

Cupples Award Winner

The department celebrated the 2nd Annual L. Adrienne Cupples Award and recognized Ellen M. Wijsman for her outstanding contributions and achievements in biostatistics.

The selection committee received many outstanding nominations and was particularly impressed by Professor Wijsman’s contributions to statistical genetics research, her outstanding teaching, continued service to the profession, and most impressively her commitment to mentoring students and colleagues.

Professor Wijsman completed her PhD in 1981 at the University of Wisconsin – Madison in Population Genetics with a minor in Statistics. She then completed a post-doctoral fellowship in human population genetics at Stanford University and then joined their faculty in the Department of Genetics.

Professor Wijsman moved to the University of Washington in 1987 where she has been for the past 25 years. She is currently a Professor in the Division of Medical Genetics in the Department of Medicine and a Professor of Biostatistics.

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Department News

Department faculty submitted 119 new grant applications (30 as PI/Co-PI and 89 as Co-Investigators) in methodological and collaborative research areas and were invited to present research findings at numerous conferences in the US and abroad.

Several faculty received awards for their outstanding achievements – Professor Josee Dupuis was named a fellow of the American Statistical Association, for outstanding contributions to the development and application of statistical methods for genetics data; for excellence of collaborative research in mapping

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New Clinical Faculty Member

As of the 2013–2014 academic school year, Jacqueline Milton, PhD will join the faculty as Clinical Teaching Assistant Professor of Biostatistics. She recently graduated from the PhD program in Biostatistics and is the most recent recipient of the Dean’s Award for Student Research.

In Fall 2013, Jacqui will coordinate BS704: Introduction to Biostatistics and teach one section of the course.

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Lustgarten Wins Competition



Stephanie Lustgarten, recent PhD graduate in Biostatistics, was the recipient of the 2013 Biostatistics student paper competition for her entry, "*Non-Parametric Prediction of Event Times for Analysis of Failure-time Data with Interval Censoring.*"

Lustgarten's work involved the development of a new Bayesian nonparametric method to predict when a sufficient number of subjects will have had an event to allow monitoring of a clinical trial with a

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New Clinical Faculty Member



She will also be a co-instructor for one section of BS723: Introduction to Statistical Computing. Please join us in welcoming Jacquie to the department!

Cupples Award Winner



She is also an Adjunct Professor of Genome Sciences at the University of Washington at Seattle. Her work focuses on the development and application of quantitative methods for

human genetics data. She has an extensive publication record, has served on multiple NIH study sections and advisory boards, she is on the editorial team of multiple high impact journals and has been invited to present her work across the globe.

Dr. Wijsman's work does not stop there. She is closely involved in a program called "Elementary Quantitative Literacy: Activity-based data analysis," which involves coordinating continuing education workshops on the topic of statistics and probability for grade K-5 teachers.

We commend Dr. Wijsman for her dedication to teaching and continued service to her profession.

SPH Fall 2013 Academic Calendar

Last day to add class online	9/2/13
Labor Day	9/2/13
Instruction Begins	9/3/13
Last Day to add classes	Before 2 nd class
Payment settlement for new students	9/16/13
Official Summer II Graduation Date	9/25/13
Planner opens for Spring 2014	9/25/13
Medical insurance waiver deadline	9/30/13
Last day to drop without a W	10/7/13
Last Day to change from credit to audit status	10/7/13
Columbus Day Holiday	10/14/13
Substitute Monday schedule of classes	10/15/13
Spring 2014 registration	10/30/13
Last day to drop with a W	11/8/13
Fall recess begins	11/27/13
Instruction resumes	12/2/13
Last day to withdraw or take leave of absence	12/3/13
Payment deadline for continuing students for spring	12/17/13
Last class or final exams end	12/20/13

Student Highlights



Lindsay, Parliament in Budapest.

Lindsay Kohorn, an incoming MPH student, spent five months in Hungary attending the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics program during the spring 2013 semester.

