KUDOS

• Congratulations to the Georgia Statistics Day poster session winners from Emory:
  o Best Emory student poster award: Phebe Kemmer
  o Honorable Mention: Josh Lukemire

INTERESTING "READS"

• Big data in biomedicine: 4 big questions
  http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v527/n7576_suppl/full/527S19a.html

• Watch Lance Waller in the ASA webinar: "The Statistics Identity Crisis: Are we really Data Scientists?", with >3K views and counting! (Lance’s part starts around 39:30)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jls01Z5baSU

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BIOS PICS

BIOS students with Rob Tibshirani at Georgia Statistics Day 10/30

Sam and Domonique with Rod Little at his 65th Birthday Celebration in Ann Arbor, MI, 10/30-10/31

(Symposium on Advances in Causal Inference, Survey Statistics, Disclosure Risk, and Missing Data)
“There comes a time when people get tired of being pushed out of the glittering sunlight of life’s July and left standing amid the piercing chill of an alpine November.”
   -Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.”
   -Dolly Parton

“The best thing one can do when it’s raining is to let it rain.”
   -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
UPCOMING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

• BIOS Department Meeting, 12-1, Tuesday 11/10
• DRAFT AGENDA
  o SIBS Update
  o Search Update
  o Student Lunch Feedback
  o Amazon Web Service
  o Big Data Hub
  o Mentoring
  o Department Committees
  o Birthdays
  o Anything else?

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

• Congratulations to Yi-An Ko on her recent publication:

• Let us know about recent publications and we can list them here!

NEW NEIGHBORS

• The Winship Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Shared Resource has MOVED into the 'little house on the hill' at 718 Gatewood Rd. NE Atlanta, GA 30322! Just around the corner and much, much closer to RSPH.

BIG DATA

• Emory will partner with new Regional Big Data Hub led by Georgia Tech, UNC
WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

• **2016 International Biometric Conference (IBC)**
  - Registration will open at the end of the year with an early bird registration deadline of April 15, 2016.
  - The deadline for contributed sessions is Jan 6, 2016.
  - For more information and to register, see: [http://biometricconference.org](http://biometricconference.org)

• **2016 ASA Biopharmaceutical Section Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop**
  - September 28-30, 2016, at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC.
  - Session Proposals Now Being Accepted! Proposal Submission Deadline: December 4, 11:59 p.m. EST
  - This three-day workshop is sponsored by the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section. Short courses are held on the first day, followed by two days of sessions about the science and statistics associated with the development of new medical products, including pharmaceuticals, biologics, and devices. The workshop provides a unique opportunity to bring together statisticians from industry, academia, and the FDA for an open dialogue about issues of mutual interest.
  - Proposals for concurrent sessions, short courses, and town hall meetings are now being accepted.
  - Roundtable luncheon proposals will be accepted January 4–March 15, 2016.

• **Fifth Seattle Symposium in Biostatistics: Biomarkers for Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Therapy Guidance**
  - Nov 21-24, 2015 in Seattle, WA
  - [http://symposium.biostat.washington.edu](http://symposium.biostat.washington.edu)
ASA NEWS

• See weekly digest

ASA STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

• The ASA section on Statistics and the Environment (ENVR) is sponsoring a student paper competition.
  o We encourage students to submit papers on their research related to the use of statistics to help investigate and address environmental problems. The paper may consist of novel approaches to the analysis of environmental data, new methodology with a clear application to a statistical problem found within the environmental sciences, or an interesting application of statistics to environmental research.
  o Awards: For the 2016 competition, the authors of up to the four highest ranked papers will each receive $1000 toward reimbursing their expenses for attending JSM. These students will be expected to present their papers in an ENVR sponsored topic-contributed session dedicated to the student paper competition.
  o Eligibility: Any student in Fall 2015 (undergraduate, Masters, or Ph.D.) who is a member of ASA/ENVR is eligible. Submitted papers and/or papers already accepted for publication are eligible.
  o Application materials: The applicant must be the first author of the paper. In addition, a letter must be submitted verifying the applicant’s student status from a faculty member familiar with the student’s work and, in the case of joint authorship, indicating what fraction of the contribution is attributable to the applicant. If selected, the applicant must also submit an abstract for JSM 2016 by February 1, 2016 to ASA and request a presentation in an ENVR session. Applicants must follow all rules required for paper submission and attendance at the JSM.
  o Required paper format: The paper must be entirely double-spaced (abstract, main body, references, footnotes and appendices), using at least 11 point type with at least 1 inch margins all around and no longer than 26 pages (inclusive of all figures, tables and bibliography). Materials must be submitted electronically in PDF file format. All materials must be in English.

