QUOTES

• “I never guess. It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts” Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Author of Sherlock Holmes stories

• “Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.” Albert Einstein, Physicist

• “If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough.” Albert Einstein, Physicist

• “If we have data, let’s look at data. If all we have are opinions, let’s go with mine.” Jim Barksdale, former Netscape CEO
UPCOMING DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

- None

INTRESETTING READS

- Three ways big data is improving public health
- NY Times: What’s going on in this graph?

THANKSGIVING! HELP US SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES

- The BIOS department is excited to participate in Agape Youth & Family Center’s “Great Thanksgiving Basket Give-Away”, collecting and distributing food to local families in need. We will collect canned and other non-perishable food items beginning **Monday 10/23/17 through Friday 11/10/17**. Collection boxes are near the elevators and in Bob’s office. Please see attachments and link below for shopping list ideas and organization information. [https://agapeatlanta.org/event/great-thanksgiving-basket-give-away/](https://agapeatlanta.org/event/great-thanksgiving-basket-give-away/)
  - Canned goods: Cranberry Sauce, Corn, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Crunchy Onion Topping, Fruit Cocktail, Mandarin Oranges, Sweet Potatoes, Pumpkin or Cherry Pie Filling, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Soups, Gravy
  - Boxed goods: Stuffing Mix, Cake Mix and Icing, Pasta Noodles, Mac & Cheese, Mashed Potato Mix.
- **Let’s fill up the boxes!**
RFAS

- METHODS PILOT FUNDING!!
  - Georgia CTSA Biostatistics, Epidemiology, & Research Design (BERD) Request for Proposals - Due November 15

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS

- The Section on Statistics in Epidemiology (SIE) of the ASA invites applications from young investigators who will present their papers at the 2018 JSM, July 28-August 2, 2018, Vancouver, CA. The awards honor the best papers by young investigators in statistics in epidemiology presented at the JSM. The awards are open to all current graduate students in statistics, biostatistics and epidemiology and also recent graduates who received their degrees no earlier than December 31, 2015. The top paper will be awarded the Norman Breslow Prize with a $1000 stipend. Additional awards consisting of $800 to help defray travel costs to the JSM will also be awarded. A reception will be held at the Baltimore meeting to honor award recipients.
  - Preference will be given to papers with both methodological contributions and substantive epidemiological applications. Jointly authored papers are certainly acceptable, but the applicant is expected to be the lead author and present the work at the 2018 JSM. The presentation at JSM may be in a regular session, speed session or poster session. Further, the presentation does not have to be in a session sponsored by the SIE Section nor must applicants necessarily be current members of the SIE Section. The presentation at JSM must, however, correspond to the paper receiving the award.
  - Papers should be submitted in .pdf format with 12 point type, double-spaced and one inch margins. We strongly recommend that papers be no longer than 20 pages, but this is not an absolute maximum.
  - In order to apply for the award, please submit the paper no later than November 15, 2017. Early submissions are encouraged. Along with the paper include a cover letter stating where you are a current student or your year of graduation if you are a recent graduate. Submissions should be sent to: Yueh-Yun Chi, yychi@ufl.edu, Section Secretary/Treasury. Questions about the award can also be addressed to Dylan Small, Small,Dylan S@wharton.upenn.edu, 2018 Section Chair.
  - 2017 SIE SECTION AWARD WINNERS
    - The section would like to congratulate the following winners of the 2017 SIE Young Investigator Award: Qingning Zhou, Biostatistics, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Breslow Award), Lifeng Lin, Biostatistics, University of Minnesota, Isabel Fulcher, Biostatistics, Harvard University, Benedict Wong, Biostatistics, Harvard University.
STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS

