Fall in Statistics

UC Riverside Department of Statistics Newsletter

"We all came here with dreams of pursuing higher education and UCR is such a great place for this purpose! Graduate school can be challenging, but always remember that you are not alone. Make friends, talk to them, do the things that you like besides your work, and take advantage of the campus resources. No matter how difficult it seems, at the end, all of it will be worthwhile."

- Debaleena Sain, Ph.D.

Photograph courtesy of Debaleena Sain

Letter from the Chair

Dear Students,

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 academic year! After 18 months of remote learning, we finally took a cautious but steady step back to normalcy. This fall features a mix of online and in-person classes. It is wonderful to welcome our new students and meet some of our second year students in-person for the first time.

Walking on the beautiful UCR campus, I was touched by many familiar and some unfamiliar sights. The first weekend back to campus, I witnessed some wild donkeys roaming free on campus. The picture was taken between the Bell Tower, HUB and Watkins Hall. This is a sight that I have never seen on our campus. To me, it shows how resilient our mother nature is, and we shall too bounce back from the pandemic.

Statistics continues to be one of the fastest growing fields in the job market of the United States. The most recent news from the World Economic Forum on Sep 20, 2021

(https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/09/fastest-growing-jobs-employment-skills/) reaffirmed this fact that we already know. We, the faculty, feel honored to have the opportunity to help you prepare for your bright future as the next generation of statisticians.

Statistics is also increasing its footprint on UCR campus. This Fall, the MS in Business Analytics program, which is a collaboration between School of Business and Department of Statistics, welcomes its first class of students; the Data Science undergraduate major, a collaboration between Computer Science and Statistics, welcomes its second class of freshmen as well as transfers and change of majors. The statistics faculty continue to receive recognitions and awards, such as Elected Fellows from statistical societies, and large research grants from agencies including the National Institutes of Health. Computer Science and Statistics are also jointly awarded a $1 million data science training grant from the National Science Foundation.

I am sure you are as proud as I am about these achievements that all happened in the eventful year of 2020-2021. We could not have done it without the hard work and dedication of the faculty, staff and students. Reopening and recovery is a long process, but we are happy to see GSA has resumed some limited in-person activities, conducted in a responsible way. We have reasons to believe that 21-22 will be an even more fruitful and achieving year. Enjoy the learning and fun, and most importantly, stay safe!

Sincerely yours.

Yehua Li
Professor & Chair of Statistics

Faculty Spotlight
Subir Ghosh

Where did you receive your graduate degree?

I received my Ph.D. degree in Statistics from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

I received my Master's degree in Statistics from Calcutta University, Calcutta, India.

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

After getting my Ph.D. degree, I was a post-doctorate researcher in Statistics at Colorado State University for six months. After that, I returned to India to join the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.

When I was a graduate student at Colorado State, I was a research assistant during my years there. I did not have any teaching experience when I joined the Indian Statistical Institute. I started teaching both undergraduate and graduate classes in Statistics. But most of the time, I was engaged in research. Many famous researchers were either the faculty members or the visiting scholars giving their research presentations throughout the year. I started doing my independent research investigation. I did hard work without any new outcomes in the first eight months, but then one day, I got new findings and, after that, new basic ideas for the independent research. It was a new beginning in my life.

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

When I started my research at Colorado State, I was with one very famous researcher in Statistics and Mathematics for disproving a two-hundred-year-old Euler's conjecture, developing the BCH code in Coding Theory, and his pioneering work in the Design of Experiments. I was also with another outstanding researcher in Statistics who contributed to the Design of Experiments, Multivariate Analysis, Survey Sampling, Reliability Theory and used to work with varieties of data sets. As their research assistant, I used to work under their joint grant. When I was working there as a student, several things happened. The second researcher developed a new research idea: Search Linear Model and Search Designs.