Current PhD student, **Sean Lacey**, married Hannah Letbetter (now Lacey) on August 10th!

Danielle Enserro, a current PhD student,

Competed in the Walt Disney World Marathon in January! It was her first marathon and she finished

the race in four hours and ten minutes. **Jun Xu**, current MA student, went to New York over winter break and met up with old friends currently attending Columbia University and Georgia Tech.



Jun Xu and his friends.

Alumni News

Michael Posner (PhD 2006) is an Associate Professor of Statistics at Villanova University. This past year, he won the Waller Education Award from the ASA for outstanding contributions to and innovation in the teaching of elementary statistics by a young educator and the Mathematical Association of America's Alder Award for distinguished teaching by a beginning college or university mathematics faculty member. On a lighter note, he also won the a-mu-sing contest for his video "[Stats Can Be Cool You See.](#)" a spoof of (the other) Mike Posner's "Cooler Than Me." Michael just received a three-year internal grant to create the Center for Statistics Education, a Center of Excellence in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova University. The goals of the Center include providing professional development for teachers in the Greater Philadelphia region at the K-16 levels, creating programs in statistics education for students at Villanova University, and conducting research on effective methods in statistics instruction and pedagogy. The Center also works with faculty throughout the University to improve statistics in the curricula across many disciplines. At home, he is supporting his wife through the tenure process this year (in Organizational Behavior at University of Delaware), and loving time with his 6 year old twins, Yael and Jonah, and 18 month old, Ari.

Chaturia Rouse (MPH 2011) is a public health analyst contractor at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. She works in the division of tuberculosis elimination, where she analyzes and interprets data from TB Epidemiologic Studies Consortium (TBESC), a nation-wide consortium focused on TB infection research. She is also responsible for data QA, QC, and analysis for the TBESC II consortium. Lastly, she develops analysis plans, and uses statistical software to run bivariate and multivariate analysis, create tables and graphs for presentations and manuscripts for publications.

Victor Johnson (MA 2010) and his wife relocated to Central Jersey over the past year. They are in the process of buying their first house and enjoying the summer on the Jersey Shore with their new dog, Wrigley.



Victor's new dog, Wrigley!

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Recent Graduates

January 2013

Yulun Ban, MA

Zoe Bider-Canfield, MPH

Alyssa Dufour, PhD

Suzanne Finder, MPH

Molly Higgins-Biddle, MPH

Laure Hou, MPH

Joanna Hull, MPH

Bozena Malyszko, MPH

Nausheen Punjani, MPH

Ke Wang, PhD

Pearl Zakrotsky, MPH

May 2013

Julianne Burns, MPH

Han Chen, PhD

Hailong Cheng, PhD

Gina Chien, MPH

Paula Griffin, MA

Wei Guo, PhD

Rose Hamershock, MA

Jayandra Himali, PhD

Amanda Huffman, MPH

Jessica Kerr, MPH

Kristen Kipping-Ruane, MA

Vicky Li, MPH

Qiong Louie-Gao, PhD

Stephanie Lustgarten, PhD

Natalie Morgenstern, MPH

Carlee Moser, PhD

Divya Nair, MPH

Xiaojia Ren, MA

Rasneet Sandhu, MPH

Heather Shappell, MA

Christine Silva, MPH

Nicole Spillner, MPH

Daniel Stein, MPH

Meredith Stevenson, MA

Anna Wielgosz, MPH



Upcoming Conferences

22nd Annual IGES Conference

International Genetic Epidemiology Society
September 15–17, 2013
Intercontinental Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

APHA 141st Annual Meeting & Exposition

American Public Health Association
November 2–6, 2013
Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
Boston, Massachusetts

ENAR 2014 Spring Meeting

Eastern North American Region/International
Biometric Society
March 16–19, 2014
Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel
Baltimore, Maryland

SCT 34th Annual Meeting 2014

Society for Clinical Trials
May 18–21, 2014
Sheraton Philadelphia
Philadelphia Pennsylvania