• **ENVR Student Paper Competition Announcement**
  - The Section on Statistics and the Environment (ENVR) of the ASA is sponsoring a student paper competition. **We encourage students to submit papers on their research related to the use of statistics to help investigate and address environmental problems.** The paper may consist of novel approaches to the analysis of environmental data, new methodology with a clear application to a statistical problem found within the environmental sciences, or an interesting application of statistics to environmental research.
  - **Awards:**
    For the 2018 competition, the authors of up to the four highest ranked papers will each receive up to $1000 toward reimbursing their expenses for attending JSM. These students will be expected to present their papers in an ENVR sponsored topic-contributed session dedicated to the student paper competition. If a student is unable to speak in the ENVR Award sessions, exceptions may be considered by the committee. Winners will receive a certificate and be recognized at the annual meeting and social for the ENVR section at the JSM.
  - **Eligibility:**
    Any student in Fall 2017 (undergraduate, Masters, or Ph.D.) who is a member of ASA/ENVR is eligible. Submitted papers and/or papers already accepted for publication are eligible.
  - **Application Materials:**
    The applicant must be the first author of the paper. In addition, a letter must be submitted verifying the applicant's student status from a faculty member familiar with the student's work and, in the case of joint authorship, indicating what fraction of the contribution is attributable to the applicant. If selected, the applicant must also submit an abstract for JSM 2018 by February 1, 2018 to ASA and request a presentation in an ENVR session. Applicants must follow all rules required for paper submission and attendance at the JSM.
  - **Required Paper Format:**
    The paper must be entirely double-spaced (abstract, main body, references, footnotes and appendices), using at least 11-point type with at least 1 inch margins all around and no longer than 26 pages (inclusive of all figures, tables and bibliography). Materials must be submitted electronically in PDF file format. All materials must be in English.
STUDENT PAPER COMPETITIONS (cont.)

- **Deadline:**
  - **Dec. 1st, 2017 by 5pm EST.** Submit materials to the email address below. The result of the competition will be made known to participants during the week of January 1, 2018. Winners must indicate acceptance of the award by January 8, 2018.

- **Review Process:**
  - Papers will be reviewed by the Student Paper Competition Award Committee of the Section on Statistics and the Environment. Selection will be based primarily on the perceived contribution to environmental science through statistical innovation. Papers are judged on environmental importance/relevance, statistical modeling/novelty, as well as writing (including organization, clarity, and accessibility). The decision of the selection committee will be final.

- More information is available at: [community.amstat.org/envr/recognitionandawards/...](http://community.amstat.org/envr/recognitionandawards/) and [www.amstat.org/sections/studentpaperawards.cfm](http://www.amstat.org/sections/studentpaperawards.cfm)

- Inquiries and submissions should be e-mailed to the committee chair:
  Edward Boone [elboone@vcu.edu](mailto:elboone@vcu.edu) Associate Professor Virginia Commonwealth University
The Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics (ACMS) at the University of Notre Dame has two statistics positions at ranks from tenure-track assistant professor to tenured professor level to fill this year. Preference will be given to applicants whose research includes multi-disciplinary collaborations. Notre Dame is an equal opportunity employer, and we particularly welcome applications from women and minority candidates.

- Duties and Responsibilities: ACMS includes research groups in applied mathematics, statistics and computational science. ACMS offers a Bachelor of Science, a doctoral degree, a research master’s degree, and a professional master’s degree. ACMS is a department in the College of Science.

- Position Qualifications: The successful statistics applicants must have a doctorate in statistics, biostatistics, or a closely related field, and a record of success in both research and teaching. The teaching load in ACMS is three courses per year, and the positions begin in August 2018. We will begin reviewing completed applications October 1, and continue accepting applications through December 1.

- Application Information: Applications, including a cover letter, curriculum vitae, research and teaching statements, and if the application is for a tenure-level position, teaching evaluations from the past three years should be filed through Interfolio: Assistant Professor: apptkr.com/1079131, and Associate/Full Professor: apptkr.com/1037257 Applicants should also arrange for at least three letters of recommendation to be submitted through the Interfolio system. These letters should address the applicant’s research accomplishments and supply evidence that the applicant has the ability to communicate articulately and teach effectively. Applicants are invited to contact the Department Chair, Andrew Sommese, at sommese@nd.edu, at any time.
JOB OPENINGS