I wrote my Ph.D. thesis in the newly developed area, and I began contributing to it. Another major event happened that the second researcher started a new journal: Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference. I was directly assisting the second researcher in this work. The first researcher became the President of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), covering my student years the term, and became a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences.

When I was at the Indian Statistical Institute, my research idea, "Robustness of designs against the unavailability of data," started a new area of research. Many researchers globally are active in this area by combining it with network design and others. At UC Riverside, other research areas emerged. More than forty-five Ph.D. theses are by our Statistics graduate students. Another Ph.D. thesis by a UCR Electrical Engineering Student under the joint supervision of a Distinguished Professor of that department with me in Image Recognition and Detection.

How did your interest in statistics begin?

When I was in seventh grade, I became highly motivated in Mathematics which turned into Statistics from R. A. Fisher, P. C. Mahalanobis, W.G. Cochran, C. R. Rao, Henry Scheffe, Jack Kiefer, Herman Chernoff, Brad Efron, and many others.

What advice would you give to graduate students?

My answer is in the question form.

Would you please search for who you are and follow your path?

What hobbies have you recently picked up?

The COVID-19 has changed the lives of people. During the more than one and half years at home, I read many higher graduate-level statistics books and developed independently the modern Statistics computational skills.

Incoming Graduate Students

Randall Lai

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

I am a M.S. student.

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

My primary interest is in applied regression analysis.

What is your favorite color?

My favorite color is green.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy running and listening to music.

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I am a flashlight connoisseur.

Xin Shen

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D.

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Machine learning and longitudinal data analysis

What is your favorite color?

Pink

What are your hobbies?

Hiking and reading

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I like to sing when I am alone

Shuang (Shawn) Jiang

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D.

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Data mining, Machine learning, Data visualization

What is your favorite color?

Red+Black (perfect combo)

What are your hobbies?

Games, Guitar

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I am not good at eating spicy food. But I love spicy food!

Nahee Kim

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D.

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?
High dimension data analysis, Machine Learning

What is your favorite color?
Purple

What are your hobbies?
Pilates

What is one strange fact about yourself?
I had never had any coke before I graduated from high school. I just didn't like it. But I love it now.

Yudi Mu

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D.

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Biostatistics, machine learning

What is your favorite color?

Blue

What are your hobbies?

Watching TV shows, shopping.

What is one strange fact about yourself?
I am a girl and I wear size 9 shoes. (This is rare in China at least.)

Chin-Sheng Teng (or Jason)

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D. student

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Biostatistics and high dimensional statistics

What is your favorite color?

Red

What are your hobbies?

Tennis, hiking, playing board games, ...

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I have my BS degree in Agronomy and have a minor in Psychology. Now, I am in the Statistics!

Tian Liang

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D.

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Not decided.

What is your favorite color?

Blue.

What are your hobbies?

Playing computer games.

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I'm strangely normal.

Emily Ouyang

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D.

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Applications in education research

What is your favorite color?

Green

What are your hobbies?

Eating, reading, and growing plants

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I like to wear flip flops in the rain.

Jiaxin Zhang

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

M.S. student

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Biostatistics

What is your favorite color?

Blue

What are your hobbies?

Outdoor activities and cooking

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I am an insomniac

John Pleines

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D. student

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Instrumental variables currently

What is your favorite color?

Navy Blue

What are your hobbies?

Hiking/nature walks, D&D, airsoft, trying to get into rock climbing

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I had very long hair for most of my life until cutting it in 2019

Christian Dueñas

Are you a M.S. or Ph.D. student?

Ph.D.

What are your primary areas of interest in statistics?

Joint Modeling of Longitudinal and Survival data

What is your favorite color?

A nice shade of Orange

What are your hobbies?

When I'm not in school , I like to play video games, code/develop video games,and talk about making games on Youtube.

What is one strange fact about yourself?

I'm a fan of unpractically small and portable technology. I have the world's tiniest Game Boy and a fully featured laptop with Windows 10 that could fit in my pocket.

