DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

CONVOCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

MAY 18 2025

VIRGINIA THEATRE, CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

TO OUR GRADUATES

Today you are graduates of the University of Illinois

This is a remarkable achievement, and we hope that you celebrate the occasion with loved ones. Commencement is a joyous and deeply symbolic event for all, including the faculty members, staff, family, friends, and others who have supported you on your journey. As a member of the Class of 2025, you have overcome many challenges to earn your degree.

Congratulations, and we look forward to learning of your future success.

ORDER OF EXERCISE

May 18, 2025

PROCESSIONAL OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS
Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1, Op. 39 by Edward Elgar

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF THE FACULTY
Yuguo Chen, Professor and Interim-Chair, Department of Statistics

COMMENDATION TO GRADUATES
Shaowen Wang, Associate Dean for Life and Physical Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Geography and Geographic Information Science

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER
Georgios Fellouris, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Statistics

CONVOCATION ADDRESS
Stephen Portnoy, Professor Emeritus, Department of Statistics

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Bachelor of Science in Statistics
Mr. David Unger

Bachelor of Science in Statistics and Computer Science
Professor Elsa Gunter

Master of Science in Statistics
Mr. Darren Glosemeyer

Ph.D. in Statistics
Professor Ruoqing Zhu

CLOSING REMARKS
Yuguo Chen Professor and Interim-Chair, Department of Statistics

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS & SIEBEL SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND DATA SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Interim Chair, Yuguo Chen
Associate Chair, Georgios Fellouris
Doctoral Program Director, Ruoqing Zhu
Master's Program Director, Darren Glosemeyer
Undergraduate Program Director, David Unger

SIEBEL SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND DATA SCIENCE

Head, Nancy, M. Amato
Associate Director for Academics, Elsa Gunter
Director of Undergraduate Programs, Eric Shaffer
Associate Director of Undergraduate Programs, Luther Tychonievich
Senior Assistant Director of Undergraduate Programs, Steve Herzog
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Programs, Heather Zike

ACADEMIC DRESS

Academic dress, consisting of cap, gown, and hood, originated about the twelfth century and was worn primarily for warmth. Subsequently, the material of the gown and lining, and the shape of the hood, represented the economic and social, as well as academic status of the wearer.

In the United States, the great majority of the academic costumes now worn are in accordance with the general provisions of the Intercollegiate Code of 1895, which was revised in 1932 and again in 1960. Under this code, the bachelor's gown has pointed sleeves, the master's gown has oblong sleeves with an arc at the bottom, and the doctor's gown has bell-shaped sleeves. All gowns are black, although the adoption of colored gowns by individual institutions in the United States is becoming more prevalent.

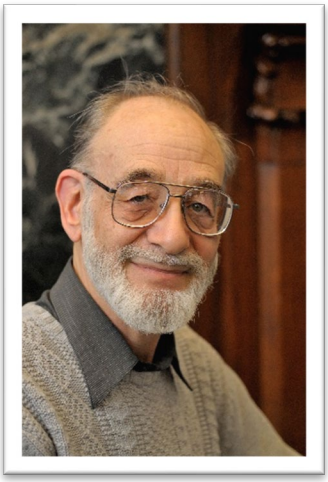
The bachelor's and master's gowns are untrimmed. The doctor's gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves. The facing and bars may be black or may be the color of the subject to which the degree pertains. The bachelor's gown is worn closed; the master's and doctor's gowns may be worn open or closed. Women may wear white collars with the bachelor's gown when no hood is worn.

Hoods are also black. The bachelor's hood is 3 feet in length, the master's is 3 ½ feet, and the doctor's is 4 feet. Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. At the University of Illinois, the lining is orange and blue. The colored velvet border of the hood, which is 2 inches, 3 inches, and 5 inches wide for the bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degree respectively, identifies the faculty or field of study to which the degree pertains.