JSM 2014

Joint Statistical Meetings
August 2–7, 2014
Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
Boston, Massachusetts

Alumni News (cont'd)

Vanessa Xanthakis (PhD 2012) was promoted from Instructor to Assistant Professor of Medicine and Biostatistics and the recipient of the Faculty Development and Diversity Award from the Boston University School of Medicine. She is one of five finalists for the Elizabeth Barrett-Connor Research Award for Young Investigators and will be presenting at the American Heart Association conference in Dallas Texas this November. Vanessa also found time to co-teach the Summer School in Cardiovascular Epidemiology in Greifswald, Germany with Dr. Vasan Ramachandran.

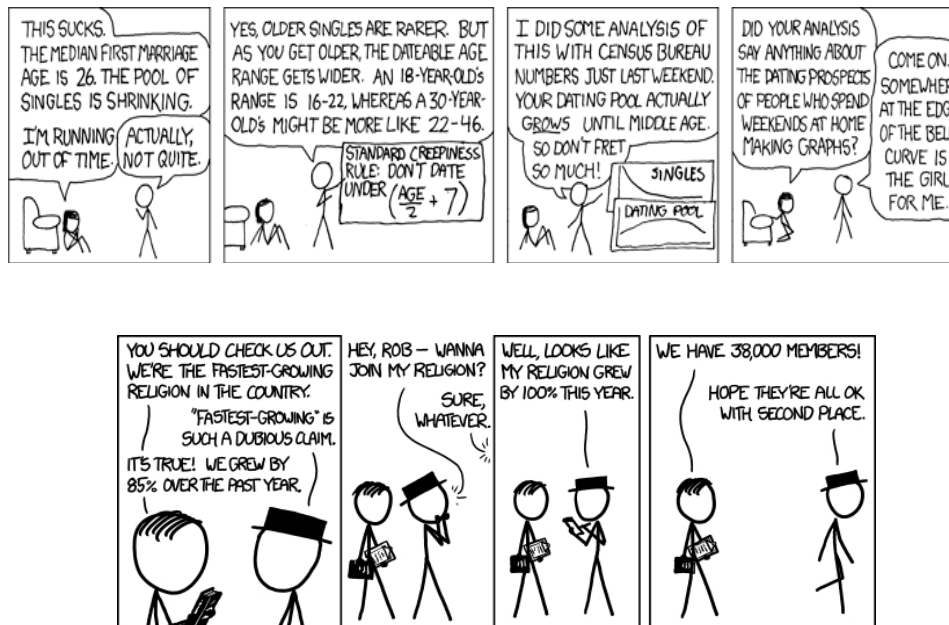
Kayne Award Winner

The Herbert Kayne Prize for 2013 was awarded to Molly Higgins Biddle. The Kayne Award is presented each year to a Master of Public Health graduate who has achieved high academic standing and has shown a strong interest in the biostatistics in specific and public health in general. This award is named for Dr. Herb Kayne, a former long-time faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, who taught biostatistics to most, if not all, of the MPH students in the School of Public Health from its founding until his retirement in 1999.

Molly graduated from Haverford College in 2007 and completed her Master of Public Health with a concentration in biostatistics in January 2013. Since 2008, Molly has been a staff associate and consultant in the Boston office of John Snow, Incorporated, an internationally known public health consulting firm where she worked on both national and international research studies in areas as varied as HIV disease, emergency room utilization, and environmental studies of beach contaminants, all while she pursued her MPH degree on a part-time basis.

According to Molly, she was continually rewarded by the connection between her work and school and that each complemented the other in unique ways. Her classes offered a theoretical base and technical skills and her job provided opportunities to apply that theory in the field of public health. We are confident that Molly will continue her exemplary work in her career as a public health professional.

Comics



Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage

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human complex disease genes; and for significant service to the profession, particularly at the interface of statistics with genetic epidemiology and medicine.

