

A Message From The Chair

The academic year 2020-21 is over, and even as we were planning for many contingencies last summer, we could not have imagined just how different it would be from everything we knew. Some of our classes started with small in-person sections in the fall before everything moved fully online for the rest of the school year. The ability to do all our work remotely, which seemed like a blessing at first, slowly turned into a curse for some of our graduate students living in isolation for over a year while their peers in the lab sciences returned to campus. The Ann Arbor public schools did not reopen their buildings at all for over 13 months, making life very difficult for those with children. But all of this is behind us now, and with the vast majority - or perhaps all - of Statistics faculty, staff, and students fully vaccinated, we are gradually returning to normal.

It has been nice to watch West Hall slowly come back to life, with in-person meetings and people eating lunch in the lunchroom. Students who were stuck in other countries are getting their visas and booking tickets. In the fall, all our classes are planned in person, with some precautions in place. Yet some of the things we did differently last year will likely outlast the pandemic: some seminar speakers are opting to give their talks virtually, office hours will likely continue both in person and online, and the PhD visit day will retain many virtual components for those who cannot come in person. Our staff will also have regular remote work days going forward, to help with commuting and work-life balance.

As both social distancing and financial restrictions recede, our first priority will be rebuilding our community. We are looking forward to welcoming our largest incoming PhD cohort ever, as well as finally meeting the rising 2nd year PhD students. The department's DEI committee has proposed a new and improved onboarding process for incoming students, which



**Liza Levina, Department Chair,
Vijay Nair Collegiate Professor of Statistics**

will be implemented this year. We will also be hiring a new faculty member and hopefully a new collegiate fellow as well, and are looking forward to resuming and maybe adding on to all the social events we have been missing. We are especially looking forward to meeting all the babies - between fall 2019 and summer 2021, seven faculty welcomed new family members: Jonathan Terhorst (Julian), Ambuj Tewari (Avyay), Yang Chen (Evelyn), Snigdha Panigrahi (Shrey), Jeff Regier (Alice), Johann Gagnon-Bartsch (Anja), and Gongjun Xu (Evolet). Congratulations to all of them!

As we resume our usual activities, we continue to focus on research and teaching excellence and on keeping up with our rapidly evolving and growing field. New classes and new topics are being added at all levels, and we are always happy to hear from our alumni on what they are looking for in the graduates they hire. We hope to see many of the current department members and alumni at our virtual JSM reception (see p. 3), and look forward to welcoming everyone back to campus over time. Meanwhile, stay in touch, and Go Blue!

Department News

MESSAGES FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTORS



THE PH.D. PROGRAM IN STATISTICS

Ji Zhu, Professor & PhD Program Director

With several years' work and many faculty's contributions, the department has recently reformed its [PhD program](#). There are 5 core areas in the new curriculum: Methods, Practice, Statistical Theory, Probability, and Computing. Several new courses have been developed accordingly, notably including Stats 507: Data Science and Analytics using Python, and Stats 604: Statistical Practice. Cutting edge topic courses are also offered regularly, covering reinforcement learning, distributed inference, algorithmic fairness etc. In addition, the qualifying exam has been replaced by a GPA requirement in core courses. The reformed PhD program is flexible and allows students to pursue a variety of directions, ranging from statistical methodology and interdisciplinary research to theoretical statistics and probability theory.

Despite all the challenges in the past year, the dedication, creativity, and resilience of our students, staff, and faculty allowed us to manage them well. In particular, the PhD student council has done so many things which made the past year memorable and encouraging. In spring, we had an inspiring virtual celebration for the graduation of our PhD class of 2021 and recognized the academic success that they accomplished. Looking forward to the incoming PhD class, we are welcoming 25 excellent students from many different countries including the United States, Brazil, China, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Nepal, and Russia out of about 350 strong applications. We saw a higher yield than usual thanks to the very successful virtual visit day organized by the PhD student council! We look forward to seeing the first year class on campus in the fall, as well as the second year students that we haven't met in-person yet. We also look forward to resuming many of our traditions in-person, from the ice cream social and fall picnic, to the departmental weekly seminars.

