Meet our Speakers

Dr. Marin Bozic, University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics
Dr. Bozic is Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota and Associate Director of Midwest Dairy Foods Research Center. Marin’s research program encompasses four areas: (i) U.S. dairy policy analysis, (ii) dairy risk analysis, (iii) analysis of demand for dairy foods products and (iv) feasibility assessments of new dairy technologies and processing investments. Marin joined the University of Minnesota in 2011 after completing his doctorate in Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He holds a Master’s degree in Comparative Local Development from University of Trento, Italy and BA in Economics from University in Zagreb, Croatia. Prior to his current position, Marin worked as a junior researcher at the Institute of Economics in Zagreb, Croatia. Marin’s ongoing projects include research on dairy provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill, effectiveness of dairy risk management programs, economic feasibility of acid whey utilization, demand for fluid milk attributes, and modeling of food demand in China. Since 2011, Marin published seven scholarly articles, won 15 grants and delivered over 40 invited research and outreach talks on dairy issues.

John Dodson, Options Clearing Corporation (OCC)
John is Vice President, Quantitative Risk Management Group at the Options Clearing Corporation in Chicago, which is the principal central counterparty for equity derivatives. He is also an instructor in MCFAM’s Master of Financial Mathematics program. Previously, John was with the treasury and investment risk management departments of Ameriprise Financial in Minneapolis. Prior to returning to the Midwest, John worked for several major international banks in New York, London, and Zurich. He entered the industry out of college with an appointment at the Bank for International Settlements. In addition to his affiliation with the Financial Mathematics program, John has taught about financial derivatives for the Carlson School of Management and for various industry programs. John has a BS degree in physics and mathematics from Stanford and an MS degree in computational finance from Carnegie Mellon. John’s affiliation with the U of M goes back to the 80’s. He was an UMTYMP student and participated in a mentorship program with the head of the physics department during his high school years.

Kelsey Finch, J.D, International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)
Kelsey Finch is a Westin Fellow at the IAPP. She is a graduate of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, with a concentration in Intellectual Property & Information Law. Through her professional and academic experiences, Ms. Finch has developed a special interest in studying and reconciling commercial and public interests in privacy rights in the face of emerging trends and technologies. One of the major projects she is involved in now for the IAPP Westin Research Center is producing an FTC Privacy Casebook, which will collate, organize, index, tag and annotate the body of FTC privacy and data security jurisprudence. The FTC Privacy Casebook link above provides a concise summary, analysis and web access to a selection of ten top FTC privacy enforcement actions. Ms. Finch also holds a BA in English language & literature and ancient history from Smith College.

Chris Gross, Gross Consulting, ASA
Chris Gross has twenty years of experience in the insurance industry, primarily in the area of property casualty insurance. Chris started Gross Consulting, Inc. in 2005. He has served a wide variety of clients across the United States from Fortune 500 companies to start-ups, including insurance companies, banks, manufacturers, and governmental entities. He has provided clients with cutting-edge analytical services as well as unique software solutions. Before starting Gross Consulting, Chris was Vice President & Chief Financial Officer of the Financial & Professional Services business group at St Paul Travelers. Chris’s various roles during his time there also included catastrophe modeling, tactical and strategic support of reinsurance buying decisions, capital allocation and risk load determination, corporate development and strategy, line of business and large account pricing, reserving, financial planning, and analytical support of the investment and tax departments. Chris has a bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and a bachelor’s degree in Economics, both from the University of Minnesota. He also is an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries. Chris is the chairman of the Low Interest Rate Environment Working Party Committee of the Casualty Actuarial Society.
Dr. Galin Jones, University of Minnesota School of Statistics

Dr. Jones is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the School of Statistics within the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. His main research interests include Markov Chain Monte Carlo methodology, decision theory, biological and environmental applications. He has a PhD in Statistics from the University of Florida.

Dave Knutson, University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Currently, Mr. Knutson conducts research in the areas of insurance markets, provider payment, risk adjustment, and managed care. In 2011-12, while on leave from the University, he served as a Senior Policy and Program Analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) at the US Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC. His work included policy analysis and regulatory review related to health care reform. In addition, he collaborated on inter-agency work-groups with the CMS Center for Innovation on such initiatives as the Pioneer ACO program and the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative, and with the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIIO) on the Health Benefit Exchange Rating and Risk Adjustment Workgroup. During his tenure at HHS he has also served as the Acting Director of the Division of Health Care Quality and Outcomes in ASPE. Mr. Knutson's previous positions include director of Health Systems Studies at the Park Nicollet Institute, senior director of provider contracting and regional expansion for two HMOs, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and long-term care regional senior planner, and executive director of hospital and community-based mental health programs. He has served on numerous state and national advisory committees as well as many national and globally funded research projects. Mr. Knutson has a B.A. in biology and an M.S. in health economics.

