



FSRM Newsletter

Greetings from the FSRM Director



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the FSRM newsletter! This newsletter features news and events of the program as well as profiles of the students, faculty and advisory committee members. It is to be published once a semester.

We are excited about the successful launch of the program this fall with the enrollment of 22 highly qualified and motivated students. Some come from here in New Jersey, and many from faraway parts of the world. Some are full time students and some, while holding regular jobs, are prepared to sacrifice nights and weekends to be with us. We are delighted to have a student body with very diverse backgrounds, including statistics, mathematics, finance, economics, physics, and engineering.

In this issue, we begin with the profiles of two students, who are brave enough to be the first to introduce themselves. All other students will be featured in turn in the coming issues. For the time being, we present a group photo of the class as a quick introduction. This issue also features an interview of Professor Lee Dicker, and a brief biography of Dr. Christopher Donohue. Professor Dicker is teaching the probability and statistics sequence for the program. Dr. Donohue is Director of the GARP Research Center and a member of our FSRM Advisory Board. He will be the inaugural speaker for launching our **Practitioner's Seminar** series Tuesday November 8th.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. We welcome any news, comments, or suggestions that you may have.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our Department Chair, Professor Regina Liu. Without her persistent efforts in the last three years, the FSRM program would not have been possible.

Greetings from the Department Chair

The Rutgers Statistics Department is proud to have successfully launched its new FSRM Master Program this fall. We welcome the first class of FSRM students with the confidence that they will find in our department a nurturing and inspiring learning environment. We wish them success in pursuing their dream careers, and we want them to know that they have the support of the entire department.

Many people have helped us in the launching of the FSRM program. We would like to thank Deans Douglas Greenberg, Robin Davis, and Kathryn Uhrich of the School of Arts and Sciences, and Dean Harvey Waterman of the Graduate School for their unwavering support. We would also like to thank Professor Ivan Brick, Chair of Finance and Economic Department of Rutgers Business School, for his generous support and advice. Several Rutgers administrative units, including the Graduate School Admission Office, the Registrar, the Scheduling and Financial Services, all provided continuous and patient assistance. We also owe big thanks to the members of our FSRM Advisory Board for their valuable input. Many of our faculty members worked tirelessly to help develop the FSRM program. In particular, no one contributed more than our first Director, Professor Rong Chen, to all aspects of the program.



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Student Profiles –

Patrick Ewane received Bachelor degree in Applied Statistics and Economics with honors (equivalent to a first year master's degree) at the Institute of Statistics and Applied economics (ISSEA), Cameroon in 2009. While at school, he worked as a predictive modeler for the National Hydrocarbon Corporation (*the national oil company*) analyzing the macroeconomic impacts of oil price volatility during the financial crisis. He also worked as a Team Lead of ISSEA Junior enterprise, which provides firms with the school's expertise in statistical analysis, surveys and economic modeling. After graduation, Patrick has worked as a research analyst for the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cameroon in the economic policy unit. His work focuses on econometric models for the macroeconomic outlook. His aspirations include statistical arbitrage, high frequency trading or risk management. He is fluent in French and English and enjoys playing soccer.



“I believe that the financial market is all about data and strategies. All decisions or strategies are made based on information extracted from data; so, there is the need for sophisticated statistical methods and professional capability to design them. The curriculum of the FSRM is tailored to answer that need. Its approach to quantitative finance was the criterion that made me decide to enroll in the program.”

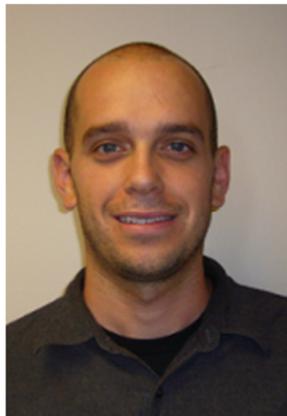


Fei Luo earned her Bachelor degree in Statistics from Anhui University of Finance and Economics in China, where she graduated with distinction. While at school, she has demonstrated her talents in critical and analytical thinking. She was awarded the Student Innovation Fund Grant for her research project on economic efficiencies using data envelopment analysis, a methodology in operational research, statistics and economics. Her research culminated with a paper published in the academic journal *China Urban Economy*. Throughout her undergraduate career, she received numerous honors and awards for both academic excellence and social work.