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN DATA SCIENCE, INFORMATICS, AND STATISTICS

Ed Ionides, Professor & Director of [Undergraduate Programs](#)

The universal challenges of COVID have necessitated much experimentation in online teaching, and we look forward to using these new skills to supplement regular class interactions once we can all meet up in person. The 2020-21 academic year also saw the first offerings of STATS 206 / DATASCI 101 "Introduction to Data Science" which provides a new route into our advanced courses, teaching data manipulation and programming in Python in addition to core ideas in statistics and probability. For more advanced students, the undergraduate research program in statistics (URPS) continued into its third year, with 31 undergraduates participating in 16 research projects run by faculty and postdocs, in many cases also with involvement of PhD students. In Winter 2021, our department awarded 196 degrees (89 Data Science majors, 11 Life Science Informatics majors, and 96 Statistics majors).



THE BRIDGE MASTER'S PROGRAM

Ben Hansen, Professor & Bridge Master's Program Director

The U-M Statistics [Bridge program](#) is pleased to welcome its second cohort to begin Master's in Applied Statistics coursework in Fall 2021. "Bridge" is short for "Bridge to PhD studies in Statistics"; the program enrolls U.S. citizens and permanent residents meeting one or more eligibility criteria for the University's Rackham Merit Fellowship, such as being a first-generation college graduate. The incoming cohort adds geographic diversity within the program, so that it now has students from the south, west, and midwest of the United States, including Michigan itself.

Department News

THE MASTER'S PROGRAM IN APPLIED STATISTICS

[Long Nguyen](#), Professor & Applied Statistics Master's Program Director

The [Master's program in Applied Statistics](#) has grown leaps and bounds in the past decade into one of the most respected Statistics Master's programs in the country. In the past several years the program has stabilized in size: every year 70-80 students are selected and welcomed to the program out of approximately 700 applicants from all over the world. In addition, a dozen or more undergraduate students join the Master's courses via the Accelerated Master Degree program (AMDP) each year. Beside well-established core courses in statistics and probability, the program is enriched with new courses in statistical computing, machine learning, and modern statistics, including the regularly offered STATS 506, 507, 551 and other topic courses. These courses are also popular with students across campus. The COVID pandemic caused a big disruption to last year's enrollment – over a third of matriculated students had to defer their enrollment for another year. On the other hand, we managed to celebrate the successful graduation of the last two cohorts (cohorts of 2020 and 2021), via virtual ceremonies, much thanks to perseverance and dedication of the students, faculty, and staff. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of incoming students, including those deferred from last year, with a renewed sense of energy and excitement for in-person interactions, educational and research activities.



THE MASTER'S PROGRAM IN DATA SCIENCE

[Tailen Hsing](#), Michael B. Woodroffe Collegiate Professor & Data Science Master's Program Director



The [Master's program in Data Science](#) admitted its inaugurating class of 25 students in 2018. The Program has come a long way as it enters its 4th year. During this time, we constantly strived to improve the quality and broaden the scope of the Program. We are pleased that many of our graduates were able to start their professional careers with a bang! The program had another successful round of admissions in 2021. Nearly 1300 applications were received in this round and about 70 of the applicants accepted our offers to join us. We also welcome another 11 students who deferred their study in 2020 due to the pandemic. We look forward to interacting with all the students in person as the campus returns to normality this Fall.

WELCOME YIXIN WANG!

[Yixin Wang](#) is joining the department this fall as a collegiate fellow, and will continue on as an Assistant Professor from Fall '22. Yixin received her PhD in Statistics from Columbia under the supervision of [David Blei](#), and then did a postdoc at Berkeley with [Michael Jordan](#). Her research interests are in machine learning, causal inference, Bayesian statistics, and algorithmic fairness. Yixin is already running a reading group for PhD students, and we look forward to having her on the faculty!



JSM 2021 RECEPTION

Please join us for a virtual reception at this year's JSM on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 8pm EDT, on [GatherTown](https://gather.town/app/ln5uuTzWx4zlsUV9/um-west-hall): <https://gather.town/app/ln5uuTzWx4zlsUV9/um-west-hall>

Department News

FACULTY AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Ziwei Zhu

In February of 2021, [Assistant Professor Ziwei Zhu](#) was selected as one of ten finalists for the 2021 Provost Teaching Innovation Prize. This prize is meant to recognize innovations that improve student learning. Ziwei was selected as a finalist for his work in developing an online automated challenge judging system for Stats 415.

