
Central Moments of Our Lives

KNOWN BIRTHDAYS

Jon Heder (Napoleon Dynamite) turns 29 on Oct. 26
Kate McFarland celebrates her birthday on Oct. 31

REASONS TO CELEBRATE

Tuesday, October 31, is Halloween
Wednesday, November 1, begins the Bullfighting season in Peru

SEMINARS

3:30PM Thursday, October 26, 2006, Room 170 East Eighteenth Avenue Bldg. (EA 170)
Ram C. Tiwari, Mathematical Statistician and Program Director, National Cancer Institute, NIH
Prediction of U.S. Mortality Counts Using Semi-parametric Bayesian Techniques

3:30PM Thursday, November 2, 2006, Room 170 East Eighteenth Avenue Bldg. (EA 170)
Edward I. George, Department of Statistics, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
BART: Finding Low Dimensional Structure in High Dimensional Data

FIND ALL 24 GREEK LETTERS

Submitted by Kate McFarland

"What will Ronald cook for Thanksgiving this year? I'm a tad anxious. Something...um...odd, I bet."

"A good bet indeed! I heard he's going to make boiled squid, covered in steak sauce and garnished with fried mush, water chestnuts, squash, lamb, dates, and mint jam. Yuck!"

"Appalling, simply repulsive, I'd say! Just hearing the description of that amalgam makes clear our impending doom."

"Egad! Think we'll survive? Perhaps the food is all that's alive. The treacherous slime! Insidious ooze! Talismans won't help sickness, death--which surely ensues. Vile concoctions render all hope a lie! Sensing nefarious soups, I long to die!"

"Ugh. When you start your pseudo-poetry, the whole world moans and weeps; I long to die too until you shut up. As for Thanksgiving, I guess you think of it as comic...Ronald thinking he's actually cooking, and no one telling him he's not!"

"A useless attempt to alleviate the inevitable taste of death, eh? Nothing can help. His cooking is plain murder! How comic is that? I say it's not. He takes our lives gradually--year by year...If Ronald's not a murderer, he must just be an idiot. Anyone can tell that he can't cook!"

"I think he's just insane...Thanksgiving is supposed to be turkey and dressing, unless Ronald, the self-proclaimed 'holiday infidel,' takes control. Maybe he's in some 'let's make an awful meal' phase, and he'll get over it."

"He'll get over it!? When we're already dead from the dreaded lunch!? I say we flee before Thanksgiving."

"And were will we go? The Philippines?"

"Sure. We could go to Pasig."

"Manila is better. How about Manila?"

"Sure, they're close. Let's go!"

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

harridan \HAIR-uh-din\, noun:
A worn-out strumpet; a vixenish woman; a hag.

Usage: "Professor Jones is a vicious, scornful old harridan, attacking and belittling students on a daily basis."

BEYOND THE DEPARTMENT

Mark LeSaint contributes...

Best pickup line for statisticians.

I wish I was your derivative. I want to lie parallel to your curves.

FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Angela Dean writes...



1. I'm English. (Well, I guess you did know that. (Two things to note here: (i) In England, we don't actually "guess", we just "suppose", and (ii) England and Scotland are not the same countries (Dr Craigmile is always happy when Scotland beats England at football (that's soccer with the round ball (I hope you have noticed the clever use of nested parentheses))))).

2. I have been on BBC television and radio. Not with Drew Barrymore, but teaching (...drum role...) -- yes, you guessed (or supposed) statistics! In one scene, two camera images were superimposed – one of me and the other of a small model of the bivariate normal distribution, so that it looked as though I was walking inside the model. I was able to walk along the principal axes "inside" the model and touch the surface "over my head". The trick was not to extend my arm too far, otherwise it would have gone right through the surface.

3. I was an "extra" in the film "Juggernaut" (starring Anthony Hopkins and Richard Harris (but not Drew Barrymore)). You can see me at the top left of the screen by the police car in the crowd of 5000 people as the opening credits roll, providing you have binoculars and don't blink. But I did get to meet Anthony Hopkins.

GRAD STUDENT PROFILE

Is Chihlin Li happy to pose for this picture?



Hi everyone, I am Chihlin Li, a second year student. I received my undergraduate degree in Taiwan. In my leisure time, other than digging problems in the book by any Berger, I enjoy playing the piano and listening to music, especially classical music. Mozart has been my imaginary friend since I was four year old.

I also enjoy swimming, watching movies, walking around the galleries, and going to theaters for drama or opera. Since I love kids so much, one of my biggest dreams is to teach Statistics in kindergarten. By the way, I love traveling, (of course if I have enough money). Right now, Southern France and Alaska are the top two on my travel list! If anyone is also interested in these places, feel free to discuss with me! Hee hee!

