian Methods for Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials” for 2015-2020. He is the PI on REGENXBIO (RGX) grant on “Bayesian Clinical Trial Design and Simulation Studies” for 03/01/2020-03/01/2021.

He was a Co-PI of NIH R01 grant on “Metabolomics Tools for Biomedicine” for 2015-2019 and a Co-I of an American Cancer Society grant on “Activatable Nanoparticles for Radiotherapy of Metastatic Ovarian Cancer” for 2015-2020.

Outreach

Ming-Hui Chen was an external reviewer of the grant proposals of the Research Grant Council (RGC) of Hong Kong (2013 – 2020). He serves as Representative from Districts 1-3, ASA Caucus of Academic Representatives, 2018-2021 (https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Membership/Caucus-of-Academic-Representatives.aspx). He serves on the International Advisory Committee for the discipline of statistics of Yunnan University, December 2017 -- Present. He also serves as a member of the International Advisory Committee for the discipline of statistics of Shanghai Jiaotong University, 2013 -- present. He served as President of the New England Statistical Society (NESS) for June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2020 and he is President-Past of NESS for June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2022.


Research Corner

Research Interests:

Bayesian Statistical Methodology, Bayesian Computation, Bayesian Phylogenetics, Categorical Data Analysis, Design of Bayesian Clinical Trials, DNA Microarray Data Analysis, Meta-analysis, Missing Data Analysis (EM, MCEM, and Bayesian), Monte Carlo Methodology, Prior Elicitation, Statistical Methodology and Analysis for Prostate Cancer Data, Statistical Modeling, Survival Data Analysis, and Variable Selection.
Selected Publications


Published Books


Zhiyi Chi
Professor & Associate Department Head

Editorial Boards
Applied Stochastic Models for Business and Industry

Grants

Selected Publications

- Z. Chi (2016). Random reversible Markov matrices with tunable extremal
Victor Hugo Lachos Davila  
Professor

Editorial Boards

Associate Editor of S A N K H Y A Series B. Associate Editor of Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics . Associate Editor of Stats.

Invited Faculty Talks


Grants

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."

Outreach

Organizer for invited sessions at the 11th ICSA International Conference (ICSA-2019), Hangzhou, China, December 2019. At UConn, serves as member of the Committee on Curricula and Courses in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). My PhD student José Alejandro Ordoñez, a visiting student in the Department of Statistics, received the "Best Poster Award" at the 15th Brazilian Meeting of Bayesian Statistics held in Maresias/SP-Brazil, March 2020.

Selected Publications


Published Books

Dipak Dey
Distinguished Professor

Professional Societies
Dipak Dey is a Fellow of International Society for Bayesian Analysis, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and Fellow of American Statistical Association. He is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, American Statistical Association, The International Biometric Society (ENAR) the International Society for Bayesian Analysis, Section on Bayesian Statistics, International Chinese Statisticians Association, International Indian Statistical Association, and New England Statistical Society. He is also an ASA accredited Professional Statistician (P.Stat).

Editorial Boards

Invited Faculty Talks
- Invited Speaker, fourth East Asia chapter of International Society of Bayesian Analysis, Kobe, Japan, July 2019.
- Invited Speaker at UConn Statistics Biopharmaceutical Summer Academy at Boehringer Ingelheim, Ridgefield, CT, August 2019.
- Colloquium Speaker, Department of Statistics, Calcutta University, Kolkata, India, November, 2019.
- Special Invited Speaker, C R Rao birth centenary conference, Indian Academy of Sciences, Bengaluru, India, December, 2019.
- Special Invited Speaker, Techno India University, Kolkata, India, December, 2019.
- Invited Speaker, ICSA International Conference, Hangzhou, China, December, 2019.
- Special Invited Speaker, Cogitaas, Mumbai, India, December, 2019.
- Invited Speaker, IIASA International Conference, Mumbai, India, December, 2019.

Grants
- Unifying clinical support methods for preventing and managing opioid use disorder PIs: Aguiar, Derek; Tarakanova, Anna; Dey, Dipak; Coman, Emil In CHIP Ideas Lab, 25,000, September1, 2019.

Outreach
- Member, Connecticut Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (CICATS).
- 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).
- Member of the Hong Kong Research Grant Council, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait Research Foundation.
- Reviewer on the statistical parts of “Nature”.

- Unifying clinical support methods for preventing and managing opioid use disorder PIs: Aguiar, Derek; Tarakanova, Anna; Dey, Dipak; Coman, Emil In CHIP Ideas Lab, 25,000, September1, 2019.

