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## Newsletter 2013

### Message from Department Chair Allan Rossman



I am proud to begin a term as chair of Cal Poly's Statistics Department. We have a terrific group of students and faculty to work and study alongside. I want to thank my predecessor, Bob Smidt, and the others who have served in this role over the years — Jay Devore, Roxy Peck and Jim Daly — for paving the way and establishing such a delightful environment in which to teach, study and learn.

[Read more of Rossman's message](#)

### Featured Alumni

#### Greg Ridgeway



In January, Greg Ridgeway (B.S., Statistics, 1995) was named acting director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research and development agency within the U.S. Department of Justice. The NIJ works to improve scientific understanding of crime and justice through studying areas such as which public policies deter crime or how to make DNA evidence faster and cheaper.

#### Debbie Huang



While still a student, Debbie Huang (B.S., Statistics, 2013) won two awards at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students held in San Jose, Calif., in November 2012. Students from all over the country made presentations in the areas of math, engineering and physics. Huang received a presentation award and one of only three interdisciplinary awards for her poster on the statistical analysis of cardiovascular disease in women.

[Read more about our featured alumni](#)

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### Featured Faculty

#### Proposed System Could Vaporize Asteroids That Threaten Earth



Gary Hughes, along with UCSB professor Phillip Lubin, has conceived DE-STAR (Directed Energy Solar Targeting of Asteroids and exploRation) as a realistic means of mitigating potential threats posed to the Earth by asteroids and comets. The proposed system is designed to harness some of the power of the sun and convert it into a massive phased array of laser beams that can destroy asteroids posing a potential threat to Earth.

[Read an interview with Hughes and Lubin in the Los Angeles Times](#)

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[Read the scientific description of DE-STAR at photonics.com](#)

## Congratulations Are in Order

A number of statistics faculty members' recent achievements are worthy of note:

- In April, Andrew Schaffner and Heather Smith were recognized by President Armstrong for their 15 years of dedicated service to Cal Poly.
- Jeff Sklar took a sabbatical leave during fall 2013.
- Karen McGaughey was elected to the Academic Senate for 2013-15.

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## Alumni Survey

As part of the department's efforts to revise the current curriculum, including incorporating more modern statistical methods, we will be seeking input from alumni. Melissa Bowler, a student working on her senior project, will be sending out an alumni survey in January as part of her senior project. Please keep a look out for the survey and respond.

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## Alumni Updates

Statistics alumni are pursuing advanced degrees, analyzing retail and health data, and raising children all over the world. [Find out what your classmates are up to.](#)

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## Faculty Updates

Statistics faculty members have had a busy year professionally and personally. [Catch up with your favorite faculty members.](#)

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## Emeritus and Former Faculty

Emeritus and former faculty members are traveling the world while remaining academically active. [Learn more about their activities.](#)

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## Stat Club



The Stat Club wanted to recognize Bob Smidt when he retired. After brainstorming, the members decided to start a Hall of Fame in the Stat Lab and make Smidt the inaugural member. Because most statistics majors spend quite a bit of time in the lab, the club thought a plaque honoring Smidt would be the best way for students to learn about his contributions to the department. As time goes on and more faculty members retire, the club hopes to add more plaques so that students always know the professors who have made the Cal Poly Statistics Department a great place to learn. The Stat Club is grateful to Smidt for being an excellent teacher and department chair over the years. Thank you!

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## WUSS (Western Users of SAS Software)

WUSS is officially recognized as the SAS user group of the western region of the U.S. It is a nonprofit, educational organization that provides SAS system users with professional development opportunities and a forum to exchange ideas. Every year, Cal Poly sends approximately 15 students to this conference, many of whom earn academic scholarships to attend.

[Read more about WUSS](#)

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## Scholarship Recipients for the 2013-14 Academic Year

### Scholarship for the Advancement of Science and Technology: Rachel Free and Julia Schedler

The Scholarship for the Advancement of Science and Technology award is given to a sophomore, junior or senior with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Applicants must write a one-page document with a brief personal statement and an explanation of why they chose to major in statistics and what they believe the role of statistics is in science and technology.

[Read Julia Schedler's winning document \(doc\)](#)

### Joyce Curry-Daly and James Daly Memorial Scholarship: Rachel Free, Logan Tonder and Robin Tu

The scholarship named in recognition of Joyce Curry-Daly and James Daly, seminal members of the Statistics Department, is used to support the long-term academic pursuits of worthy statistics majors.

[Read more about the Joyce Curry-Daly and James Daly Scholarship](#)

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## Thank You to Our Generous Donors

We want to thank our generous donors for their continued support of the department. Private support from our alumni, parents and friends helps the Statistics Department continue to provide an exceptional Learn by Doing education for today's students.

[View the 2012-13 donors](#)

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## Message from Department Chair Allan Rossman



Bob Smidt passing on the baton to Allan Rossman

I am proud to begin a term as chair of Cal Poly's Statistics Department. We have a terrific group of students and faculty to work and study alongside. I want to thank my predecessor, Bob Smidt, and the others who have served in this role over the years — Jay Devore, Roxy Peck and Jim Daly — for paving the way and establishing such a delightful environment in which to teach, study and learn.

This is an especially exciting time to be involved with the discipline of statistics for many reasons:

- We are nearing the end of a yearlong celebration of 2013 as the International Year of Statistics.
- Nate Silver has garnered popular acclaim for the usefulness of statistical methods by predicting the last two presidential elections very accurately while blogging about his modeling process and observations.
- Hans Rosling has achieved worldwide recognition for his TED talks and *The Joy of Stats* video that reveal how statistics can improve human welfare.
- The Wall Street Journal published an article titled Data Crunchers Now the Cool Kids on Campus on March 1, 2013, detailing the explosive growth in the number of undergraduates pursuing degrees in statistics.

Statistics students at Cal Poly have long known that they were the cool kids on campus, but it's nice to see a major newspaper broadcast this news to the rest of the world.

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One of the most pleasant aspects of being department chair has been hearing updates from alumni about their career paths and accomplishments. I wrote to as many graduates as I could find contact information for on LinkedIn and Facebook, and I was gratified to hear back from dozens of alums whose updates you can read in this newsletter. Simply perusing the job titles of our graduates is inspiring. I hope that others will judge the quality of our program by the achievements of our graduates.

Let me highlight the accomplishments of one alumnus in particular. Dr. Greg Ridgway serves as the acting director of the National Institute of Justice, which is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. Greg graduated from Cal Poly in 1995 with a degree in statistics and then earned a doctorate from the University of Washington. He also received the distinction of being elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2013. You can read more about Greg elsewhere in this newsletter.

