



Dear Robin,...
A Tribute to Robin Lock
Recipient of the 2024 George Cobb
Lifetime Achievement Award
from the Statistics Education Community



WHAT'S NEXT?

MOVING FORWARD
ECOTS 2024
JUNE 10TH - JUNE 13TH
WORKSHOPS ON
JUNE 7TH AND 14TH

February 26, 2024

Dear Award Selection Committee,

It is our great honor to nominate our colleague, **Robin H. Lock**, for the *2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement* award. We know Robin as a patient and generous mentor who is tirelessly devoted to his students and to Statistics education. Over the course of his 40-year career at St. Lawrence University, Robin has given more than 130 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences; has co-authored popular statistics textbooks; has played leadership roles for sections within the American Statistical Association (ASA), served on editorial boards, and served on committees for the ASA and Mathematical Association of American (MAA); has built a vibrant undergraduate Statistics program at St. Lawrence; and has engaged in activities to promote and strengthen quantitative education at the high school level. In this nomination letter, we elaborate on these numerous and varied activities, and by the end, we hope you agree that Robin Lock is highly deserving of the *2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement* award.

As a leader in the statistics education community, Robin has consistently looked ahead for innovative ways to engage students in statistics. Through his scholarly activities since the mid-1980s, Robin has advocated for the use of technology and real data for teaching statistics. As early as 1984, Robin was writing papers on using computer simulation to teach statistics. Robin has highlighted how technology can be used to foster conceptual understanding of statistical ideas with presentations such as “Using Fathom to Promote Dynamic Explorations of Statistical Concepts” and “What is R^2 ? Using Dynamic Graphics to Illustrate Ideas in Regression” (the latter was named as the Dexter Whittinghill Outstanding Contributed Paper in Statistics Education in 2007 by the Special Interest Group on Statistics Education in the MAA). In recent years, simulation-based inference has featured prominently in his scholarly work. As further evidence of Robin’s tendency to be forward thinking, one of his recent presentations at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) was titled “Technology for Teaching Statistics – Can It Get Any Better Than This?”.

Since the early 1990s, finding and using real data in the classroom has been a consistent theme of Robin’s conference presentations and professional work. Two such JSM presentations – “Data Surfing on the World Wide Web” in 1996 and “Data Surfing on the World Wide Web – Part 2” in 2016 – were selected by his peers as recipients of the Outstanding Contributed Paper award given by the ASA Section on Statistics Education. When the *Journal of Statistics Education* was founded in 1993, Robin was on the first editorial board, fittingly as an editor of the “Data Sets and Stories” section. He wrote the inaugural article (“1993 New Car Data”) that appeared in the first issue. He served on that editorial board until 2000.

Robin is a charismatic speaker with an amazing ability to make nearly any idea make sense. Over the course of his career, Robin has given **more than 130 presentations**, with at least one regional, national, or international conference presentation per year since the early 2000s. In addition, he has co-led **nearly 60 national/regional workshops** on teaching statistics. These include workshops at JSM, JMM, and USCOTS on teaching with simulation-based methods, BAPS (Beyond AP Statistics) and INSPIRE workshops for high school teachers of statistics, and a “Statistical Inference in the Common Core” workshop for local grade 6-12 teachers.

A summary of Robin’s scholarship portfolio would not be complete without mentioning that he has co-authored several well-respected statistics textbooks, including *Statistics: UnLocking the Power of Data* and *Stat2: Modeling with Regression and ANOVA*. The “Lock⁵” textbook has become a popular choice for an introductory statistics text due to its innovative use of randomization-based methods to introduce



statistical inference, the support provided by the authors through workshops (18 since 2011) and webinars (10 since 2013), and the free online tool StatKey. Arguably, StatKey itself has transformed statistics education. It makes conducting simulation-based inference easy and intuitive, and even those who don't take a simulation-based approach to statistics can incorporate StatKey into their courses with ease as a tool for visualizing and working with Normal (and other) distributions. The statistics on StatKey usage are astounding – since it went live in 2012, StatKey has had over **two million** cumulative users and has been accessed by at least 100 devices in **88 countries**.

Robin has held numerous leadership roles within sections of the ASA, including Program Chair, Executive Board member, and Chair of the Section on Statistics Education (now named the Section on Statistics and Data Science Education); and Publications Officer, Program Chair, and Council of Sections Representative for the Section on Statistics in Sports. He has also been a member of several influential committees for the ASA and MAA, including the ASA-MAA Joint Committee on Undergraduate Statistics (as Chair in 2003-2004 & 2007-2008) and the MAA Committee on Reform of the First Two Years (2003-2008). Perhaps the most influential committee of which Robin was a member was that which produced the GAISE (Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education) College Report in 2003-2004. The GAISE report, endorsed by the ASA in 2005, has transformed statistics education at the college level, as well as the PreK-12 levels. Many of the principles that Robin has championed throughout his career (including use of technology and use of real data) appear as recommendations in the GAISE report. In 2014-2016, Robin served on the committee that reviewed and updated the GAISE report.

