Statistics is such a broad field and graduate school is a great opportunity to try some things on. Say “yes” to unexpected experiences - apply for an internship in a field you’re unsure of, teach a summer class, get involved with the GSA - you never know where you’ll find your calling!

-- Lauren Cappiello, PhD

Photographer: Debaleena Sain
Faculty Spotlight

Where did you receive your graduate degree?

I received my PhD in Applied Statistics from UC Riverside. I’ve been a part of the Stats Department for a long time!

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

Nope! I have been employed by UCR since just before completing my PhD. I spent 10 years as a Lecturer and then a short time working at MARC (Mathematical Analysis Research Corporation) as a statistician/consultant before rejoining UCR as an Assistant Professor of Teaching.

What kind of research have you done? How can your research be applied to other data sets?

My graduate research was in experimental design. My dissertation identified fractional factorial designs with constant variance properties under the advising of Dr. Ghosh. As an Assistant Professor of Teaching I hope to focus on curriculum development and effective teaching designs.

How did your interest in statistics begin?

I majored in math at Cal Poly Pomona because I was good at math and enjoyed it. After taking my first stats elective, I was hooked. It combined the logic of math with the real-world. I took all of the stat courses offered and found myself applying to Stat graduate programs shortly after.

What advice would you give to other graduate students?

Take each opportunity presented to you and make the most of it. Have a chance to go to your professor's office hours? Take it! You’ll have an opportunity to really get to know them. Have a chance to participate in research? Take it! It’s a great chance to take what you learned in the classroom and apply it. Have a chance to teach a course? Take it! What if you discover you love (or hate) teaching? Have a chance to attend a conference? Take it! There’s no better time to network than now. Have a chance to give a presentation? Take it! It’s an invaluable skill and the only way to get better is practice. So I guess my point is - don't just go through the motions. Every opportunity is a chance to grow and learn.

What hobbies have you recently picked up?

I've recently become a Kindergarten and 2nd grade teacher! All jokes aside, I love reading and spending my time with my family.
Conference Travel Funds

The Department of Statistics will provide travel funds to students who are attending conferences. Below is a brief description about the available funds.

**Amount awarded for each individual:** Up to $1,000.

**Deadlines:**
Due by Mar 01 (funding decision by the end of Mar).
Due by Sep 01 (funding decision by the end of Sep).

**2021 Deadline:** June 01

**Minimum Requirement:** Students must give an oral and poster presentation. Students should also have applied for other financial support from college or campus (such as GSA travel support). Priority will be given to students who never receive the department travel award before.

**Application form:** Statistics Graduate Student Funding Application

**Questions:** Please direct your questions to Dr. Shujie Ma (shujie.ma@ucr.edu), Dr. Esra Kurum (esra.kurum@ucr.edu), or Dr. Weixin Yao (weixin.yao@ucr.edu).

Upcoming Conferences

**Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)**
Seattle, Washington; Aug 7-12, 2021
[https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2021/](https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2021/)

**ASA Biopharmaceutical Section Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop**
Rockville, Maryland; September 21-23, 2021
[https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/biop/2021/](https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/biop/2021/)
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 with your name as soon as possible if you would be willing to put together a presentation, we would be delighted to have you.
Spring 2021 Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 201C</td>
<td>Theory of Probability and Statistics</td>
<td>Shujie Ma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 202C</td>
<td>Regression, ANOVA and Design</td>
<td>Subir Ghosh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 203A</td>
<td>Bayesian Statistics</td>
<td>James Flegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 208</td>
<td>Statistical Data Mining Methods</td>
<td>Daniel Jeske</td>
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<td>STAT 209</td>
<td>Software Tools for Big Data Analysis</td>
<td>Wenxiu Ma</td>
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<td>STAT 217</td>
<td>Mixture Models</td>
<td>Weixin Yao</td>
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<td>STAT 251</td>
<td>Statistics Colloquium</td>
<td>Analisa Flores</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 288</td>
<td>Literature Seminar</td>
<td>Xinping Cui</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Important Dates

- First Day of Spring Quarter: March 24, 2021
- First Day of Spring Class: March 29, 2021
- Academic and Administrative Holidays: May 31, 2021
- Add/Drop Date Deadline: April 16, 2021
- Last Day to Change Grading Basis: April 16, 2021
- Last Day of Instruction: June 4, 2021
- Final’s Week: June 5-11, 2021
- First Day of Fall Quarter: Sept. 20, 2021
- First Day of Fall Class: Sept. 23, 2021
Alumni Update

Javier Suarez-Espinosa PhD

Year of Graduation: 2008
Degree Obtained: PhD
Employment: Director of Campus Montecillo/ Colegio de Postgraduados
Advice: Try to enjoy your time as a student.

