Graduation

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Durham, NC
As chair of the Department of Statistical Science at Duke, and on behalf of all of our faculty and staff, I want to congratulate you--our Ph.D. students, master's students, and undergraduate majors and minors in the class of 2020--on your graduation.

We are so proud of your accomplishments, and we are so thankful for the opportunities to teach, mentor, work with, and learn from you during your studies at Duke.

We are excited that you are now part of the growing community of Duke Statistical Science alumni, a community full of talented and amazing people just like you, and a community that you can turn to for advice and advancement, as well as to stay connected to Statistical Science at Duke. I wish you all the best in all your future endeavors!

Jerome P. Reiter  
Professor of Statistical Science  
and Department Chair
Awarded by the Department of Statistical Science, the BEST Award was established by the BEST Foundation to promote and recognize student research in Bayesian statistical modeling related to time series and other methods in financial applications. The Award recognizes the importance and impact of Bayesian methodology in modern finance and investment management, as well as that of active applied research experiences in under-graduate and graduate student education. The prize is generously funded annually, and awarded to a student or group of students on the basis of submitted project proposals to partially support summer research projects each year.

2019-2020 Winners

Chiwan Kim - Undergraduate

Haohan Chen - Master’s

Evan Poworoznek - Master’s
Honorable Mention

Xu Chen - PhD

Heather Mathews - PhD
Honorable Mention
The Department of Statistical Science at Duke University is grateful for all the teaching assistants and their hard work helping us achieve our educational mission. The department recognizes one outstanding teaching assistant at each level of study (undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral) based on faculty nomination and outstanding student evaluations. The doctoral teaching award winner receives discretionary funds to be used towards travel or professional development, while the undergraduate and master’s award winners receive cash prizes.

Matty Pahren - Undergraduate

Michael Valancius - Master’s

Henry Kirveslahti - PhD
The Alumni Association Forever Duke Student Leadership Award recognizes graduating students who embody the “Forever Duke” spirit in their service to the university. They are strong advocates for the Duke community who embody Duke’s guiding principle of “knowledge in the service of society" and are leaving Duke a better place than they found it. We are delighted that two of our graduating seniors received this award.

Morgan Avery Bird

Rose Kimberly Graves
Ben Alexander

Ana Belac

Morgan Avery Bird

Trenton Bricken ** Program II
“Minds and Machines: Biological and Artificial Intelligence”

Jie Cai Interdepartmental Major
Computer Science & Statistical Science

Michael Cai

Sara Tess Chandler

August Jordan Eckmann

Bassim Faizal Eledath

Jacob Alec Epstein

Yutao Gong

** Highest Distinction
Rose Kimberly Graves  **
“Corrupted Data and the Illicit Arms Trade”

Shrey Gupta

Ethan Holland

Shamikh Shafkat Hossain

Man-Lin Hsiao

Diane Hu

Shijia Hu

Austin Li Jia

Yufeng Melody Jiang  *

Lingrong Jin

* High Distinction
** Highest Distinction
Chiwan Kim  **
“A Black-Scholes-Integrated Gaussian Process Model For American Option Pricing”
Sophia Tianqi Liu
Calvin M. Ma
Audreya Erminia Metz
Michael William Model  *
“Hitting Around the Shift: Evaluating Batted-Ball Trends for Major League Baseball”
Jessica Needleman
Sahil Sanjay Patel
Jose San Martin
Peyton Anne Schafer
Rahul G. Sengottuvelu

* High Distinction
** Highest Distinction
Daniel Jay Spottiswood *  
“Algorithmic Trading of an Alternative Cryptocurrency Using Sentiment and Volume Based Predictors”

Christopher Suh

Jasmine Oon Mei Tan

Michael Tan *  
“Investigating Underpricing in Venture-Backed IPOs Using Statistical Techniques”

Zuzu Tang

Revogatus Apolinary Tesha

Miles Andrew Turpin  Interdepartmental Major  
Computer Science & Statistical Science

Yifan Wang

Claire Bei Xiao

Zhixiao Yang

Faraz Yashar

Qiufeng Zhang

* High Distinction
The Statistical Science Department congratulates the following students who have received their Master’s degree en-route to the PhD degree in Statistical Science.