While making all of these contributions to statistics education at the national level, Robin was simultaneously building a strong undergraduate statistics program at St. Lawrence. He started in 1983 as the only statistician in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department; we are now the Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics Department, with five (soon to be 6) statisticians and recently approved majors in Statistics and Data Science. St. Lawrence University is a school with about 2,200 undergraduate students, and since 2019, Statistics has been a “top 15” major (out of the 74 majors available at St. Lawrence) with 15-20 graduates per year and is consistently a “top 5” minor with 15-20 students graduating per year (prior to the Statistics major, the number of minors per year was closer 40). The introductory statistics course offered at St. Lawrence is one of the most popular courses on campus, with nearly 75% of St. Lawrence students taking the course before they graduate. There is also high demand for all of the statistics courses we offer. The popularity of these courses can, in part, be attributed to the culture that Robin has cultivated. Robin generously mentored all of the statisticians that have joined him at St. Lawrence. He is always willing to answer questions and provide advice, while at the same time respecting the autonomy of his colleagues and similarly seeking their advice.

Robin is a highly sought out mentor for senior capstone projects, having mentored **more than 50 independent senior projects** (at a typical rate of 2-4 per year). As with everything Robin does, the variety among these projects is astonishing, with topics ranging from sports (baseball, hockey, golf, horse racing, and soccer) to finance to environmental data to Shiny apps. Some of these student projects have even resulted in JSM/JMM presentations with student co-authors, including two which earned the Outstanding Statistics in Sports Poster Award (2007 & 2008) at JSM.

In all of his courses, Robin “practices what he preaches.” Technology is at the foundation of all of Robin’s courses. He has long since done away with paper tables in his introductory course, in favor of intuitive, visual tools like StatKey. He relies on RStudio in his regression and time series courses and even utilizes tools like WolframAlpha in his probability course so that students can focus on concepts over



calculations. Walking by his classroom on any given day, you might overhear mention of the “honey bee waggle dance” or ponder the question “Are mosquitos more attracted to beer drinkers?”.

In recognition of his efforts at St. Lawrence, Robin was the first faculty member appointed as the Jack and Sylvia Burry Chair in Statistics in 2000, an appointment which he held for twenty years. In 2001, his commitment to St. Lawrence was rewarded with the J. Calvin Keene Award “in recognition of high standards of personal scholarship, effective teaching, and moral concerns.” Further, because of his excellence in teaching, innovative scholarship, and broad impact on statistics education, Robin was the first recipient of the Waller Distinguished Teaching Career Award in 2014.

Beyond college statistics, Robin has actively promoted quantitative education at the high school level. He has been involved with **AP Statistics since 2001**, serving as a Reader in 2001-2002, a Table Leader in 2004-2018 and 2023, and a Question leader in 2019 and 2022. He has co-led several workshops targeted at AP Statistics teachers. Closer to home, for over 30 years, Robin has been the organizer of the Pi Mu Epsilon Interscholastic Mathematics Contest for high school students in our area. For this exam, which is attended by more than a dozen local high schools, Robin writes the exam (there are team and individual components), organizes the grading of the exams, and provides entertainment – usually in the form of short talks or math puzzles – for the high school teachers chaperoning their students. The highest scoring senior student earns a scholarship of up to \$5,000 per year to attend St. Lawrence.

Much to our dismay, the conversations about Robin’s inevitable retirement are becoming more frequent. Even so, Robin shows no signs of slowing down; at the moment, he is actively involved in a National Science Foundation grant to create teaching modules and materials using sports data, is thinking ahead about new editions of his popular textbooks, and continues to mentor astonishing numbers of students. A recent accomplishment about which Robin will boast – and you do not hear Robin boast often! – is that he presented at his 10th consecutive International Conference on Teaching Statistics (ICOTS) in Rosario, Argentina in the fall of 2022; to our knowledge, no one else has attended as many consecutive ICOTS. Knowing Robin as we do, we imagine this was a particularly hard decision for Robin as he had to cancel class – something he loathes to do – to keep his streak alive.

