Fall in Statistics

UC Riverside Department of Statistics
GSA Newsletter

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"Don't forget why you're passionate about statistics. When you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, remember what gets you excited about working in this field, and that will help get you through the difficult times. It doesn't take a genius to succeed in a graduate program, but rather a person who is persistent, even when things get tough."

-Sam VanSchalkwyk, PhD

Photographer: Debaleena Sain

Letter from Dr. Cui

Dear Students,

Welcome to the third Statistics GSA newsletter. The end of the Fall quarter is usually marked by the celebration of holidays. This year with the coronavirus pandemic, it marks an end of "outlier" 2020. While the pandemic has had many "random" disruptive effects, I am 99% confident that we will go back to "normal" sometime soon.

I want to compliment each and every one of you who are going through this most extraordinary time of your life since you had your last statistics classes in Olmsted Hall or since joining the department virtually. I am proud of the dedication and ingenuity of you as graduate teaching assistants in delivering excellent learning experience for our undergraduate students, as well as your perseverance and commitment as students in an online learning environment. I wish you all to feel "complete and sufficient" when you leave the year of 2020 behind.

I am incredibly thankful for your individual and collective efforts in helping the department and each other navigate through these extraordinary times. I am confident in the resilience of our program because of our dedicated faculty, our hard-working students, and our supportive staff. Our students' learning experience and growth opportunities will never be disrupted. I am very excited to share with you that in Fall 2020, we welcomed our first group of freshmen in data science jointly with the UCR Department of Computer Science and Engineering. In Fall 2021, we will welcome our first group of Master students in Business Analytics jointly with UCR School of Business. In Spring 2021, the department will offer a new data mining course - STAT 209: Software tools for large scale and big data.

As we head towards our Christmas holidays, I want to wish you a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy 2021!

Sincerely,
Xinping Cui

New Students

What is your name?
Bao Vu

Are you an MS or PhD student?
PhD

What are your statistical interests?
Time Series, Bayesian Methods, Spatial Statistics, and Multivariate. Applications in Environmental Science and Social Science.

What is your favorite color?
Navy/Maroon/Forest Green

What are your hobbies?
Hiking, Playing video games, Reading, Watching YouTube

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
I built a PC. Exercising.

What is your name?
Justin Liu

Are you an MS or PhD student?
MS

What are your statistical interests?
Biomedical/biotechnology, Sports Analysis and Sports Medicine
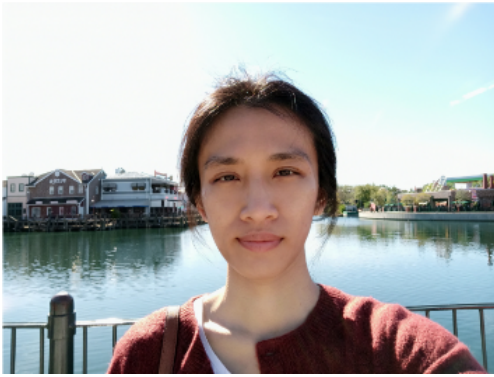
What is your favorite color?
Green

What are your hobbies?
Watching/Playing sports, trying new foods, traveling

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
Cooking

What is your name?
Yun Mo

Are you an MS or PhD student?
PhD

What are your statistical interests?
High-dimensional Statistics

What is your favorite color?
White

What are your hobbies?
play badminton; travel; watch TV shows

What is your name?
My name is Namhwa, Lee and I preferred to be called Nam Hwa.

Are you an MS or PhD student?
PhD

What are your statistical interests?
Broadly speaking, I am interested in Statistical Modelling. During my master's program at Sungkyunkwan University, I studied and researched mixture models and semiparametric and nonparametric methods. I hope to learn, study, and research a variety of fields in Statistics at UCR with excellent faculties and students!

What is your favorite color?
My favorite color is navy. I also like the sky blue.

What are your hobbies?
I like to watch movies and soccer. I also like running.

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
I started to do home training and go hiking after the COVID pandemic.

What is your name?
My full name is **Tianjian Yang**, but I prefer to be called by my nickname **Kiano**.

Are you an MS or PhD student?
PhD

What are your statistical interests?
Machine Learning, Optimization, Biostatistics, Data Science

What is your favorite color?
Pure **Black**

What are your hobbies?
Video Games (mainly FPS like PUBG, COD series and Far Cry series), **Classical Music**, **Piano**

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
I guess None, if playing several new video games and trying to play several piano masterpieces new to me are not included.