The black mortarboard cap is standard in the United States. Usually, all tassels are black, but where the graduating seniors do not wear hoods, as at the University of Illinois, the color of the cap tassel indicates the department of study. At the University of Illinois, candidates for degrees wear tassels on the right front quadrant of their caps before degrees are conferred, and move them to the left front quadrant after degrees are conferred. Caps are considered a part of the costume and are customarily removed only during an invocation or benediction, and then by men only.

For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctor's gowns, edging of hoods, tassels of caps, and linings of banners, there are different colors associated with the different disciplines. The color for Liberal Arts & Sciences is white.

Caps and gowns were worn for the first time at the University of Illinois Commencement ceremony of 1897. In the early 1900s the Commencement procession marched up Burrill Avenue to the old Armory. After diplomas were received, the procession marched back to the lawn south of Green Street. The seniors sang the State song and "Auld Lang Syne" before they said good-bye to each other and the campus.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

As one of the founding members of the Department of Statistics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Professor Stephen Portnoy has been instrumental in shaping the department's identity since its inception in 1985. Portnoy earned his B.A. in Mathematics from MIT in 1964 and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1966 and 1969, respectively. His academic career began at Harvard in 1969 before joining the University of Illinois in 1974, where he played a key role in the development of the Department of Statistics. He became Professor Emeritus in 2022, but continued collaborative research, mentorship of students and service to the Department.

Portnoy's professional recognitions includes being named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also held a prestigious Francqui Professorship in Belgium and served as co-editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association. His long-standing commitment to academic leadership includes chairing the Division of Statistics under the Department of Mathematics as a precursor to the formation of a separate Department. He served on influential editorial boards and national grant panels, and contributed significantly to shared governance at this university on numerous committees and task forces, and as chairs of the Senate Admissions Committee and Student Life Committee.

Portnoy helped lay the foundation for what has become one of the top statistics programs in the world, contributing not only through his scholarship but through decades of mentorship, leadership, and care for the department's students and faculty. Known for is thoughtfulness and approachability, Portnoy has guided generations of students – both undergraduate and graduate – through the challenges of studying statistics. His advice to students and early-career statisticians has always been grounded in humility, collaboration, and intellectual curiosity.

Throughout his career, Portnoy has long championed the importance of understanding not just how to analyze data, but when and why certain methods can be trusted. He has reminded us that statistical science succeeds when it draws clear, meaningful connections between samples and populations – a principle as relevant today as ever.

As the Department of Statistics celebrates the achievements of our graduates and prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary this fall, we also celebrate Professor Portnoy's enduring impact. His influence is woven into the department's culture of rigor, integrity, and mentorship.

In his own words: "**Fortunately, the future of statistics is in the good hands of the next generations of statisticians.**"[1]

1.He, X., & Shao, X. (2022). A Conversation with Stephen Portnoy. Statistical Science, 37(3). https://doi.org/10.1214/21-sts845

HONORS AND AWARDS

UNIVERSITY HONORS

BRONZE TABLET
Xiangru An
Siddharth Bawankule
Kaitlyn Ashley Chan
Yiyang Chen
Ziyi Gao
Shangyu Gong
Qiushi Han
Devashish Nikhil Khatavkar
Pradnyan Khodke
Joseph Samuel Keslin
Yuxiang Liu
Daniel Christopher Lobo
Ethan Thomas Mathew
Nishk Dhrumil Patel
Joseph Stone Shallat
Aria Shetty
Ao Wang
Jie Xiong
Xingjia Yang
Brandon Fan Zhang
Delu Louis Zhao

COLLEGE HONORS

SENIOR JAMES SCHOLARS
Alyssa Anastasi
Robert Burjek
Ashley Cervantes
Raul Higareda
Peyton Hobson
Yuxiang Liu
Daniel Nguyen
Siyu Ren
Rachel Selvaraj
Julia Shen
Anagha Tiwari

HONOR SOCIETY

PHI BETA KAPPA
Emily Cohen
Talia Du3 y
Brandon Zhang
Zijie Zhang

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Outstanding Student in the Statistics Major
Talia Duffy