In conclusion, Robin’s contributions to statistics education are wide-ranging and long-lasting. Any small number of the accomplishments outlined in this letter would be impressive; the fact that he has done all of this, and more, is astounding. Robin is patient and generous with his time. Above all else, though, Robin is humble. He does what he does for his students, his colleagues, and the statistics education community not with the goal of recognition but out of love for the field and education in general. The remainder of this packet includes seven letters of support from individuals who know Robin in different capacities; we feel these letters emphasize Robin’s truly wide-ranging impact on statistics education. When we solicited these letters of support, a common response we heard was “How can I possibly sum up Robin’s impact in a single page?!?”. We agree; the scope of what Robin has accomplished in his career is beyond impressive. We cannot imagine a more deserving candidate for the *2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement* award than **Robin H. Lock**, and it is our great honor to nominate him.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica Chapman
Cummings Professor of Statistics

Dr. Michael Schuckers
Charles A. Dana Professor of Statistics

Dr. Ivan Ramler
Burry Associate Professor of Statistics

Dear Robin,

Congratulations on winning the Cobb award!! How well deserved. It has been my great pleasure to have worked alongside you for the past 22 years. I have benefitted and appreciated every moment. While you have done amazing things in so many areas of Statistics Education, I will always think of your dedication to our St. Lawrence students. This is epitomized in the pictures below with all the efforts you put into taking students to conferences. It is also exemplified in the times you stayed up all night to ensure students got quick feedback on projects and exams. You have also been a steadfast and selfless colleague to so many at St. Lawrence by serving the university and the community in countless ways from helping with last minute course enrollments to lending a hand with the new registration system. You've built such a strong foundation of Statistics (and Data Science) at SLU which is such an amazing accomplishment. I will cherish memories of HRUMC, Deep in the SLUers and your generosity with your insights and wisdom.

Yours in New England Clam Chowder,
Michael



Dear Robin,

First and foremost, **congratulations** on your very well-deserved award! I want to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you've done for me as a professor, advisor, and now colleague. Your mentorship has had a lasting impact on me, both as a student and now as an educator. I thoroughly enjoy our daily disc golf outings and our weekly Monday chats about the latest happenings in the sports world. I also wanted to thank you for the impact you have had on the Scarlet and Brown. You consistently attend all your students' events—Q-Clubs, graduations, matriculations, games, and honors society inductions—not out of obligation, but because you genuinely care about each and every one of us in the SLU community.

Thank you for your dedication and support. **Congratulations**, Robin.

A.J.



Dear Robin,

Few individuals can claim to have left a significant impact on numerous introductory statistics classrooms, but you are undoubtedly one of them. As an educator, I consistently rely on the StatKey applet in my classes. Its intuitive interface allows students to visualize the intricacies of bootstrap confidence intervals and randomization hypothesis tests effortlessly. Moreover, this website facilitates a focus on conceptual understanding, aligning perfectly with the principles outlined in the GAISE 2016 College Report. Lastly, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable contributions to not just one, but two GAISE college reports.

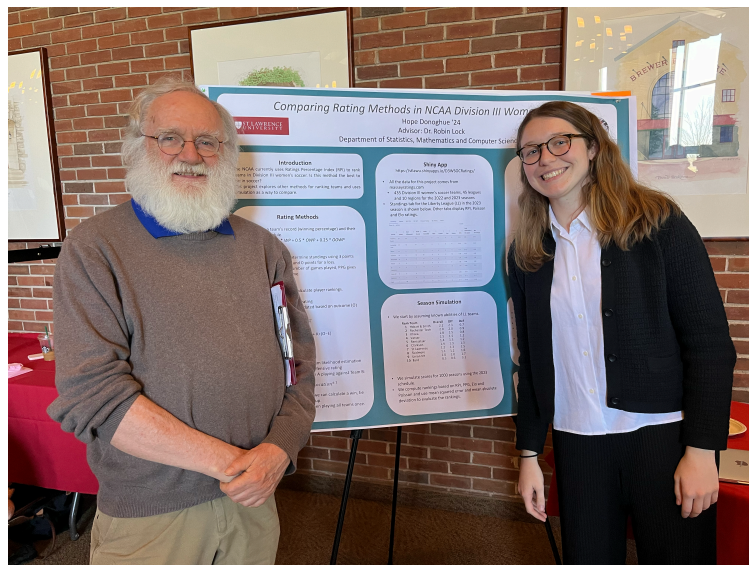
Best Regards,
Megan

Dear Robin,

Congratulations on winning the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award! I cannot think of anyone more deserving than you to win this award. Thank you so much for everything you have done for me over these past four years at St. Lawrence University and for everything you have done for the field of statistics. I have thoroughly enjoyed being in your classes, having you as my advisor and working with you one-on-one on my senior thesis. Your guidance and support has meant the world to me and I cannot thank you enough.

Best wishes,

Hope



Dear Robin,

Congratulations on receiving the George Cobb Award! One of the good strokes of luck in my life was meeting you at SLAW I (remember our use of Roman numerals?) and getting to know you. I have always been impressed by your work ethic, your commitment to statistics education, and the generous way that you help others.

