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## Central Moments of Our Lives

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### KNOWN BIRTHDAYS

Actor Hayden Christensen (*Anakin Skywalker* of *Star Wars*) turns 26 today.  
Shannon Markiewicz (of “Eigen Space” fame) celebrates on April 23. She shares her birthday with William Shakespeare!!!

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ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy on him!

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### NON-STATISTICAL JOKES IN A STATISTICS NEWSLETTER

*The Whole Truth and Nothing But The Truth*

These are from a book called *Disorder in the American Courts*, and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and now published by court reporters who had the torment of staying calm while these exchanges were actually taking place.

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ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

.....

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

.....

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Would you repeat the question?

.....

ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral.

### NON-STATISTICAL WORD OF THE WEEK USED IN A STATISTICAL SETTING

**eu·pho·ri·a** a feeling of happiness, confidence, or well-being sometimes exaggerated in pathological states as mania.

Usage: “Among other things, the job offer to teach math and statistics at a community college has given Joe a sense of euphoria.”

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### REASON TO CELEBRATE

Monday, April 23 is World Copyright Day. (So, if you copy someone’s homework, make sure you do it right.)

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### FACULTY PROFILE

#### Dr. Xinyi Xu writes:

I grew up in a midsize city in southern China. Its geographic location in China is like Charlotte, NC in the States. I love it so much that I lived there for about twenty years until finishing college. Then I decided it was the time to leave for some new adventures, so I crossed half of the earth and went all the way to Philadelphia, where I met my husband Bo. We joined OSU together in 2005 and so far are very happy with our new lives — much affordable living, more friendly people and almost no traffic!

(Dr. Xu contd.)



When not trying to prove hard theorems or hunting for optimal decision rules, I like reading novels with tortuous plots (my old favorite book is “Gone with the wind”, and my new favorites are Dan Brown’s books). When weather permits, I also enjoy outdoor activities, especially “high speed” sports such as skiing, skating and biking. (I tried jogging several times, but the pace is way too slow for me!) Now you might think of me as a road killer, but actually I am a very safe driver and have never got a ticket! Another hobby of mine is traveling. I have been to 34 states here in U.S. The only region I haven’t touched much so far is the mountain zone. The picture was taken in the everglade national park in Florida. The little grey thing in my hand is a baby crocodile. Isn’t it cute?

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## GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILES

### **Dianne Bautista (after much persuasion) writes**

Ciao! I’m Dianne, in my final year of guaranteed departmental funding. I’m from the Philippines—second largest archipelago in Asia. A few degrees above the equator, our seasons alternate between ‘dry’ and ‘rainy’. For the most part, we’re kissed by the Sun but typhoons and earthquakes hit us too once in a while. Two more

(Dianne contd.)

interesting bits: Filipinos take credit for the first peaceful ‘people power’ revolt which was in 1986; my country is also where Mt. Pinatubo sits—its eruption in 1991 raised the global temperature by about a degree (Celsius). My name provides some evidence of our colonial history—four centuries under Spain (Bautista), and 45 years under the US (Dianne).



I’m married to a nice Italian engineer---meet Marco in the pix above. Marco joined the National University of Singapore last October, so the progressive city-state is now my new home. We both like to travel, and recharge in the beach or mountains. We share a liking for Turkish cuisine, though my list of good food is longer. Marco has a passion for airplanes, photography, and country-dancing. Neither of these appealed to me at first, but by love’s persuasion, I can now stomp and cha-cha as well as he does, and in my research I will try to find the ‘best’ design for an airplane wing. My research is on multi-objective optimization in the context of computer experiments under the inspiring guidance of Prof. Tom Santner.

With fellow grad dudes Jeff, Kimberly, Chris and John, I work in the SCS—a great place for students to ‘do’ Statistics while learning new and practical things—you name it, your

(Dianne contd.)

probability space's the limit. Whether 'applied' or 'theory' is your cup of tea, to be credible, you need to demonstrate decency in both. For more info, the best source would be Dr. Bishop or Dr. Holloman, Cockins 212. You can also chat with me in Cockins 304 G.

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**William (Bill) Francis Darnieder a.k.a. Blink or Blinky, on his favorite statistic:**



The baby in that picture is me when I was just one month old. Ha ha, just kidding (first bad joke, check!). Honestly, I'm holding my friend Steve's baby girl, Caty, with my wife, Melisa (one 's'), popping her head up just enough to get in the picture. The photo also

(Blinky contd.)

offers a glimpse into my future as my wife and I are expecting our first child on July 16th. (I'm thinking of printing off shirts with a picture of our newborn child and a caption that reads "16<sup>th</sup> of July Movement – Viva La Revolution" [think Che Guevara]. Also think "bad idea".) We have been told there is an 85% chance it is a girl.

I was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI, thus adding to the ever growing cheesehead contingent in the stat department. My undergraduate degree is from Case Western in mathematics. I met my wife at Case and we have been married for nearly five years. She works as an actuary for a MAJOR insurance company in Columbus and is preparing for her final professional exam before becoming a fellow in the CAS. We have made our home in the Clintonville neighborhood of Columbus for the last six years.

I enjoy running, having been competitive in cross country and track through college. Now that I am slow and out of shape, I run every so often to prevent myself from becoming morbidly out of shape. I also enjoy games of imperfect information, chess, puzzles, and watching the news (and you're thinking "wow, I can't wait to meet you..."). My favorite statistic is the sample variance. I love the Rolling Stones and almost everything CD101. Peace out to all my brothers and sisters in Brown Hall. *Thank you to the staff of CMOOL for allowing me to bask in my own vanity.*

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**So Let's Root, Root, Root for the Wolfe Pack!**  
*From Staff reporter C. Berrett*



After a disappointing cancellation of our first game due to the rain last Wednesday, the Wolfe Pack (team name courtesy of Mary Hickey) came out to shine on the field this week against the Habitats. Although both teams had to forfeit (punctuality is not our strong side), we played a

scrimmage game where we crushed the opposing team. In the first inning, we scored 10 runs without receiving any outs. Our star pitcher, Erica Cepietz, then kept the count to 10 and 0. After two home runs by Adam Dallas, a third by HangJoon Kim, and two more home run hits that got Jeremy "Elton" Christman to second base, we felt confident the game was in our hands. Our solid first baseman Lori Hoffman kept the other team from getting on base and Joanne Sklodowski dominated the outfield. The game continued in a similar fashion and ended in 25 to 4.

Come cheer on the team next Wednesday at 5:30 PM at Fred Beekman Field 7!