Veronica Aispuro PhD MS

Year of Graduation: 2008
Degree Obtained: PhD and MS
Employment: UnitedHealth Group
Advice: Keep learning even after graduation.

Year of Graduation: 2007
Degree Obtained: PhD
Employment: Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Advice: Continue learning. Develop expertise not just in the statistical methods but also the applied area where you work in. Clear Communication is as important as statistical expertise.

Arunava Chakravartty PhD

Winter 2021
Jason Wilson PhD

Year of Graduation: 2007
Degree Obtained: PhD
Employment: Associate Professor; Chair, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science / Biola University
Advice: A "Ph.D" is a "Doctor of Philosophy" degree and a "Master's" implies mastery of one's craft. Both imply deep thought and integrated knowledge. Our culture today militates against time spent carefully reflecting upon the ideas, nuances, implications, etc. of our disciplines. Rather, it pushes towards "training" - to know how to perform specific tasks. My advice is to take the time to learn the big picture, consider how statistics connects to the whole, study the ethical implications of your work, and be well rounded. The building you construct over the course of your career can only be big as the foundation you lay.
Updates: Thanks to my amazing experience in Dan Jeske's collaboratory, I was able to start a statistical consulting center at my school in 2018!
www.biola.edu/qcc
**Favorite Food**

Rebecca Kurtz-Garcia  
Homemade lasagna  
One of the first recipes I learned as a kid, it is still a favorite of mine

Esra Kurum  
Tiramisu  
Since you didn’t specify the category of the dish, I assume dessert is okay :)

Jericho Lawson  
Enchiladas  
The best dish.

Dawn Loyola  
Chocolate cake with chocolate icing

Evan Mason  
Tacos

Weixin Yao  
Baked salmon

Daniel Jeske  
Buttered Toast  
Orowheat Country Potato Bread, buttered first using real butter, and then toasted.

Jeff Ellis  
Pinto Beans  
A gigantic pot of pinto beans, heavily salted with garlic, onions, and various chiles for flavor.

Bradley Lubich  
Cheeseburger  
Ideally, medium rare grass-fed beef on a lightly toasted whole wheat bun with mayonnaise, mustard, and a little bit of low-sugar ketchup. Toppings include melted cheddar cheese, crunchy lettuce, a slice of red onion, home-grown tomatoes, and some ripe and creamy avocado. Variations are welcomed, but this is the go-to.
Kim Phan
Bún Chà Giò

"Bún" = noodles and "Chà Giò" = eggrolls. As simple as this Vietnamese dish sounds, it comes with a variety of additions from cooling mint, crispy cucumber, crushed roasted peanuts, to sweet pickled carrots and radishes. The fresh veggies balances the taste of just-fried eggrolls. Finally, it is glazed with a generous spoonful of fragrant fish sauce and a heaping mound of chili sauce. It can be eaten with additional meats if it needs to be a more hearty meal! I could eat it all day, any day...

Isaac Quintanilla Salinas
Pupusas

Maize tortillas stuffed stuffed with food. Recommend Queso con Loroco (cheese with edible flower) and Revueltas (cheese, beans and pork).

Debaleena Sain
Biriyanı

Biriyanı is a mix of rice, meat, and Indian spices slowly cooked in low heat using a type of clarified butter known as Ghee. Historians debate about the exact origin of Biriyanı. What is known today, is a mix of Persian and Indian cuisine which used to be cooked in the royal kitchens of the Mughal Empire since sixteenth century India. Different regions of India has different variants of Biriyanı these days, but my favorite is Biriyanı of Kolkata and the slow cooked potato in it.

Noe Vidales
Chiles Rellenos

Stuffed roasted chili peppers with a sauce drizzled on top. Sauce and stuffing varies by region of Mexico. Mama made it with cheese stuffing and tomato sauce yummy.