• The deadline is Dec 1, 2015, by 5pm EST. Submit materials to the email address below. The result of the competition will be made known to participants by January 8, 2016. Winners must indicate acceptance of the award by January 11, 2016.
  Elizabeth Mannshardt
  mannshardt@stat.ncsu.edu
  Adjunct Assistant Professor
  Department of Statistics
  North Carolina State University

  o Review Process: Papers will be reviewed by the Student Paper Competition Award Committee of the Section on Statistics and the Environment. Selection will be based primarily on the perceived contribution to environmental science through statistical innovation. Papers are judged on environmental importance/relevance, statistical modeling/novelty, as well as writing (including organization, clarity, and accessibility). The decision of the selection committee will be final.

  o More information is available at http://www.amstat.org/sections/studentpaperawards.cfm

• Note: The student paper competition deadline for most other ASA section is Dec 15, 2015
NSF RFA

- NSF Research Traineeship Program
  - The NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program is designed to encourage the development and implementation of bold, new, and potentially transformative models for STEM graduate education training. The NRT program seeks proposals that ensure that graduate students in research-based master’s and doctoral degree programs develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The NRT program includes two tracks: the Traineeship Track and the Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Track.
  - The Traineeship Track is dedicated to effective training of STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary research areas, through the use of a comprehensive traineeship model that is innovative, evidence-based, and aligned with changing workforce and research needs. For FY2016, there are four priority areas: (1) Data-Enabled Science and Engineering (DESE), (2) Understanding the Brain (UtB), (3) Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS), and (4) any other interdisciplinary research theme of national priority. The priority research areas for the FY2017 competition will be (1) UtB, (2) INFEWS, and (3) any other interdisciplinary research theme of national priority.
  - The IGE Track focuses on test-bed projects aimed at piloting, testing, and validating innovative and potentially transformative approaches to graduate education. IGE projects are intended to generate the knowledge required for their customization, implementation, and broader adoption. While the Traineeship Track promotes building on the current knowledge base to develop comprehensive programs to effectively train STEM graduate students, the IGE Track supports testing of novel models or activities with high potential to enrich and extend the knowledge base on effective graduate education approaches.

- The NRT program addresses both workforce development, emphasizing broad participation, and institutional capacity building needs in graduate education. For both tracks, strategic collaborations with the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, national laboratories, field stations, teaching and learning centers, informal science centers, and academic partners are encouraged.
UPCOMING STUDENT DEADLINES

- **Nov 15th:** AAUW Dissertation Fellowship Deadline
  - For women scholars; must be US citizens or permanent residents
  - Award is $20,000 for the 2016-17 school year
  - The American Dissertation Fellowship must be used for the final year of writing the dissertation.

- **Dec 1st:** Smithsonian Insitution Fellowship Deadline
  - [http://www.smithsonianofi.com/blog/2012/10/07/apply-smithsonian-institution-fellowship-program/](http://www.smithsonianofi.com/blog/2012/10/07/apply-smithsonian-institution-fellowship-program/)

- **Dec 1st:** BIOS PhD Program Application Deadline
  - [http://sph.emory.edu/departments/bios/degree-programs/phd/index.html](http://sph.emory.edu/departments/bios/degree-programs/phd/index.html)

- **Dec 1st:** AAUW International Fellowship Deadline
  - International women only
  - [http://sph.emory.edu/departments/bios/degree-programs/phd/index.html](http://sph.emory.edu/departments/bios/degree-programs/phd/index.html)

- **Dec 15th:** ASA student paper competition deadlines
  - For some sections, the deadline is sooner

- A list of important student deadlines can be found here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13AVu49NB_9QKapHAAPcGgf0a9SnCNftfhiw2LORkxw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13AVu49NB_9QKapHAAPcGgf0a9SnCNftfhiw2LORkxw/edit?usp=sharing)