• Tenure-Track Faculty Position in the Department of Statistics at Oregon State University
  o The Department of Statistics at Oregon State University (OSU) invites applications for a 9-month (1.0 FTE) tenure-track faculty position at the Assistant Professor rank, starting September 16, 2018. Requirements include a Ph.D. in Statistics or Biostatistics completed by the position start date, and evidence of excellence in teaching and in independent and collaborative research in Statistics. The successful candidate will make substantial contributions to teaching in our graduate on-line Data Analytics programs and our on-campus Statistics programs. The successful candidate will also be expected to develop and maintain a strong research program in data science and/or statistics. Preference will be given to candidates with a demonstrable commitment to and experience in on-line education.
  o The Statistics Department has 16 tenured/tenure-track faculty members and roughly 60 graduate students. We offer M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Statistics, as well as two online degrees---a M.S. and a Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics. Current research interests of the faculty include Bayesian methods, environmental statistics, high-dimensional data analysis, network modeling, sampling, spatial statistics, statistical bioinformatics, and statistical ecology. The Statistics Department receives support for its academic programs from the College of Science with supplemental funding provided by the College of Agricultural Sciences for research and consulting activities. For more information about the Department and the city of Corvallis, see http://www.stat.oregonstate.edu.
  o To ensure full consideration, all application materials must be received by December 15, 2017. However, screening of applicants will continue until the position is filled. For additional information on how to apply please visit https://jobs.oregonstate.edu/ and search for posting number P01692UF. All applicants are required to apply for this position through the above website. In addition, all applicants are required to arrange for three letters of recommendation to be submitted electronically to search@stat.oregonstate.edu, or mailed to: Search Committee, OSU Statistics Department, 239 Weniger Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331.
  o OSU commits to inclusive excellence by advancing equity and diversity in all that we do. We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and we particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate that they share our commitment to achieving our vision of a diverse and inclusive community. OSU has a practice of being responsive to the needs of dual-career couples.
  o Inquiries about the position may be directed to Yuan Jiang at yuan.jiang@stat.oregonstate.edu.
The Harvard University Data Science Initiative is seeking applications for its Harvard Data Science Postdoctoral Fellows Program for the 2018-2019 academic year. The normal duration of the Fellowship is two years. Fellows will receive a generous salary as well as an annual allocation for research and travel expenses.

We are looking for researchers whose interests are in data science, broadly construed, and including researchers with both a methodological and applications focus. Fellows will be provided with the opportunity to pursue their research agenda in an intellectually vibrant environment with ample mentorship. We are looking for independent researchers who will seek out collaborations with other fellows and with Harvard faculty.

The Data Science Postdoctoral Fellows Program is supported by the Harvard Data Science Initiative. The Data Science Initiative involves faculty from across the university. The Fellows program will concentrate some of its activity in new physical spaces provided by the Computer Science-Statistics Data Science Lab, the Longwood Data Science Lab, as well as space in the Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences.

Funding Priorities: The Data Science Postdoctoral Fellows Program will support outstanding researchers whose interests relate to the following themes:

- Methodological foundations, including for example, causal inference, data systems design, deep learning, experimental design, modeling of structured data, random matrix theory, non-parametric Bayesian methods, scalable inference, statistical computation, and visualization.

- Development of data science approaches tailored to analytical challenges in substantive fields that span the full intellectual breadth of Harvard’s faculties. To give some purely illustrative examples, these fields include health sciences (e.g. life and population sciences), earth systems (e.g. climate change research); society (e.g. data that can affect the experience of individuals, or policy and ethical questions); and the economy (e.g. automation, Internet of Things, digital economy). This list is by no means exhaustive.

Successful applicants will be expected to lead their own research agenda, but also work collaboratively with others including with members of the Harvard faculty, and to contribute to building the data science intellectual community. The Fellows program will offer numerous opportunities to engage with the broader data science community, including through seminar series, informal lunches, mentoring opportunities, opportunities for fellow-led programming, and other networking events. Fellows should expect to spend most of their time in residence at Harvard.