Fei aspires to start her career in risk management and financial services consulting, including assessing model risk for derivatives in equities, credit and commodities within cross-functional teams and making informed strategies for clients. When asked about her experience in the program so far, she says

“Financial Statistics and Risk Management rest on three disciplines: statistics, computing, and finance. The Rutgers FSRM provides an excellent mix of all three. Every course has special sessions on how learning materials have actually been applied in the real world; assignments are closely related to practical applications. Besides, instructors often connect what they teach in their course with contents in other courses, which make the whole curriculum unified and coherent. Given the rigorous yet practical approach, the dedication of its faculties, its small class size, and its diverse background of students, I believe the FSRM will prepare all my classmates and myself for successful careers in the industry.”

– Faculty Profile



Lee Dicker is Assistant Professor in the Statistics and Biostatistics Department. He joined the Department after receiving his Ph.D. degree from Harvard University in 2010. Professor Dicker's research is motivated by problems that arise in analyzing vast datasets, from fields such as genomics and finance. Currently, he is developing methodology for identifying important -- and difficult to find

-- signals in these datasets.

Professor Dicker is teaching Probability and Statistics with Financial Applications for the FSRM program this year -- a rigorous year-long course sequence in probability and statistics, where an emphasis is placed on understanding the primary importance of these fields for many financial appli-

cations (such as value-at-risk, copulas, and option pricing). Students integrate what they have learned about probability, statistics, and finance by completing a course project, which culminates with a poster session at the end of the semester.

Asked about his experience so far in teaching the first cohort of FSRM students, Professor Dicker says:

“This is a very exciting class. The students are really motivated and engaging. Their hard work and dedication, along with skills learned in the FSRM program, will surely help prepare them for successful careers in the financial industry in the near future. Although the class required a lot of additional preparation and extra communication with the students, it has been a very enjoyable class to teach.”

The First Class of 2012



- Vaibhav Desai
- Patrick Ewane
- Jie Gao
- Jiaxuan Han
- Sheeraz Hyder
- Bradley Knepper
- Wenyan Liu
- Zhixian Liu
- Fei Luo
- Eric Markley
- Christopher Riley
- Qiaochu Song
- Arjun Sridharan
- Heng Tan
- Xiao Wang
- Kurt Wenger
- Kimberley Xie
- Wei Xu
- Yu Xia
- Xingzhi Yu
- Yuting Yuan
- Ran Zhang

Advisory Committee Member Profile –

Christopher Donohue, Ph.D., heads the GARP Research Center and is a member of the FSRM Advisory Board. He is responsible for managing the content development of GARP's certification and educational offerings, developing new resources for GARP including risk management courses, and conducting and supporting research in financial risk management topics.

Previously, Dr. Donohue was a Partner at a hedge fund responsible for the development of asset allocation tools for pension funds and automated trading systems. Prior to that, he was a Director in the Global Research Center at Deutsche Asset Management where he led product research and development in the areas of asset liability management, asset allocation and consumption optimization for

endowments, and optimal portfolio management with transaction costs. He also worked as the Director of Optimization Technology at Alphatech, a leading-edge technology and research defense contractor, where he led algorithm development for intelligence aircraft path planning and sensor scheduling systems.

Dr. Donohue has published several articles on portfolio management and optimization. He has a BA from Hamilton College in Mathematics and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in Operations Research.



– Computer Lab



Computer Labs equipped with Bloomberg terminals

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**We welcome your comments,
news, and suggestions!**

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News/Announcements

- On Oct 26th, our students went through a one-hour Bloomberg training session.
- We are to launch “Practitioner’s Seminar” series on Tuesday, November 8th, 2011. This series is to be held every Tuesday 3:30-4:30pm at 552 Hill Center. Dr. Christopher Donohue will be our first speaker. He will speak on *“The changing role of risk management”*.
- A mini-conference and Advisory Board meeting will be held on Friday, November 18th. Details will be announced soon.
- A field trip to Bloomberg headquarters in New York City is organized for early December.