Jack Miller

In the fall of 2020, [Dr. Jack Miller](#) was elected a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). Jack is a lecturer with the Department of Statistics and received this distinction in recognition of his contributions to the field.



Ji Zhu



Early this year it was announced that [Professor Ji Zhu](#) was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Annals of Applied Statistics. Ji will begin this new role effective January 1, 2022.

Moreover, Ji was recently awarded the Collegiate Professorship, the highest faculty title offered by LSA. Collegiate professors choose the name of their chair among former faculty. As such, Ji will be honoring Dr. Susan Murphy as he becomes the Susan A. Murphy Collegiate Professor of Statistics.

Additionally, in 2020 Ji and his team of PhD students, co-led by Dr. Brahmajee Nallamotheu, won the top prize in the American Heart Association's first-ever global COVID-19 data challenge. The challenge prompted researchers to study the relationships between COVID-19 and a myriad of health conditions, risk factors, health disparities, and social determinants.

Xuming He

In the spring of 2021, [Professor Xuming He](#) was the recipient of a [Rackham Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award](#). This award, which is given to five faculty every year, is used to recognize tenured faculty for their outstanding mentorship of doctoral students.



Long Nguyen



[Professor Long Nguyen](#) was elected a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) in 2021. IMS Fellows are nominated by their peers and selected for an outstanding record of research contributions and leadership in statistics or probability and their applications.

Ambuj Tewari

[Ambuj Tewari](#) was recently promoted from Associate to Full Professor of Statistics, and of EECS by courtesy.

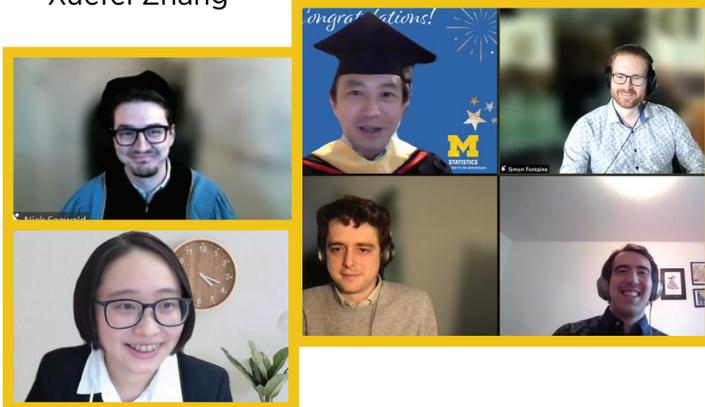
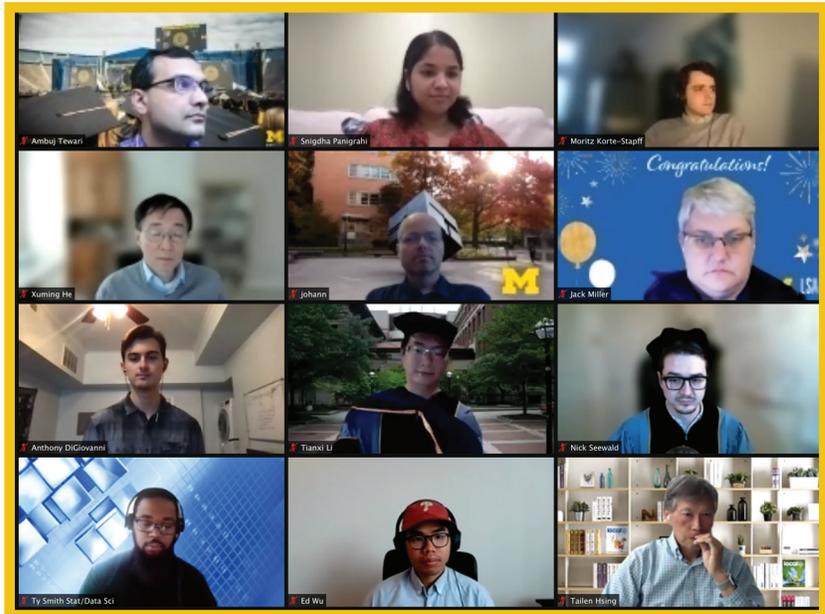