Available Funding

- Stipend: $80,000 is available in salary support per year for an initial two-year appointment. Appointments may be extended for a third year, budget and performance allowing.
- Travel: An additional $10,000 will be allocated for research and travel expenses each year.
JOB OPENINGS (cont.)

- Eligibility:
  - Applicants must be outstanding, intellectually curious researchers at an early stage of their scholarly career. Applicants are required to have a doctorate in a related area by the expected start date.
  - Applicants should have demonstrated a capacity for independent work, and will be expected to engage with researchers and faculty and participate in activities convened by the Data Science Initiative. We recognize that strength comes through diversity and actively seek and welcome people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and identities.

- Application
  - The deadline for applications is December 4, 2017. Applicants should apply through the application portal at

- Required application documents include:
  - A CV
  - A cover letter that identifies up to five (and at least two) Harvard faculty members with whom the applicant would like to work.
  - A statement of research interests of up to three pages that succinctly describes the applicant’s research interests. The statement should explain the importance and potential impact of this research. If the research is anticipated to require significant space and/or equipment, the candidate should explore arrangements with relevant faculty prior to submitting an application.
  - Up to three representative papers.
  - Names and contact information for at least two and up to five references (the application is complete only when two letters have been submitted). Referees will be provided with a link to the submission portal.
  - All materials should be submitted as PDF documents. We will strive to make decisions by February 1, 2017.

- We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.
JOB OPENINGS

- The Biostatistics Research Branch at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is seeking candidates with a PhD in statistics or biostatistics. Statisticians in the group have three main functions: conducting independent research on statistical methodology, oversight of large collaborative medical studies, and small-scale collaborations with individual medical researchers. The problems are varied and interesting; opportunities include bio-defense, HIV/AIDS, immunology, transplantation, vaccine development, and bioinformatics.
  - Applicants should send their resume and three references or recommendation letters to Dean Follmann at dean.follmann@nih.gov. We plan to interview candidates in January/February 2018. I would be grateful if you could pass this notice on to potential candidates.
  - A job announcement will appear in Amstat News in December.

- This fall, we have one opening for an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in the non-tenure clinician-educator track, at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. We would greatly appreciate your bringing this opportunity to the attention of outstanding potential candidates and recommending them to us. Please see the attached faculty recruitment ad for more details about this position. We are a successful and growing program, and are eager to recruit bright and hardworking faculty to join our Biostatistics program. The University of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity employer. We seek candidates who embrace and reflect diversity in the broadest sense. Qualified applicants should follow the online application instructions and submit a cover, curriculum vitae, three letters of reference, and a statement of research interests, using the following link:
  Assistant Professor, clinician-educator track: https://www.med.upenn.edu/apps/faculty_ad/index.php/d4751
JOB OPENINGS

- **Assistant/Associate Professors of Biostatistics, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health**
  - The Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health seeks outstanding candidates to fill two tenure-track positions at the assistant or associate professor level. We seek candidates with a strong background in statistical theory and methodology, demonstrated expertise in development of new biostatistical methods, and an interest in collaborative research in public health and biomedical science. Candidates should have the potential to become leaders in the development and application of statistical methods in health sciences and should also be enthusiastic about teaching, training, and mentorship through our graduate programs. Responsibilities will include methodological and collaborative research, teaching, and supervision of graduate students. Candidates are required to have a doctorate by the time the appointment begins, and academic rank will be determined in accordance with the successful candidate’s experience and accomplishments.
  - The Department of Biostatistics offers an exceptional environment to pursue research and education in statistical methods while being at the forefront of efforts to benefit the health of populations worldwide. Our faculty are leaders in the development of statistical methods for the design and analysis of clinical trials and observational studies, missing data, causal inference, precision health, network analysis, statistical genetics and genomics, neurostatistics, and environmental statistics. Our innovative approaches to computational biology, quantitative genomics, and the analysis of massive health-related data are strengthened by a deep foundation in theory and application. Our unique community provides unparalleled collaborative opportunities with academic departments across Harvard, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and other world-class Harvard affiliated hospitals.
  - Please apply to: [academicpositions.harvard.edu/postings/7937](academicpositions.harvard.edu/postings/7937)
  - For questions, please contact: Chair, Search Committee for Assistant/Associate Professor of Biostatistics, c/o Susan Luvisi, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Email: [biostatjrsearch@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:biostatjrsearch@hsph.harvard.edu)