Outstanding Student in the Statistics & Computer Science Major
Qicheng Jin

Outstanding Transfer Student in Statistics
Chloe Yang

Undergraduate Student Departmental Service Award
Alyssa Anastasi

Outstanding Undergraduate Research in Statistics
Jerry Liang

GRADUATE AWARDS

Horace W. Norton Prize for Outstanding Thesis Research in Statistics
Yuhan Li

DEGREE INFORMATION

This program contains an unofficial list of degree candidates for May 2024, as well as a list of graduates who received degrees in August and December 2023. Due to printing deadlines, names of some degree recipients may not appear while names of some degree candidates who have not yet completed degree requirements may be included.

The University's official registry for conferral of degrees is the Office of the Registrar, 901 W. Illinois St., Urbana, IL 61801.

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

The following lists are organized by degree. Because of deadlines, lists may be incomplete.

BACHELOR OF ARTS & SCIENCES

STATISTICS

Rhea Anna Abraham
Sanjana V Addanki
Rimjhim Rajeev Agarwal
Arnav Aggarwal
Abigail Noelle Ahlquist
Humza Danyal Ahmad
Talha Ali
Xiangru An
Daniel Bae
Vinayak Bagdi
Justin Bai
Zachary Glenn Barnes
Prajeet Basu
Nathaniel Paul Beebe
Parth Bhargav
Anoop Bhaskar
Dhruv Bhojnagarwala
Elizabeth Binkina
Logan Maddox Blancett
Timothy George Bouris
Dane Branstrom
Robert Joseph Burjek
Sirui Cao
Mitchell Robert Cappel
Ashley Kay Cervantes
Patrick Cha
Jingyuan Chai
Natalie Mercedes Chaidez
Vikram Chandramouli
Haotian Chen
Jack Lok Chen
Tiffany Zijun Chen
Xinyao Chen
Zexi Chen
Yichuan Chen
Zhaoxi Chen
Zixun Chen
Wangdi Chen
Yihao Chen
Yiyang Chen
Yu Suk Chung
Noah Theus Clark
Emily Jean Cohen
Tate Edmund Costa
Yutong Dai
Jack Thomas Darin
Charles Day
Tong Deng
Mingjiao Diao
Victoria Jean Dilday
Colin Michael Doherty
Camille Roisin Dolce
Shikhar Dube
Talia Grace Duffy
Lucas Duffy
Graham Michael Dynis
Nolan John Enright
Jackson William Fishel
Jessica Rose Fornek
Ryan Paul Fredericks
Moira Elizabeth Friant
Mingyang Fu
Janvi Utpal Gandhi
Ziyi Gao
Sandra Garcia Lopez
Daniel Warren Garrison
Linger Ge
Ram Goenka
Shangyu Gong
Jessica Gong
Charan Govarthanaraj
Raghav Goyal
Ruoyu Gu
Atharv Gudi
Tiancheng Guo
Wenqi Guo
Cesar Gutierrez
Weidai He
Matthew Stephen Hege
Elise Henkel
Peyton C Hobson
Jianchen Hong
Charley Hoppis
Yueting Hou
Ping-Jui Hsieh
Wei Hsiung
Jonathan Hsu
Zhisheng Hua
Guanqiao Huang
Emily Sue Hylbert
Himnish Jain
Riya Jain
Huizhu Jia
Chengyun Jiang
Yuqiao Jiang
Yanze Jiang
Max D Jing
Kaleb Scott Jordan
Seo Yeon Jung
Aditya Kakarla
Grace Ann Kaley
Ahaan Kanaujia
Dhruv Pankaj Kaul
Charudutt Kher
Heewon Kim
Hogan Chang Kim
Ian Dae Kyung Kim
Sungmin Kim
Gyeongmin Kim
Jericho J Kirby
Patrick Klem
Sangjun Ko
Irene F Konstantinidis
Sona V Krishnan
Isaiah David Kuehl
Aryaman Kushwaha
Mansi Lakshmi
Zachary Baird Larson