Professor Michael Lavalley received the Master Educator Award from the American College of Rheumatology and Professor Lisa Sullivan was named Mostellar Statistician of the Year by the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

The Biostatistics faculty published 256 papers in high impact, peer-reviewed journals and delivered numerous presentations at national and international meetings and conferences. Notable among these was a keynote address given by Professor Sebastiani at the Intelligent Data Analysis Meeting in Helsinki. Gheorghe Doros, Associate Professor, Adj. Asst. Prof. Sandeep Menon and Adj. Prof. Mark Chang, gave an industry workshop at the Food and Drug Administration and a short course at the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, Society For Clinical Trials Conference, and Biopharmaceutical Applied Statistics Symposium (BASS). Several faculty (A Cupples, K Lunetta, P Sebastiani) served on study sections and special emphasis panels for the National Institutes of Health and several served as biostatisticians on Data Safety and Monitoring Committees (D Cheng, G Doros, J Massaro, J Weinberg).

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time-to-event outcome and intermittent assessments of the outcome. The paper was chosen from among several submissions. Reviewers for this year's competition: Gheorghe Doros, Associate Professor of Biostatistics; Michael Lavalley, Professor of Biostatistics; and Yorghos Tripodis, Assistant Professor of Biostatistics.

The reviewers noted that Lustgarten's paper presented a solid overview of the problem addressed, and also commended the quality of the paper's methodological work as "very good and innovative." Lustgarten's work was also described as being relevant in many applications, but especially in "clinical trials which are an important component of biostatistics."

The work, in collaboration with Gheorghe Doros, is currently under review.

Stephanie received a \$750 travel award from the department to use in attending a statistics or genetics conference.

Graduation Information

PhD CANDIDATES

	Jan. 25, 2014 Award	May 18, 2014 Award
Dissertation Prospectus due in Graduate School Office (GRS)	April 5, 2013	October 4, 2013
Diploma Application due in GRS*	November 1, 2013	February 1, 2014
First draft of thesis (submitted to readers)	October 4, 2013	February 1, 2014
Dissertation Defense Abstract (max. 350 words) approved by department/program—due in GRS for review and approval by the Dean	At least three weeks prior to Final Oral Exam	At least three weeks prior to Final Oral Exam
Properly formatted draft of dissertation submitted to GRS Records Office (wellman@bu.edu) for format review by GRS	Submitted by e-mail at least three weeks prior to Final Oral Exam	Submitted by e-mail at least three weeks prior to Final Oral Exam
Schedule of Final Oral Examination (arranged by department) due in GRS with two copies of approved abstract	At least two weeks prior to Final Oral Exam	At least two weeks prior to Final Oral Exam
Last date to hold Final Oral Exam (Same deadline for submission of the dissertation)	December 13, 2013	April 11, 2014
Final reader-approved dissertation submitted to ETD Administrator for final approval by the Graduate School on or before this date**	December 13, 2013 submitted electronically	April 11, 2014, submitted electronically
Documentation of Readers' Approval submitted to the Graduate School Office on or before this date	December 13, 2013	April 11, 2014

* The diploma application is valid only for the graduation date specified; a new application must be filed if the student does not graduate as planned

**All degree requirements are complete only when the master's thesis or doctoral dissertation has been certified as meeting the standards of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and of the Mugar Memorial Library.

MA CANDIDATES

	Jan. 25, 2014 Award	May 18, 2014 Award
Diploma Application due in GRS*	November 1, 2013	February 1, 2014

* The diploma application is valid only for the graduation date specified; a new application must be filed if the student does not graduate as planned

Announcement

Call for Nominations: L. Adrienne Cupples Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Service in Biostatistics

Purpose of the Award

This annual award recognizes a biostatistician whose academic achievements reflect the contributions to teaching, research, and service exemplified by Professor L. Adrienne Cupples. Dr. Cupples joined the faculty at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) in 1981 and later served as founding Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Co-Executive Director of the Graduate Program in Biostatistics. During her tenure at BUSPH, she has advanced the field of biostatistics through extensive publications in major journals and book chapters on collaborative and methodological research, development and effective teaching of a wide range of biostatistics courses, and mentorship of numerous graduate students and faculty.