Our terrific faculty members also contribute to the top-notch quality of Cal Poly's Statistics Department and are held in high esteem across campus and around the country:

- Beth Chance served on a National Science Foundation task force that offered recommendations for restructuring NSF funding opportunities in statistical sciences. She is also a member of a group assembled by the American Statistical Association to revise guidelines for undergraduate programs in statistics.
- Steve Rein serves as chair of Cal Poly's Academic Senate, and Andrew Schaffner continues as chair of the senate's curriculum committee. These are important positions on campus, entrusted to those in whom the rest of the faculty has high confidence.
- Samuel Frame recently earned tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, based on thorough department-, college- and university-level reviews of his performance in teaching, scholarship, and service.

Andrew and Samuel are both graduates of our program as well as faculty members.

We have also been fortunate in the past couple of years to hire outstanding new faculty members who are starting to make their mark on Cal Poly students. Kevin Ross, Gail Potter, Gary Hughes and Peter Chi all joined our department in the 2012-13 academic year. You can read about some of Gary's research interests elsewhere in this newsletter.

Before I close, I want to assure you that we are committed not only to maintaining a strong undergraduate program in statistics but also to continually improving our program. This year we are engaging in wide-ranging discussions and planning about how to better prepare our students to make important contributions to a world that is becoming more and more inundated with data. We are planning to revise some courses and develop new ones. We are also collaborating with colleagues in computer science to develop a new minor program in data science.

We would like to hear from all of you, graduates and friends of the Cal Poly Statistics Department. Please send us any ideas you have about how we can best serve our students. Also please send us an update about what and how you are doing, both professional accomplishments and personal joys.

Best wishes,

Allan Rossman

[arossman@calpoly.edu](mailto:arossman@calpoly.edu)





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## Featured Alumni

### Debbie Huang



While still a student, Debbie Huang (B.S., Statistics, 2013) won two awards at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students held in San Jose, Calif., in November 2012. Students from all over the country made presentations in the areas of math, engineering and physics. Huang received a presentation award and one of only three interdisciplinary awards for her poster on the statistical analysis of cardiovascular disease in women.

Huang conducted her research at the Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh in summer 2012. Analyzing data collected on women with ischemic heart disease, a condition in which plaque builds up in the arteries, Huang assessed survival rates for different groups. Her analysis focused on smokers versus non-smokers.

"This area of research is fairly new," Huang said. Data on heart disease in women has only been collected for about a decade.

According to Huang, the Learn by Doing education she received at Cal Poly gave her an edge when it came to doing real-world research. "I felt very prepared to learn information and techniques I'd never seen before," she said.

Huang is currently a graduate student at UCLA. She is pursuing a master's degree in biostatistics and working as an educational consultant at Mathtopian Preparation Inc. "I got the initial research experience I need to prepare me for grad school, and presenting my results at conferences improved my communication skills each time," Huang said.

### Greg Ridgeway

In January, Greg Ridgeway (B.S., Statistics, 1995) was named acting director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research and development agency within the U.S. Department of Justice. The NIJ works to improve scientific understanding of crime and justice through studying areas such as which public policies deter crime or how to make DNA evidence faster and cheaper.

Ridgeway earned his doctorate in statistics from the University of Washington, where he was also a lecturer and visiting scholar. In joining NIJ, Ridgeway also enters the Senior Executive Service, the highest leadership position in the federal government's civil service. Members of the Senior Executive Service work in key positions just below top presidential appointees.

The newsletter of the *American Statistical Association* invited him to respond to questions about his first role at NIJ, deputy director. Shortly thereafter, Ridgeway was named acting director and interviewed by *Scientific American*



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Home : Alumni Updates for 2013 Newsletter

## Alumni Updates for 2013 Newsletter

### Adams, Matt

GRADUATED IN 2010

After graduating from Cal Poly in 2010, I decided to pursue a master's degree in applied statistics at Long Beach State. I graduated from CSULB in late 2012 and in April 2013 I began my current job at an online marketing company in mid-city Los Angeles called LocalBizNOW. We specialize in search engine marketing for franchised companies such as UPS and service and repair at Ford dealerships. I work as an analyst and spend most of my time optimizing campaigns, putting together reports and figuring out ideal budgets for our clients. On a personal note, I got married in August to my beautiful bride Jessica, who also graduated from Cal Poly with a kinesiology degree.

### Angeles, Rudy

GRADUATED IN 2004

Life is nonlinear. I finally completed my doctorate in statistics from Stanford after spending an extended period of time away from grad school. My dissertation discussed approaches for local false discovery rates, and I was co-advised by Susan Holmes and Brad Efron. After submitting my thesis, I joined Google's headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. I sometimes travel to Switzerland because I work closely with an engineering team that's based in our Zurich office.

### Colavincenzo, Jenna

GRADUATED IN 2012

After graduating from Cal Poly, I began pursuing a doctorate in biostatistics at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health. I am currently in the middle of my second year of the program. As a graduate student researcher, I am collaborating with the Human Genetics and Oral Biology Departments on projects investigating oral health in Appalachia as well as the phenotypes and genetics of orofacial clefts (cleft lip and palate). While most of my time is spent studying and feeding my coffee addiction, I can occasionally be found rooting for the Penguins, Pittsburgh's hockey team, and dreaming that I was back in sunny San Luis Obispo.

### Conway, Jacqueline

GRADUATED IN 2005

I am currently working in San Francisco at Gap Inc. in the Customer Relationship Management Department. I am a senior data scientist on the advanced analytics team. In fact, I just hired another Cal Poly statistics alum, Jewels Lee, as an analyst.

### Davis, Scott

GRADUATED IN 2012

I live and work in Carlsbad, Calif., working for Agility Clinical as a statistical programmer. We are a contract research organization specializing in the analysis of orphan and rare disease research. Never in

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my life has my commute provided me with so many sunrises and sunsets at the beach. Cal Poly's curriculum has allowed me to delve into tasks that new programmers typically do not get exposure to this early on. Four months in, and this place is working out great. This position has afforded my girlfriend, Christine, and I the opportunity to travel frequently, go camping, and do a lot of woodworking.

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## Dehaven, Mary Ellen

GRADUATED IN 2009

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Currently I am working as a statistician at a consulting firm in San Francisco, [Datason](#). I commonly use fun statistical techniques like cluster analysis and multivariate logistic regression for clients such as Intel, Visa and DirectTV. No Olympic medal in sight, but I have been back to compete in Cal Poly's MTS triathlon at Lopez Lake a couple of times and just finished my first marathon in San Francisco this summer.