Outreach
- Member, Connecticut Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (CICATS).
- 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).
- Member of the Hong Kong Research Grant Council, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait Research Foundation.
- Reviewer on the statistical parts of “Nature”.

- Unifying clinical support methods for preventing and managing opioid use disorder PIs: Aguiar, Derek; Tarakanova, Anna; Dey, Dipak; Coman, Emil In CHIP Ideas Lab, 25,000, September1, 2019.

Outreach
- Member, Connecticut Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (CICATS).
- 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).
- Member of the Hong Kong Research Grant Council, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait Research Foundation.
- Reviewer on the statistical parts of “Nature”.
Selected Publications


Published Books

- (With P. Muller and D. Sinha). Practical Nonparametric and Semiparametric Bayesian Statistics (also at Amazon.com) Springer-Verlag Lecture Notes Series, Volume 133, 1998 (with P. Muller and D. Sinha)
- (With N. Ravishanker) A First Course in Linear Model Theory Chapman and Hall, 2001 pdf file

Research Corner

Joseph Glaz
Professor

Editorial Boards
Editor-in-Chief, Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability, since 1997, and Associate Editor, Sequential Analysis, since 2004.

Outreach
Joseph Glaz is a member of the Board of International Workshops in Applied Probability (IWAP). IWAP 2018 was held on June 18-21, 2018, in Budapest, Hungary. IWAP 2021 is planned to be held as a virtual meeting during the month of June, 2021. He is a member of the Scientific Program Committee of the International Symposia on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis, ASMDA, and Stochastic Modeleing Techniques and Data Analysis, SMTDA. ASMDA 2019 was held in Florence, Italy, on June 11-14, 2019. SMTDA 2020 was held online in Barcelona, Spain, on June 2-5, 2020. He is a member of the oversight committee for an undergraduate minor in bioinformatics. He is also affiliated with Booth Engineering Center for Advanced Technology (BECATS).

Selected Publications

Published Books
Yuwen Gu
Assistant Professor

Invited Faculty Talks
- 2019-2020 Program on Games, Decisions, Risk and Reliability, SAMSI, 2020

Grants
PI of UConn Research Excellence Program Grant (05/2019-06/2021)

Selected Publications


Ofer Harel
Professor

Editorial Boards
Ofer Harel is a Special Issue Editor for the Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology Journal. He is an Editor for The International Statistical Review and Associate Editor for Statistics in Medicine and Sankhya, the Indian Journal of Statistics, Series B. He is also on the Editorial Board of AIDS and Behavior.

Invited Faculty Talks
Presented invited talks at the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM), Denver, CO (July, 2019); UConn’s STEM Seminar Series, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (September 2019); Invited discussion at the Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM), Virtual (August, 2020); and Invited panelist presented at the Diversity Mentoring Program, Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM), Virtual (August, 2020).

Grants
Ofer Harel is a PI on “Collaborative Research: Shape-based Imputation and Estimation of Fragmented, Noisy on to the Reconstruction of Fossil Bovid Teeth,” supported by National Science Foundation; he is Co-I on “Multilevel Resilience Trajectories in the Transition to Cancer Survivorship,” supported by National Institute of Health; he is a Co-I on “The feasibility and effectiveness of an Opioid package prototype (OPP) to impact opioid prescribing, dispensing, and patient use outcome,” supported by US Food and Drug Administration (FDA); a Co-PI on “Engagement Award for the 13th International Conference on Health Policy Statistics” supported by Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute. Ofer Harel also has several sub-contracts from UCHC to fund number of graduate students.

Outreach
Appointed to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Technical Advisory Committee (BLSTAC), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.; Elected Chair-elect, chair, past chair for the Council of Sections Governing Board, American Statistical Association; Elected to co-chair the International Conference for Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS), 2020; 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, Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for NIDA grant “Behavioral intervention to enhance HIV test/treat;” Mentor, Diversity Mentoring Program, Joint Statistical Meeting; Mentor, Math Alliance; Mentor, Joint Statistical Meeting, Virtual; Doctoral Faculty Council of the Math Alliance.

Selected Publications

Published Books
2009. Strategies for Data Analysis with Two Types of Missing Values: From Theory to Application. Lambert Academic Publishing
Lynn Kuo
Professor

Invited Faculty Talks
Invited talk at the 4th Eastern Asia meeting on Bayesian Statistics, July 13th, 2019, Kobe, Japan.

