Welcome!

From the Editorial Board

Thanks for picking up a copy of F This!, the semi-formal newsletter for graduate students in the UCLA Department of Statistics. The purpose of this semi-ridiculous newsletter is to keep graduate students up to date on exactly what is going on in this department. What are the students up to? What are the faculty up to? What are Heidi’s cats up to? You know, important things like that. We on the editorial board hope you will use this semi-useful publication to complain, exclaim, and disclaim (and anything else). Profanity will be discouraged but hilarity will be strongly supported. If you have suggestions for content or any comments feel free to contact the editorial board. We will almost certainly definitely probably respond to you!

In this first issue we have a few features for you. First up is the lunch column, where we delve into the details of what people in the department had for lunch on Tuesday. We think you’ll find this extremely useful. Next is the Celebrity Profile, where we ask an anonymous department member (student, faculty, or staff!) probing questions about whatever we might care about that day. Can you guess who this person is? Answers in the next issue.... In certain issues we will also profile any student accomplishments that have been accomplished. If there are no student accomplishments before the publication date, we may be forced to make them up. Beware! You may find yourself winning the Nobel Prize soon. Finally, a section which we think will be a big hit, the Ask the Llama section. Here we take questions from you the reader and answer them in a manner which we find to be least offensive. In this issue we discover the location of Rob Gould’s office, explore the dark underbelly of OS X, and much much more!

So read on. It’s not like you have anything better to do!

Lunch Column

On Tuesday February 26th, this is what we were eating for lunch:

- Jose: Italian chicken sandwich [Bomb Shelter]
- Robert: Cooperage salad
- Roger: Turkey sandwich (whole) [Cafe Roma]
- Katie: Chocolate Slimfast
- Amy: Chicken and vegetables [home brought]
- Anja: Saltines, piece of cheese, cookie
- Stefanie: Banana nut muffin, milk (%2)

Random Poll

Are you for or against a department sponsored trip to Hawaii?

- For (90%)
- Against (10%)

Next issue’s poll: Would you like to see a second issue of this newsletter?
Celebrity Profile

We’ve asked our mystery celebrity the following questions:

**What’s your favorite probability distribution?**
The F distribution. Definitely F.

**If you had to describe yourself with one word, would it be mean, median or mode?**
Mode.

**Frequentist or Bayesian?**
I don’t know.

**Why weren’t you here on Wednesday?**
I threw up all morning. It was ugly. And then I went to Target.

**Are you in favor of having Naked Fridays?**
Only for selected people.

**Who gets to select?**
A panel of people consisting of me.

**What’s your favorite number?**
Five. I like five, it’s the magic number.

**What’s your least favorite movie?**
I really dislike the South Park Movie. It was so crude!

**Do you like long walks on the beach?**
I do like long walks on the beach! How did you know?

**Would you like to walk on the beach with me?**
Uh, no.

Can you guess who this mystery department member is? Answer in the next issue.

Ask the Llama

**Where the $!%*$ is Rob’s Office?**
Rob Gould has been relocated to Boelter Hall 9410. He has put directions on his website at http://www.stat.ucla.edu/~rgould/directions. Please go visit him once in a while as he often gets lonely back there.

**Are we really a self-respecting statistics department?**
That depends on who you ask. Recent studies have shown that we may in fact be self-respecting, but as they say in New Zealand, “You can study all you want, but it takes a real man to make cheese.”

**What is this Darwin crap that Jan and Jose keep emailing us about?**
Darwin is the core of the brand spanking new operating system from Apple called OS X (pronounced Oh-ESS-ten). Apple’s OS X is based on a the Unix operating system and Darwin is Apple’s variant of Unix. However, when you login to your Mac, what you see is not Darwin. The interface you see with all the windows and stuff is called Aqua. Apple has created Aqua to shield us average users from the nastiness of Unix. So when Jan emails you something about Darwin, it probably doesn’t apply to you. Get used to it.

**What is that growing in Steve’s mug?**
The Llama has yet to figure that out. Check back in this column for updates on the status of Steve’s mug. We are hoping to poke it with a stick sometime soon.

Student News

Robert Yuan is giving a poster presentation over at the Institute for Pure and Applied Math (IPAM) from 5–7pm, March 1, 2002. His presentation is part of a whole bioinformatics shin-dig and is titled “An investigation on the association between the chemotherapy drug activities and the gene expression patterns of human cancer cell lines.” IPAM is located just north-east of the Math Science building (about 100 feet away).

Calendar/Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Rob’s office party</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>Heidi and Yette’s anniversary</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>Will’s birthday</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Helen, don’t get cookies!</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>Katie’s roommate’s boyfriend’s b-day</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Heather Ladd’s birthday</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Jason, get cookies for seminar!</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 12</td>
<td>Frauke speaks at seminar</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Stat Department party!</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Stefanie’s Kevin has surgery</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Jie’s birthday</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Yan’s birthday</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
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