I particularly remember when we were getting the Stat2 venture started and the two of us sat in an airport bar and outlined the book. We didn't produce the final outline, of course, but we helped move the project forward. Later, you sent me draft notes as you were teaching a very early version of the Stat2 course. I would offer a few comments, sometimes too late for you to use them in class, as you were working right up to the limit, leaving little turnaround time. But when I taught my own early version of Stat2 the following semester I leaned heavily on your notes. All these years later, my Stat2 PowerPoint slides still have your fingerprints all over them.

I can't help but also mention the fun that it has been to compete with you in fantasy golf, wondering what statistical modeling you are using to choose the right players so often. My approach of "throw darts at a dartboard" doesn't work nearly as well.

In addition to being proud of what you have accomplished professionally, I hope your heart is filled with joyful feelings from the many great experiences we have shared when we weren't working -- quite a few of them in New Zealand or in Marrakesh (trying to get kids to ignore us as we walked toward the souks, by pretending to speak a language none of them had heard) or on the Amazon (catching piranha sure is easy) or in Japan (using Google Translate to figure out what a menu says). This is not to mention fun in the US, playing croquet at River House or golf in Grinnell or hiking on the red rocks in Sedona. (And I won't mention getting lost in Oak Creek ;-)

Jeff

Hey Robin, **congratulations** on the award! I have a hard time thinking of anyone more deserving!

Albert (Smith College)

Albert Y Kim



Robin and Jeff playing croquet at River House in Maine



Robin, Brad, Jeff, and Allan in Sedona

Dear Robin,

“PhD in Mathematics & Statistics, University of Massachusetts-Amherst. 33 years college teaching experience.” That this is all you have on your page for our department website speaks volumes. Given all you have accomplished and the accolades you have received this is amazingly understated, if not a bit out of date.

Congratulations on being this year's recipient of the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education; an honor that is well deserved. Your indefatigable work to advance statistics education, both in and out of the classroom, is deserving of this recognition, even if you will never tell anyone about it.

Congratulations again!

-Dan

Dear Robin,

Congratulations on this much deserved award! While helping put together the nomination, it was just amazing to see how much you've done for statistics education!

There certainly is so much I could say about how beneficial it has been to work with you these past 15 years, but I'll keep it short and to a more recent fun memory.

I'll likely always remember trapesing around with you in State College, PA during USCOTS 2023. Between playing Disc Golf in poison ivy infested woods (and also in a very nice mountain side course) and going on a beer run because the hotel bar closed early, it certainly led to quite the memorable conference!

Thanks again for being so awesome!

Ivan

Congratulations G Rups! One of my favorite indicators of how great you are as a teacher is that all 3 of your kids had you for introductory statistics and all 3 of your kids became statisticians!

Photo 1: Teaching the next generation.

Photo 2: Supporting his son at a Bills game!



Dennis Lock |
Senior Director of Football Research
BUFFALO BILLS



Dear Robin,

I am writing to extend my heartfelt **congratulations** on being awarded the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award, a truly well-deserved recognition. Your mentorship during my undergraduate studies, particularly through the SYE project and your assistance during the graduate school application process, has been invaluable to me. You not only imparted upon me the ability to establish a systematic knowledge framework in statistics but also inspired me to tirelessly pursue my goals.

Thank you for being a remarkable mentor and an exemplary figure in academia. Your dedication to teaching and your passion for statistics have not only enriched my learning experience but have also motivated me to strive for excellence in all my endeavors. It is with great admiration and respect that I look up to you, and I am proud to have been your student.

Warm regards,
Yu (Victoria)



We are so proud to be related to this phenomenal man who loves his family, statistics, teaching, and sunsets. **Congratulations**, Robin, on this richly deserved honor. We love you!

Judy and Mark

A pivotal moment in the very beginning of my professional career began during my sophomore fall semester back in 2014 in Dr. Lock's Intro to Stats class. I initially signed up for the class to fill an elective requirement, but that quickly changed. I distinctly remember during one of the first classes, Dr. Lock was explaining the concept of correlation vs. causation, using an example of a city that over many years had shown statistical evidence of strong positive correlation between the population of storks and the newborn birth rate. Dr. Lock pointed out the obvious - that the storks did not in fact deliver the babies - and thus, correlation does not imply causation. I was both entertained and fascinated by this obvious example exposing a not-so-obvious statistical fact. Needless to say, I became enthralled about how statistics apply to and affect our lives and immediately submitted the paperwork to become a stats major. Years later in my career in data and AI, I still find myself using concepts I learned back in Dr. Lock's various classes at SLU. Oh, and my "fun fact" at work is that we predicted the 2017 Kentucky Derby winner, "Always Dreaming", using the random forest algorithm we built for my senior thesis. I will forever be grateful for everything I learned in Dr. Lock's classroom.

Congratulations, Dr. Lock!

Elsa

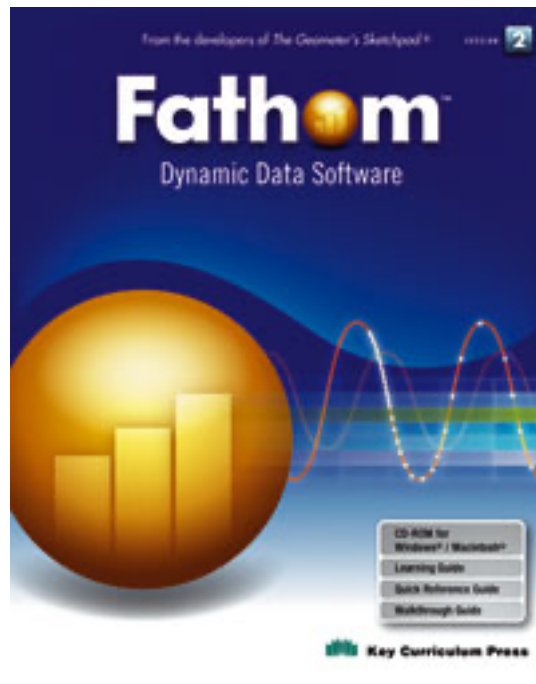


Robin,

One of your *many* contributions to statistics education was the time you put into helping to make *Fathom* such an excellent piece of software. I am forever grateful. You were a joy to work with!

Bill

Bill Finzer



Dear Robin,

I am thrilled to hear that you have been selected as this year's winner of the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award. During my Ph.D. studies, I had the privilege of using your textbook, "Statistics: Unlocking the Power of Data," which later proved to be an invaluable resource when I taught my own introductory statistics course. The textbook is exceptionally well-suited for college students just beginning their studies in Statistics. Your work not only enabled me to teach effectively but also inspired me to pursue a career in teaching statistics. **Congratulations** on this well-deserved recognition!

Regards,
Lillian

Lillian Li

Congratulations on winning this well-deserved award recognizing all that you have done for the statistics education community!

As a leader of the Lock clan's efforts to bring randomization and resampling methods to the mainstream in introductory statistics courses, you have provided materials and tools that have transformed the way in which intro stat is taught at many institutions and motivated many faculty to include new methods in their courses. I love that much of the work on that first edition occurred in my living room!

And from me, thanks for making me think hard about what I do in the classroom and motivating me to be a better teacher. You were the first person I ever heard explain bootstrap sampling in a way I thought my students could understand.

And a huge thanks for your friendship over the years. I have loved getting to know you and your family and our travels in Africa and Brazil.

So happy to see your contributions recognized in this lifetime achievement award. And of course, producing three Statistics Ph.D. children is a lifetime achievement in its own right!

Roxy



Dear Robin,

Huge **congratulations** for winning the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award! You have made such a big mark on Statistics Education, from your energy and leadership in the AP Statistics program for many years, to the intro stat textbook that you wrote with your family, to your work on the STAT 2 book, to your support of all those around you in the profession. Thank you for being such a good mentor, colleague, and friend for too many years to count!

Cheers!
Ann

Ann Cannon

Dear Robin,

Throughout your remarkable career, you have been an inspiring beacon in statistics education. Your unwavering commitment over four decades to teaching and mentoring has touched the lives of countless students and statistics instructors. I'm always impressed with how you find creative and effective ways to demystify statistics and improve its instruction. Your engaging approach leave an invaluable legacy. We are appreciative of all that you've done on so many fronts.

Warmly, Nick

Nick Horton

Dear Robin,

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award! I have been very fortunate to have you as my advisor since my freshman year. Your dedication and interest in my development have been invaluable. Your unwavering support and insightful guidance have profoundly shaped my journey at SLU. Thank you for all your advice and for making statistical concepts as clear as a well-constructed histogram.

Best,
Margar (class of '20)

Margar Harutyunyan



Robin at USCOTS

Dear Robin,

I want to thank you for not only all of the help and conversations during the many AP Statistics readings, but also for being a great professor and mentor for my son in his four years at SLU. Of course, I will never forget all of your help to the infamous boot-strapping Q6 problem, when you went back in the evening and I think ran 1000 samples, and you weren't even on our team! I have also had the privilege of attending many of your sessions and workshops over the years at various conferences. I can't think of anyone more dedicated to statistics and statistics education who is deserving of this award.

Congratulations!

Jennifer



Congratulations, Robin, on your selection as the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award winner for 2024. Our wonderful group of friends from our University of Massachusetts days are all aware of many reasons you deserve this honor. Here are some of them:

- First, you are incredibly generous with your time. All of us from the UMass gang have asked for your help in statistics teaching and other professional development many times, and you have always responded with energy and enthusiasm. To have influence beyond your own campus, you have to be willing to share, and your gracious help has meant a lot to all of us.
- Second, your exceptional combination of skills from the technical end of coding and computing to the human touch of teaching and mentoring means that the community asks for your help often, and in all kinds of ways. In my own case, you've helped me with reviewing and writing; with letters for colleagues up for tenure or promotion; as a referee and a reference; and with dynamic examples to add to my teaching portfolio.
- Third, you have that knack of finding the 'just right' level at which to do a problem or explain a concept. Your patience as you work to make an example 'just right' has often come to mind when I'm ready to give up at 'sort of OK' on a project.
- Finally, and most important, is your devotion to statistics and statistics education. Our group knows that to get you to respond to any email query, all one has to do is also include a question about statistics and you will answer both! So we never ask you just, "How are the Grandkids?" but instead, "How are the Grandkids and do you have a good example I can use to illustrate the difference between a paired and two-sample t-test?"—then we get all the news!

All of us who have worked with you can sense your excitement and the 'twinkle in the eye' when you see that we've had the 'aha moment!' Generations of students at Saint Lawrence undoubtedly have felt this too, and will also be happy to hear that you have been honored for this commitment.

With gratitude and deep affection, Rick Cleary and the rest of our UMass and related family: Ann Trenk, Phil Kalina, Donna Spiegler, Freda Bennett, Ron Coleman, Alice Dean, Gove Effinger, Mark Elmer, Sue Fettes, Forrest Baulieu, Mary Prisco



Hannawa Group 2019

Dear Robin,
Congratulations on being selected as the recipient of the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award! You and George had enormous impact on my life, and I'm deeply indebted. I treasure his memory, and now I treasure this acknowledgement of your outstanding career.

At this point I can hardly remember when I didn't know you. You and Patti made an immediate impression on me way back in the 80's when we were all youngsters in the statistics education community. Your passion for teaching statistics, your heart for your students, and your commitment to professional growth – and to helping others grow – were inspirational. And still are!

If I ever grow up, I want to be like you.

Thank you for being a wonderful colleague and friend for so long.
Ron

Ron Wasserstein

Kenyon College

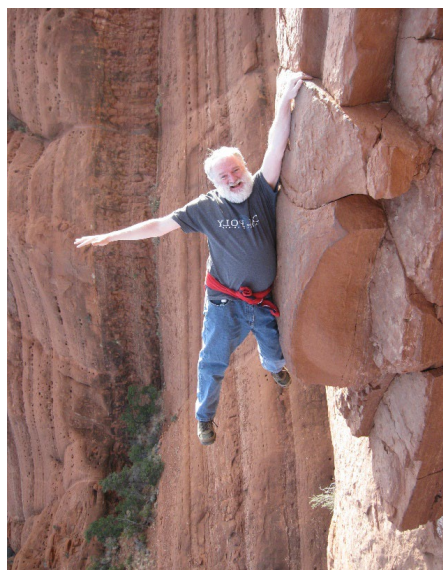
May 10, 2024

Dear Robin:

Congratulations on winning the 2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education. Since our initial meeting at JSM back in the 1990s, I have lost count of how many meals we shared and events we attended. The photo below illustrates what usually happens when we get together. Even though we were in Sedona for a writing meeting, we found time to take hikes through the red rocks and have fun.

No matter what pulls us together, a visit to an ice cream shop, a football game, a conference or meeting, a round of golf (regular or frisbee), or a visit at one of our homes, the conversations always turn to statistics and sports. We have worked together on more projects than I can list in this short tribute.

When I think of the impact that you have had on our profession, it is hard to pinpoint one major highlight of your career because you have been successful in providing so many resources and such great advice to thousands of teachers and students. One might be tempted to focus on technology, since your efforts with Fathom, Minitab, RStudio, and StatKey have all had major impacts on the daily activities teachers are using in their classroom. Another might focus on sports analytics and modeling, because of your continued success with student capstone projects, service and initiatives with the ASA Section on Sports, and the way you integrate sports examples and exercises into textbooks and classroom materials. Yet another may focus on the impact of your teaching and mentoring of mathematicians at numerous sessions and workshops to help them teach statistics by incorporating real data, active learning, and permutation/resampling tests that they never learned in their graduate courses. I could go on, but your impact on statisticians, mathematicians, high school teachers, sports analysts, and data scientists through activities with ASA, MAA, AP Statistics, AMATYC, ICOTS, IASE, and CAUSE is incredible.



Dedicated, caring, motivated, loyal, ideal colleague, netminder, technology guru, thoughtful, unusually astute listener, quiet, supportive, and family man are often used to describe you. As a netminder you are used to having pucks fired at you on a regular basis, but the way you apply netminder skills at conferences, workshops, and in classes is amazing. While participants or students are constantly firing questions, you calmly respond with sound and thoughtful advice to help them understand the material.

It has been a pleasure working with and learning from you for over thirty years. We had the privilege of having many spirited conversations with George, especially about the best way to present material in a modeling textbook. There is no doubt in my mind that George would be proud to have you win this prestigious award named in his honor. You have made me a better teacher, and I value our friendship more than I can say.

Congratulations,

Bradley A. Hartlaub, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics

Department of
Mathematics and Statistics

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201 N. College Road
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9623

740-427-5405 phone
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Brad Hartlaub



Dear Robin,

Congratulations on being honored with the George Cobb USCOTS lifetime achievement award – you are SO deserving of this special recognition! You have been inspirational to me and the statistics education community to strive for excellence when it comes to our students. It has meant so much to me the support you have provided through the years for professional efforts and projects I have been involved. I will always remember three events when I think of you. Coming in at #3, teaching a technology challenged person (me) on how to access the internet in the 1990's. At the #2 spot, rescuing this technology challenged person at the 2016 reading so clickers could be used at her presentation. And now #1 (drum roll), Robin, the master at moving tables both when he isn't supposed to and then reverting them back in record time to avoid a Chief Reader's exasperation (eye roll, big smile).

Robin, I will always be grateful that I have been blessed to have you and your amazing family as dear colleagues and friends!

Chris

Chris Franklin

Dr. Lock,

And so here we are.

Montagues vs Capulets. Sharks vs Jets. Yankees vs Red Sox. Nugents vs Locks.

After years of (notably one-sided, as you and yours did not actually know for quite some time that we were your sworn enemies) academic feuding to see which family could get the most related authors on an academic publication, you go off and win the 2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education. And now we'll never catch up.

We suppose you have been selected for your incredible and long-sustained contributions to the field of statistics and data science education and the mentoring and guidance that you have provided to thousands of students and young academics. Or for your vision and dedication to broadening and deepening the impact that data have had on all of our lives. But we know the pain and suffering it takes to get several family members to agree on anything, let alone publish a paper. Let alone publish an extremely well-regarded textbook. It's not for the faint-hearted, and you, sir, have been an admirable adversary. On behalf of the extended Nugent family, we congratulate you on this well-deserved accomplishment. Be forewarned though – if you start pulling in the grandchildren, the gloves are off.

Best wishes,



Rebecca Nugent
Fienberg Professor of Statistics & Data Science
Head, Department of Statistics & Data Science
Carnegie Mellon University



Kenneth Nugent, MD
Vice Chair, Education and Scholarship
Department of Internal Medicine
Texas Tech University School of Medicine

Congratulations on your lifetime achievement award, Rups! I remember you jumping up on your desk and shouting at the class to get our attention when we were misunderstanding some concept in Intro Stat. I don't remember what the concept was (sorry!), but I remember thinking "wow, my father sure is passionate about statistics education."

-Eric

Congratulations Robin! This award is so well deserved. The first time we met—which you surely would not remember—was my first USCOTS in North Carolina in 2013. I was conducting a few interviews that Joan had arranged for feedback on an assessment tool in development at the time, and I remember being thrilled about the chance to have a one-on-one research discussion with you. In the ten years since, I think we’ve managed to connect in one way or another at possibly every statistics education conference I’ve attended. I have many fond memories with you as a result, but I can think of occasions when you had been very nearly the only person in the audience when I presented at a couple of those conferences—one-on-one research discussions of a different sort, I guess! I thank you for the indelible impact you’ve made on our profession, but I also thank you personally many years of friendship, fond memories, kindness, and support.

-Matt

Robin and Matt at a tea ceremony in Kyoto, Japan.



Dear Robin,

Congratulations on receiving the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education. This award is so well deserved! We've known each other for over 40 years, and you have always been a great friend and colleague. As you know, I taught a course on research methods in the psychology department for many years (in fact, your son Dennis, who now has a PhD in statistics, was one of my students), and a prerequisite for my course was that a student needed to have already taken Introductory Stat 113 in the math department. Almost without fail, students who took your section of 113 were the most knowledgeable and prepared for my course. Moreover, whenever I had a thorny statistics issue with my own research, you were always willing to consult with me to try to help solve the problem.

Soon after you arrived at St. Lawrence, you became well known for your weekly Science Center Football Pool. For a mere 25 cents per week (or for no fee, just playing for honor), faculty and staff can pick which teams they think would win that week. When you announced the results the following week — and gave inventive, funny nicknames to the person who “won” and to the person who “lost” — ever the stat professor you also educated us all on how our individual picks deviated from chance. Like many other emeriti, even though I've been retired for eight years, I still send in my picks during the fall season.