Grants
- She is a Co-PI of an NSF grant DEB-1354146 “Estimating the Bayesian Phylogenetic Information Content of Systematic Data” with Paul Lewis (PI), 2014-2020.
- She was also supported by an Intramural Research Program, National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, via Einstein Medical School.
- Conducting Statistical Research for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Drug Development, 12/31/19-7/31/2020 supported by BI Boehringer Ingelheim.

Outreach
- She is a Treasurer of New England Statistical Society, Inc.
- CDC special emphasis panel ZDP1 KVA (01) to review 21 applications in response to RFA-DP-20-001 Assessing the Burden of Diabetes by Type in Children, Adolescents and Young Adults (DiCAYA).

Selected Publications

Published Books
Nitis Mukhopadhyay
Professor

Editorial Boards
Nitis Mukhopadhyay has been the Editor-in-Chief of Sequential Analysis journal since 2004. He was a Guest Co-Editor (with Carlos A. Coelho and Thomas Mathew) of a special issue the Journal of Statistical Theory and Practice in honor of the 70th birthday of Professors Bimal K. Sinha and Bikas K. Sinha, March 2018, no.1, 12, pp. 1-154. He is a member of the Advisory Board for Sri Lankan Journal of Applied Statistics and also Associate Editors for the Communications in Statistics (both series) and Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin.He is an advisory board member for the journal International Journal of Statistics in Medical Research from Tiblisi, Georgia.

Invited Faculty Talks
• Professor Mukhopadhyay had spent the first half of the month of January 2020 in Calcutta as a visiting scientist at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, University of Calcutta, and Amity University Kolkata. Gave special invited lectures on (i) big data and information, (ii) teaching and research, and (iii) inequality measures.
• Visited Unversity Federal Ouro Prete (Brazil) as the university’s guest and gave 5 special university-wide lectures in statistics, econometrics, big data, and education in Ouro Prete and in the capital BH of MG, Brazil.
• Delivered an invited presentation at the NESS (Hartford, Connecticut) hosted by UConn-Storrs in a session organized by A. Polunchenko.
• Arranged and Chaired 2 invited paper sessions at the QPRC (Washington, D.C.) and gave an invited presentation in a session organized by S. Zacks in June 2019.
• Delivered an invited presentation at the IWSM hosted at the Binghamton University, New York and Chaired a number of sessions.
• Lined up to deliver a key lecture in Milan, Italy and organized a special symposium in Venice, Italy on Applied Mathematics & Computational Science In March 2020. I was committed to deliver the Plenary Lecture at this symposium and then Chair this symposium. I was ready to go! It fell through due to the pandemic.
• I was lined up to deliver an invited paper at the ASA/IMS Spring Research Conference at Oakland University, Michigan in May 2020. I was ready to go! It fell through due to the pandemic.
• I organized four invited paper sessions at the IWAP in Thessaloniki, Greece in June 2020. I was going to Chair those sessions. I was ready to go! It fell through due to the pandemic.
• I was invited to visit the Institute of Stochastics, Tbilisi, Georgia and deliver the Keynote Address in the conference, July 2020. I was ready to go! It fell through due to the pandemic.

Outreach
• A Vice President, Calcutta Statistical Association. Patron/Academic advisor to APAMURS (Asia Pacific Academy of Multidisciplinary Research and Study), NIT-Durgapur.
• International Program Committee member, IWAP(Budapest, Hungary).
• Was the Co-Chair and Co-Organizer for the IWSM (June 2019).
• Hosted the visits from Colleagues, Sarath Peireis (Colombo, Sri Lanka), Debanjan Bhattacharjee (Utah Valley University) and Ivair R. Silva (Brazil and Harvard), on separate occasions for collaborative research on capture-recapture sampling strategies and statistics education.
• Was filmed for a five-minute welcome-speech shown at the recent Pfizer Colloquium televised from Harvard.
Selected Publications

- (with Soumik Banerjee) Sequential minimum risk point estimation (MRPE) methodology for a normal mean under Linex loss plus sampling cost: First-order and second-order asymptotics, Sequential Analysis (2019), 38, 461-479.
- (with Zhe Wang) A general theory of purely sequential minimum risk point estimation (MRPE) of a function of the mean in a normal distribution, Sequential Analysis (2019), 38, 480-502.

Published Books

Vladimir Pozdnyakov
Professor

Editorial Boards
Associate Editor of Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications.