Dr. Vladimir Ladyzhets, University of Connecticut School of Business

Dr. Vladimir Ladyzhets earned his Masters and PhD in Applied Mathematics from Novosibirsk State University (Novosibirsk, Russia) and, prior to his move to the U.S., held a position of Senior Research Fellow with the Institute of Mathematics of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences. While in the U.S., Dr. Ladyzhets has been employed in Academia (Yale University, Florida International University, and University of Connecticut) and Industry (Ernst & Young, Travelers, Babson Capital Management, Lincoln Financial Group, Lava Consulting Services LLC, and GE Capital). He has made numerous presentations to academic and business conferences and published about 20 papers. Dr. Ladyzhets is a well-known expert in such areas as quantitative risk management for a large portfolio of fixed income securities, non-agency Residential Mortgage Backed Securities (RMBS), long horizon interest rate hedging, model validation, and predictive modeling in consumer credit and property and casualty insurance underwriting.

Dr. Kevin Leder, University of Minnesota Industrial Systems Engineering

Dr. Leder is an assistant professor in Industrial and Systems Engineering at University of Minnesota. His research interests have centered on the study of rare events in Markov processes, the relationship between stochastic simulation and probability theory, and stochastic process models arising in queueing systems and population biology. He is extremely interested in stochastic process models of cancer evolution, and the use of these models to investigate important biological questions regarding the initiation, progression and treatment of cancer. Previously, he was a postdoc at Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the Department of Industrial Engineering and Operations Research at Columbia, and received his PhD in 2008 from the Department of Applied Mathematics at Brown University. As an undergraduate, he attended the University of Colorado at Boulder and majored in Applied Math.

Scott Shapiro, KPMG

Scott Shapiro is Managing Director for KPMG in the Hartford, Connecticut Office. He leads the insurance data analytics and predictive modeling practice. Scott has 25 years of industry and consulting experience and he advises P&C and Life & Annuity clients on a host of analytical and operational issues from data preparation to analytical techniques to analytical deployment. Prior to joining KPMG Scott had a variety of positions at The Hartford including Senior Vice President and Regional Vice President. He got his Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from the State University of New York in Binghamton and is an Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society and a frequent speaker on predictive analytics.
Dr. Arkady Shemyakin, University of St. Thomas Mathematics Department
Dr. Arkady Shemyakin has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Novosibirsk State University and Sobolev Institute of Mathematics, Russian Academy of Sciences. He worked in Russia until 1993, when he moved to the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota. His field is mathematical and statistical methods in applications for finance, insurance, and engineering. He has taught at the University of Minnesota Master of Financial Mathematics program since 2006. Arkady also does research and consulting, most recently in the fields of Bayesian statistical analysis, copula models, and Markov chain Monte Carlo.

Dr. Carlos Tolmasky, IMA & MCFAM, University of Minnesota
Dr. Carlos Tolmasky is an Assistant Professor in the School of Mathematics and Associate Director at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) at the University of Minnesota. Carlos’s research interest is mathematical finance. He was part of the founding team of industry practitioners and academics who developed the Master of Financial Mathematics (MFM) program within MCFAM. Since the inception of the MFM, he has continued to teach the yearlong MFM course sequence called “Mathematical Theory Applied in Finance”. Prior to his full time appointment at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Tolmasky was a derivatives trader at Cargill Petroleum. He joined Cargill in 1996 as a member of their Research Group focusing on the development and implementation of derivatives models for fixed income and commodities markets. He later joined the petroleum group as a "desk quant" and, more recently, as a derivatives/relative value trader. He holds an undergraduate degree (Licenciado) from the University of Buenos Aires and a PhD in mathematics from the University of Washington.

Dr. Sanford Weisberg, School of Statistics University of Minnesota
In over 40 years at the University, Professor Weisberg has taught a variety of applied statistics courses, and published over 75 refereed papers in a variety of areas ranging from archeology to pediatrics to economics to mathematical statistics. His book *Applied Linear Regression* has been in print for more than 30 years, and was recently released in a fourth edition. He holds a Ph.D. degree in statistics from Harvard University, and currently serves as the Director of Undergraduate Studies as well as the Director of the Statistical Consulting Service within the School of Statistics at the University of Minnesota. For more detail on Dr. Weisberg’s courses, books and other publications go to: http://users.stat.umn.edu/~sandy/.

Dr. Bo Zhang, Mathematical Sciences and Analytics IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, New York
Bo Zhang is a Research Staff Member in the Business Solutions and Mathematical Sciences Department of the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center in New York. His current research focuses on three application areas: quantitative financial risk management, resource management for information technology and systems (including cloud computing and mobile technology-based systems), and decision-making for emerging healthcare practices. He uses mathematical tools in probability, statistics, dynamical systems, and optimization to solve practical problems and also works on theoretical problems in these disciplines. He has held visiting researcher or scholar positions with the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, Columbia University, Bell Labs, New York University, and the Center for Mathematics and Computer Science in the Netherlands. He also taught at Columbia IEOR Department in Spring 2013. His research has been recognized by an IBM Outstanding Innovation Award, the INFORMS George Nicholson Prize, and the Best Student Paper award in the Performance 2010 conference. He received his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Tech, with a focus on stochastic models and stochastic optimization.