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## Eash, Dawn

GRADUATED IN 2004

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I am currently a senior managing consultant with Berkeley Research Group in Century City, Calif. I primarily consult on litigation matters within the fields of labor, intellectual property, healthcare and public policy. I enjoy living in Santa Monica but also love to travel — anywhere from Montreal for JSM to the South of France this past May.

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## Esquivas, Kristen (Sharp)

GRADUATED IN 2006

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After finishing up my degree, I moved up to the Bay Area to work at Gap Inc. I held several jobs working on store and customer analytics across all the Gap Inc. brands. While working at Gap, I took evening classes at Cal State East Bay and completed my Masters in Statistics. I then briefly worked at Hotwire.com in the Revenue Management department focusing on pricing, forecasting, and customer analytics. My most recent career move landed me at Safeway's corporate offices in the Marketing Strategies department. Our team is focused on driving strategic business decisions by leveraging customer and store data.

The common theme across all my jobs has been leveraging data (lots of data!) and analysis to uncover business insights and drive strategic change. It's a great balance between technical/analytical skills and soft skills like communication and team work. Across all my jobs, it's hard to find new hires that are strong along both dimensions. It's a unique combination but one that is highly sought after, particularly in the retail industry. From my experience, the CP Stats department does a great job at preparing students to be successful both technically (statistical concepts and programming) and non-technically (communication, presentations, and team work). Anyone interested retail in the bay area, feel free to reach out to me on LinkedIn ... shameless plug (sorry!) but good candidates are hard to find!

All the while, I got married in 2010 and had my first baby this past February. We recently bought a new home and are slowly getting settled in to the new place. I also love keeping busy with yoga, running, cooking, playdates for Emma and all her little cousins, and keeping up with my favorite TV shows.

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## Evans, Megan

GRADUATED IN 2011

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Since graduation in 2011, I've been working as an Actuarial Analyst at Pacific Life in Orange County, California. Specifically, I work in the Product Design department of the Life Division and develop and price Life Insurance products. I've enjoyed settling back in to my hometown of Laguna Beach. In the past couple of years, like many actuaries I have been focused on passing exams. I've passed Exam P, FM, C and MFE, and I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. One more exam and I'll have my ASA, which is an exciting event in the Actuarial world! Other than work, I've had the opportunity to vacation in Costa Rica in 2012 and Wales in 2013. Both trips were amazing and I'll continue to never let my vacation days go to waste! Last Spring I visited Cal Poly to discuss the actuarial career which was a great opportunity. It was exciting and rewarding to see so many more Statistics students interested in becoming actuaries!

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## Fajardo, Juliana

GRADUATED IN 2011

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Along with working in a managerial position for two years after graduation, I was an independent statistical consultant for two years; I assisted with survey design and analysis throughout the full course of my client's work on her PhD dissertation in social work. This was a very interesting and rewarding experience! I am now attending the University of Colorado Denver and pursuing a Masters degree in Public Administration (MPA). I am currently in my first semester at CU Denver and I absolutely love the program so far!

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## Fry, Alicia

GRADUATED IN 2005

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After completing my BS in Statistics at Cal Poly I attended Cal State Long Beach and attained a MS in Applied Statistics. I worked as a Business Intelligence Analyst at Ingram Micro and then decided to pursue another master's degree in Media at London School of Economics. After completing my studies there, I moved back to Los Angeles and worked as a Print Control Manager in Operations at Paramount Pictures. While working there I married and had my first child. Soon after she was born I moved to Sacramento for my husband's job and have been a stay at home mom since. Presently I am taking care of my 2 year old daughter, 5 month old son, and 35 year old husband, and have no short term plans to re-enter the paid work force. I have a long term goal to start an analytics and business strategy company with my brother where we can offer business solutions and marketing recommendations at low costs. My personal time is spent reading books, studying German and attending community college courses in creative writing and poetry.

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## Fugitt, Tempus

GRADUATED IN 2010

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Currently, I am working for Sutter Physician Services as a Deposit Service Rep II. Basically, I balance half a million dollar deposits on the daily. No big deal. There's not too much stats involved, but I love my job and the people I work with, and the logic skills I gained through the Statistics program certainly come into play every day. I recently got accepted to Texas A&M's online Master's program with the help of a few most excellent professors (shout out to Dr. Carlton, Dr. Doi, and Dr. Roy. Thanks again guys!). Classes start up in January and I couldn't be more excited. My biggest accomplishment this year was running in the Nike Women's Half Marathon in San Francisco. This was my second half marathon this year and one of the best experiences of my life.

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## Gan, Rebecca

GRADUATED IN 2006

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Time really flies. I cannot believe it has already been 7 years since I graduated from Cal Poly - SLO. I received my Ph.D. in Applied Statistics at UC Riverside with full scholarship in 2011 and joined Kelley Blue Book as a Statistician. As with many statisticians, my day to day job is a mixture of analyzing data, building models, doing research, and trying to figure out how to deal with large and complex data structures. Regarding my personal life, I got married in Jan 2008 and bought a lovely house in Diamond Bar.

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## Garrison, Tommy

GRADUATED IN 2007

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I graduated from the Stats department in 2007 and later went on to obtain a MS in Quantitative Ecology from the University of Washington. For the past three years, I have been working for a small fisheries consulting firm in Portland, OR as a Biometrician. I routinely build statistical and population models for a variety of fish species throughout the Northwest including steelhead, salmon and sturgeon. Recently, I bought a house in Portland with fellow Cal Poly Stat alumni, Maria Loper. The two of us have been together since we met in the Stats department many years ago.

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## Gasperik, Kyle

GRADUATED IN 2010

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I am currently a Senior Consultant at Junction Solutions (a nationwide ERP consulting company based out of the Bay Area). I was hired directly after graduation from Cal Poly and in the last three years have advanced into a senior position. I have had the opportunity to travel all across the nation for work to places including Atlanta, Seattle, and Denver to name a few. My main responsibility within my current projects has been the improvement and optimization of business processes, focusing in supply chain management.

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### **Gildner, Jennifer**

GRADUATED IN 2011

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I graduated in December 2011 with my BS in Applied Math and minor in Statistics. I worked for a year and a half at Allergan Medical in Santa Barbara as a statistical programmer. Now, I am in my first year in the graduate program at UCLA, working toward my MS in Biostatistics. Unfortunately, no Olympic medals for me...though I did complete my first half marathon! :)

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### **Glanz, Hunter**

GRADUATED IN 2009

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I am currently in my fifth year of a Statistics Ph.D. program at Boston University and plan to graduate in May 2014. I had the wonderful opportunity to help grade the 2013 AP Statistics exam (alongside my favorite professors from Cal Poly) in June 2013 and I hope to join again in June 2014. I will also be getting married in June 2014. I look forward to finding a position somewhere in California to start at in Summer or Fall of 2014!