Local Restaurant Recs

- My recommendation would be Roas Maria's! https://www.rosamarias.com/ The closest one to UCR is the Redlands location. From simple bean and cheese burritos to tacos to their garbage burrito....there's something for everyone. It's authentic, delicious, Mexican food that I've been eating since I was a kid. Yum!

  ~ Analisa

- Manna Grill:

  It's a little ma and pa Korean restaurant in the UV. I love it because their little children are always running around and helping out, giving the restaurant a cozy, smalltown vibe. On top of that the food is really delicious. My personal favorite is the cold Naengmyun noodle dish; it may sound a little weird, but it's super refreshing on a hot Riverside day!
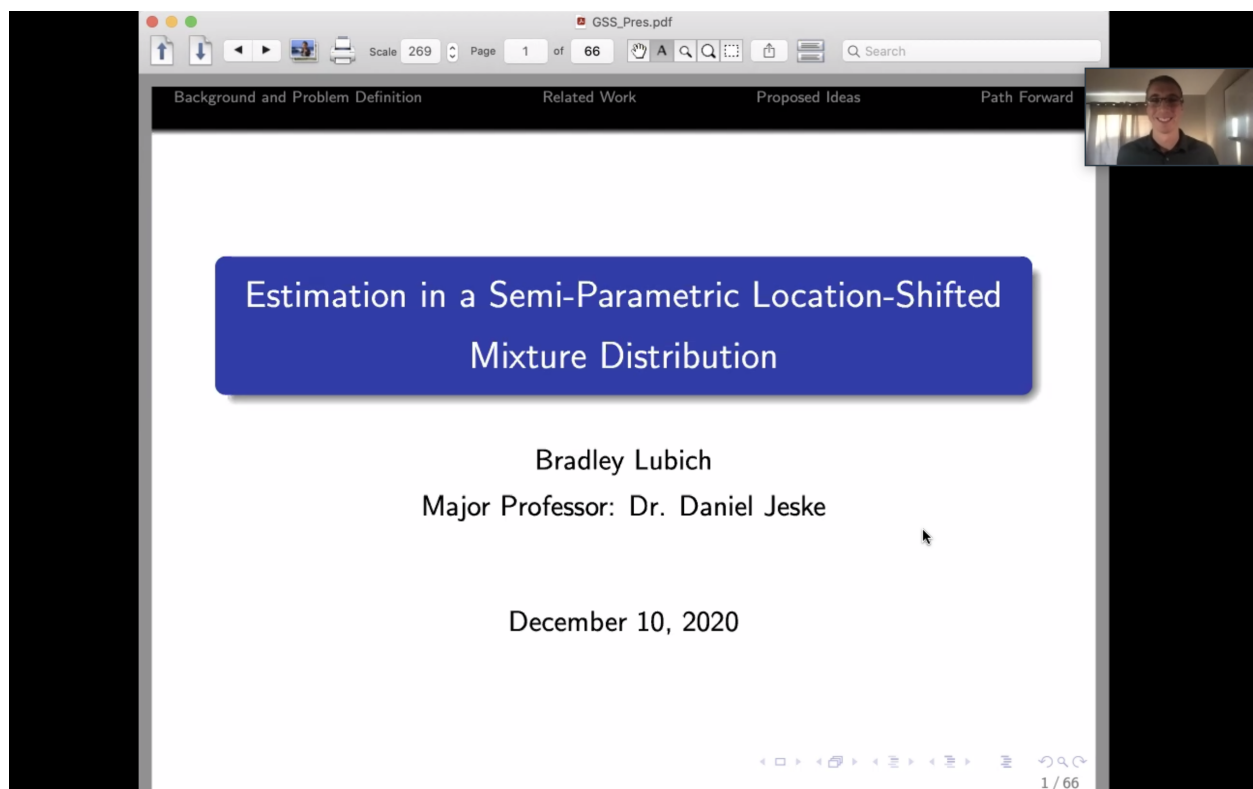
  ~ Trey

- My recommendation is Ten Ren's Tea Time; they have great Taiwanese food, I especially like their green onion pancake and boba tea (I think it is the best in town; they have a great selection of flavors and you can ask them to include less/zero sugar/sweetener).