Federico Ferrari

Yi Guo

Becky Tang

Graham Tierney

Haohan Chen  MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Mike West

Andrew Cooper  MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Merlise Clyde

Eduardo Coronado-Sroka  MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Sayan Mukherjee

Brian Cozzi

“Bayesian Dynamic Network Modeling with Censored Flow Data”
Advisor: Mike West

Jiayi “Janice” Ding  MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Ed Iversen

Xinyue “Miranda” Ding  MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Peter Hoff

Siqi Fu  MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Sayan Mukherjee
Yiwei Gong  MSS Portfolio
    Advisor: David Dunson

Bin Han  MSS Portfolio
    Advisor: Peter Hoff

Xiaoyu “Billy” Jiang  MSS Portfolio
    Advisor: Jerry Reiter

Min Chul “Peter” Kim  MSS Portfolio
    Advisor: Sayan Mukherjee

Jonathan Klus  MSS Portfolio
    Advisor: Peter Hoff

Didong Li  MSS Portfolio
    Advisor: Peter Hoff

Yizi Lin  MSS Portfolio
    Advisor: David Dunson

Evan Poworoznek
    “Easy and Efficient Bayesian Infinite Factor Analysis”
    Advisor: David Dunson

Yangfan Ren
    “Missing Data Imputation for Voter Turnout Using Auxiliary Margins”
    Advisor: Jerry Reiter

Lingyun “Steve” Shao
    “Anomaly Detection and Predictive Modeling for Autonomous Vehicles and Painting Cost”
    Advisor: Jerry Reiter
Master’s in Statistical Science Degree

Zhen Han “Ricky” Si MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Merlise Clyde

Lingxi Song MSS Portfolio
Advisor: David Dunson

Eric Su
“Exploring Amazon CD Reviews with Machine Learning Methods”
Advisor: David Banks

Michael Valancius MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Mike West

Sam Voisin
“An Application of Graph Diffusion for Gesture Classification”
Advisor: Sayan Mukherjee

Zixi Wang MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Jerry Reiter

Jennifer Wilson MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Surya Tokdar

Byun Yoon Woo MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Peter Hoff
Yuwei “Emma” Xu
“Construction of Objective Bayesian Prior from Bertrand’s Paradox & the Principle of Indifference”
Advisor: Sayan Mukherjee

Zheng Yuan MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Merlise Clyde

Jingyi Zhang MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Li Ma

Kuazhuo “Elaine” Zhang MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Scott Schmidler

Mingje “Mia” Zhao MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Peter Hoff

Chudi Zhong
“Generalized Optimal Sparse Decision Tree”
Advisor: Sayan Mukherjee

Yuren “Henry” Zhou MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Mike West

Ziwei “Sophia” Zhu MSS Portfolio
Advisor: Merlise Clyde
Kyle Burris
“Advances in Survey Methodology and Sports Science”
Advisor: Peter Hoff

Shai Gorsky
“Nonparametric Methods for Analysis and Modeling of Complex Multivariate Distributions”
Advisor: Li Ma

Michael Jauch
“Random Orthogonal Matrices with Applications in Statistics”
Advisor: Peter Hoff
Isaac Lavine
“Bayesian Computation for Variable Selection and Multivariate Forecasting in Dynamic Models”
Advisor: Mike West

Kelly Moran
“Advances in Bayesian Factor Modeling and Scalable Gaussian Process Regression”
Advisor: Amy Herring

Sayan Patra
“Constrained Bayesian Inference Through Posterior Projection with Applications”
Advisor: David Dunson
The Faculty of the
Department of Statistical Science

Congratulates

All Graduating Students