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### **Grantham, Neal**

GRADUATED IN 2012

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This summer I took our dreaded Basic Qualifying Exam and earned a PhD pass (vs. Master's pass or no pass). It was a great relief to get that out of the way! I was perhaps a bit too ambitious this semester, however, and I'm finding it difficult to adequately cover coursework, teaching duties, and research in any given week. Grad school truly necessitates good time management, as I've learned.

I'm currently in my second year as a Statistics graduate student at NC State University. This semester I am taking courses on Bayesian inference, computing, and measure theory, and I have just begun research with Dr. Brian Reich on spatial and temporal modeling of particulate matter levels across the Southeastern U.S via multi-resolution satellite image data. Outside of academic life, I've been very active in running and exploring Raleigh's backroads.

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### **Grogan, Tristan**

GRADUATED IN 2009

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I graduated from Cal Poly in 2009 and then attended CSU Long Beach for my master's degree in Statistics. Since graduating in 2011 I've been working as a Principal Statistician for the Department of Medicine Statistics Core at UCLA. We are a consulting group of approximately 10 (faculty/staff) statisticians who assist the medical school with clinical trials, research, manuscripts, posters, grants, and education. I also do some statistical consulting work on the side because I really enjoy it. I have adjusted well to living in West LA. There is so much to do down here and the weather is always perfect! I was in SLO last January to give a job talk to the current students and can't wait to go back. Feel free to contact me if you are a current student and have questions about graduate school, the job search, or general advice about the field. I can't thank the department enough for giving me a solid foundation in the field allowing me to pursue a rewarding and enjoyable career.

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### **Haggerty, Hannah**

GRADUATED IN 2013

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A few weeks after graduation, I interviewed with Chevron's Environmental Management Company (EMC) and found out shortly after that I was accepted for the position. Chevron's Environmental Management Company has been continuously expanding their processes to improve Health, Environment, and Safety. My role in the company is the Health, Environment, and Safety (HES) Technical Specialist. The company has found that my statistical background and college education are both essential assets to this particular sector of the company. Although I never imagined that I would be out in the oil fields wearing a hard hat and steel-toed boots, I am thoroughly overjoyed to work for such an established company. This job was just one of the changes I encountered post-graduation. In addition, I recently got engaged to another Cal Poly Alum. It is safe to say this school has provided me with a lifetime of happiness.

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## Herndon, Wade

GRADUATED IN 2008

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After graduating in 2008, I moved to Colorado and started the statistics graduate program at Colorado State. I received my master's degree in 2010 and am currently preparing to defend my Ph.D. dissertation, and am working on job applications. I've worked as a teaching and research assistant over the last five years, and have been very successful in both roles; in fact, I won a teaching award last summer. Besides working on school, I have had a bit of time to travel - I've road-tripped to and from California 3.5 times and done quite a bit of camping along the way, and I've also been to Panama, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.

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## Herrington, Alex

GRADUATED IN 2011

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After graduating Cal Poly back in 2011 I went on to get my Masters in Analytics at NC State. The program is an intensive one year program. It is more of an applied statistics degree with an emphasis on solving business problems, there is very little theory in the program. The degree also incorporates business skills such as corporate communication training, all work is done in teams, and a graduate project sponsored by a company with real data and a real problem. I would encourage any recent graduate or soon to be graduate to look into the program.

After graduating from NC State I took a job at Lowe's Home Improvement outside of Charlotte, NC. At Lowe's I am a Senior Statistical Analyst working on projects from all areas of the company. My Cal Poly and NC State degree are being put to use at Lowe's. On a daily basis I am creating models in SAS and apply different statistical techniques to business questions around the customer.

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## Horn, David

Right now, I am director of engineering and analytics for Disney Interactive Labs. I moved to San Francisco a few months ago, and I'm head of Disney's San Francisco office. We just released Mickey Video on the Apple App Store, and are working on bringing machine learning and content recommendations to disney.com and other mobile applications

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## Huang, Debbie

GRADUATED IN 2013

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I recently graduated in Spring 2013 and am currently a graduate student at the University of California, Los Angeles. I am pursuing a M.S. in Biostatistics and also working as an Educational Consultant at Mathtopian Preparation Inc. Recently, I attended the 2013 SAS Analytics conference and was a Student Poster Contest Winner. I will also be presenting at the Western Users of SAS Software conference in November 2013.

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## Jackson, Katrina

GRADUATED IN 2010

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I graduated from University of California, Irvine this past June with a Masters in Statistics; I then quickly gathered up everything I owned, and moved to Texas to look for work. After a short stint at the Sylvan Learning Center as their Advanced Mathematics Instructor, I found a position with a company in Austin, Texas. I am now a Marketing Data Analyst for Gtech, a company contracted by the Texas State Lottery to run the lottery. My job is a better fit for me than I could have asked for, and I can not wait to see where

the next year takes me!

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### Jarvis, Alice

I recently started with Ask.com in Oakland after working with a sister company (located in the same building) for the past 3 years. I manage a team of three as a Senior Manager of Analytics & Yield Optimization. Our main focus is running all A/B testing to optimize revenue for Ask.com and its subsidiaries although I also get tapped for new projects in a more cross-functional role. I just purchased my first home this past August and I spend my free time with small household projects and decorating.

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### Joynt, Mary

GRADUATED IN 2007

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Moved to Denver, Colorado after graduating in December of 2007. Currently working for Trimble Navigation as a Sales Operations Analyst for their North American MEP Division. I also enjoy traveling, going to baseball games and hiking in the Rockies.

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### Kaplan, Andy

GRADUATED IN 2010

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After graduating from Cal Poly in June 2010 with a BS in Statistics and minors in math and psychology, I completed my Master's Degree in Applied Statistics from UCSB in December 2011. Since April 2012, I have been working as a Biostatistician (my official title "Statistician Asst.") for the Department of Radiology at UCLA. My role is twofold: I provide statistical support for research done at the UCLA Department of Radiology. I also manage and analyze data from various pharmacological clinical trials. I've been at this position for a year and a half and have found it very rewarding.

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### Kern, Chelsea

GRADUATED IN 2013

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I am currently working at Facebook in the User Operations department. Our team handles user support and enforces Facebook's statement of rights and responsibilities. It feels like I'm still at a college campus, except they provide us free breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day!