- A list of Student Opportunities (fellowships, internships, and awards) can be found here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1c6TbiS5kxsfUfSteI8R1NCHPPvG2cp3Bp4uX4U0pYJ0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1c6TbiS5kxsfUfSteI8R1NCHPPvG2cp3Bp4uX4U0pYJ0/edit?usp=sharing)
ENAR DIVERSITY WORKSHOP

2016 ENAR Fostering Diversity in Biostatistics Workshop

- Will be held in Austin, TX on Sunday, March 6, 2016. The workshop will target racial/ethnic groups who are traditionally underrepresented in the field of biostatistics.
- Students can request travel funding support as part of the registration for the program.
**JOB OPENINGS**

**Post-docs:**

- **Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Division of Biostatistics in the Department of Preventive Medicine at Northwestern University**
  - The successful applicant for this position will work on an NIH-funded study under Dr. Juned Siddique to develop and evaluate statistical methods to correct for measurement in error in self-reported dietary data from longitudinal lifestyle interventions. The post-doc will work on development of new statistical methods, analysis of existing data, and Monte Carlo simulations.
  - The primary objective of the fellowship is to prepare the individual for a career in academic research and opportunities will be provided for training in grant writing and publishing.
  - Candidates must have a doctoral degree in biostatistics or statistics, experience programming in R, and excellent written and communication skills. Expertise and experience in one or more of the following areas is desirable: measurement error, missing data, Bayesian statistics, and causal inference. This is a two-year position with a possible third year. Salary and benefits are competitive. Considerations of applications will continue until the position is filled.
  - Applicants should submit a cover letter, CV, and references to:
    - Juned Siddique
    - Division of Biostatistics
    - Department of Preventive Medicine
    - Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
    - 680 N. Lake Shore Dr., Suite 1400
    - Chicago, IL 60611
    - siddique@northwestern.edu

- **Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, WA**
  - The successful applicant will work primarily on statistical methods development for research related to the use of biomarkers in risk prediction and personalized medicine, and the use of biomarkers as surrogate endpoints for predicting treatment efficacy. The applicant will also have the opportunity to carry out collaborative projects in cancer and HIV AIDS for publications in peer-reviewed journals.
  - PhD degree in biostatistics/statistics; strong theoretical background and programming skills; strong oral and written communication skills; strong independent problem solving skills. Excellence in R is required. Proficiency in C/C++ a plus. Experience with missing data methods, variable selection, biomarker evaluation, high-dimensional data methods, causal inference, survival analysis, or clinical study design a plus.
  - Questions about the position can be directed to Dr. Ying Huang (yhuang@fhcrc.org).
**Post-docs, continued...**

- **Post-doctoral Fellow in Environmental Health Biostatistics, Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at the University of Rochester**
  - Position will commence in late 2015 or early 2016, funded by an NIEHS T32 training grant. The appointee will develop and apply novel statistical methodology for projects related to environmental health, under the mentorship of Dr. Sally W. Thurston or another Biostatistics faculty member. The trainee will be working in a multidisciplinary team including with leading researchers in environmental health and will participate in preparing and be a co-author of manuscripts arising from the research. Possible projects include studies of the effects of: (a) air pollution exposure during pregnancy on birth outcomes; (b) pre- and postnatal mercury exposure from fish consumption on multiple child and adolescent neurodevelopment; or (c) exposure to phthalates and flame retardants on ovarian function over the course of the menstrual cycle. Relevant methodological expertise includes Bayesian methods, measurement error, latent variables, and modeling multiple exposures and/or multiple outcomes.
  - Position qualifications: In accordance with NIEHS requirements, trainees must be a US citizen or permanent resident, and must have completed a doctoral degree in statistics or a related subject by the appointment start date. We seek a highly motivated candidate with a strong statistical background, excellent programming skills and good communication skills, who ideally has experience in Bayesian MCMC computation.
  - Appointment: The position is available for 12 months initially with the possibility of renewal for a second year by mutual agreement. The position is available immediately, but we seek the best candidate even if the start date is delayed. Applications received by December 1, 2015 will be given full consideration.
  - To apply: A cover letter describing research experience, a current CV and contact information for three references should be sent to by email to Sally_Thurston@urmc.rochester.edu (please reference “NIEHS postdoctoral position” in the subject line), or by hard copy to:

    Dr. Sally W. Thurston  
    Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology  
    University of Rochester Medical Center  
    265 Crittenden Blvd., Box 630  
    Rochester, NY 14642
JOB OPENINGS

