

epibio news

DEPARTMENT of EPIDEMIOLOGY and BIOSTATISTICS

A Lifetime of Achievement / Dr. Joseph Gardiner

1978

September 1
Appointed Assistant Professor, tenure stream in College of Natural Science, Department of Statistics & Probability.

Began transitioning over to what is now the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in 1989.

1989

Dr. Gardiner played a central role in developing the new Program in Epidemiology.

Joining the program shortly after it was established, he also developed the unit that became the Biostatistics Division of what is now the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, including its research thrusts, its educational offerings and the hiring of new faculty.

Without Joseph Gardiner, none of this would have happened.

Dr. Nigel Paneth
Founding chair of the Dept of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

As retirement approaches, Dr. Gardiner reflects on over 45 years at MSU.

What has given you the most satisfaction?

In EPI/BIO I have had a far greater involvement with research ventures with biomedical investigators. I have benefitted from these symbiotic relationships that have given both context and purpose to my own research endeavors. My methodological research has been informed by working with research scientists, which has given 'body and soul' to my research, instead of just playing chess with myself.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievements?

Hopefully, I have in some small, yet significant way contributed to joint ventures in research bringing both the art and science of statistics to enhance the quality of our endeavors. My longest stint of collaboration began in the mid 1990's with Dr. Susan Schantz at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). The studies addressed the effects on human health of environmental contaminants, received almost uninterrupted support over 20 years from ATSDR/CDC, EPA, NIEHS. With the help of colleagues, and loads of advice from many, we were successful in recruiting Biostatistics faculty. We are growing. Festina lente.

What are your future plans?

I expect to continue selected research collaborations, at least in the near term. For the next few years, my spouse and I will stay in the 48864 zip code. Downsizing and cleaning up home and office is a monumental task, often side-tracked by reading documents from years ago. Perhaps I should try removal of everything from the last century!

For the complete interview [click here](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

“My family had two large Burmese pythons as pets when I was growing up” Dr. Jean Kerver



“I initially planned on pursuing a degree in music (Vocal Arts) before deciding to focus on the sciences.” Dr. Kelly Hirko

A Musically Talented Student



Tim Michling is a doctoral student in epidemiology and research assistant with the Margerison Research Group.

But, did you know that Tim is an instrumentalist. (Oboe primarily, along with saxophone, Irish flute, bagpipes, mandolin, and a handful of other instruments). Tim has also performed on stage at Carnegie Hall in New York and Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles, along with giving performances in 43 U.S. states and 5 countries.

Tim also has a bachelor’s, master’s, and specialist’s degrees in music, and plays professionally as a member of the Ann Arbor, Flint, and Rochester (MI) symphony orchestras, as well as filling in with Detroit Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Toledo Symphony, and others. He has worked with various recording artists (Johnny Mathis, Weird Al, Sarah McLachlan, Boyz II Men, Jethro Tull, Thelma Houston, Paul Shaffer, and more...)

Class of 24 Spring Graduates



Maria Cinzori



Arianna Foster



James Hosner



Vanessa Wandrie

Masters in EPIDEMIOLOGY



Claire Schertzing



Jazib Gohar



Ra’ed Hailat



PhD in EPIDEMIOLOGY

DO-PhD in EPIDEMIOLOGY

Publications

Sarah Brewer, PhD in Epidemiology 2022
 Brewer, S.K., Talge, N.M., Holzman, C., Sikorskii, A., & Ezeamama, A. E. (2024). Perinatal HIV Exposure And Infection And Caregiver Depressive Symptoms. *AIDS Care*, 36(2), 280-290.



Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dr. Jim Anthony was elected to the leadership of the American Psychopathological Association, with President-Elect position through 2026 and becoming President in 2027. APPA

STUDENT DEFENSES

There are many occurring this spring. Support our students. See the [events](#) page for more information.



Student Spotlight

Claire Schertzing

Hometown:

East Lansing, MI

Favorite Color:

Powder blue

Degree in Progress:

PhD in Epidemiology



What are some of the best things about being an MSU/Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics student?

Everyone in the department is so supportive, there's never been any question that each and every faculty and staff member is there to support the students however they can. The small class sizes are also a perk, there's always a friend or two in class to sit and study with.

Matthew Myers

Hometown:

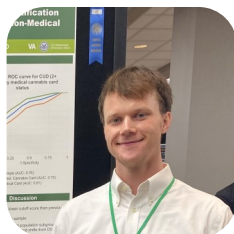
Midland, MI

Favorite Color:

Orange

Degree in Progress:

PhD in Epidemiology



Why did you choose to study at MSU?

I was interested in working with my advisor, Dr. Kip Bohnert, and I knew that I could receive a high-quality education in the specific fields of epidemiology that I am interested in.

Learn more about Claire & Matt by visiting our [student spotlight page](#)

Welcome Dr. Evan Reynolds

Dr. Evan Reynolds joined our department as an Assistant Professor on April 1.



Favorite Movie

I am an avid moviegoer. I am also a huge fan of comic book movies, particularly the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

What are your favorite places to visit?

I really enjoy visiting new places and learning about different cultures. In the US, my favorite places to visit are New Orleans and San Diego. The music and dining in New Orleans are incredible and beaches near San Diego are unmatched.

What advice would you give to a student?

A lofty goal of graduate training is to find a passion. Therefore, the best advice I can give students is to explore the wide-ranging opportunities available at MSU.

Describe your current research or future plans?

The overarching goal of my work is to predict and prevent complication onset in individuals with type 2 diabetes through the use and development of novel and clinically interpretable statistical machine learning methods.

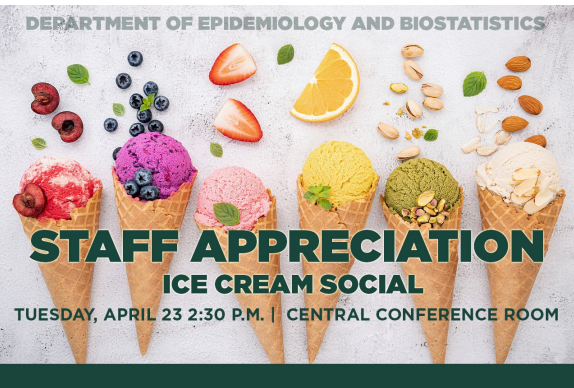
What are you looking forward to being back at MSU?

I am so excited to return to East Lansing. I am most looking forward to meeting the students and immersing myself within the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics community.

Learn more about Dr. Reynolds by visiting our [Faculty Spotlight webpage](#).



If you have recently graduated or graduated several years ago, we would love to hear from you. Please email us and let us know where you are and what you are currently doing.



When class is over and the laptop is closed what do some of our faculty enjoy doing in their spare time?

Dr. Joseph Gardiner

“Walk around the house in circles, because it is too cold to be outdoors. Take a snooze, but only if there are no nightmares—latter not guaranteed.”

Dr. Danielle Gartner

“I like to go for walks outside.”

Dr. Chenxi Li

“Watching my son play piano.”

Dr. Xiaoyu Liang

“I enjoy lying on the couch, watching a good movie or TV show. Occasionally, I also exercise.”

Dr. Mathew Reeves

“Riding my motorbike.”

Dr. Evan Reynolds

“My favorite thing to do is spend time with my wife and two children. I particularly enjoy spending time outdoors, and spending summer days at the pool or lake.”

Dr. Ana Vazquez

“I like to do gardening.”



Department of
**Epidemiology
and Biostatistics**

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