Stephen Russell Lawrence
Chris Seung Min Lee
Jeewon Lee
Haoen Lei
Aoyang Li
Jiahao Li
Yewen Li
Wenjing Li
Zhirong Liang
Huiying Liao
Brian Lim
QIn Wen Ling
Qianhui Liu
Xin Liu
Daniel Christopher Lobo
Lindley Lundang
Yanqin Luo
Leyi Ma
Yike Ma
Cameron Michael Majeski
Yixuan Mao
Emily Martinez
Alexander Matveev
Sean Patrick McCarthy
Lucas Owen McCarty
Ruby June Molsen
Jeongyun Moon
Aidan Marx Morrison
Zekun Mu
Archana Laxmi Mucharla
Varsha Murali
Rohan Narasimhan
Denise Ng
Isabel Catherine Nguyen
Phillip Nguyen
Conor Fogarty Nield
Ke Ning
Manit Niwas
Youbeen Oh
Amelia Regina Paelmo
Avinav Parashar
Shriyal Aashish Patel
Akul Mitul Patel
Aseem Patra
Alfredo Penagos Coronel
Kate Zhang Smith Perloff
Melina Victoria Pipilas
Kristie Png Boon See
Srikar Rao Poladi
Marta Przybylska
Yiduo Qian
Xiner Qian
Haiyang Qin
Hantang Qin
Jai Vishal Rajpal
Shreyas Sudarshan Rao
Anushree Shilvant Raol
Raj Ravi
Siyu Ren
Zachary Scott Sabres
Vishnu Sai Sadhu
Jacob Joel Schaefer
Logan Seibold
Rachel Christina Selvaraj
Laila A Shaaban
Ananya Shahi
Ribhav Sharma
Aria Shetty
Tianyi Shi
Yi Shi
Minghao Shi
Joseph Shin
Nikhil Sivakumar
John Changmin Song
Andrew William Sprenger
Vaibhav Srikumar
Samuel Alan Stefanov
Kai Chun Su
Rachel Sun
Jennifer Naomi Taboada
Allan Tang
Jack Kenneth Thornton
Haoyun Tong
Yibang Tong
Olivia Lu Toole
Riya Trikha
Julia Twarog
John Andrew Valdivieso
Izaak Bae Van Til
Rayva Verma
Lucas Erich Walters
Xinyu Wan
Ao Wang
Jianing Wang
Sihun Wang
Zheer Wang
Zilin Wang
Alexander Wang
Linhai Wang
Yiping Wang
Kehuan Wang
Yida Melody Wang
Ziheng Wang
Jiazhi Wang
George White
Nicholas Wong
April Wu
Chenyu Wu
Mingxia Wu
Yinglei Wu
Tao Wu
Lixuan Xiao
Feng Xiong
Jiyang Xu
Jeffrey Yan
Xingjia Yang
Junke Yang
Yuguo Ye
Chang Yin
Heqi Yin
Soyeon Yuna Yong
Caleb Jaewon Yu
Jingfei Zeng
Jingtian Zhang
Qihao Zhang
Xinyu Zhang
Yiqian Zhang
Jingrui Zhang
Hangao Zhang
Delu Louis Zhao
Runlin Zheng
Wendy Zheng
Zhenqiang Zhong
Zitong Zhu
Yuang Zou

STATISTICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Siddarth Aananth
Alyssa Rose Anastasi
Ashrith Anumala
Fatih Mehmet Atlamaz
Shanav Verma Bagga
Siddharth Bawankule
Vedang Bhargava
Rahul Bhatt
Saketh Reddy Boyapally
Ethan P Cai
Kaitlyn Ashley Chan
Aniketh Chedalla
Salar Waheed Cheema
Junhan Chen
Xinyu Chen
Anish Manas Cherukuthota
Allison L Daemicke
Pulak Laxmikant Deshpande
Neeyati Devanagondi
Aarul Dhawan
Brian Keiji Eide
Reece Jaymison Eible Farrell
Aryan Gandhi
Eeshan Garr
Brian Hope Gong
Yash Guddanti
Rohan Udayan Gumaste
Vineetha Gurrala
Numair Hajyani
Qiushi Han
Ethan Jin-Heng Handojo
Raul Daniel Higareda
Andrew L W Hsiao
Hao Huang
Jeffrey Jiayao Huang
Zihao Huang
Shreni Jain
Joseph Jaeyun Jeong
Qicheng Jin
Yoon Ki Jin
Aditya Jindal
Nathan Joe Joseph
Ilan Charles Kaplan
Rahul Kasibhatla
Charles Sherman Kassmir
Joseph Samuel Keslin
Devashish Nikhil Khatavkar
Pradnyan Khodke
Jinhyuk Kim
Erin Louise Kirsten
Jacob John Ko
Neil Nikolajs Aleksander Kozlowski
Saurav Kumar
Dhiraj Anil Kuttichirayil
Zheng Yi Lai
Hyunho Lee
Suhyun Esther Lee
Bingheng Li
Heng Li
Meg Li
Xiaofan Li
Larry Liao
Sean Yousiang Liao
Jaewon Lim
Changbo Liu
Patrick Ziqi Liu
Yaowenqi Liu
Yuxiang Liu
Sreyansh Mamidi
Ethan Thomas Mathew
Kezzuo Lie McSaint
Jier Miao
Sarnabh Jyoti Mukhopadhyay
Krish Prashant Naik Desigamoorthy
Shanmuganathan Nainar
Elliot Kihoon Nam
Dan Hien Nguyen
Kunhao Ni
Jiatong Ou
Jeongjae Park
Shivraj Kamlesh Parmar
Aishwarya Sai Pasham
Aditya Vinay Patel
Aryan Patel
Armaan C Patel
Nishk Dhrumil Patel
Ved Chetan Patel
Anuj Mitul Patel
Teetaj Pavaritpong
Anh Nam Phung
Pranav Pullabhotla
Hansen Punnoose
Steven Qie
Siddharth Rajagopalan
Daniyal A Rana
Kaiwen Ren
Benjamin Rosen
Shaarav R Rotiwar
Aadit Roy Chowdhury
Christopher Michael Sahyouni
Zainab Sajid
Achintya Sanjay
Jessica Santhanam
Ganesh Saranga
Adam Seskiewicz
Rishi Shah
Joseph Stone Shallat
Anindya Shivaumn Sharma
Shivangi Sharma
Anay Sharma
Julia Shen
Subash Kizhakevilayil Shibu
Nihal Reddy Shivannagari
Ibrahim Ahmed Siddiqui
Sneha Singh
Apurv Aditya Singhdeo
Ramanan Srirajan
Colsen Jay Stiles
Shivam Syal
Zuyan Tao
Aaron Jacob Taub
Sahith Reddy Thummalapally
Anagha Tiwari
Adam Paul T'Koy
Nicholas Daniel Trapp
Varun Tupuri
Rohit Valmeekam
Jay Akhil Wagh
Charleston Lee Wang
Jie Xiong
Guanwen Yan
Maxwell Yang
Ze Yang

Ziyue Yang
William Yeh
Eric Muyao Yuan
Heejun Yun
Bill Jiahao Zhang
Brandon Fan Zhang
Kevin Zhang
Yidong Zhang
Zijie Zhang
Lingyi Zhang
Luke Zhang
Lingfeng Zhao
Natalie Zhou
Bo Zhu

