

Student's *T* Time

Professor Ranjini Grove:



Welcome to the first edition of Student's t time! I am thrilled to announce the launch of a quarterly newsletter for and about statistics majors at U.W. Our inaugural edition, titled "*I know what you did last summer*" profiles several of our senior students and their summer internships. I hope you find their accounts fun and inspiring.



Speaking of inspiring, the sheer number of volunteers at the graduation ceremony last June comes to mind. Thank you to all the sophomores and juniors who took time out of their day to help make the day special for the graduating class of 2018.

A special shout out to Haozhe Li (Senior) for these wonderful pictures capturing special moments before and during the ceremony. It truly does take a village.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you over course of the new year!



Ask Mee Ling

Question: "If I want to do the Statistics Data Science option, what should I do?"

Answer: "You will declare Statistics DS option when you have completed all the additional requirement for the option. I suggest you contact me when you are ready to declare the option, typically one or two quarter prior to your graduation. Courses required for the DS option can be found at stat.washington.edu/academics/undergraduate/major/

Note that: we are not able to waive or substitute any course requirement unless you have a specific reason for the petition. However, if you would like to request exceptions, please email Prof. Ranjini Grove grover4@uw.edu for approval."



**S.P.A.
Graduate
School
Information
Night**

If you are applying to graduate school and are interested in learning more about it, the UW Statistics and Probability Association would like to invite you to attend the Graduate School Information Night where experienced speakers both in and out of graduate programs will give advice on hunting for the right schools to fit you and tackling application processes.

**When:
Thursday, Nov. 1st
6:00-7:30pm**

**Where:
Gowen 201**

Pizza and drinks will be provided.

We hope to see you there!



Our Summer 2018

Vaughn Isaac Johnson:

This summer I interned at the online craft beer company Tavour doing data analysis and setting up infrastructure to do business intelligence. It was a really fun experience that I would highly recommend. I got legitimate experience in building a product that real people will make use of. It was also an incredible opportunity to relearn and explain to non-technical users complicated concepts I had learned in the STAT 34x series.



I frequently ran into scenarios the Statistics department had prepared me for, like the bias-variance trade-off and the need for bootstrapping when the exact distribution is difficult to ascertain. There was also a constant supply of new beer to try after I turned 21 this summer!

This internship was an extension of an internship I did at the same company last summer. I discovered that internship by attending a career fair, and striking up a conversation at Tavour's table, and then immediately emailing them as soon as I got home. During my interview process, I talked about how the geometric series related to the length of the line in the coffee-shop where the interview was taking place, which I think is what secured the opportunity for me.



Annie Wan:

I spent my Summer of 2018 living in the beautiful city of Cape Town, South Africa interning for an e-commerce company called Hyperli. As a startup, Hyperli had in-house sales representatives, customer service and goods managers, but their tech support was outsourced to a third-party company. Although this was detrimental to the productivity of Hyperli, this turned out to be fantastic for me for my programming experience made me a vital part of the company. I was given more responsibility than I could ever have even dreamed of at an internship in the US.

With the title of “business intelligence and growth hacking intern,” I used SQL to query through the Hyperli database and created multiple R programs that tracked customer cohorts and analyzed sales. Wonderfully enough, my teammates at Hyperli are still using my programs and reports to assist in business decision-making up to this day.

I obtained this internship through a study abroad program called the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). They can be found through a simple search on the UW study abroad website. When I first decided to apply for a study abroad program, I only cared about the location. I was incredibly fortunate to have also been paired with a fantastic company and to have met amazing people along the way. Overall, this summer was quite fulfilling, and I look forward to maintaining the connections I made and applying my newfound skills in my work in the US.



Julie Zhang:

The summer program I attended is the Research in Industrial Projects for Students (RIPS) Program at UCLA. This program has two locations, one in LA and one in Hong Kong, and is supported and organized by the Institute of Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM), which is an NSF funded math research institute on UCLA campus. Participants were assigned to a certain project proposed by a sponsoring company, and worked with 3 other students for 9 weeks. There were a total of 9 projects, with each having a mix of math, computer science and statistics.

This summer, we had sponsors like Google, AMD, and HRL Laboratories, and you got to go on site visits to your sponsoring company at least once. You present your work in both a presentation and a written report, both of which are valuable skills to have. This program was a cross between an REU and an internship, where students get to see how mathematics is applied in an industrial setting.



Danni Shi:

I had the good fortune to be funded by our department to attend the Joint Statistical Meeting in Vancouver, BC, with my classmates Stephanie, Emily, Xiaoyan, Yu-Ting, and Shiyu under the supervision of Prof. Morita and Prof. Guttorp. During JSM, I attended sessions related to my research of survival analysis and quantitative ecology; and topics I'm interested in, such as non-parametric statistics & meta-analysis.

Although to be honest, I find presentations of many sessions overwhelming and hard to understand, I received much insight and had the chance to see the pioneers of our generation in statistics presenting their recent works, and their thoughts about the future of our field.



I talked to professionals from industry to see what their expectations for statisticians are in the era of data science. As an officer of the SPA, I also networked with undergraduate students from other schools to get to know our peers who are working for the young statisticians' community.



Also in this summer, I interned at NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle with the Varanasi Scholarship from UW's School of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences. It was a little bit frustrating at first since I hardly know anything about fisheries and all the terminologies. But I always believe statistics is something interdisciplinary, and the more I get to know fisheries, the more I know what to do for this project as a statistician. For instance, I used to wonder why some variables must always be included, even when they seem to have insignificant effects on the responses, and I understood why certain models would work in fisheries, even though mathematically such models would not be appropriate. I learned a lot from working with professionals at NOAA this summer and I have further understanding of how statisticians can help scientists and professionals in interdisciplinary fields.