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### Law, Samantha

GRADUATED IN 2012

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Since graduating in December, I landed my dream job as a Marketing Analyst at a local software company, MINDBODY, Inc. I decided to postpone grad school for the time being because I could not resist the opportunity to stay on the Central Coast and work for such a great and growing company doing what I love. I am so thankful for the education I received at Cal Poly and the arsenal of statistical analysis skills taught by our amazing department (I use them in my job daily). In one of my current projects I am utilizing R and survival analysis (thanks, Dr. Sklar).

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### Lee, Jewels

GRADUATED IN 2011

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Right after SLO, I went directly into an M.S. program for Statistics at UCLA. Insanely intelligent professors, lots of chalk, lots of power points, lots of R, lots of work! But it was so worth it in the end. Currently, I live in SF, working as a CRM Business Analyst at Gap Inc. Sometimes I work on simple tasks like pulling sales data using SAS into an excel report, sometimes I work on super elaborate convoluted modeling analysis that would make coffee taste like water! I've been enjoying life exploring the urban jungle, working from home on Fridays, and always making time for good friends on the weekends. I love my job, and I'm loving life. Biggest takeaway I learned? Hard work has no regrets.

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## LeGore, Steven

GRADUATED IN 2013

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Right now I am in my first semester at San Diego State working on my Masters in Statistics, with a concentration in Biostatistics along with a few other Cal Poly alumni.

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## Lofland, Chelsea Loomis

GRADUATED IN 2012

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I'm in my 2nd year of the Applied Math and Statistics PhD program at UC Santa Cruz. I work with Abel Rodriguez on Bayesian ideal point estimation in analyzing legislative roll call data. We are currently investigating the effect of the Hastert Rule, which is an informal rule used in the House of Representative that attempts to limit the power of the minority party by preventing voting on a bill that is not supported by the majority of the majority. I have also been collaborating with Rebecca Ottesen to investigate comparisons between SAS and R, specifically recently on simulation. This work has been presented at SAS Global Forum and is an invited talk at the Western Users of SAS Software 2013 conference. As an exciting side note, I'll be spending the holidays visiting my brother in Lesotho, Africa!

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## Loper, Maria

GRADUATED IN 2007

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I am currently working at Rentak Corporation, a media measurement and analytics company in Portland, OR. My position title is Director of Methodological Research. I also live with Tommy Garrison, Cal Poly Statistics department alumni and 2 chickens with no formal college degrees.

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## Lossing, Logan

GRADUATED IN 2012

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I am enjoying my time at NCSU. My classes are very interesting, I am enjoying my coursework in statistical computing and Bayesian methods the most. I am grateful to the Cal Poly Statistics Department for the great training I received; it has proven useful in graduate school!

Right now my funding at NCSU is coming from teaching an introductory statistics course under the guidance of Dr. Roger Woodard and Dr. Herle McGowan. It has proven to be a quite enjoyable experience.

Though I have enjoyed it out here, changes in my family situation will be bringing me back to the central coast in May, after finishing my masters degree at NCSU. I am applying to UCSB and UCSC to continue with my graduate education in statistics.

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## Maskell, Jenna

GRADUATED IN 2008

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I graduated from the class of 2008, hard to believe 5 years have already flown by! I am currently working as a Senior Project/Program Manager at Yahoo in Burbank, CA. I work on the Network Quality team which ensures that ads and publisher sites across all platforms are safe and relevant. Although I don't use Statistics in my job, I am pursuing a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification (already got the Green Belt), because I work a lot on process improvement. Besides working, I am busy planning my wedding for April 2014 in Santa Clarita, CA. I met my fiancé 2 years ago on an online dating site (OkCupid). It's definitely a fun time in my life right now!

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## Mead, Oliver

GRADUATED IN 2009

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I am working at Elevation Burger Head Office in Arlington Virginia, outside of Washington DC. Elevation Burger is the nation's first 100% organic grass-fed hamburger restaurant in the US. We have forty two stores open world-wide. I work in the supply chain as an analyst, which encompasses everything from negotiations on product pricing, quality assurance, and analysis on usage and pricing for every product we

use. I have not won my Olympic metal yet. No Children, no wife. Dressing nicer. I have gotten to do extensive travel. I've been to 10 countries outside of the US on trips related to my job, which is exciting. I don't really use my statistics knowledge anymore besides knowing how to tell if someone is BSing me with numbers. Currently involved in a local church out here and I'm missing CA weather.

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## Milbank, Christian

GRADUATED IN 2006

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I'm now back in San Francisco working at Mercer as a consulting actuary. Prior to that I spent a few years in Honolulu where I advanced both my actuarial skills and my mai tai recipe. I'm still making progress on both - I've obtained my Associate of the Society of Actuaries (A.S.A.) and Enrolled Actuary (E.A.) designations, as well as my graduation certificate from the San Francisco School of Bartending.

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## Moore, Chris

GRADUATED IN 2013

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I am currently an actuarial assistant on the data analytics team at Farmers Insurance in LA. The emphasis at this time of the data analytics team is data quality i.e. making sure the data coming through to perform actuarial analysis are clean according to actuarial standards. In order to check the data, I use cron, a unix program scheduler, to automatically run programs that creates a report on each daily file coming through the financial system. In addition to data quality, I reprogram old and slow processes with SAS and assist with some predictive modeling. Occasionally, I test new SAS releases for Farmers and assist with programming issues other employees have e.g. efficiency issues, syntax issues, general SAS questions etc. Understanding the details of the actuarial data will benefit my career as I rotate to other teams such as reserving and pricing-the actuarial department at Farmers has a rotation program to give actuaries broader knowledge of the department and the company itself. The SAS and analytic skills the Cal Poly statistics department taught me are already paying off and I have only been with Farmers for four months.

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## Quan, Aaron

GRADUATED IN 2005

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I am in the final stages of finishing my PhD. My dissertation is titled "Batch Sequencing Methods for Computer Experiments" and currently the only thing that remains before the defense is to edit my report. Right now, I am in Seattle finishing up my thesis, and looking for jobs on the West Coast.

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## Riester, Katherine

GRADUATED IN 2008

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I started working at Amgen after graduation and I am still with the company. I have changed positions and am now a Feasibility Manager working with study teams to determine the optimal implementation for our clinical trials. Earlier this year I got married. I am also training for my first half marathon next year.

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## Roberg, Kendall

GRADUATED IN 2007

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I am a math teacher at Burbank High School and blessed to be teaching AP Statistics. I am proud to have sent one of my graduates to Cal Poly SLO to major in Statistics! My wife, Shelley, and I have a five month old baby named Cayman and have found the pregnancy/baby process to be an interesting source of data.