Selected Publications


Nalini Ravishanker
Professor

Editorial Boards

Invited Faculty Talks
- March 2019. Tel-Aviv University. Modeling Inter-event Durations in High-Frequency Time Series.

Outreach
- President, International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (2017-2019)
- Faculty Coordinator, Statistics for the UConn ECE Program.
- VP for Education, NESS (2017-2020)

Grants
Center for Advanced Multimodal Mobility Solutions and Education, US Department of Transportation – University Transportation Center: Are Transportation Network Companies Synergistic with Other Shared Ride Mode Offerings? An Exploratory Analysis of Demand Data from NYC Utilizing High Resolution Spatiotemporal Models, Co-PI, Sep 2018 – Sep 2019.

Selected Publications


Published Books


Elizabeth Schifano
Assistant Professor

Editorial Boards
Associate Editor: Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics.

Invited Faculty Talks
Elizabeth Schifano delivered an invited keynote presentation at the University of Toronto's Department of Statistical Science Research Day held at the Fields Institute, Toronto, ON, in April 2019. She also presented at the 2019 Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, CO.

Grants
Elizabeth Schifano is currently a co-investigator on an Oncology Nursing Society Foundation grant with PI Wanli Xu, entitled “Microbiota Modulation of Chemotherapy-related Pain and Fatigue in Colorectal Cancer Patients” (2019-2021).

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

Selected Publications


Rick Vitale
Professor

Editorial Boards
Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability

Selected Publications


Invited Faculty Talks

- Rare events logistic regression: how much data do we have? The 11th ICSA International Conference, Hangzhou, China, December 20-22, 2019.
- Sampling based inference for logistic regression. School of mathematical sciences, Capital Normal University, Beijing, China, December 24, 2019.

Outreach

- The UConn Statistics Virtual Biopharmaceutical Summer Academy Committee

Selected Publications

Xiaojing Wang
Associate Professor

Editorial Boards
Associate Editor, Sankhya A, 01/2019-present

Invited Faculty Talks
Xiaojing Wang gave the invited talk in the 33rd New England Statistics Symposium. In addition, Xiaojing Wang presented an invited seminar talk in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Boston University.

Grants
Xiaojing Wang is the PI on NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Award for "CAREER: Advancing Latent Variable Statistical Modeling for the Analysis of Big and Complex Longitudinal Data to Promote Personalized Learning" from 09/01/2019-08/31/2024. She is also the PI on Seed Grants to Development Interdisciplinary Research Teams for "The Development of Interdisciplinary Team on the Analysis of Gamified Assessments", 09/01/2019-08/31/2020. In addition, she has completed a research grant of Sanofi-Aventis, U.S., as the PI for "Development of Statistical Methodology for Identifying Respondent Subgroups Using Biomarker Signature" from 05/23/2016 to 08/31/2019.

Outreach

Selected Publications
Jun Yan
Professor

Editorial Boards

Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Data Science: 2020-present
Associate Editor, Ecological and Environmental Statistics: 2014-2020
Associate Editor, Brazilian Journal of Probability and Statistics: 2020-present

Outreach

Editor, ASA Lifetime Data Science Section Newsletter, 2016-2020 Chair-Elect 2021, ASA Section on Statistical Computing Co-Chair, ASA.and Journal of Data Science Webinar Series: Data Science in Action in Response to the Outbreak of COVID-19

Selected Publications


Published Books

Yao Zheng
Assistant Professor

Invited Faculty Talks

- “Finite time analysis of vector autoregressive models under linear restrictions”
  - Boston College, Department of Economics, December 2019
- “High-dimensional low-rank tensor autoregressive time series modeling”
  - University of Missouri, Department of Statistics, September 2020
  - University of Maryland, Department of Mathematics, September 2020
  - University of Connecticut, Department of Economics, September 2020

Selected Publications


Outreach

Member of the local organizing committee for the Pfizer/ASA/UConn Distinguished Statistician Series, Storrs, CT
Yuping Zhang
Assistant Professor

Editorial Boards

Invited Faculty Talks
- Biostatistics Seminar Series, The Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Grants
National Science Foundation DMS-2015481, Correlated Graphical Models for High-Dimensional Heterogeneous Data: Theory, Optimization, and Applications, (Role: Principal Investigator)

Outreach
- Member of the local organizing committee for the Pfizer/ASA/UConn Distinguished Statistician Series, Storrs, CT

