

October 1, 2009

Editor: Cheryl Bissett

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

## *STATISTICS*

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 72 No. 1

Autumn 2009

### Statistics Seminar

**Speaker:** R. Douglas Martin  
Department of Statistics, University of Washington

**Title:** *TAIL RISK BUDGETING*

**Date:** Monday, October 5, 2009

**Place:** Mary Gates Hall Room 389

**Time:** 3:30 P.M.

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### Welcome New Students

Kjirstin Bentson, Air Force Institute of Technology  
Marshall Brown, Seattle Pacific University  
Christopher Glazner, Univ. of North Carolina- Chapel Hill  
Adam Gustafson, Tufts University  
Daniel Hippe, University of Washington  
Jan Irvahn, Reed College  
Amol Kapila, Brown University  
Lucas Koepke, University of Colorado  
Kirk Li, SUNY- Stony Brook  
Xiaodan Liu, Rutgers University  
Shusaku Nishiguchi, Tsinghu University  
Georgina Reed, University of Cambridge  
You Ren, Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Theresa Smith, University of Pittsburgh  
Roderick Theobald, Carleton College  
Alexander Volfosky, University of Chicago  
Song Xue, University of Washington

### BIOSTAT/STAT SPECIAL SEMINAR

**Speaker:** Sylvia Richardson, Centre for Biostatistics, Imperial College London  
*(this visit is supported by the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences)*

**Title:** *Approximate Bayesian Computation under model uncertainty, with application to protein network evolution*

**Date:** Monday, October 12, 2009

**Place:** Mary Gates Hall Room 389

**Time:** 3:30 P.M.

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### Congratulations Graduates:

#### Autumn 2008:

Ahrim Youn (PhD)

#### Winter 2009:

Sasha Aravkin (MS)

Julia Eaton (MS)

#### Spring 2009:

Yanming Di (PhD)

McLean Sloughter (PhD)

Shengyu Zhang (PhD)

#### Summer 2009:

Yindeng Jiang (PhD)

Pavel Krivitsky (PhD)

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## **CONGRATULATIONS**

### Student Awards –

*Krista J. Gile* has won the International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA)'s Best Student Paper Award for 2009. The award was for the paper: “*Respondent-Driven Sampling: An Assessment of Current Methodology*”. The official announcement is given at <http://www.insna.org/awards/student.html>.

*Gail Potter* was awarded a Thomas Francis, Jr. Global Health Fellowship. She used it to undertake research in Senegal during the summer 2009.

*Chris Volinsky*, Alumni 1997, UW Statistics, a member of Bellkor and Scientist at AT&T Research was part of a seven-man team to win \$1 million dollar Netflix prize.

### Conference Awards –

*Thomas Richardson* was awarded Best Paper Award at the 25th Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence (UAI 2009). His paper is entitled ‘*A factorization criterion for acyclic directed mixed graphs*’. The UAI awards are sponsored by Microsoft research, Google, Intel, IBM research, and GERAD.

A symposium was held on Saturday June 27, 2009 to celebrate *Elizabeth Thompson's* 60th birthday, her election to the United States National Academy of Sciences, and her continuing contributions to statistical genetics, the Summer Institute in Statistical Genetics (SISG), and the Departments of Biostatistics, Genome Sciences and Statistics. The symposium was a great success. More information can be found at <http://www.biostat.washington.edu/node/611>

### Faculty Awards –

*Peter Guttorp* received an honorary doctorate in Engineering from Lund University, Sweden, at its annual doctoral promotion which is conducted in Latin at the ancient Cathedral of Lund. The citation was “*statisticae artis mathematicae peritissime et rei circumjectalis fautor celeberrime*”, meaning approximately “most experienced in the art of mathematical statistics, and well known for his work on the environment”.

*Mark S. Handcock* was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. The citation reads: “For broad contributions at the interface of statistics and sociology and for innovative research on statistical model in social network theory.”

*June Morita* was awarded an ASA “Founders Award” at Joint Statistical Meetings on August 4, 2009. The award represents the highest honor the ASA provides to members for rendered distinguished service to the association. The citation reads:

Details can be found at: [http://www.media-newswire.com/release\\_1095748.html](http://www.media-newswire.com/release_1095748.html)

*Adrian Raftery* was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. This is one of the highest honors that a scientist can receive and recognizes those who have made distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Adrian joins Elizabeth Thompson, who was elected last year, and Joe Felsenstein as the departmental members on the National Academy of Sciences.

A U.S. Supreme Court brief cites *Fred Bookstein, Paul Sampson, and Ann Streissguth* regarding the application of morphometrics to the study of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

### New Hires –

*Miruna Petrescu-Prahova*. She will have an office in the *Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences*. She recently received her Ph D in Sociology from University of California Irvine and will be collaborating on research work with Mark Handcock as a Post-Doc researcher on a research grant.

*Whipple Neely*, Ph.D. UW Mathematics. He has an office in the Statistics Department. The focus of his research is sampling and survey methods for “hidden” and “hard-to-reach” populations with an emphasis on data collected using Respondent-Driven Sampling.