MASTER OF SCIENCE

STATISTICS

Jessica Faith Abraham
Ansh Ankul
Venkata Sai Kashyap Ava
Akshat Bhardwaj
Jarrett Lee Bline
Pasquale Bottalico
Jesse Mark Bowers
Carolina Carvalho Manhaes Leite
Christopher John Cebra
Yinan Chen
Jennings Cheng
Hetarth Chopra
Mingcheng Du
Soren Jasper Dunn
Emilie Louise Fox
Mingqian Fu
Navya Gupta
Bennett Virgil Hoshaw
Sanyam Jain
Zifan Jiang
Jaehoon Jung
Pragnay Amarthya Kuchana
Jingyi Li
Shengrong Li
Jiyuan Liu
Kevin Keating Maddox
Abhijith Nagarajan
Jaqueline Ortiz
Jyothiraditya Pemmasani
Mu Qu
Govind Rao
Rammuhamed Sabyrkulov
Yashna Satyan
Gonzalo Farid Saud Medina
Shreya Sharma
Tanfu Shi
Austin Peter Shwatal
Ruimeng Song
Ying-En Sung
Quan Tan
Harshith Reddy Thammineni
Montreal Demonte Thomas
Yu Wakayama
Bo Wang
Yuqian Wang
Mingshi Wei
Hongjian Wu
Zheng Wu
Rong Xiao
Yuanchuan Xie
Qishuo Xin
Chubo Xu
Hyo Min Yoo
Dian Yu
Tianyi Zhan
Dichuan Zheng
Kang Zhou

STATISTICS ANALYTICS

Alexander Johnson Basler
Kunal Bhardwaj
Enze Cai
Sreeman Reddy Etikyala
Jennifer Ge
Manhai Li
Shangchen Li
Shannon Shi Pei Ooi
Abhinav Sai Pagadala
Eryu Shen
Siyun Shen
Kshitiz Singh
Machi Takeda
Boxuan Wang
Junseok Yang
Yi Yang
Yimu Zhang
Xiying Zhao
Yichao Zhao

STATISTICS APPLIED

Hui-Erh Chai
Do Young Gong
Ehsan Homaee
Kexin Hu
Shitao Shi
Lizarazo Chaparro Simon
Huaijin Xu
Pei-Ling Yang
Tianhong Yin
Xuying Zheng

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Jesse Mark Bowers
Mixed topics on Latent Class Modeling and Factor Analysis

Anwesha Chakravarti
Learning to share: Bayesian approaches to sparsity and transfer

Zhe Chen
Selected Topics on Design-Based Causal Inference

Hanjia Gao
Nonparametric Testing in Modern Statistics: A Personal Journey

Robert Charles Garrett
Methods for Comparison and Analysis of Spatiotemporal Fields

Yuhan Li
Topics in Offline Statistical Reinforcement Learning

Yuxuan Liu
Subpopulation Weighting and Debiased Estimation for Causal Inference and Predictive Model Evaluation

Zihe Liu
Bayesian Sparsity Learning with Variational Automatic Relevance Determination

David Lundquist
Forecast adjustment under shocks: similarity-based solutions to unprecedented events

Christopher Qian
Uncertainty Quantification in Machine Learning with Bayesian Models

Diptarka Saha
Deep Models, Light Footprint: Compressing, Explaining, and Transferring Bayesian Neural Networks

Yongchang Su
Randomization-based Inference for Distributions and Quantiles of Individual Treatment Effects

Dongxiao Wu
Robust Sensitivity Analysis for Quantiles of Hidden Biases and Treatment Effects in Matched Observational Studies

Tianning Xu
Statistical Uncertainty Quantification for Machine Learning Models and Training Acceleration for Graph Neural Networks

Thank you to the families and friends who have supported our graduates throughout their studies. You are an integral part of our graduates' success, making this graduation day even more special.

A special thank you to Melissa Banks, Laura Hall, Fatouma Hewitt, Asraa Ibrahim, Ronnie Turner-Winston, and Kathy Webb for your support and efforts in your areas of expertise, which have contributed to the success of our graduates.

Our gratitude extends to
Jennifer Anderson-Bliss, Alexandra Chronopoulou, Sarah Kwilecki, Hyoeun Lee, Aaron Smith, and all our faculty, mentors, and additional support staff. Your guidance, encouragement, and belief in our graduates have guided their academic journey and lead them to this significant milestone.

Finally, thank you to Aaron Thompson for coordinating this ceremony.

College of Liberal
Arts & Sciences