



## News from The University of Arizona Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in STATISTICS

### Fall 2010

- The GIDP will matriculate its newest class of graduate students this Fall! We are thrilled to welcome Ph.D. students **Fang Fang** from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, **Nellie Gopaul** from Florida International University, **David Rockoff** from Iowa State University, and **Yue Zeng** from the University of Delaware, and M.S. student **Ian Goldstein** from Macalester College, to our graduate training program. In addition, four new students will undertake studies towards the GIDP's Graduate Certificate in Statistics: **Jorge Lara Alvarez**, **Brian Hallmark**, **Dominic LaRoche**, and **Shankar Venkataraman**.

We welcome all our new graduate students to their adventure in interdisciplinary statistics!

- GIDP faculty member **Keisuke Hirano** has earned an academic promotion and is now Professor of Economics. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Hirano!
- GIDP faculty member **Bonnie J. LaFleur** has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The ASA Board oversees and directs the activities of the largest organization of professional statisticians in the western hemisphere, and Dr. LaFleur's election places her in a position to impact greatly the future direction of the statistics profession. She begins her duties in January 2011. Congratulations Dr. LaFleur!
- GIDP member **Chris Segrin** has authored a book chapter detailing the social aspects of depression. His research has found that not only do depressed people sometimes lack social skills, but the way in which their relationships operate can contribute to increased feelings of depression. "We find that the relationship between social skills and depression is robust," said Dr. Segrin, a behavioral scientist and Head of the Department of Communications, who has conducted numerous studies on interpersonal relationships and mental health. "They are being cast aside by their social network. This actually maintains their depressive state." See more on Dr. Segrin's research at <http://uanews.org/node/32452>.
- GIDP member **J. Bruce Walsh** was quoted recently in the *New York Times* on the effects of moths in the home; see <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/28/garden/28fix.html>. While clothes-eating moths, or rather their larvae, can cause hundreds of dollars in damage, it turns out that most species are not the clothes-eating kind, says Prof. Walsh. So, don't rush to panic if you see one. Dr. Walsh is an expert on moths and butterflies, along with having been a former Chair of our GIDP.
- Current GIDP Chairman **Walter W. Piegorsch** has been named Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Environmetrics*, the oldest scientific journal publishing on quantitative methods in the environmental sciences. The Journal is the official organ of The International Environmetric Society and is published by John Wiley & Sons. **Dr. Piegorsch** also was featured on Tucson television station KOLD-13 in its '60-Second Science' series, in which issues of scientific interest are described in a 60-second segment. He discussed his work on setting safe exposures to environmental pollutants; see the segment on KOLD's website: <http://www.kold.com/global/video/flash/popupplayer.asp?ClipID1=4797045>.
- GIDP member **Rabi Bhattacharya** has re-released his classic book with R. Ranga Rao on *Normal Approximation and Asymptotic Expansions*, with the addition of some new material, published by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) in their series on Classics in Applied Mathematics. Congratulations to Dr. Bhattacharya!

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