What is your name?
Eric Hayes

Are you an MS or PhD student?
PhD

What are your statistical interests?
Networks, High-dimensional Data Analysis, Econometrics

What is your favorite color?
Blue

What are your hobbies?
Music, playing the piano and singing mostly.

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
Making Coffee

What is your name?
Jericho Lawson

Are you an MS or PhD student?
PhD

What are your statistical interests?
Sports statistics, machine learning, data science

What is your favorite color?
Orange

What are your hobbies?
Hiking, playing and watching sports, eating at new restaurants, playing video games, and photography.

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
Trading stocks on Robinhood

What is your name?
Evan Mason

Are you an MS or PhD student?
PhD

What are your statistical interests?
Magnets

What is your favorite color?
Blue

What are your hobbies?
Table Tennis, Poetry, Effigy

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
Audio Books

What is your name?
Nathan Niculae

Are you an MS or PhD student?
MS

What are your statistical interests?
To gain a deeper understanding of statistical theory and develop areas of focus that can be suited to my interests in the biological and automotive sectors.
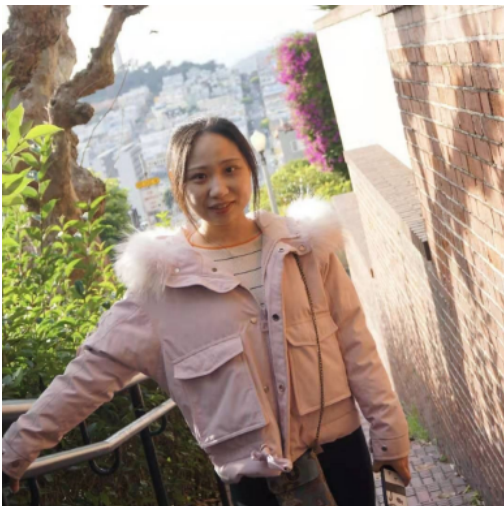
What is your favorite color?
Undecided between Yellow and Light Blue

What are your hobbies?
Biking, Fishing, Skiing, Swimming, Surfing

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
Understanding Bosch Motronic Engine management systems and their use in late model Volkswagen Group vehicles.

What is your name?
Manjing Gao

Are you an MS or PhD student?
MS

What are your statistical interests?
Mixed regression and Longitudinal data analysis

What is your favorite color?
Don't have the most favorite color

What are your hobbies?
Music, desserts, video games

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
All day online classes LOL

What is your name?
Limei Chen

Are you an MS or PhD student?
MS

What are your statistical interests?
Data Science

What is your favorite color?
Green

What are your hobbies?
Cooking and Reading

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
Do not have anything special

What is your name?
Linqi Zhang

Are you an MS or PhD student?
MS

What are your statistical interests?
I haven't figured it out yet...... Since I studied Medicine as well as Psychology in my undergraduate school, I am interested in Biostatistics and that's why I applied for this program (and it is my pleasure to be admitted!).

What is your favorite color?
Purple, reddish brown and many light colors.

What are your hobbies?
Playing tennis, dubbing(for films, cartoons and so on), playing the piano, going to exhibitions. I like almost all the outdoor sports:)

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
I wrote book reviews and movie reviews as a contributor.

What is your name?
Trey McGonigle

Are you an MS or PhD student?
MS

What are your statistical interests?
Experimental Design and Testing

What is your favorite color?
Blue

What are your hobbies?
Cooking, Esports

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
I'm not quite sure I have picked up a new hobby, I tended to be a homebody before, so I guess you could say I'm in my element.

What is your name?
Brian Tran

Are you an MS or PhD student?
PhD

What are your statistical interests?
Biostatistics, Stochastic Processes, Longitudinal Data, Time Series Analysis

What is your favorite color?
Blue

What are your hobbies?
I enjoy reading, listening to music, watching Supernatural and dancing.

What new activity have you adopted during the COVID pandemic?
I have started a self-care routine around face masks! I like to try new face masks each weekend and invite recommendations.

Faculty Spotlight

Wenxiu Ma

Where did you receive your graduate degree?

I received my Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stanford University.

Did you work anywhere before UCR? If so, where, and what did you do there?

Before joining UCR, I did my postdoctoral training at Stanford University, and then at University of Washington.

How would you describe what you do for research? How is your research applied to actual data sets?