Department News

RECENT PH.D. GRADUATES

PH.D. STATISTICS 2020

Anwasha Bhattacharyya
April Cho
Joseph Dickens
Roger Fan
Robyn Ferg
Zheng Gao
Jonathan Goetz
Yuqi Gu
Aritra Guha
Young Hun Jung
Yumu Liu
Brook Luers
Yuan Sun
Hyesun Yoo
Xuefei Zhang



PH.D. STATISTICS 2021

Kidus Asfaw
Yinqiu He
Baekjin Kim
Timothy Lycurgus
Nicholas Seewald
Ed Wu

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: TY SMITH

Ty Smith is the master's Graduate Coordinator for the Department of Statistics. In his role, he serves as a liaison between the Statistics Department and the Rackham Graduate School, providing graduate students, staff, and faculty with information regarding policies and procedures, from admissions to graduation. He supports the admission committee by providing up-to-date applications and materials. He also develops and maintains all current and past student files for staff and faculty use while serving on many committees. Lastly, he serves as the first point of contact for all prospective applicants. Ty's favorite part of his job is working with students and helping them achieve their goals.

During his free time, Ty enjoys reading, writing, playing video games, and going to the gym to swim and play basketball.

"The Department of Statistics is one of the most friendly departments on campus. I really enjoy working with our faculty, staff and students."

~Ty Smith, Master's Program Coordinator



Student News

STUDENT AWARDS

Rackham International Student Fellowships

In early 2020, [Peter MacDonald](#) was selected to receive a 2019-20 [Rackham International Student Fellowship](#).

Moreover, in early 2021, [Jinming Li](#) and [Simon Fontaine](#) received this fellowship for 2020-21. The Rackham International Student Fellowship is designed to assist outstanding international students, especially those who may not be eligible for other kinds of support. Peter, Jinming, and Simon all received this award in recognition of their strong academic record and progress toward their PhDs.



Rackham Predoctoral Fellowships

In spring of 2020, both [Weijing Tang](#) and [Yinqiu He](#) were awarded 2019-20 [Rackham Predoctoral Fellowships](#). In addition, in the spring of 2021, [Dan Kessler](#) was awarded this same fellowship for 2020-21. The Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship program is designed to support outstanding doctoral students who have achieved candidacy and are actively working on research and their dissertation. Weijing, Yinqiu, and Dan were selected in recognition for their work being especially creative, ambitious, and impactful.



Student Paper Awards

At the start of 2021, [Peter MacDonald](#) was the recipient of a 2021 ASA Statistical Learning and Data Science Student Paper Award. Peter received this award for his paper entitled "Latent space models for multiplex networks with shared structure." This paper was co-authored with Professors Liza Levina and Ji Zhu.

[Weijing Tang](#) was also the recipient of an ASA Statistical Learning and Data Science Student Paper Award in 2021. Weijing received this award for her paper titled "Population-level balance in signed networks: a latent space approach." This paper was co-authored with Professor Ji Zhu.

Additionally, In January of 2020 Weijing was awarded the ASA Nonparametric Statistics 2020 Student Paper Award for her paper titled "Survival Analysis via Ordinary Differential Equations." This paper was co-authored with Professors Kevin He, Gonjun Xu, and Ji Zhu.

Later in 2020, Weijing was also the recipient of an International Biometric Society Eastern North American Region's (ENAR) Distinguished Student Paper Award in recognition of her paper titled "Survival Analysis via Ordinary Differential Equations." This paper was also co-authored with Professors Kevin He, Gongjun Xu, and Ji Zhu.



Student News

Rackham Outstanding GSI Awards



In spring of 2021, [Brian Manzo](#) and [Nick Seewald](#) were both named recipients of the [Rackham Outstanding GSI Awards](#). This is a highly competitive university-wide honor that is given to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of GSIs who demonstrate exceptional dedication and excellence as teachers, as well as high levels of commitment, skill, and creativity.



