KUDOS

• *Amstat News* highlighted our World Statistics Day blinded wine tasting event (see page 31!)

• Congratulations to Ran Shi who will receive one of the International Biometric Society Eastern North American Region’s (ENAR) Distinguished Student Paper Awards at the 2016 ENAR Spring Meeting in Austin, TX. Ran’s paper is entitled: *Bayesian Spatial Feature Selection for Massive Neuroimaging Data via Thresholded Gaussian Processes.*

INTERESTING READS

• Best hairstyle of the week: "Statisticians are like cogs in a bigger system": An interview with Dr Ben Goldacre

• "In most places, not only are statisticians not in control of Big Data efforts and data science, but sometimes they are totally excluded or at best, marginalised." An interview with Stephen Fienberg
QUOTES

“Isn't it amazing how much stuff we get done the day before vacation?” – Zig Ziglar

“For me, the best vacation is just relaxing on the couch!” – Scotty McCreery

“The greatest gift is a passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination.” – Elizabeth Hardwick

“An important aspect of being a scientist isn't just knowing the math, but also knowing of imagination.” – George Zafiris
UPCOMING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

• None next week or the next week. Best wishes for a happy and restful holiday break!

BABY, IT’S COLD INSIDE!

As has occurred over the past several years, over the two upcoming University holiday periods (December 24 - 27 and December 31 - January 3), the heating systems in the buildings listed below will be programmed to maintain a 55° F minimum set point; this will reduce energy use and associated costs while still protecting building contents.

The heat will be turned back up early enough on the day before the workdays of December 28 and January 4 to ensure a comfortable work environment. The following University buildings are participating in the turndown (only buildings with HVAC control systems that can be remotely controlled are eligible for the program). Some floors of certain buildings are exempted because they contain research laboratories or facilities open for business during the holiday period.

(NOTE FROM LANCE: Actually, it takes several days for the buildings to cool off so it will not be bitterly cold in the building, unless it is really, really cold outside, based on past vacation cool-downs).

### Participating Buildings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Exceptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Claudia Nance Rollins</td>
<td>Except labs on 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, and 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; floors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Crum Rollins Building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In buildings not listed, occupants are reminded to ensure that thermostats are set to 68° F or the lowest setting.

Please turn off interior lights, computers, and other office equipment before leaving for the holidays. Over the winter holidays last year, we prevented the emission of 490 tons of carbon dioxide, which is equivalent to removing the annual greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 92 cars. We can save even more this year with a broader effort.

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions about the turndown are posted at the sustainability initiatives website under the energy awareness button (see [http://sustainability.emory.edu/uploads/press/2015/12/2015120309115928/FAQs_for_Holiday_Turndown_2015.pdf](http://sustainability.emory.edu/uploads/press/2015/12/2015120309115928/FAQs_for_Holiday_Turndown_2015.pdf)).

In the midst of our year-end projects, exams, or holiday preparations, please take time for your personal health and support Emory's commitment to community health by taking Emory's Sustainability Pledge at [www.sustainability.emory.edu/pledge](http://www.sustainability.emory.edu/pledge). By taking this pledge—perhaps as a New Year’s resolution—each of us commits to do what we can to save energy and water, consume responsible foods, use less gas and paper, and encourage others to do the same.
**STATS AND STORIES**

- Greetings,

   Episode 16 ("The rule of numbers and the role of the press: What should the journalist do in the age of big data?") of S+S is now available. S+S guest, Trevor Butterworth, Director of Sense About Science USA and editor of stats.org<http://stats.org>, joined the Stats+Stories regulars to talk about the importance of statistical literacy for journalists. To listen now, please visit [http://www.statsandstories.net](http://www.statsandstories.net) or iTunes. Please forward information about S+S to any of your colleagues or friends who might enjoy considering the statistics behind the stories and the stories behind the statistics.

   As always, comments and suggestions for future guests are welcome, and you are invited to post comments and program ratings on iTunes.

John (for the S+S team)
JOB OPENINGS

• Visiting Positions, Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, UC Santa Barbara
  o Searching for qualified candidates for visiting faculty positions for the 2016-2017 academic year (with possibility of renewal for a second year)
  o A full year appointment carries a teaching load of 5 one-quarter courses per year.
  o Especially looking for candidates trained to teach undergraduate-level statistics, probability and stochastic processes, or actuarial courses
  o Interested candidates should apply by submitting a resume, a teaching statement, and have three letter of reference sent
  o Search will begin on January 1, 2016 and continue until positions are filled

• Postdoctoral Fellow Position, Department of Biostatistics, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
  o Multiple immediate postdoctoral positions in statistics, biostatistics, bioinformatics, or computational biology
  o Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics, bioinformatics, mathematics, computational biology or other related disciplines is required
  o Prefer research background and experience in Bayesian statistics, longitudinal and survival analysis, and model selection for high-throughput data and high-dimensional functional data analysis and computational modeling
  o The postdoctoral appointment is one year with possible renewal for more years subject to performance and funding availability
  o Please send your CV, names of three references, and other supporting materials to Drs. Hulin Wu and Sheng Luo, Department of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 1200 Pressler St Houston, TX 77030
  o Email: Hulin.Wu@uth.tmc.edu and sheng.t.luo@uth.tmc.edu

• Astronaut Openings at NASA
**Bios Buzz**

**CARTOONS**

**When Falling Asleep Feels the Easiest**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circumstance</th>
<th>How Easy it is to Fall Asleep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At Work</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In bed actually trying to sleep</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How Darth Vader and Dogs are Alike**

- You can always hear them breathe.
- They’re naughty but you love them anyway.
- They have the same expression for everything.
- They both just want to please their masters.
- Those puppy-dog eyes.
- They both find your lack of faith disturbing.
- They have super-human senses.
- Let’s face it, they both just wanna be loved.

**GraphJam**

**DOGHOUSE DiARIES**
“OK, one more time. The FIRST ‘Star Wars’ movie was ‘Star Wars: IV.’ ‘Star Wars: V’ was the SECOND movie . . .”

CARTOONS SOURCE: