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Statistics Graduate Student Commencement
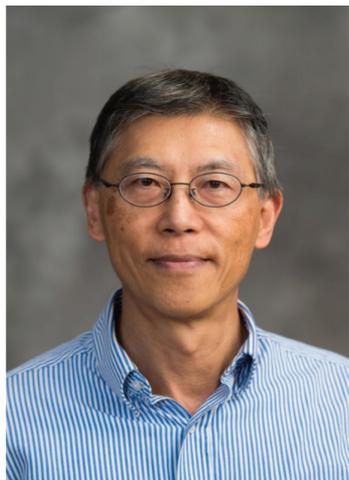
Class of 2020

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Contents

The Department of Statistics is excited to congratulate our graduating students on the successful completion of their programs!

We wish you all the best in your future endeavors and hope you will keep in touch!

Professor Tailen Hsing
Director of Master's Program (Data Science)

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 on your graduation!

You were the first batch of students in our Data Science Master's Program. Just a few months ago, I was looking forward to holding a proper graduation ceremony to send you off. Of course, the plan was derailed by the worst pandemic in a hundred years. Fanfair now has to be replaced by a few parting words spoken from the heart.

I sincerely hope that you have had a positive experience in the Data Science Program and at University of Michigan. I hope that you have benefited from your courses, enjoyed the company of your classmates, and made friends. Most of all, I hope the experience has helped you craft a vision of your career and life in general. I normally don't give advice, but I'll make an exception on this special occasion.
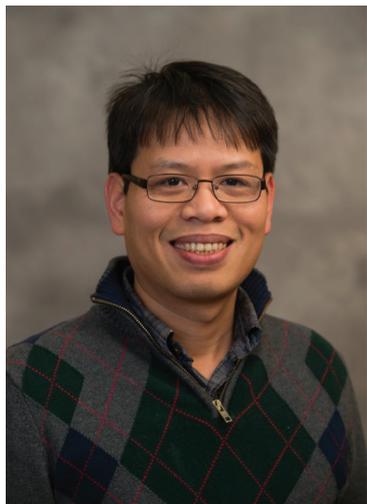
First, let's all take care of ourselves and pay attention to work-life balance. That may include many things, for instance, managing stress and spending time with family and friends. Your life and work will be more meaningful if you can achieve this.

Second, let's have dreams and think outside the box. By that I don't mean pursuing risky adventures. However, I am saying this is an excellent time to be creative in coming up with big plans on what you want to achieve in the next few years.

Third, let's be positive and not worry too much about the future. This advice may ring hollow at the moment. COVID-19 has caused losses and pain to a lot of people. However, the pandemic will be over before long. Data scientists will have an even more prominent role and more opportunities in the post-pandemic world. For instance, one can predict that biomedical data science will be an area that governments and industry alike will rush to develop. I am confident your future will be bright!

With that I bid my farewell to you, Class of 2020. It was a pleasure and an honor to have you in the program. Be safe, do well, and keep in touch.

Go Blue!

Professor Long Nguyen
Director of Master's Program (Applied Statistics)

Dear students and families of class 2020,

I hope this message finds you and your family in safe conditions and a healthy state of mind amid the current siege of the pandemic, whether you are presently in Ann Arbor, your state or home country.

In spite of the unprecedented and on-going challenges in our society and our lives, I am thankful and very happy to have this opportunity to write to you and your family regarding an important milestone of your career: you have graduated with a Master's degree in Applied Statistics from the University of Michigan. You are a graduated Wolverine!

On behalf of the University of Michigan Statistics department's faculty and staff, congratulations!

Most of you have completed the study in two years. You have come a long way. Two years ago, you were among the 72 students that had been selected from a pool of nearly 750 strong applicants. You came from all over the world, along with a cohorts of diverse undergraduate background ranging from engineering and business fields to physical and social sciences.

You have chosen to study statistics because you found in this discipline its usefulness and versatility in so many different fields. Through the education and training I think you have also come to appreciate Statistics's beauty and deep strength in giving us the guidance to think clearly and to make informed decisions when given all kinds of data that come our way.

To achieve the Master's degree you have had to go through UM's rigorous program that provides with a foundation in statistical

inference and probability, as well as the most advanced techniques in data analysis, statistical computing and machine learning. You have worked with UM's world-class faculty and staff members. I believe that through our demanding course projects, presentations and in some cases, cutting-edge research experience, you have acquired the tools, knowledge, and the confidence necessary to take on challenging data-driven problems in the real-world. Now you have earned the right to be called an UM-trained statistician.

Many students in our cohorts are also statistics educators in their roles as excellent graduate student instructors in our many undergraduate courses. We thank you for such important contributions to the department and to our field.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank your family and friends. We are grateful to all those who have provided the mental and financial support that are so crucial for your achieving the completion of your study.

As statisticians we work in the business of uncertainty. We deal with all sorts of data and signals, be they clean, noisy or purely random. We draw useful information and knowledge from such data in our reasoning so as to make sound decisions under uncertainty. Perhaps we have never been in a more uncertain moment in our lifetime.

At this time some of you are fortunate enough to have had your job lined up, but many others are still looking for an opening and pondering the future. I am convinced that you are much more equipped now than you were two years ago. I am hopeful that as statisticians you will be well-positioned to help weather the current storm for yourself and family, to overcome the challenges of the moment, while helping to make our world a better place.

I sincerely wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Please keep us posted for your progress. We would like to hear more of your experiences and successes. Congratulations again and Go Blue!

Professor Ji Zhu
Director of the Ph.D. Program

It is that time of the year again, but everything is so drastically different this time. PhD oral exams are online, we can't celebrate the graduation in-person, and there won't be a graduation ceremony as usual. But this cannot stop me from congratulating you for your wonderful achievement. Obtaining a PhD is a big milestone in one's life. I'm truly proud of you, and you should be proud of yourself. I'm so glad that we can at least gather together in this virtual yearbook to celebrate your academic success.

While I was writing these remarks, I wondered what succinct bit of knowledge I could pass to the graduating class. The first thing that came to mind was "Change is the only constant." The Statistics we see today is very different from what it was 20 years ago when I graduated.

20 years ago, SVM, Boosting, Random Forests, and high-dimensional data were cutting-edge and poorly understood by many. Today, these topics form part of the core curriculum at all levels, from undergraduate to PhD courses. The cutting-edge of today consists of Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning, and Non-convex Optimization, to name a few. In another 20 years, these topics will become standard, and another wave of new concepts will take their place at the forefront of Statistics. The field will be vastly different from what it is now. You will need to stay on your toes to keep up with the continuous innovation, so I ask you all to keep learning, to keep your mind open, and to believe in yourselves.

I also want to thank you for giving your best to the department in the past several years. I hope you bring the same energy and enthusiasm wherever you may go. Let me congratulate you again and wish you the best in your future endeavors!

DEPARTMENTAL STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Awards
Alexandra Elias
Byoungwook Jang
Hyun Jung Koo
Nicholas Seewald

**Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor
Honorable Mentions**
Chengcheng Li
Yvonne Zhou

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Team Awards
Yangyi Lu, Anran Meng and Ziping Xu
Thomas Fiore, Timothy Lycurgus and Ed Wu

Outstanding Ph.D Student Service Award
Laura Niss

EXTERNAL AWARDS

2019 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
Caleb Ki
Drew Yarger

2019 IMS Lawrence D. Brown Student Award
Yuqi Gu

2020 Biopharmaceutical Student Paper Award
Xinzhou Guo

2020 ASA Biometrics JSM Travel Award
Yinqiu He
Weijing Tang

2020 ASA Nonparametric Statistics Student Paper Award
Weijing Tang

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship
Yinqi He
Weijing Tang

Rackham International Student Fellowship
Peter MacDonald

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED STATISTICS

Jinwen Cao
Israel Diego-Guerra
Dong Ding
Jiehui Ding
Alexandra Elias
Hongru Fang
Ming Gao
Tzvi Gluck
Muzhe Guo
Yuxuan Hu
Ailun Huang
Su I lao
Xinye Jiang
Zhenbang Jiao
Hyun Jung Koo
Joseph Laslie
Chaewon Lee
Jaehoon Lee
Yung-Chun Lee
Yunsun Lee
Jiahao Li
Junzhang Li
Ke Li
Shuoran Li
Bo Liu
Tianqi Lu
Yeru Lu
Yifan Lu
Jiali Luan
Junfeng Luo
Anran Meng
Guanghui Min

Naichen Ni
Yongkai Qiu
Gabrielle Santos
Addison Shay
Lan Shi
Hu Sun
Lizhuang Sun
Yuqing Tang
Peixin Tian
Mimi Tran
Runwei Wang
Xun Wang
Zi Wang
Xinyu Wu
Zaidan Wu
Zhaobo Wu
Chen Xie
Hui Xu
Weifeng Xu
Songkai Xue
Minjing Yang
Xiaotong Yang
Zhe Yin
Lingke Ying
Yue Yu
Xian Zhang
Yijia Zhang
Fang Zhou
Manqi Zhou
Yvonne Zhou
Hongyu Zhu

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN DATA SCIENCE

Timothy Chon
Xiangyu Fan
Daming Gao
Shuyang Huang
Juyoung Jung
Supapitch Kittisarakul
Yung-Chun Lee
Yuan Liang
Zhongqi Liu
Reed Millek
Alexandra Spence
Adam Stautberg
Yue Tang
Yanlin Yang
Lan Yue
Ji Young Yun
Tianyi Xie
Bowen Yin
Ruirui Zhang

MASTER OF ARTS IN STATISTICS DUAL DEGREE

Shannon Ang
Sunan Cui
Yileng Feng
Brandon Oselio
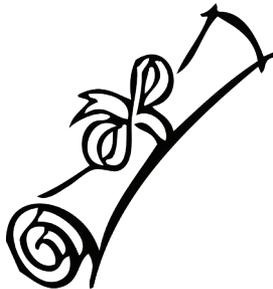Kirill Zhirkov

EMBEDDED MASTER OF ARTS IN STATISTICS

April Cho
Young Hun Jung
Jessica Liu
Hyesun Yoo

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Anwesha Bhattacharyya
April Cho
Joseph Dickens
Roger Fan
Robyn Ferg
Zheng Gao
Jonathan Goetz
Yuqi Gu
Aritra Guha
Young Hun Jung
Yumu Liu
Brook Luers
Yuan Sun
Hyesun Yoo
Xuefei Zhang

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Yang Chen, *Assistant Professor*
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Ben Hansen, *Associate Professor*
Xuming He, *Chair and H.C. Carver Collegiate Professor*
Tailen Hsing, *Michael Woodroofe Collegiate Professor*
Edward Ionides, *Professor*
Robert Keener, *Professor*
Liza Levina, *Vijay Nair Collegiate Professor*
Walter Mebane, *Professor*
Long Nguyen, *Associate Professor*
Snigdha Panigrahi, *Assistant Professor*
Jeffrey Regier, *Assistant Professor*
Ya'acov Ritov, *Professor*
Kerby Shedden, *Professor*
Stilian Stoev, *Professor*
Yuekai Sun, *Assistant Professor*
Kean Ming Tan*, Assistant Professor*
Jonathan Terhorst, *Assistant Professor*
Ambuj Tewari, *Associate Professor*
Naisyin Wang, *Professor*
Gongjun Xu, *Assistant Professor*
Ji Zhu, *Professor*
Ziwei Zhu, *Assistant Professor*

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Brenda Gunderson
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Asad Lodhia
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Shyamala Nagaraj
Mary Ann Ritter
Alicia Romero
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Xianshi Yu

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Bebe Zuniga-Valentino, *Department Administrator*

DID YOU KNOW?

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