  ~ Esra

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.

Winter 2022 Graduate Courses

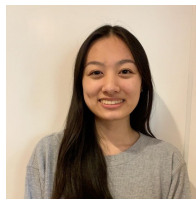| Course	Name	Times	Instructor
201B	THEORY OF PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS	TR 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM R 03:30 PM - 04:20 PM	Ma, Shujie
202B	REGRESSION, ANOVA, AND DESIGN	MWF 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM W 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Ghosh, Subir
205	DISCRETE DATA ANALYSIS	MW 02:00 PM - 03:20 PM F 02:00 PM - 02:50 PM	Yao, Weixin
207	ADVANCED STATISTICAL COMPUTING	TR 12:30 PM - 01:50 PM R 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Flegal, James
210B	ADVANCED THEORY OF PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS	TR 11:00 AM - 12:20 PM R 03:30 PM - 04:20 PM	Zhou, Shuheng
251	STATISTICS COLLOQUIUM	T 03:30 PM - 04:50 PM	Kürüm, Esra
255T	SEMINAR ON TOPICS IN APPLIED STATISTICS	TR 02:00 PM - 03:20 PM R 04:30 PM - 05:20 PM	Zhou, Shuheng
293	METHODS IN APPLIED STATISTICS	TR 08:00 AM - 09:20 AM T 09:30 AM - 10:20 AM	Kürüm, Esra
302	COLLEGE TEACHING PRACTICUM	NA	Flores, Analisa

Important Dates

First Day of Winter Quarter	Jan 3, 2022
First Day of Winter Class	Jan 3, 2022
Academic and Administrative Holidays	Jan 17, 2022 Feb 21, 2022
Add/Drop Date Deadline	Jan 14, 2022
Last Day to Change Grading Basis	Jan 21, 2022
Last Day of Instruction	Mar 11, 2022
Final's Week	Mar 12-18, 2022
First Day of Winter Quarter	Mar 23, 2022
First Day of Winter Class	Mar 28, 2022

COVID-19 Related Policies

For the most up to date status of COVID-19 related policies, visit
https://campusreturn.ucr.edu.

HiSS Officers

Carmen Kha, Co-President

Statistical Interest: Finance, tech, and real estate

Hobbies: Watching cooking videos, listening to true crime podcasts, and painting

Arun Premanand, Co-President

Statistical Interests: I'm interested in the application of statistics in machine learning. I enjoy creating predictive models and am currently trying to create a stock recommender engine based on historical data.

Eric Yun, Vice President of External Affairs

Statistical Interests: Business, stocks, finance, data science
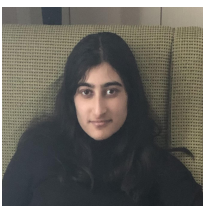
Hobbies: Reading, cooking, games, fitness

Lauren Flemmer, Vice President of Internal Affairs

Statistical Interests: Data science + machine learning

Tobias Rasmussen, Events Coordinator

Statistical Interests: Applying stats to research and public policy

Sanjana Rajagopal, Outreach Coordinator

Hobbies: Playing games, watching and reviewing movies.

GSA Officers

Bradley Lubich, President
Statistical Interests: Distribution-robust estimation, mixture distributions, unimodal constraints, multi-dimensional test statistics
General Interests: Christianity, the global food system, standing desks, health, analyzing social norms
Hobbies: Basketball, hiking, spike ball

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.

Jericho Lawson, Treasurer
Statistical Interests: Sports statistics, machine learning, data science
Hobbies: Hiking, playing and watching sports, eating at new restaurants, playing video games, and photography.

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