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## Central Moments of Our Lives

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### 4 DEGREES OF SEPARATION

Any Ohio State Graduate Statistics Student → Angela Dean in Juggernaut → Anthony Hopkins in Meet Joe Black → Marcia Gay Harden in Mystic River → Kevin Bacon in Mystic River

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### NON-STATISTICAL WORD OF THE WEEK USED IN A STATISTICAL SETTING: RECORD SCRABBLE GAME EDITION

Submitted by Marian Frazier

Quixotry \Quix"ot\*ry\ -noun  
quixotic character or practice; visionary schemes.

quix-ot-ic [kwik-sot-ik] -adjective  
1. extravagantly chivalrous or romantic; visionary, impractical, or impracticable.  
2. impulsive and often rashly unpredictable.

Usage: "When Chris Hans gazes at me in class, his eyes are full of quixotry."

See <http://www.slate.com/id/2152255/?nav=tap3> for more information.

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### KNOWN BIRTHDAYS

P. Diddy turns 35 on November 4  
Mary Hickey & Yi Liu celebrate on November 5  
Lei Kang laps the sun on November 6

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### REASONS TO CELEBRATE

November 3<sup>rd</sup> is Sandwich Day in the United States

November 5th is Guy Fawkes Day. Guy was one of the conspirators in the plot to blow up Parliament in London (UK). Guy was the guy who was arrested in the basement of the Houses of Parliament with 36 barrels of gunpowder on November 5th 1605. Throughout Britain, we commemorate the capture of Guy Fawkes with bonfires and fireworks, and by burning an effigy of Guy. (see <http://www.bonfire.org/gunpowder.php>)

### PETER'S POETRY PLACE

Rain Travel  
by W.S. Merwin

I wake in the dark and remember  
it is the morning when I must start  
by myself on the journey  
I lie listening to the black hour  
before dawn and you are  
still asleep beside me while  
around us the trees full of night lean  
hushed in their dream that bears  
us up asleep and awake then I hear  
drops falling one by one into  
the sightless leaves and I  
do not know when they began but  
all at once there is no sound but rain  
and the stream below us roaring  
away into the rushing darkness.

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### STUDENT SEMINAR SERIES

From Kimberly Walters

We will be meeting in EA 170 on the following dates at 3:30PM:

AUTUMN QUARTER  
November 21

WINTER QUARTER  
January 23, February 20

SPRING QUARTER  
April 17, May 15

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### STATISTICS SEMINAR

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*

3:30PM Thursday, November 9, 2006, Room 170 East  
Eighteenth Avenue Bldg. (EA 170)  
Jennifer A. Hoeting, Department of Statistics, Colorado  
State University

## FACULTY PROFILE



Dr. Stasny writes, "I've never been kissed by someone famous, but sometimes I get kisses from my daughters!"

I was born in New York and grew up in Morgantown, WV. I am the most mature of the five girls in the family (figuring the chances of five girls was probably my earliest statistical experience). My father was a Professor of English (he still can't figure out what he did to get me) and my mother ran her own Kindergarten. I saw what my parents did and swore I would never be a teacher. In my first year of graduate school they put me in front of my own Statistics 101 class, and the rest is history. Later I discovered that I really enjoy research, too. These days I'm having fun with crime and obesity.

Apart from my life teaching, doing research, and being Graduate Studies Chair, which only takes up about 16 hours a day, I keep busy with my two incredibly smart, beautiful, and sweet daughters (a completely unbiased assessment). My older daughter, Rebecca, is 9 and 51/52 and will hit double digits next week. Margaret is 7 and 7/12 (the fractions of years are very important as she desperately wants to keep up with her sister). If you are around the department on a weekend, you might find the two of them playing school in a classroom on the 4th floor. Rebecca has already discovered that she likes being in front of a classroom.

Last week Margaret, showing her data-collection tendencies, made up a list of facts about our family. Below is the information she collected on me:

Favorite Color: purple  
Favorite Food: dark chocolate  
Eye Color: green (like Scarlet O'Hara's)  
Hair Color: brown  
Favorite Animal: cat (we have one)  
Favorite Sport: aerobics  
Musical Instrument: guitar  
Age: (Well, what's a survey without a little missing data?)

## GRAD STUDENT PROFILE



Hi, my name is Jeremy Christman, a second year PhD student in statistics (of course). I am also a stat 135 recitator (not a real word) where my students know me as Mr. Christman. I completed my undergraduate work at Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio with degrees in Mathematics and Economics. I received my high school diploma from Waynedale High School in Apple Creek, Ohio. So, as you may guess I have lived in Ohio my whole life. And yes, that does mean that I am Browns fan. For all the Steelers fans out there, the Browns have the same number of wins this year!

If you don't already know me, I am sure that you have received an email or two from me at some point about various social events in and around the department. I am also a long time pro of the Stat department softball team, as I have played on two of the teams: Proc Freqs and The P-Hat All-stars. Although I will never be able to live up to the legendary status of Peter Sprangers for his heroic efforts in our only softball victory, my lifelong goal is to someday be enshrined into the Stat Dept. Softball Hall of Fame. I have also played volleyball for the department.

If I had spare time, I would like to spend it in the woods doing some hunting as it is that time of year. But for now, I am spending my spare time on Saturdays either at The Ohio State football game or watching it on the tube. I also have a cat and her name is Lari (pronounced Larry). Many of you may also notice that I change my facial hair quite sporadically, but the beard in the picture was actually grown for a reason (ask me if you would like to know more). So, I guess that is enough rambling about me, have a nice day!

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## BEYOND THE DEPARTMENT

By Mark LeSaint

A patient asks his doctor "will I survive the operation?"  
The surgeon says "Yes, I am confident that you will survive" The patient quickly asks, "how can you be sure?"  
And the surgeon replies "9 out of 10 people die from this operation, and yesterday my ninth patient died."

Notes

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