  - The Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health seeks to find, develop, promote, and retain the world's best scholars. We are committed to upholding the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our school and the communities we serve.
  - Harvard University is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.
  - Information on resources for career development and work/life balance at Harvard T.H. Chan SPH can be found at: [hsph.me/*](hsph.me/*).
JOB OPENINGS

SABBATICAL OPPORTUNITY the AbbVie Statistics Visiting Scholar Program in Honor of Dr. David C. Jordan

• AN INSPIRING SABBATICAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WORLD-CLASS STATISTICIANS
  o This program offers a rare opportunity to collaborate with AbbVie statisticians on research topics that are of interest to both you and our business. The final determination of specific projects does not need to be made prior to arrival, and areas of application may include clinical trials or a number of non-clinical applications.

• ABOUT ABBVIE
  o AbbVie is a global, research based biopharmaceutical company formed in 2013 following separation from Abbott Laboratories. The company's mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to develop and market advanced therapies that address some of the world's most complex and serious diseases. AbbVie employs ~ 29,000 people worldwide and markets medicines in more than 170 countries. For further information on the company and its people, portfolio and commitments, visit www.abbvie.com.

• ABOUT DR. DAVID C. JORDAN
  o This program has been developed in honor of Dr. David C. Jordan, who retired at the end of 2012 after a distinguished career spanning more than 30 years. Dr. Jordan led our Statistics and Data Management organization starting with about 20 statisticians. Benefiting from his leadership, the organization has grown to about 230 full time statisticians and programmers and to more than 400 employees in Data and Statistical Sciences altogether. He actively participated in and led several high-level management forums within Research & Development. His work brought recognition of how statisticians contribute to strategic decisions at the highest levels of our company.
JOB OPENINGS (cont.)

- **WHO CAN APPLY?**
  - We're looking for academic statisticians and biostatisticians to join us in a consulting and research position during their sabbatical (6 to 12 months) in the 2018-2019 academic year. To be considered, you must have an outstanding research record in statistics, biostatistics, bioinformatics or a related field. It's also essential that you have produced relevant publications in methodology and applied research and have excellent communication skills.

- **THE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE**
  - AbbVie is located 40 miles north of downtown Chicago. Successful scholars will join us here as part of our Data and Statistical Sciences (DSS) organization. The DSS organization currently employs approximately 150 statisticians and 80 statistical analysts/programmers worldwide, who provide scientific support for all phases of drug development and safety surveillance. Our Data Sciences group has a wide range of accountabilities, which include development and use of technology for data collection and database creation.

- **ABBVIE STATISTICS VISITING SCHOLARS**
  - Lee-Jen Wei, PhD, Harvard University (2014-2015)
  - Rick Chappell, PhD, University of Wisconsin Madison (2015-2016)
  - Wei-Yin Loh, PhD, University of Wisconsin Madison (2016-2017)
  - Brad Carlin, PhD, University of Minnesota (2017-2018)

- **HOW TO APPLY**
  - Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter for consideration to Alan Hartford at Alan.Hartford@abbvie.com. The closing date for applications is January 31, 2018.
“We’re beginning to see some positive patterns in the emerging data.”

“You’ll be happy to hear that Big Data confirms we can’t wring another penny out of you.”

CARTOONS SOURCES:

- http://www.modernanalyst.com/Portals/0/Public%20Uploads/Fin370-What-is-Data-Analysis-Telling-Us.jpg
- http://www.modernanalyst.com/Portals/0/Public%20Uploads/Fin367-Data-Analysis-Outliers.jpg
- https://i.stack.imgur.com/mlhO9.jpg