

## 2019 SSC Elections



The Election Committee hereby publishes a list of candidates for positions on the Executive and Board of Directors that will become vacant on July 1, 2019. In addition, candidates for positions on the Executives of the Sections and on accreditation committees are also provided.

Biographical sketches for all these candidates will appear later in *Liaison*. Additional nominations must be supported by at least five individual members in good standing; they must be submitted in writing and received by the Chair of the Election Committee on or before **January 15, 2019**.

### **MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

(Three-year Terms)

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

(President, 2020-21; Past President, 2021-22)

Wendy Lou, University of Toronto

#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER**

David Campbell, Simon Fraser University

### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

(Two-Year Terms)

#### **ATLANTIC PROVINCES**

(One to be Elected)

Candemir Cigar, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Wilson Lu, Acadia University

#### **QUÉBEC**

(Two to be Elected)

Karim Oualkacha, Université du Québec à Montréal

Jean-François Plante, HEC Montréal

Alexandra Schmidt, McGill University

#### **ONTARIO**

(Two to be Elected)

Elif Acar, Hospital for Sick Children  
Xu (Sunny) Wang, Wilfrid Laurier University  
Bethany White, University of Toronto  
Leilei Zeng, University of Waterloo

## **MANITOBA - SASKATCHEWAN - NORTHWEST TERRITORIES - NUNAVUT**

(Two to be Elected)

Cindy Feng, University of Saskatchewan  
Yang Zhao, University of Regina

## **ALBERTA - BRITISH COLUMBIA - YUKON**

(Two to be Elected)

Jinko Graham, Simon Fraser University  
Wanhua Su, MacEwan University

## **SECTION EXECUTIVES**

### **ACTUARIAL SCIENCE SECTION EXECUTIVE / EXÉCUTIF DU GROUPE D'ACTUARIAT**

(Three-year terms; 2019-22)

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

(President, 2020-21; Past President, 2021-22)

Hélène Cossette, Université Laval

#### **SECRETARY**

Xuemiao (Samuel) Hao, University of Manitoba

### **BIostatistics SECTION EXECUTIVE**

(Three-year terms; 2019-22)

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

(President, 2020-21; Past President, 2021-22]

Aurélie Labbe, HEC Montréal

#### **SECRETARY**

Geneviève Lefebvre, Université du Québec à Montréal

### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS SECTION EXECUTIVE**

(Three-year terms; 2019-22)

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

(President, 2020-21; Past President, 2021-22)

Sanjeena Dang, Binghamton University

**SECRETARY**

Kathryn Mills, Canada Revenue Agency

**PROBABILITY SECTION EXECUTIVE**

(Three-year terms; 2019-22)

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

(President, 2020-21; Past President, 2021-22)

Mary Thompson, University of Waterloo

**SECRETARY**

Sévérien Nkurunziza, University of Windsor

**STATISTICAL EDUCATION SECTION EXECUTIVE**

(Three-year terms; 2019-22)

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

(President, 2020-21; Past President, 2021-22)

Xu (Sunny) Wang, Wilfrid Laurier University

**SECRETARY**

Karen Buro, MacEwan University

**SURVEY METHODS SECTION EXECUTIVE**

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

(President, 2020-21; Past President, 2021-22)

Zilin Wang, Wilfrid Laurier University

**SECRETARY**

(Two-year term; 2019)

Golshid Chatrchi, Carleton University

## **ACCREDITATION PROGRAM COMMITTEES**

(Three-year terms; 2019-22)

### **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE / COMITÉ D'ACCREDITATION**

(Four to be elected)

Alomgir Hossain, University of Ottawa Heart Institute

John Koval, Western University

Peter Macdonald, McMaster University

Elmabrok Masaoud, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Jenna Sykes, St. Michael's Hospital

### **ACCREDITATION APPEALS COMMITTEE**

(Two to be elected)

Cheryl Gibbons, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Banibrata Roy, Shawnee Community College

Jill Vandermeerschen, Université du Québec à Montréal

## **THE SSC ELECTION COMMITTEE 2018-19**

Hugh Chipman, Chair and SSC Past-President, Acadia University

Sylvia Esterby, UBC Okanagan

David Haziza, Université de Montréal

Cyntha Struthers, University of Waterloo

Kevin Keen, University of Northern British Columbia

Yi Lu, Simon Fraser University

Joel Dubin, University of Waterloo

Shirley Mills, Carleton University

Richard Lockhart, Simon Fraser University

Bruce Dunham, University of British Columbia

Mahmoud Torabi, University of Manitoba

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**2019 SSC Awards: Call for nominations**



Nominations for the 2019 SSC awards - Gold Medal, Honorary Member, Impact in Applied and Collaborative Work, Distinguished Service and Pierre Robillard Award – must be received on or before **January 31, 2019**. The deadline for nominations for the Fisher Lectureship and the Florence N. David Award is **December 15, 2018** and the deadline for nominations for the COPSS Presidents' Award and the Snedecor Award is **January 15, 2019**.