Selected Publications
Faculty Awards & Achievements

- XIAOJING WANG HAS BEEN AWARDED NSF CAREER AWARD August, 2019
- VLADIMIR POZDNYAKOV HAS RECEIVED THE MAA CHAUVENET PRIZE January, 2020
- PROFESSOR MING-HUI CHEN RECEIVED 2020 INTERNATIONAL CHINESE STATISTICIANS ASSOCIATION (ICSA) DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. December 15, 2020
- PROFESSOR DIPAK DEY HAS RECEIVED THE 2020 IISA (INTERNATIONAL INDIAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION) SERVICE AWARD. July 2, 2020
- PROFESSOR XIAOJING WANG’S RESEARCH EXCELLENCE PROGRAM (REP) PROPOSAL HAS BEEN FUNDED on July 9, 2020
- PROF. OFER HAREL HAS RECEIVED A 2020 PRESIDENTIAL M1 MENTORSHIP Awardee FROM THE CCI. July 13, 2020
Section III
Student News
Student Awards & Achievements

- JOOCHUL LEE HAS RECEIVED KAUPA GOLD SCHOLARSHIP October 8, 2019

- YAN LI HAS RECEIVED 2020 ENAR DISTINGUISHED STUDENT PAPER AWARD December 12, 2019

- ZHE SUN HAS RECEIVED 2020 ENAR DISTINGUISHED STUDENT PAPER AWARD AND JOHN VAN RYZIN AWARD December 12, 2019

- CHAORAN HU HAS RECEIVED THE 2020 STUDENT PAPER AWARD IN THE STATISTICAL COMPUTING AND STATISTICAL GRAPHICS SECTIONS OF THE ASA January 24, 2020

- KATHERINE ZAVEZ IS ONE OF THE WINNERS OF THE CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE FOR THE BRAIN AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES(IBACS) GRADUATE SUMMER FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION January 31, 2020

- PRINCE ALLOTEY WON AN HONORABLE MENTION FROM FORD FOUNDATION March 23, 2020

- YULIA SIDI HAS RECEIVED HPSS STUDENT PAPER AWARD March 27, 2020

- JACKSON LAUTIER HAS RECEIVED A 2020 NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (NSF GRFP). April 3, 2020

- KATHERINE ZAVEZ IS ONE OF THE FINALISTS OF APHA’S APPLIED PUBLIC HEALTH STATISTICS SECTION 2020 STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION APRIL 2020

- ARITRA HALDER HAS RECEIVED IMS HANNAN GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD. May 16, 2020
Recent Ph.D. Graduates

Chen, Renjie - Zillow
Hu, Chaoran - Eli Lilly & Co.
Jiao, Jieying - Travelers Insurance
Liu, Xiaokang - University of Pennsylvania, PostDoc
Sidi, Yulia - Takeda
Qi, Qi - Genetech - Statistical Scientist
Jinjian Mu - Ohio State University - Biostatistician
Yin, Shuang - CDRH, Food and Drug Administration
Shaffer, Ellis - S&P Global
Wang, Zhe - Dennison University - Assistant Professor
Halder, Aritra - University of Virginia - Assistant Professor
Geng, Lijiang - Boehringer Ingelheim
Zhang, Cheng - Novartis

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 Graduates!
We would love an update on your current activities. Please send updates (professional and/or personal) to a.luis@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
Alumni Awards & Achievements

- Greg Matthews was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure.

- PATRICK CANTWELL HAS BEEN AWARDED THE 2019 UCONN STATISTICS DEPARTMENT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD  September 2019

- Alumni and past VAP Marcos Oliveira Prates, was elected the President of the Brazilian Statistics Association (ABE) of the term 2020-2022. Sept. 2019