MSSISS Award Winners

In February of 2021, the graduate students across many of the University's disciplines once again hosted the [Michigan Student Symposium for Interdisciplinary Statistical Sciences \(MSSISS\)](#). The event was held on February 25 and 26, albeit in a virtual format. A number of Statistics PhD students received awards this year, including: [Anthony DiGiovanni](#), [Enes Dilber](#), [Dan Kessler](#), [Yuanzhi Li](#), [Peter MacDonald](#), [Charlotte Mann](#), [Deb Mukherjee](#), [Yujia Pan](#), [Zoe Rehnberg](#), [Ziping Xu](#), and [Drew Yarger](#).

MASON FERLIC QUALIFIES FOR THE 2021 OLYMPICS

The Department of Statistics is excited to congratulate [Mason Ferlic](#), a former Master's student of Applied Statistics and incoming 1st-year PhD student who qualified for the USA Olympic Team to compete in the 3,000m Steeplechase track event.

The men's 3,000m steeplechase competition in Tokyo is scheduled to start Thursday, July 29 at 8:30pm ET, with the final to take place on Monday, August 2 at 8:15am ET.



UPDATES FROM THE PHD STUDENT COUNCIL

By: [Vincenzo Loffredo](#)

The [Statistics PhD Student Council](#) is an organization founded a couple years ago with the goal of improving life for students, promoting an inclusive community, and facilitating relationships with the department leadership. The Council has taken significant steps towards the achievement of these goals through the work of several committees, and we all are trying our best to help the people in the department in these difficult times. Thanks to the coordinated effort of several students, we were able to organize several activities with the goal of reducing the discomfort and helping new students with a smoother transition.

We focused on creating social events like weekly Happy Hours, virtual game nights, and virtual trivia nights for the whole department to help new students familiarize themselves with the department. We created teaching awards selected by PhD students to express our gratitude towards all the faculty that worked hard to make online learning less painful. We also helped in celebrating the graduating students, coordinating with faculty to organize a graduation ceremony when the official one was suspended. We also hosted a virtual research fair where many PhD students presented their research in order to help new first years choose an advisor for the summer and know other students in the department. For the Visit Days, we focused on making the students feel as welcome as possible, matching them with current students and organizing both instructive and social events in Virtual West Hall. Finally, we coordinated with Berkeley to organize a virtual panel for students that were applying to PhD programs, sharing our experiences to provide them with useful information for writing applications and managing the admission process.

I cannot express enough gratitude towards all the members of the Council, who despite having to deal with tough situations themselves, dedicated a lot of their energies towards serving this community.

For more information on how to join the Council, email stat-phd-council-chair@umich.edu

Faculty Feature

PROFESSOR XUMING HE

[Dr. Xuming He](#) has always admired mathematics for its rigor and beauty, but wanted to use it in a not-so-abstract setting. He first studied applied mathematics in college but gradually found statistics to be a more attractive discipline for its practical application and essentially limitless scope of research. In graduate school, Xuming tried out statistics and never looked back.

Having joined the Statistics faculty at the University of Michigan in 2011 after his tenure at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Xuming works closely with researchers and scientists in several disciplines, including dysphagia research, concussion research, climate studies, and more. His students drive his current research interests, which include quantile regression and subgroup analysis.

Quantile regression is a statistical modeling and analysis tool that studies relationships where heterogeneity is present in the data. In particular, quantile regression examines the impact of certain factors on a specific aspect of an outcome distribution. For example, an outcome could be demand on electricity consumption, and utility companies and policy makers would be interested in quantifying the impact of price and weather conditions on the high quantiles of the demand distribution to ensure supply in peak seasons.

The area of subgroup analysis first caught Xuming's attention when analyzing clinical trial data in the confirmation of the efficacy of a new treatment for a subpopulation. As researchers attempt to "look deeper" into the data, data-drive selection of subgroups is often followed by the quantification of



**Xuming He, H.C. Carver Collegiate
Professor of Statistics**

the subgroup effects, and selection bias can creep in without notice. In many cases, this has led to misleading conclusions and even fraud. With that in mind, part of Xuming's research is to understand and correct selection bias in statistical learning.

Xuming's collaborations with domain scientists and medical researchers have allowed him to develop impactful statistical methods. "I enjoy working on specific applied problems to address important questions of our times," said Xuming. "I hope that the statistical research I do offers sound principles and better methods for data analysis in a broad range of applications."