## SSC GOLD MEDAL

The **Gold Medal** of the SSC is awarded to a person who has made outstanding contributions to statistics, or to probability, either to mathematical developments or in applied work. The Gold Medal is intended to honour current leaders in their fields and is normally expected to be awarded to someone still active in research. The recipient should be Canadian or a permanent resident of Canada, and must have made high quality research contributions to the statistical sciences in Canada. A recipient of the Gold Medal must be a member of the SSC. A nomination consists of a recent curriculum vitae, at least four letters of support, and a suggested citation to accompany the award. A nomination is effective for three successive competitions and may be updated annually. View all previous winners [here](#).

## SSC HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

**Honorary Membership** in the SSC is intended to honour a probabilist or a statistician or, in special circumstances another individual, who has made exceptional contributions to the development of the discipline. Nominations are open to people whose work was done primarily in Canada or who had a major impact in this country. Membership in the SSC is not a prerequisite. A nomination consists of a recent curriculum vitae, at least one letter of support, and a suggested citation to accompany the award. View all previous winners [here](#).

## SSC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The **Distinguished Service Award** is intended to honour a person who has contributed substantially and over a period of several years to the operation or welfare of the SSC. A nomination consists of a recent curriculum vitae, at least three letters of support (of which the nominator's letter may be one), and a suggested citation to accompany the award. View all previous winners [here](#).

Nominations for the three SSC awards - the Gold Medal, Honorary Member, and the Distinguished Service Award – must be received on or before **January 31, 2019** by the Chair of the SSC Awards Committee, Jack Gambino.

### **Chair of the SSC Awards Committee**

Jack Gambino

[jack.gambino@gmail.com](mailto:jack.gambino@gmail.com)

## **AWARD FOR IMPACT IN APPLIED AND COLLABORATIVE WORK**

The **SSC Award for Impact in Applied and Collaborative Work** is given to a Canadian or to someone residing in Canada, who is a member of the Society and who has made outstanding contributions in applied and collaborative work, the importance of which derives primarily from its relatively recent impact on a subject area outside of the statistical sciences, on an area of application or on an organization.

The essential idea is that the award is for the impact of the work (not for its degree of technical sophistication, for example). The work should demonstrate the importance of the statistical sciences to other areas of endeavour and should include an intellectual contribution to statistical science motivated by the area of application. Areas in which a substantial contribution would qualify include: formulation of new statistical questions and ideas uniquely appropriate to the subject matter discipline or the organization; development and application of conceptually new approaches appropriate to the subject matter or the organization; new implementation of the best combination of techniques to solve important and difficult research problems in the applied discipline; development of statistical methods that answer a question in another field that could not have been answered adequately before; application of creative statistical thinking with demonstration of clear understanding of the science/ industry of the area of endeavour; establishment of the relative merits of alternative analytic approaches leading to guidelines useful to applied scientists in choosing among them. This list is intended to be examples of contributions and is not necessarily exhaustive.

The nomination package should consist of a letter of nomination and at least three letters of support, a curriculum vitae, a “layperson” description of the work and its impact expressed in terms that would be suitable for publicity purposes, and a citation suitable for public announcement of the award. The nomination package should also include at least two letters from non-statisticians representing the field or organization that has felt the impact of the work. The letters must address how the contributions have had a recent impact. Letters of recommendation from those not directly involved in the research are particularly encouraged. The onus is on the nominator(s) to explain the work and to provide evidence of its impact in support of the nomination.

View All Previous Award Winners [here](#).

Nominations must be received on or before **January 31, 2019** by the Chair of the Committee, Carl Schwartz. Electronic submission with PDF files is preferred.

**Carl Schwartz**, Chair of the Impact Award Committee  
Statistics and Actuarial Science  
Simon Fraser University  
[cschwarz@stat.sfu.ca](mailto:cschwarz@stat.sfu.ca)

## COPSS AWARDS

The **Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPSS)** sponsors a number of awards which are presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings. These awards are: the **Presidents' Award** ("to a young member of the statistical community in recognition of outstanding contributions to the profession of statistics"), the **R. A. Fisher Lectureship** ("to honour the contributions of Sir Ronald Aylmer Fisher and the work of a present-day statistician"), the **Elizabeth L. Scott Award** ("to recognize an individual who exemplifies the contributions of Elizabeth L. Scott's lifelong efforts to further the careers of women in academia"), the **Florence N. David Award** ("to recognize a female statistician who exemplifies the contributions of Florence Nightingale David"), and the **George W. Snedecor Award** ("to honour an individual who was instrumental in the development of statistical theory in biometry"). Note that the David and Snedecor Awards are given only in odd-numbered years, whereas the Scott Award is given only in even-numbered years. Also note that, for the COPSS Presidents' Award, "eligible candidates either i) will be under 41 throughout the award calendar year, **or** ii) will be under age 46 throughout the award calendar year **and** will have received a terminal statistically-related degree no more than 12 years prior to that year." For the first time, in 2019, the winner of the David award will also give a lecture at the JSM.