- Sudipto Banerjee, ’00 PhD for being elected the President-Elect of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) in 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Ying Wei</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
<td>Integrated Quantile RAnk Test (iQRAT) for gene-level associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Tahir Ekin</td>
<td>Texas State University</td>
<td>Augmented Probability Simulation Methods for Decisions and Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Sumanta Basu</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
<td>Sparse Identification and Estimation of Large-Scale Vector Autoregressive Moving Averages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Discretely Observed Brownian Motion Governed by a Telegraph Process: Estimation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Vladimir Pozdnyakov</td>
<td>University of Connecticut</td>
<td>Joint UConn/UMass Colloquium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Ted Wassuga</td>
<td>University of Massachusetts</td>
<td>Causal Inference with Continuous Exposures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Nan Laird</td>
<td>Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health</td>
<td>The 25th Pfizer/ASA/UConn Distinguished Statistician Colloquium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Anru Zhang</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Madison</td>
<td>Statistical Learning for High-dimensional Tensor Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Dong-Yun Kim</td>
<td>NIH/NHLBI</td>
<td>Continuous Monitoring in a Clinical Trial: A Fully Sequential Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Steven Guipepper</td>
<td>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign</td>
<td>Inferring latent structure in polytomous data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Sofer, Tamar</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
<td>Estimating heritability and genetic correlations with (interpretable) method of moment estimators of variance components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Tianlong Wang</td>
<td>Texas A &amp; M University</td>
<td>A Directed Preferential Attachment Model with Poison Measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 20</td>
<td>Bengt Muthen</td>
<td>University of California</td>
<td>Recent Advances in Latent Variable Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday,</td>
<td>Yuping Zhang</td>
<td>University of Connecticut</td>
<td>Statistical Learning and Inference for Biological Networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 18</td>
<td>Paul De Boeck</td>
<td>The Ohio State University</td>
<td>Response Accuracy and Response Time in Cognitive Tests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Robert H. Aseltine Jr, UCHC Affiliated Appointment
Haim Bar, Associate Professor
Jinbo Bi, CSE Affiliated Appointment
Tracy Burke, Secretary
Joseph Cappelleri, Adjunct Professor (Pfizer, Inc.)
Kun Chen, Associate Professor
Ming-Hui Chen, Professor and Head
Zhiyi Chi, Professor and Associate Head
Victor Hugo Lachos Davila, Professor
Dipak K. Dey, Distinguished Professor
Joseph Glaz, Professor
Yuwen Gu, Assistant Professor
Ofer Harel, Professor
Kent Holsinger, EEB Affiliated Appointment
Tania Huedo-Medina, Allied Health Affiliated Appointment
Lynn Kuo, Professor
Amir Kouzehkanani, Adjunct Lecturer
Bahram Javidi, ECE Affiliated Appointment
Paul Lewis, EEB Affiliated Appointment
Anthony Luis, Program Assistant II
Suman Majumdar, Associate Professor (Stamford)
Kathleen McLaughlin, Adjunct Lecturer
Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Professor
Vladimir Pozdnyakov, Professor and Director of Financial Math
Zhanna Pozdnyakova, Adjunct Lecturer
Nalini Ravishanker, Professor
Elizabeth Schifano, Associate Professor
Jeremy Teitelbaum, Math Affiliated Appointment
Naitee Ting, Adjunct Professor (Boehringer-Ingelheim)
Emiliano Valdez, Math Affiliated Appointment
Richard Vitale, Professor
Stephen Walsh, School of Nursing Affiliated Appointment
HaiYing Wang, Assistant Professor
Xiaojing Wang, Associate Professor
Jun Yan, Professor
Yuping Zhang, Associate Professor
Yao Zheng, Assistant Professor
Bin Zou, Math Affiliated Appointment

aseltine@uchc.edu
haim.bar@uconn.edu
jinbo.bi@uconn.edu
tracy.burke@uconn.edu
joseph.c.cappelleri@pfizer.com
kun.chen@uconn.edu
ming-hui.chen@uconn.edu
zhiyi.chi@uconn.edu
hlachos@uconn.edu
dipak.dey@uconn.edu
joseph.glaz@uconn.edu
yuwen.gu@uconn.edu
ofe.harel@uconn.edu
kent.holsinger@uconn.edu
tania.huedo-medina@uconn.edu
lynn.kuo@uconn.edu
amir.kouzehkanani@uconn.edu
bahram.javidi@uconn.edu
paul.lewis@uconn.edu
a.luis@uconn.edu
suman.majumdar@uconn.edu
kathleen.mclaughlin@uconn.edu
nitis.mukhopadhyay@uconn.edu
vladimir.pozdnyakov@uconn.edu
zhanna.pozdnyakova@uconn.edu
nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu
elizabeth.schifano@uconn.edu
jeremy.teitelbaum@uconn.edu
naitee.ting@boehringer-ingelheim.com
valdezea@uconn.edu
r.vitale@uconn.edu
stephen.walsh@uconn.edu
haiying.wang@uconn.edu
xiaojing.wang@uconn.edu
jun.yan@uconn.edu
yuping.zhang@uconn.edu
yao.zheng@uconn.edu
bin.zou@uconn.edu