Throughout his career, one challenge Xuming has always faced is setting goals and staying motivated. Despite statistics being a fast evolving field with many interesting problems to work on, it admittedly lacks the "wow factor" that is associated with some other scientific fields.

"I have gradually realized that statisticians should not be narrowly focused on 'one big thing,' and that we are proud to be the enablers of many discoveries that benefit science and society at large," said Xuming. "What I really enjoy as a statistician is being able to work with many great minds outside of our own field, and I believe that we are playing an increasingly important role in a world that depends more and more on cross-disciplinary approaches to discovery and problem solving."

FUN FACT!

Likely related to his frequent encounters with random numbers and probability calculations, Xuming used to enjoy going to casinos to watch how probability theory worked out in practice. He tried martingale-type betting strategies and actually made money on most casino visits! Not surprisingly, he lost everything he had won plus more on one occasion. All this made Xuming a firm believer in probability theory!

In Honor of Brenda Gunderson



Dr. Brenda Gunderson

In the summer of 2020, the Department of Statistics bid farewell to [Dr. Brenda Gunderson](#) on her retirement. After 34 years of teaching, both as a TA and senior lecturer, Brenda intends to spend more time with her family and get back into crafting. Meanwhile, she will still be in touch with the department, returning this fall to teach Stats 404.

Brenda received her Master's in Statistics from Iowa State University where she met her husband who was also studying Statistics. At Iowa State, Brenda worked as a TA for an introductory stats class for the first time. It was then that she knew she wanted to teach. After getting married, the couple relocated to Ann Arbor where Brenda enrolled as a PhD student of Statistics at the University of Michigan, studying under

the mentorship of Dr. Ed Rothman, who was also the department chair.

During one of her semesters as a PhD student, before classes started Dr. Rothman assigned the students their TA positions. With no one yet assigned to teach the evening section of Stats 402, Dr. Rothman asked Brenda if she would like to take that role. That class would eventually become Stats 250 – one of the University's largest introductory courses and the course for which Brenda is best known for her tireless efforts in coordination; eventually leading a team of at least 30 GSIs every semester.

After graduating with her PhD, Brenda was hired by the department as an adjunct professor until a lecturer position was created for her. Since then, her colleagues and students have always admired her for her excellence in teaching and exceptional compassion and creativity in the classroom. In 1999, Brenda was even the recipient of the Golden Apple Award.

To honor Brenda's legacy at the University, the Department of Statistics has created the Brenda Gunderson GSI Award to be given each year to an outstanding GSI in a lower-level course. "I have been so blessed to have the ability to work with these amazing graduate students," said Brenda. "It brought so much joy and I learned so much through them. To have the award be for a GSI for an introductory course is a wonderful honor."

THE BRENDA GUNDERSON GSI AWARD

In its inaugural year, [Nick Seewald](#) has been announced as the first-ever recipient of the Brenda Gunderson GSI Award. Nick is a recent PhD graduate who worked alongside Brenda for five semesters as a Stats 250 GSI. Much like Brenda, Nick has always shown outstanding commitment to his students, something that is reflected in his excitement for teaching.

"I have learned so much from Brenda as a teacher and as a statistician, so to have this recognition means so much," said Nick. "If I can carry on anybody's legacy, I'm thrilled that it's Brenda's. Brenda has always been so good at bringing out my joy and enthusiasm for teaching statistics, and working with her has made me realize that this is what I want to do."

Since his graduation, Nick has gone on to begin a postdoc at Johns Hopkins University. In that role, he will be working on research related to causal inference on health policy. He is hopeful that his work will make a difference in people's lives, and he looks forward to taking advantage of opportunities to learn more about teaching.



Dr. Nicholas Seewald

Alumni Update



Mark Lamias, B.S. Statistics (2000)

[Mark Lamias](#) works as a statistical consultant to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, where he's been supporting various statistical projects, mostly focused on machine learning techniques, building predictive models for the prediction of influenza statistics, synthetic data generation, complex survey sampling, imputation, and variance estimation for complex sample surveys. He was assigned to work on the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force and recently co-authored a publication related to [COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage Among Pregnant Women](#). He has another article forthcoming this month on COVID-19 vaccination coverage rates for the general public. This is also his 16th year running his own statistical consulting firm, [The Stochastic Group, Inc.](#) which is based in Atlanta, GA.

