

News from The University of Arizona

Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in STATISTICS

Fall 2008

- The GIDP is pleased to announce that four new faculty members will join us in Fall 2008:
Dr. **Christopher S. Johnson** of the University of Michigan will come to UA's Department of Educational Psychology as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Johnson, who holds degrees in Educational Studies, Applied Statistics, and Mathematics, specializes in hierarchical regression/multilevel modeling, repeated measures analysis, and item response theory.
Dr. **Lingling An** of Purdue University will come to UA's Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering as an Assistant Professor. Dr. An, whose doctoral degree is in Statistics, specializes in statistical genetics/genomics, bioinformatics, and computational biology.
Dr. **Chengcheng Hu** of the Harvard School of Public Health will come to UA's Division of Epidemiology & Biostatistics as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Hu has extensive research experience in both statistical methodology and collaborative clinical studies, and has also served as a Senior Statistician in the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research at Harvard.
Dr. **Scott R. Eliason** from the University of Minnesota will come to UA's Department of Sociology as an Associate Professor. Dr. Eliason specializes in categorical data analysis, correlated data modeling, and causal inference in the social sciences.
We look forward to welcoming Drs. Johnson, An, Hu, and Eliason to campus this Fall!
- The GIDP will matriculate its *first class of graduate students* this Fall! We are thrilled to welcome Ph.D. students **John Bear** from California State University-East Bay, **Wenhai Chen** from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, and **Benjamin Pope** from the University of California-San Diego, to our graduate training program. In addition, three new students will undertake studies towards the GIDP's new Graduate Certificate in Statistics; they are: **Colin Dawson**, **Urooj Khan**, and **Adrian Murillo**.
We welcome all our new graduate students to their adventure in interdisciplinary statistics!
- The following GIDP Faculty earned academic promotions this past year, and now serve in the following capacities:
Regular Faculty Member **Jacobus J. (Kobus) Barnard** is now Associate Professor of Computing Science and Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
Regular Faculty Member **Joseph C. Watkins** is now Professor of Mathematics, and
Affiliate Faculty member **John J. Cheslock** is now Associate Professor of Higher Education.
We extend our most heartfelt congratulations to Drs. Barnard, Watkins, and Cheslock!
- GIDP member and Professor of Archeology **Mark Aldenderfer** has led an excavation in South America that uncovered what is, to date, the oldest collection of gold artifacts found in the Americas. The team excavated a site in the Peruvian Andes, and uncovered a necklace made of turquoise and native gold that had been hammered into shape. Such materials were not available from the local region, requiring either a trade or a trip of some distance to acquire the raw gold and turquoise, or the finished necklace itself. Professor Aldenderfer published this research in the prestigious *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and gives a short PodCats podcast at <http://uanews.org/node/19378>.

For more information, contact us at stat@email.arizona.edu, or see our website at <http://stat.arizona.edu>