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## Russell, Tiffany

GRADUATED IN 2011

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I completed my Masters in Statistics at Stanford last April and have been enjoying my job as an analyst at PennyMac doing statistical analysis and report generation. I am definitely grateful for the amazing preparation, professors, and classes I had at Cal Poly. I haven't missed homework, midterms, and finals,

but it does seem unusual to be past the 'finish line' of my official education. Hope all is well at the department!

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## Sakamoto, Daniela

GRADUATED IN 2009

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After graduating from Cal Poly in 2009, I immediately started working for Amgen. During the four and a half years that I have been working at Amgen, I have taken a variety of positions in different groups including IS (Information Systems) support in the randomization of clinical trials, system owner for SAS, and FDA compliance response. Currently, my title is a Sr. Associate Business Systems Analyst, and I work in the IS Strategy, Architecture, and Services group. Although at work I wear many hats, the main focus for the group is to make decisions using data to drive efficiency and cost effectiveness in a competitive industry. In conjunction with work, I am getting my masters in statistics at Texas A&M through their distance learning program. I am halfway through the program and it has worked out well for me so far! Working fulltime and going to school leaves little free time, but in the couple months I get off from school a year, I like to take time off from work and travel.

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## Shelburne, Emily (Tietjen)

GRADUATED IN 2009

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The Noyce scholarship brought me to teach in the Central Valley. I'm currently teaching Precalculus and AP Statistics at Pacheco High School, in Los Banos. My husband Drew, a Cal Poly grad, and I are living in Merced because he works at the UC, and our daughter Olivia Lynn was born on Halloween of this year.

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## Silva, Sean

GRADUATED IN 2008

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I began my first post-college job a short two weeks after graduating from Cal Poly, as a Risk Analyst for a disease management/wellness company called SHPS. After working there for a couple of years and passing a couple of actuarial exams, I was then recruited to Milliman, Inc. in San Francisco, CA, which is one of the big 4 actuarial consulting firms. Starting as an Actuarial Analyst, I quickly learned about the insurance industry and all of the types of products and programs available to our clients. Since then, I have earned the CEBS (Certified Employee Benefits Specialist) designation, I am one exam away from ASA (Associate in the Society of Actuaries) designation, and I have been promoted to Consultant.

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## Steiner, Alex

GRADUATED IN 2005

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After Cal Poly I moved to San Francisco for a few years and worked for an investment firm, then moved back to LA and got my masters in stat from UCLA. For the past three and a half years I have worked at Marketshare, a marketing analytics company located in Los Angeles. My title at Marketshare is Sr. Scientist - Simulation and Optimization, I develop marketing mix models and then optimize marketing budgets for Fortune 50 companies. In October 2012 I moved to Louisville, KY with my then future wife (we got married just this last June 2013). She is attending medical school here and I still work for Marketshare from my home office now.

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## Stinson, Tierra

GRADUATED IN 2003

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I graduated from UC Riverside with my Ph.D. in Social/Personality Psychology in 2009. After graduating, I worked for an educational research company for a couple of years. A desk job was not the place for me, so I decided to open myself up to teaching full-time in states other than California. I am currently at Cochise College (Arizona) teaching almost every Psychology Course we offer (6 to 7 per semester), including Statistics and Research Methods. I also advise two clubs, The Psychology Club and Lessons of the Holocaust Club. In Spring 2013, I was awarded with the Student Government Association's Faculty Advisor of the Year award and this summer, I was super excited to be part of the AP grading in Kansas City! This semester, I am starting a Psi-Beta chapter on campus (a Psychology Honors organization for



community colleges) and developing an online statistics course. In my free time, I work and bock (spring loaded stilting).

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## Sweeney, Lauren

GRADUATED IN 2010

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I have been working for at Safeway Corporate since February 2011 as a Customer Data Analyst. I analyzing customer data for the Loyalty Marketing/Just 4 You Department. My focus is our Health and Wellness Programs, and macro-level customer trends. I am thankful for a challenging curriculum of the Cal Poly Statistics department that helped me learn to problem solve on the fly and develop creative solutions to analyze data. In my spare time I play on an intramural volleyball team, a trivia team, and have completed two half marathons this year. I am still actively involved in Sigma Kappa Sorority at Cal Poly as an National Advisor for Recruitment and Philanthropic Services - the best part about this work, beyond mentoring amazing young women, is that I get to visit beautiful SLO multiple times a year. I also enjoy spending time with my friends and family, most of all, chasing my two year old twin nieces around.

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## Thomas, Laine (Elliott)

GRADUATED IN 2004

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I'm an assistant professor at Duke University in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics. I've been in my current position for four years and was an intern here for two years previous. I work mainly on collaborations on cardiovascular clinical trials and registries. My experience is with methods for causal inference in observational data and I work exclusively on secondary research, using data sets that were created to answer a different question or to answer many general questions. I love my job here and that has made it less likely that I will ever move back to California, although I always wished to. In fact, my parents just sold their house in California and moved to Raleigh in order to be close to grandchildren. I have a four year old son, Greyson, and my brother and his family also live in Raleigh now. North Carolina can't compete with SLO for natural beauty, but there are tons of fun things to do here in the city. We live near downtown and are always attending concerts, shows and festival. We live in a 1920's bungalow and working on the house and garden is our hobby. My goal is to have a magazine-worthy garden in 10 years. If I can learn not to kill plants it will all work out!

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## Vaca, Sergio

GRADUATED IN 2009

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From 2009-2010 I was a substitute math and stat teacher at my old high school. In 2010 I attended Cal State East Bay and earned M.S. in Biostatistics in 2012. In 2013 I became a private contractor specializing in data management and analysis. My main client, Elevation Burger, offices in Virginia so I decided to move there. In February I got married in Monterey, CA and moved my wife to Virginia soon after. My tasks are varied from day to day. One of my bigger projects involved identifying "key performance indicators" (KPI's: variables significantly correlated to sales) and streamlining all data sources (point of sales, mystery shop, social media, etc.) to one central business intelligence platform where those KPI's are being updated in real time. The statistical software I use includes R, WinBUGS, GGobi. Other projects include survey design and analysis, hypothesis testing, and eating a lot of organic burgers :)

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## Vancho, Brad

GRADUATED IN 2011

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Since I graduated I moved up to San Francisco where I work as an Analytic Scientist for Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO). FICO provides analytics and decision management services to financial institutions. Most people know FICO by the FICO® Credit Score, which is generally recognized as the standard measure of U.S. consumer credit risk. Maintaining/redeveloping this FICO® score is a major part of what my team does. Put more generally, I work on building statistical models that explain and predict consumer credit behavior. Living in SF is an absolute blast, I definitely recommend it to future graduates who are looking for a fun area to work after school. But damn do I miss the weather in SLO.