Kira Szulborski, M.A. Applied Statistics (2013)

[Kira Szulborski](#) received her M.A. in Applied Statistics from the University of Michigan in 2013. After working in data analytics for a few years, first in nutraceuticals (a fancy name for vitamins) and then for a boutique craft beer importer, she decided to embark on a career change and will be entering the Tufts University School of Medicine this fall. In the process of accumulating the appropriate coursework and experiences for a successful medical school application, she participated in a few ophthalmology research projects and found that her background in statistics was an invaluable asset in what she was able to contribute to the research team. She looks forward to taking all of the tools gained as a Wolverine to this next step in her career.



Mark Kurzeja, M.A. Applied Statistics (2019)



[Mark Kurzeja](#) is a double wolverine having graduated in 2016 with a BBA, and in 2019 with his Master's in Applied Statistics. He currently works on the Artificial Intelligence for Malware Detection Team at Google. His team is responsible for protecting the 2.5Bn+ Android users from harm across the world. His work mainly focuses on sparse learning and using Bayesian statistics to detect malware faster, more efficiently, and at scale. As a side note - his team is always on the lookout for more engineers and special talent! Go Blue!

Brady West, B.S. Statistics (2001) & M.A. Applied Statistics (2002)

After earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from the U-M Department of Statistics, [Brady West](#) received his PhD in Survey Methodology from the University of Michigan. He is currently a Research Associate Professor at the Survey Research Center of the Institute for Social Research on campus in Ann Arbor. He does a lot of original collaborative research in survey statistics with faculty members both on- and off-campus. He has also written several books over the years (see his website, www.umich.edu/~bwest), and was fortunate to work with Professor Kerby Shedden and Dr. Brenda Gunderson (along with several students from the Statistics Department) on a Coursera specialization entitled Statistics with Python.



Alumni from the University of Michigan have become the Leaders and Best all around the world. In the Department of Statistics, we love to hear from our alumni and receive updates on how they're doing. Shoot us an email at stat-um@umich.edu and let us know where you're at!

Alumni Update



Jingshen Wang, Ph.D. Statistics (2019)

Since graduating with her PhD in 2019, [Jingshen Wang](#) is now an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. In the year 2020, Jingshen was listed on the [Forbes "30 Under 30" list](#) in the healthcare category in recognition for her work applying new machine learning methods to massive genetic data sets.

Sandipan Roy, Ph.D. Statistics (2015)

[Sandipan Roy](#) is currently an Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University of Bath, United Kingdom. His core research is at the intersection of statistics, machine learning, and optimization methods. Presently, his research is focused on modeling data with complex high dimensional network structure and providing methodology for estimating the corresponding structure using tools from nonparametric statistics, graphical models, and high dimensional inference. In his work he collaborates with researchers from biology, social sciences, and computer science. Sandipan is also a member of the Early Career Research Committee of the London Mathematical Society. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, biking, and photography. He is also an avid reader and enjoys the writing of Malcolm Gladwell.



Xiao Wang, Ph.D. Statistics (2005)

Having graduated with his PhD in Statistics from the University of Michigan in 2005 under the supervision of Professors Vijay Nair and Michael Woodroffe, [Xiao Wang](#) is currently a Professor of Statistics at Purdue University. Recently he has received a number of important recognitions for his significant contributions to the field. Those recognitions include being elected as a fellow to the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS). Both honors were received this past year.



IN MEMORY OF WEN-CHEN CHEN (PH.D. 1978)

[Wen-Chen Chen](#) was a very talented PhD student at Michigan and then [faculty at Carnegie Mellon University](#). His life was tragically cut short in 1981 on a trip back home to Taiwan, and while official investigations never reached a definitive conclusion, it is widely acknowledged he was murdered by the secret police. His alma mater, National Taiwan University, recently held a [symposium in his memory](#) on the 40th anniversary of his death, and dedicated a new memorial (pictured), inscribed "In memoriam of a hero who unyieldingly resisted state violence".



323 West Hall
1085 South University
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1107

734.647.4820
stat-um@umich.edu
lsa.umich.edu/stats

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Department of Statistics is on social media!
Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date
on happenings in the department!



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