Michigan State University
Department of Statistics and Probability
Colloquium

Dr. Frederi Viens

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
10:20am-11:10am
Room C405 Wells Hall

Who will help MSU become a leader in data science for the 21st century? STT will!

As part of his chairperson review process, Prof. Viens will present some recent achievements in the Department of Statistics and Probability (STT), and his thoughts on how STT can play a critical role at MSU, as a leader and helpful partner in all aspects of data science. We plan on a lively and interactive presentation, where all are welcome to engage with questions and discussion.

Frederi G. Viens is Professor and Chair of Michigan State University's Department of Statistics and Probability (STT). He works to facilitate the research talent of STT's undergraduate and graduate students and faculty, and to provide service instruction in statistics which is second to none. At MSU, he also serves as Director of Actuarial Science, a professional bachelor's degree in the College of Natural Science with strong connections to the Lansing area insurance industry, and as Adjunct Director of the Center for Statistical Training and Consulting, a university-wide service out of the Office of the Vice-President for Research and Innovation. His administrative roles at MSU extend to facilitating the development of undergraduate and graduate programs in data science, and to promoting the reach of the Alliance for Africa Partnership in STEM directions.
Viens' research spans probability theory, stochastic processes, mathematical statistics, and applied probability for insurance mathematics and quantitative finance. In the past decade, he has developed a robust applied statistics research program. Using the power of machine learning in the context of Bayesian statistics, he collaborates on significant projects in climate science, agricultural economics, hydrology, development economics, nuclear physics, healthcare management, and agronomy.
He was previously a Program Director at the National Science Foundation (2015-2016); a Professor at Purdue University (2000-2015); Co-Chair for Pure Mathematics for Canada's National Science and Engineering Research Council (2011-2012); Science Advisor for African Affairs in the U.S. Department of State (2010-2011); and held positions in Spain, France, Texas, and Chile. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation since 2003, and recently by the Office of Naval Research. Viens holds a Maîtrise de Mathématiques Pures from the Université de Paris 7, France (1991), and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California, Irvine (1996). He lives with his spouse, Dr. Carolyn Johnston, in rural Shiawassee Co., MI.