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## Verbaken, Brian

GRADUATED IN 2010

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I am a Senior Analyst at DIRECTV, responsible for building and maintaining premium upgrade models and churn prediction models. After completing my Masters in Statistics at UCLA one year after graduating from Cal Poly, I worked at a market research firm before starting at DIRECTV. Recently, I completed my first half-marathon and am looking forward to beating my time on my next next race.

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## Zbin, Andy

GRADUATED IN 2010

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Things are pretty hunky-dory in Andyland. I'm back living in my hometown of San Jose and currently working as a Research Associate on the Insights team at LinkedIn. I also have the privilege of working with fellow Cal Poly Statistics alum Ryan Milhous. My daily activities range from programming and survey design, to sampling & fieldwork, as well as reporting and analysis. Every day I put to good use all the valuable knowledge gained from classes like Professor Smith's Survey Sampling & Methodology class!



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# Statistics Department

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Home : Faculty Updates

## Faculty Updates

### Matt Carlton

This has been a refreshingly low-key year for me professionally. I spent the better part of this summer putting the finishing touches on an applied probability textbook, which should be published in early-to-mid-2014. Other than that, I've been working with my frequent co-author Bill Stansfield, a retired geneticist, on a couple of short articles on probability models for genetic sequencing and for gender distributions in families.

### Beth Chance

I enjoyed some fun travel this year, including ziplining with my family in Costa Rica. I am also looking forward to continued work on my new introductory statistics text with Allan Rossman and Soma Roy. If you have any interest in javascript programming, let me know!"

### Peter Chi

Since last year, I earned my doctorate, moved to California, and started working in this department as a new assistant Professor. I also got married. This will be a tough year to beat!

### Jimmy Doi

I just completed my 10th year of employment at Cal Poly and it's hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by. Last year was a busy but fun year. For several years, I had worked on a consulting project with Louise Berner, a food science professor, on the characterization of dietary protein among older adults in the U.S. This work finally hit the presses in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in June 2013. For the past 18 months, I had also been busy working on a textbook — the third edition of "Applied Statistics for Engineers and Scientists" with co-authors Jay Devore and Nick Farnum. It was my first experience working on a book project, and I learned a lot! This past summer, my family and I enjoyed a six week trip to Japan, though it was quite the challenge traveling overseas with an increasingly curious and vivacious 16 month old daughter.

### Samuel Frame

Last spring, I was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor. Recently, I published a paper titled Using Value Line's Median Appreciation Potential to Forecast Long-Horizon Market Returns in the Journal of Wealth Management, and I have two papers currently under review. My current research projects include using Value Line's Median Appreciation Potential to forecast Value Line's Composite Index Fund, studying the dynamic volatility of the S&P 500, and developing metrics to quantify and classify the growth of publicly traded companies.

### Gary Hughes

Teaching new courses this year has definitely been fun and challenging. I also enjoyed the many projects that have materialized over the past year. Student projects that I am involved with include mapping soil radioactivity in Poly Canyon, modeling wind fields along the California coast, characterizing and grading driving maneuvers, improving process capability for manufacture of aircraft interiors, and thermal imaging for various endeavors including pedestrian detection and endangered species monitoring. And of course working on the planetary defense project called DE-STAR has also been very exciting and rewarding; see a [short description of the project](#).

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### **Ulric Lund**

I moved to a different office this year. Alumni, please visit me now on the second floor of Faculty Offices East, where I enjoy a lovely view of Bishop's Peak and Cerro San Luis.

### **Karen McGaughey**

Professionally, I've recently achieved tenure and have been involved in many added service responsibilities, most recently serving on the Academic Senate. In addition, I am continuing my research activity in statistics education and my support of researchers in the Communications Studies Department, College of Engineering and Kennedy Library on their research projects. Personally, I spent the summer learning to fly fish, which culminated in a trip to the Madison River in Montana where I caught a 17-inch brown trout. I'm not sure whether I'll take up fly fishing as a hobby, but it was a great experience. I loved being on the water fishing catch and release.

### **Les Pennelly**

Thirty five years' experience as a research statistician in the pharmaceutical industry. Hopefully, I have made an impact on treatment of diseases and the length/quality of life for many.

### **Kevin Ross**

My first year at Cal Poly was a great experience. I especially enjoyed getting to know many of the statistics majors and helping them build character in Statistics 426/427. In family news, our fourth child — Mary, the world's happiest baby — was born in July.

### **Andrew Schaffner**

This past year I've had the pleasure of leading our partnership with the Computer Science Department to develop a cross-disciplinary minor in data science. We hope to begin offering the minor in 2015. I'm also continuing to work with faculty members Suzanne Phelan and Todd Hagobian in the Kinesiology Department on obesity prevention during pregnancy.

Jeff Sklar

This is my first quarter at Cal Poly that I'm not teaching any courses. I'm currently on sabbatical working on an Association for Institutional Research (AIR) grant-funded project examining the impact of changing majors on time to graduation using generalized hierarchical linear models. This has been an exciting opportunity to apply advanced statistical methodology to address important topics in educational policy. I will be presenting the results of the study at the annual AIR Forum meeting in Orlando, Fla., in May 2014.

### **Bob Smidt**

I have retired as department chair and faculty member, teaching part-time in the Faculty Early Retirement Program. During the past year, my wife Yvonne and I have cruised to Hawaii and traveled to the Yukon and Alaska. I continue to lead workshops in Advanced Placement Statistics, traveling to Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Washington, Ohio and Sacramento (which one does not belong?). I continue to play racquetball and have taken up golf. My handicap is roughly 72.

### **Heather Smith**

This year I worked on several survey research projects. One of them involved assessing workforce housing needs in San Luis Obispo and was a joint collaboration with Opinion Studies, a local survey research firm. In a second project, we investigated the publishing procedures that science journals employ when considering the publication of electronic theses and dissertations. A team of university library researchers from across the U.S. and Canada worked with a recent statistics graduate, Chelsea Kern, and me on this project. The project paper that will be published soon. I continue to enjoy working on consulting projects, especially when Cal Poly statistics students are involved.

### **John Walker**

In 2013, I was a reader for the AP Statistics exam for the fourth straight year. I also visited Montreal, Canada, for the first time to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings. While there, I attended a workshop on Big Data and presented a paper on the effectiveness of using normal probability plots. The paper featured a contest between Cal Poly students and faculty to detect non-normal data using the graphs."