My primary research interest is in developing computational algorithms and statistical methods to solve big data challenges in genomics and biology. I work closely with my collaborators who generate the experimental data sets with important and Intriguing research questions. We apply statistical and machine learning methods to these datasets to discover interesting signals, patterns, and insights.

How did your interest in statistics begin?

I am extremely grateful to my Ph.D. advisor, Dr. Wing Hung Wong, for leading me to the field. He showed me how powerful statistics can be in real data applications. I am always amazed to see neat and elegant statistical models work beautifully in complex data.

What advice would you give graduate students?

1. Don't be afraid to ask for help: It's a strength, not a weakness.
2. Start career planning and development as early as possible.

What hobbies have you picked up since quarantine?

We started to grow vegetables in the backyard since quarantine began. We have harvested tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, okras, cabbages, and winter melons!

Graduate Student Seminar
A Seminar for Graduate Students

The GSS series is an opportunity for graduate students in our department to showcase some of the cool things they are doing, gain presentation practice, and get to know each other. The presentations can be on a variety of topics, including research, projects, internships, a topic you wanted to investigate, a paper that you found interesting, and more. Anything that is appropriate for the graduate-student level audience that could be of interest to the graduate students of this department is welcomed.

The GSS welcomes, and ENCOURAGES, anyone who is interested to attend. This includes undergraduates, faculty, and staff. This is open to ALL graduate students. We are hoping to get a variety of topics and perspectives. Please email **ucr.grad.stat@gmail.com** your name as soon as possible if you would be willing to put together a presentation, we would be delighted to have you.

Winter 2021 Courses

STAT 201B	Theory of Probability and Statistics	Shujie Ma
STAT 202B	Regression, ANOVA and Design	Subir Ghosh
STAT 205	Discrete Data Analysis	Weixin Yao
STAT 210B	Advanced Theory of Probability and Statistics	Shuheng Zhou
STAT 220B	Multivariate Analysis	Jun Li
STAT 231A	Statistics for Biological Sciences	Xinping Cui
STAT255G	Advanced Linear and Generalized Linear Models	Shujie Ma
STAT 251	Statistics Colloquium	Weixin Yao
STAT 293	Methods in Applied Statistics	Esra Kurum

Important Dates

First Day of Winter Quarter	Jan. 4, 2021
First Day of Winter Class	Jan. 4, 2021
Academic and Administrative Holidays	Jan. 18, 2021 & Feb. 15, 2021
Spring 2021 Schedule of Classes Available	Jan. 28, 2021
Add/Drop Date Deadline	Jan. 15, 2021
Last Day of Instruction	Mar. 12, 2021
Final's Week	Mar. 13-19, 2021
Spring Break	Mar. 22-26, 2021
First Day of Spring Quarter	Mar. 24, 2021
First Day of Spring Class	Mar. 29, 2021

GSA 2020-2021 Officers

Isaac Quintanilla Salinas, President
Statistical Interests: Biostatistics
General Interests: Equity and Education
Hobbies: Hiking

Rebecca Kurtz-Garcia, Vice President
Statistical Interests: Computational Statistics, Nonparametric Statistics, Categorical Analysis, Data Science
Hobbies: I compete in triathlons and running races. I also sew.

Brian Tran, Treasurer
Statistical/General Interests: Biostatistics, Stochastic Processes, Longitudinal Data, Time Series Analysis
Hobbies: I enjoy reading, listening to music, watching Supernatural and dancing.

Bradley Lubich, Secretary
Statistical Interests: Distribution-robust estimation (nonparametric, semi-parametric, model averaging, etc.), mixture distributions, unimodal constraints, multi-dimensional test statistics
General Interests: Christianity, the global food system, standing desks, health
Hobbies: Basketball, hiking, spike ball

Luke Klein, Webmaster
Statistical Interests: Clinical trials and study design
General Interests: Travel.
Hobbies: Playing with my dog, and camping.

Kim Phan, GSC Representative
Statistical/General Interests: I am interested in Survival Analysis because of how interesting we can find the probability of surviving past a certain time. Instead of anticipating something to happen, we are able to analyze the expected time for an event to occur!
Hobbies: I like to draw or watch YouTube in my free time. If I feel adventurous, I'll try to cook up something new!

Department Pets

Lexi (white/grey)
Lynx (brown/black)

Owner: Analisa Flores

Snowball

Owner: Dan Jeske

Owner: Luke Klein

Owner: Evan Mason

Bella

Owner: Trey McGonigle

Emmett

Owner: Trey McGonigle

June

Owner: Rebecca Kurtz-Garcia