Members of the SSC are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates for these COPSS awards. The deadline for nominations for the Fisher Lectureship and the Florence N. David Award is **December 15, 2018** and the deadline for nominations for the COPSS Presidents' Award and the Snedecor Award is **January 15, 2019**.

For information concerning the nomination process and a list of previous winners, see [here](#). For further information or assistance, contact **Jack Gambino**, [jack.gambino@gmail.com](mailto:jack.gambino@gmail.com)

## PIERRE ROBILLARD AWARD

The aim of the Pierre Robillard Award is to recognize the best PhD thesis defended at a Canadian university in a given year and written in the fields covered by *The Canadian Journal of Statistics*. The award consists of a certificate, a monetary prize, and a one-year membership in the

SSC. The winner will be invited to give a talk based on the thesis at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society; assistance with expenses to attend the meeting may be provided. The winner will also be invited to submit a paper to *The Canadian Journal of Statistics*.

Submitted theses will be evaluated by a committee whose members are appointed by the President of the SSC; their decision will be final. Judging will take into account the originality of the ideas and techniques, the possible applications and their treatment, and the potential impact on the statistical sciences. In any given year, no more than one winner will be selected; however, the committee may arrive at the conclusion that none of the submitted theses merits the award.

If accepted, the paper will be identified as being based on the thesis which won the 2018 Pierre Robillard Award; the names of the university and the thesis supervisor will be clearly indicated. The thesis supervisor could be co-author of the paper. The Pierre Robillard Award Committee Chair must receive the thesis and a nominating letter from the thesis supervisor by **January 31, 2019**.

It is imperative that the supervisors address the three criteria below in their letters:

1. The originality of the ideas and techniques, as well as a description of the exact contribution of the student when the thesis is based on co-authored articles
2. Possible applications and their treatment
3. Potential impact on the statistical sciences.

In so doing, the supervisor may include excerpts of letters from external examiners. Complete letters from external examiners or referees will not be accepted. Official confirmation that the thesis has been defended in 2018 must also be provided. Electronic submission is strongly encouraged.

### **Submission Instructions**

For electronic submission, the thesis should be in .pdf format. The thesis and covering letter can be emailed to the committee chair. The subject header of the electronic message should be “SSC Robillard Award Submission - StudentName” and the corresponding files should be named StudentName-thesis.pdf and StudentName-cover-letter.pdf, where “StudentName” is replaced with the name of the student being nominated. Alternately, the covering letter can give a website from which an electronic copy of the thesis can be downloaded. If the thesis has to be submitted in another electronic format or on paper, the Pierre Robillard Award Committee Chair must be contacted before submission. Entries should include e-mail addresses and phone numbers of both the supervisor and the student.

For a list of previous winners, see: [here](#)

Send thesis submissions for the Pierre Robillard Award to:

**Gordon Hilton Fick**

Chair, Pierre Robillard Award Committee

Department of Community Health Sciences



Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

[ghfick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ghfick@ucalgary.ca)

## 2nd Vancouver Sport Analytics Symposium and Hackathon



“I am hoping that VanSASH will be my first step into data science, and ideally, sport analytics.”  
- VanSASH 18 Participant



learn from leaders in statistics, machine learning and sports analytics.

The second iteration of the **Vancouver Sport Analytics Symposium and Hackathon (VanSASH)** took place on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 at Simon Fraser University’s Harbour Centre Campus. Organized by SFU students (**Kristen Bystrom, Dani Chu, Eli Mizelman, Matthew Reyers, Andrew Ringer, and Lucas Wu**) for students, over 90 hackathon competitors competed to solve business and soccer challenges using exclusive datasets provided by the Vancouver Whitecaps. With accomplished mentors and judges attending the event, participants had the opportunity to work with and



Even those who had no prior experience with coding were invited to participate in the event. In the morning they attended tutorial sessions where they were taught basic programming skills, including introductions to modelling and visualization in R. They left the tutorials with the foundation of a project that they could then develop for the rest of the event with the help of the talented VanSASH mentors. These mentors consisted of Professors in Statistics at SFU, machine learning experts and data scientists with over 10 years of industry experience.

Finally, every participant was given the chance to present their work to multiple judges. Giving the participants a chance to make an impression on the judges provides them with a foot in the door to a job or industry connection – a major goal of the event. The judges consisted of MLS Vice Presidents, Whitecaps Coaches, and Directors of Analytics Departments at a variety of Vancouver companies. The winning teams won over \$2,000 in prize money and were able to attend the Vancouver Whitecaps game the next day. They were even given a shoutout on the Whitecaps Big Screen at BC Place.