• Two Tenure-track Faculty positions, Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Williams College
  o Position begins Fall 2016.
  o We are seeking highly qualified candidates who have demonstrated excellence in teaching and research and who are committed to working with an increasingly diverse student body. The candidates will become the fourth and fifth tenure-track statisticians in the department, joining a vibrant and active statistics group with a newly established statistics major. The teaching load is two courses per 12-week semester and a winter term course every other January. In addition to excellence in teaching, an active and successful research program is expected.
  o The candidate should have a Ph.D. by the time of appointment.
  o Candidates may apply via interfolio.com by uploading their CV and having three letters of recommendation on teaching and research uploaded to http://apply.interfolio.com/30206. Teaching and research statements are also welcome. Evaluations of applications will begin on or after November 15 and will continue until the position is filled.

• Faculty position, Department of Biostatistics and Informatics at the University of Colorado
  o Desirable candidates are expected to have an active program in (or clear potential for) methodological research and a high level of enthusiasm for contributing to our M.S. and Ph.D. program through teaching and advising graduate students. The Department has a strong preference for attracting applicants with dual and ideally synchronous interests in the development of statistical/computer science methodology and collaborative scientific research.
  o Position Qualifications: Doctoral degree in biostatistics, statistics, informatics, computer science or strongly related discipline. Candidates must have excellent oral and written communication skills.
  o To apply, go to http://www.jobsatcu.com/postings/110141
  o Note: review of applications will begin immediately.

• Two Tenure-Track Faculty positions in Statistics at the University of Arkansas
  o Position begins August 2016. The positions are open to all candidates with research interests in any area of statistical applications, theory, or methods. Successful candidates must have a Ph.D. or international equivalent in statistics, biostatistics, or a closely related field by August 2016. Preference will be given to candidates whose research area matches those represented in the department and who have the potential to contribute beyond the department as a member of a multidisciplinary research team. Examples of desired research areas include, but are not limited to, Bayesian statistics, spatial processes, state space models, networks and graphical models, functional data.
  o All application materials should be submitted electronically to: http://jobs.uark.edu/postings/10102. The application package should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, a publication list, and brief descriptions of research agenda and teaching philosophy. The names, titles, email addresses, and contact numbers of four professional references willing to provide letters of reference will be requested during the application process. Applicants should request that at least one referee address the applicant’s teaching experiences and capabilities. Completed applications received by November 21, 2015 will be assured full consideration. Late applications will be reviewed as necessary to fill the position.
JOB OPENINGS

- **Tenure-Track Faculty position, Department of Statistics at Rice University**
  - A doctorate in statistics or a related field is required, with potential or proven excellence in research and teaching.
  - Applications are sought from areas of modern statistics that will enhance the George R. Brown School of Engineering's focus on Data Science and the understanding of complex data, while strengthening the core research of the department. Example of areas include but are not limited to Bayesian methods, computational finance, functional data, multivariate analysis, networks or graphical models, probability theory, statistical machine learning, spatial and temporal processes, statistical computing, stochastic processes and optimization. Several hires within the School of Engineering in the general area of Data Science are expected.
  - The position begins Fall 2016. To apply go to [http://facultysearch_statistics.rice.edu/](http://facultysearch.statistics.rice.edu/)
  - Applicants are requested to upload a letter of application, curriculum vita, graduate transcripts, and reprints/preprints. Please include names and addresses, including e-mail, of three individuals who will be contacted for letters of recommendation.
  - Inquiries to: phyllis@stat.rice.edu. Include “Faculty Search” in the subject line of the e-mail. The review of applications will begin December 16, 2015. Applications will continue to be accepted beyond this date until the position is filled. Interviews will begin mid-January.
"You non-smoking troublemakers play hell with our statistics, you know."

"Excellent health statistics - smokers are less likely to die of age related illness"

CARTOONS SOURCE:
- http://chrisblattman.com/2015/11/05/ipas-weekly-links-34/
- http://www.chrismadden.co.uk/images/cartoons/Smoking-age-related-illness-new-cjmadden.jpg
- https://whatsthebigdata.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/bigdata_cartoon.jpg
"The statistics show that even the slightest amount of exposure to health scare statistics can have serious consequences."

I've only managed to collect a 100MB of data on our customers. They're a boring bunch of people!