



# News from The University of Arizona

## Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in STATISTICS

### Fall 2011

- The GIDP will matriculate its newest class of graduate students this Fall! We are thrilled to welcome Ph.D. students **Kurt Michels** from Montana State University, **Donelle Mickevicius** from our own University of Arizona, and **Michael Sohn** from the University Of Nevada–Las Vegas, and M.S. students **Zhenrui Wang** and **Chi Yuan** from here at UA, to our graduate training program. In addition, four new students will undertake studies towards the GIDP's Graduate Certificate in Statistics: **Jun He**, **Warren Smith**, **Juan Raygoza Garay**, and **Bole Yang**.  
We welcome all our new graduate students to their adventure in interdisciplinary statistics!
- Conversely, the GIDP is proud to report that it has *graduated its first student*: Ms. **Alissa A. Wickens** successfully completed the requirements for her degree in May 2011, and is now an M.S. in Statistics. She works at Chase Bank in Phoenix. Also, Statistics Ph.D. student **Colin G. Dawson** earned his M.S. in Statistics in May 2001 *en route* to his Ph.D. Congratulations to Alissa and Colin; may the road rise up to meet them and may the wind always be at their backs!
- The GIDP is pleased to announce that *four new faculty members* will join us in Fall 2011: Drs. **Hao (Helen) Zhang** and **Sunder Sethuraman** come to UA's Department of Mathematics as Associate Professors. Drs. **Tiemen Woutersen** and **Derek M. Lemoine** join UA's Department of Economics as Assistant Professors. We welcome Drs. Zhang, Woutersen, Sethuraman, and Lemoine to campus!
- The following GIDP faculty members have earned academic promotions:
  - Katherine Y. Barnes** is now Professor of Law;
  - Noel A. Card** is now Associate Professor of Family Studies & Human Development;
  - Sandy Dall'Erba** is now Associate Professor of Geography & Regional Development;
  - Gautam Gowrisankaran** is now Professor of Economics;
  - Chiu-Hsieh (Paul) Hsu** is now Associate Professor of Public Health;
  - Joanna Monti-Masel** is now Associate Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology;
  - Robert J. Steidl** is now Professor of Natural Resources.We extend our heartiest congratulations to all!
- GIDP member **Melinda F. Davis** has been named the inaugural Editor of an open-access scholarly journal, *The Journal of Methods and Measurement in the Social Sciences* (<https://journals.uair.arizona.edu/index.php/jmmss>). The journal, created in association with the University of Arizona Libraries, will publish two issues each year focusing on methodology and research design, measurement, and data analysis. Congratulations Dr. Davis!
- GIDP member **Jake Harwood**'s research on children's communication with elderly parents was recently featured in *The Tennessean* (<http://uanews.org/click/41188/1>). Prof. Harwood gave seven tips to help family caregivers communicate with their senior parents on sensitive subjects. Great job Dr. Harwood!
- GIDP Chairman **Walter W. Piegorsch** is one of the first in the nation to gain accreditation as a Professional Statistician (or PStat<sup>®</sup>) from the American Statistical Association (<http://uanews.org/node/37878>). The Accreditation Program was created in 2010 to authenticate practitioners' statistical training and knowledge, experience in applying statistical expertise, commitment to ethical standards of statistical practice, and ability to communicate effectively. The new program serves to benchmark levels of professional development expected of practicing statisticians.

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