The event was attended by the Vice President of Data and Analytics at Major League Soccer, **Charlie Shin**, who is hoping to host a similar event for the MLS

in the future

We want to thank the **Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute (CANSSI)**, **Statistical Society of Canada**, **Simon Fraser Student Society**, **Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at SFU**, **Faculty of Science at SFU**, **KEY | SFU's Big Data Initiative**, **SFU Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association**, **SFU Sports Analytics Club** and **Sticker Mule** for their generosity and support of our vision.

### **Dani Chu**

Masters Student in Statistics  
Simon Fraser University

<https://www.vansash.com/recap2018/>

Peak Article: <https://the-peak.ca/2018/10/sfu-sports-analytics-club-runs-successful-vansash-event-for-second-consecutive-year/>

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**SSC 2019 Annual Meeting in Calgary**



The Departments of Community Health Sciences and of Mathematics and Statistics invite you to join us from May 26-29, 2019 at the University of Calgary. We are thrilled to be hosting our **SSC Annual Meeting**, for the very first time. The program committee, led by **Lisa Lix**, is planning an exciting scientific program for us. Stay tuned for program updates. Local arrangements chairs, **Alexander de Leon and Karen Kópciuk**, know that you will enjoy the university and the city of Calgary and surrounds.

The University of Calgary is a research-intensive university founded in 1966, with 14 faculties offering more than 250 academic programs, and more than 50 research institutes and centres. As one of Canada's top comprehensive research universities, UCalgary combines the best of university tradition with the city of Calgary's vibrant energy and diversity. It is located in the heart of Southern Alberta, the traditional territories of the people of Treaty 7 region. The City of Calgary is also home to the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III.



Ranked as the most livable city in North America in 2018 by *The Economist*, Calgary is a safe city with a vibrant culture and many activities for visitors to enjoy. Along with our famous hospitality, our visitors enjoy uncompromised convenience. As an attendee, you will have plenty to see and do, whether it's taking part in one of the 700-plus annual cultural events, experiencing the tastes at over 6,000 restaurants, shopping at hundreds of unique retail shops, enjoying the city's arts and entertainment scene or exploring urban parks and river pathways.



Calgary offers a mix of big-city energy and natural beauty. We are so fortunate that in addition to being next door to some of the world's most extraordinary natural beauty, like the Canadian Rocky Mountains, the Canadian

Badlands and the Foothills of Southern Alberta, Calgary is also located close to a number of historic and cultural attractions, including four UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Recognized globally for our volunteerism, entrepreneurial spirit and community pride, Calgarians are the ultimate hosts. With our white hats on and our energetic, entrepreneurial spirit, we are ready to provide you with memories that will last a lifetime. We look forward to seeing you in Calgary!



## SSC Sponsors R à Québec 2019!



SSC, sponsor of **R at Québec 2019**, invites you to answer to the call for proposals for training workshops and conferences for this French-speaking symposium dedicated specifically to the use of R, taking place from **May 13 to 15, 2019** at Laval University in Quebec City. A dozen training workshops and 30 sessions bringing together researchers, students, practitioners and professionals from academia, government and industry. This is the largest event of its kind in North America in French. **Douglas Bates** will be the keynote speaker. 300 participants are expected! Full details online: <http://raquebec.ulaval.ca> Twitter: [@raquebec](https://twitter.com/raquebec)

## News from Université de Sherbrooke



Having recently completed a postdoctoral position at the University of Melbourne in Australia, Félix Camirand-Lemyre joined the Department of Mathematics of the Université de Sherbrooke as an assistant professor last August. He holds a PhD from the Université de Sherbrooke. His research interests include nonparametric estimation, measurement error problems, resampling methods and dependency modelling.





## News from Western University



**Professor Emeritus Reginald J. Kulperger** officially retired on July 1, 2018. It was in 1982 that he joined the Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences at the University of Western Ontario. His research interests include inference for stochastic processes, point process, bootstrapping techniques, stochastically interacting particle systems, smoothing techniques and asymptotic methods in Statistics.



As well, the Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences is delighted to welcome several new faculty members: **Camila de Souza** as Assistant Professor with a tenure track appointment in Data Science, **Shu Li** as Assistant Professor with tenure track appointment in Actuarial Science, **Hyukjun (Jay) Gweon** as Assistant Professor with a limited duties appointment in Data Science, **Jennifer Peter (née Waugh)** as a Lecturer in Statistics with a limited term appointment (joint with the Department of Biology), and **Katsu Goda** as Associate Professor and Tier 2 CRC in Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment (joint with the Department of Earth Sciences).