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Home : Emeritus and Former Faculty

## Emeritus and Former Faculty

"I am teaching variety of courses at University of Wisconsin Eau Claire (UWEC) including Intro Stat, Mathematical Statistics, Algebra for Calculus, Introduction to Probability and Mathematical Statistics, Nonparametric Statistics etc. For the probability course I am using Devore's book! I am enjoying teaching at UWEC. In my second semester ehre I obtained "Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to Students" from the Student Support Service Program at UWEC. I have attended INternational Conference on Statistical Distribution and Applications held in Central Michigan University from October 10-12 and presented a paper. The paper would be published in the conference proceesings. I also wrote a faculty/student collaboration research proposal in April 2013 which was funded by ORSP, UWEC. Currently I am working with a student in the same research project in which the student was funded through ORSP. The student plans to present a poster in the JSM 2014."

- Mohammad Aziz

"Great colleagues, happy students, and beautiful weather - When Allan Rossman said there would be an "alumni section", I found myself wondering how he could ever find more than a handful of lost lambs (like myself) who drifted away from Cal Poly Statistics! It was five years back that I last taught in San Luis Obsipo. Since then, I have toured the East Coast: postdoc at Hopkins, assistant professor at Harvard, and now a business student at Yale. My favorite paper has probably been an article investigating the relationship between smoking bans and heart attacks... with surprising results (Barr et al., Am. J. Epi., 2012). Regarding teaching, I am pleased to announce OpenIntro.org (just a seedling during my time at SLO!) is flourishing. It is unclear what the future holds, but I'm looking forward to getting back to SLO early and often. Until then, best wishes to my friends!"

- Christopher Barr

"Since my days at Cal Poly, I have completed a Ph.D. in Education with an Emphasis in Quantitative Research Methodology at UC Santa Barbara. I currently work at the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey and am the Manager of Psychometrics for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) assessment program. I also serve on my local school board. On a personal note, I have been married to my loving and supportive wife Lisa for 13 years and have a 10-year old daughter, Maya."

- Terran Brown

"Even though I am no longer teaching at Cal Poly, I continue to remain professionally active. The 3rd edition of Applied Statistics for Engineers and Scientists was recently published, with Cal Poly's Jimmy Doi joining Nick Farnum and me as coauthors. I have been collaborating on a probability text with Matt Carlton which will be published by Springer in the near future. And I have been scrambling to revise my first book for a 9th week course at Columbia University in New York City for the 5th. My wife and I have enjoyed traveling. Earlier this year we spent 2 weeks in Costa Rica, and more recently completed a 3-week trip to northern and central Italy. We also love to spend time in New York City visiting our 2 daughters and 2 grandsons. I continue to marvel at what a great Statistics Department we have at Cal Poly. My greatest accomplishment as chair was in supervising the search process that resulted in hiring many wonderful young faculty members, including such luminaries as Allan Rossman, Beth Chance, Andrew Schaffner, and Matt Carlton."

- Jay Devore

" This is my 5th year teaching in The Harker School in San Jose. I teach 5 sections of AP Statistics! I am planning on retiring for good in 18 months so I can visit my grandchildren in DC. Our biggest news is that

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our son (David) now works at the White House (Director of International Affairs)- don't know what it means but it sounds good! I am looking forward to my tour of the West Wing next time I go to DC."

- Mary Mortlock

"It has been a busy year for me—never knew I would be working so hard in "retirement." My new textbook titled Statistics: Learning from Data was released this year and I have been working on several curriculum projects related to the inclusion of statistics in the new K-12 Common Core Mathematics Standards, including a big project for the State of New York. It was also a great year for travel. I attended the International Statistics Congress in Hong Kong and was able to spend some time in China before that meeting. Also had memorable trips to Sweden, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand! Don't ask how many frequent flyer miles I earned this year..."

- Roxy Peck

I returned to the Taft School after my sabbatical at Cal Poly and have remained here since. After 15 years as the Math Department Head, I stepped down this summer to return to full-time teaching. In 2011, I was named the Director of the Taft Educational Center, a summer program that consists of one-week workshops for high school teachers. With many of our workshops in Advanced Placement courses, we offer nearly 80 workshops over a 5-week period, and last year we had 900 teachers walk through our doors. I continue to be involved in the AP Statistics Reading and look forward to doing so for years to come :).

- Al Reiff





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Home : WUSS (Western Users of SAS Software)

## WUSS (Western Users of SAS Software)

WUSS is officially recognized as the SAS user group of the western region of the U.S. It is a nonprofit, educational organization that provides SAS system users with professional development opportunities and a forum to exchange ideas. Every year, Cal Poly sends approximately 15 students to this conference, many of whom earn academic scholarships to attend. This three-day conference offers students with several learning opportunities, including full and half-day training classes, presentations, hands-on workshops and an exhibit and demo area. Students are also given several opportunities to network with professionals.

Though this conference is typically expensive, full-time undergraduate or graduate students are eligible for regular and travel scholarships. Over the years, the majority of Cal Poly students have received regular scholarships and a few have received travel scholarships. The regular scholarship includes complimentary conference registration, two free half-day classes of your choice, and a discounted hotel room rate. WUSS requires all scholarship participants to fulfill a volunteer role, such as assessor or class coordinator. The travel scholarship requires an accepted abstract for the conference and a poster or paper presentation. It includes full hotel room rate coverage and up to \$350 for travel expenses.

This conference is a great opportunity for students to network with professionals and learn more about the SAS System. In the past, students have expressed how much they enjoy the complimentary recruiting luncheon where they get to talk about their resumes and job application tips. They also learn the newest information in SAS and future innovations and learn from those already in the industry. The conference is a great opportunity for students and anyone interested in attending should feel free to talk to any statistics major who has attended.

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Home : Joyce Curry-Daly and James Daly Memorial Scholarship

## Joyce Curry-Daly and James Daly Memorial Scholarship

The scholarship named in recognition of Joyce Curry-Daly and James Daly, seminal members of the Statistics Department, is used to support the long-term academic pursuits of worthy statistics majors.

Joyce was a graduate of the Cal Poly Mathematics Department and a lecturer in statistics from 1970 until her death in September 1997. She supervised the department tutors and worked for many years with the SMART program, which encouraged underprivileged students to develop a strong interest in mathematics and science in junior high so that they could pursue these subjects at the college level.

James was the first chair of the Statistics Department, shepherding the new department into existence. After stepping down as department chair, he continued to have a distinguished career as teacher and mentor to many students.

James started the scholarship fund shortly after Joyce's death to support her strong commitment to education. After James lost his battle with cancer in 2011, the scholarship was renamed to keep the memory of both of these wonderful teachers alive. As new contributions augment the scholarship fund, we hope to increase the number of students who receive financial support.

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Home : Thank You to Our Generous Donors

## Thank You to Our Generous Donors

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