Eligibility and Nominations

To be eligible, the nominee must be an internationally recognized statistician/biostatistician who have made significant contributions to the statistical sciences through teaching, research, and service, and who will be willing to deliver a lecture at the award ceremony held in the Department of Biostatistics at Boston University on April 3, 2014.

Nominations should include the nominee's name and contact information, rationale for the nomination not exceeding 2 pages in length, and the nominee's *curriculum vitae*. Nominations may be made by faculty, collaborators, students, or staff working with or familiar with the work of the nominee. Nominations will be accepted through November 15, 2013 and the winner will be notified by December 2, 2013.

Please send nominations via e-mail to:

Lisa M. Sullivan, PhD
Associate Dean for Education
Professor and Chair, Department of Biostatistics
lsull@bu.edu

Selection Criteria

Criteria for the award include, but are not limited to, excellence in the following areas:

- Biostatistics education (teaching, curriculum design, course development)
- Collaborative or methodological biostatistical research
- Service to the profession
- Student and faculty mentoring

Award Selection Committee

The Award Selection Committee will be comprised of eight members, six members of the faculty of the Boston University Department of Biostatistics representing varying areas of expertise and faculty rank and two student members currently enrolled in the graduate program in Biostatistics at Boston University.

Winners

Winners of the award will receive a \$1000 honorarium, and all expenses to attend and present at the Boston University Department of Biostatistics at an Annual Award Day, generally held on the first Thursday in April. Faculty, staff and students interested in biostatistics from the Boston area will be invited to the presentation given by the Cupples' Award recipient. www.sph.bu.edu/CupplesAward

Announcement

Call for Submissions: Biostatistics Student Paper Competition

The Department of Biostatistics at BUSPH is soliciting applications for the 2014 student paper competition. The competition is open to all students enrolled in the Biostatistics Program at Boston University in the spring term of 2014. The winner of the competition will receive \$750 as a travel award to attend the summer Joint Statistical Meetings. Travel to other conferences (i.e. ENAR, Society for Clinical Trials, American Society of Human Genetics, International Genetic Epidemiology Society) is possible in negotiation with the award committee.

All students are strongly encouraged to submit the abstracts from their papers to the Joint Statistical Meetings, which has a deadline of February 1st. Students would also be encouraged to consider entering the competitions sponsored by sections of the Joint Statistical Meetings (e.g. The Biometrics section Byar Young Investigator award, for details see <http://www.bio.ri.ccf.org/Biometrics/winner.html>).

TIMETABLE: **January 10th, 2014 at noon:** Deadline for students to submit pdf of manuscript
 January 24th, 2014: Announcement of awards

REQUIREMENTS:

The paper should be prepared double spaced, in manuscript format, using guidelines for authors typical of a biostatistical journal (e.g. Biometrics, Statistics in Medicine, or Biostatistics). A pdf copy of the manuscript should be submitted to the chair of the award committee, Ching-Ti Liu (ctliu@bu.edu).

The reported work should be relevant to biostatistics and must be the work of the student, although the manuscript can be co-authored with a faculty advisor or a small number of collaborators. The student must be the first author of the manuscript. Papers which have been accepted by a journal are not eligible for the competition. The student must be a degree candidate in the Biostatistics program at Boston University during the spring term of 2014.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

The awards committee encourages papers that develop new statistical methodology clearly motivated by a substantive problem in health or biomedical sciences or that feature innovative application of statistical methodology to address a substantive problem in health or biomedical sciences. The committee will base its selection of award winner on several factors:

- (1) Quality of methodological development or innovative application
- (2) Relevance of the motivating application to biostatistics research
- (3) Applicability of the methodology developed or investigated to the motivating problem
- (4) Clarity and style of presentation

More information is available from the chair of the Award committee: Ching-Ti Liu (ctliu@bu.edu, 617-638-7752).