On a more personal level, when our three children and your three children were all young, Friday nights were typically reserved for pizza, wings, beer, and sometimes darts, at either your house at ours. On one of those occasions, I mentioned that I needed to find someone who would act as a mad slasher (see picture, circa 1993) to demonstrate a phenomenon known as *weapon focus* for a textbook I was writing on human memory. Of course, you volunteered to roleplay a knife-wielding attacker. Very convincingly, too!

Wishing you all the best my friend, and congratulations again,

Alan

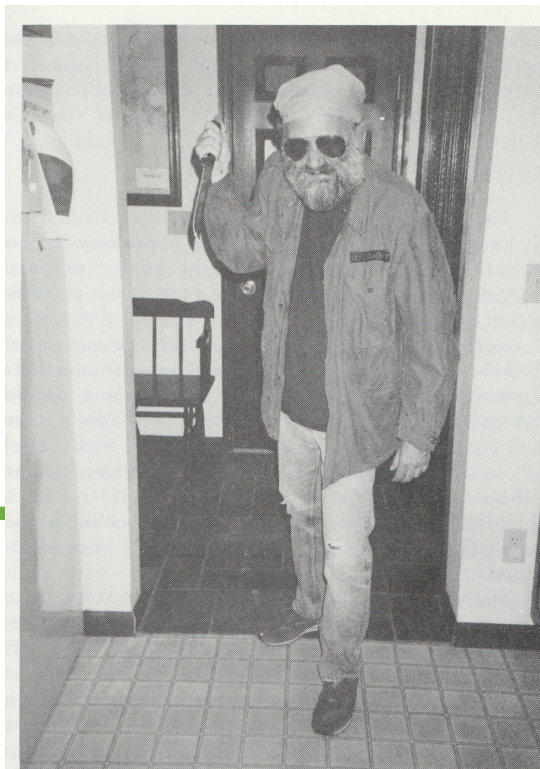


FIGURE 8.1
A knife-wielding attacker (usually a statistics professor).

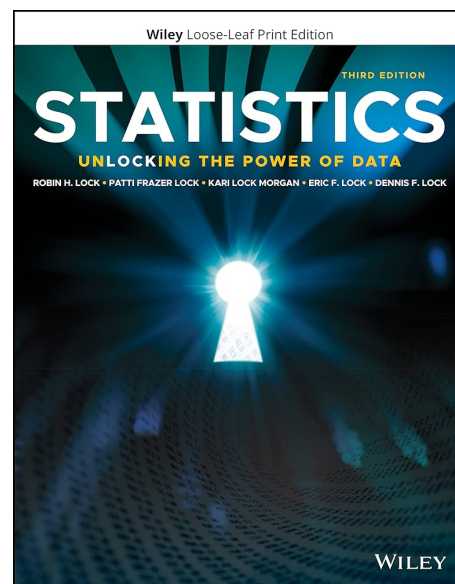
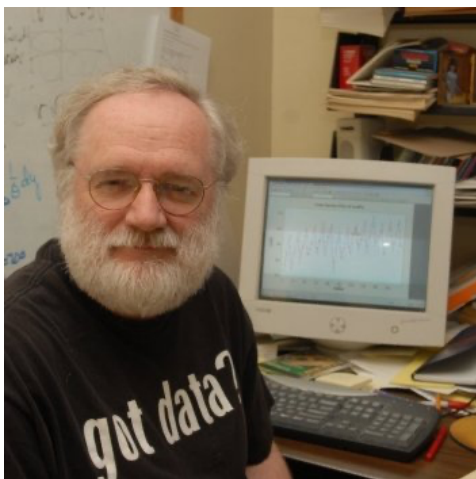
Dear Robin,

You taught me how to teach statistics. When I arrived at St. Lawrence University to start my first tenure-track position, I discovered that I had been assigned to teach introductory statistics—a course that not only had I never taught before, but I had never taken as a student. I was very much at sea until someone gave me the best advice I could possibly have received: “Talk to Robin Lock.” You shared your course structure, your ideas, your notes, and most importantly your attitude: make statistics engaging. A colleague from another department once described your approach to your courses as “playful,” and I think he was right. Introductory statistics has been one of my favorite courses to teach over the nearly 40 years since then, even as both the subject and the course have evolved in many ways—in large part because of improvements that you yourself helped to pioneer.

Our connection extends far beyond the professional, of course. From the first time you and Patti invited Sue and me to your house for pizza, to our festive visit to Graceland, right on through the recent Christmas Eve when you came out in a snowstorm to get me home from an unplanned trip to the emergency room, you have been a superb friend. Congratulations on your well-deserved honor.

With warm best wishes,

Mike

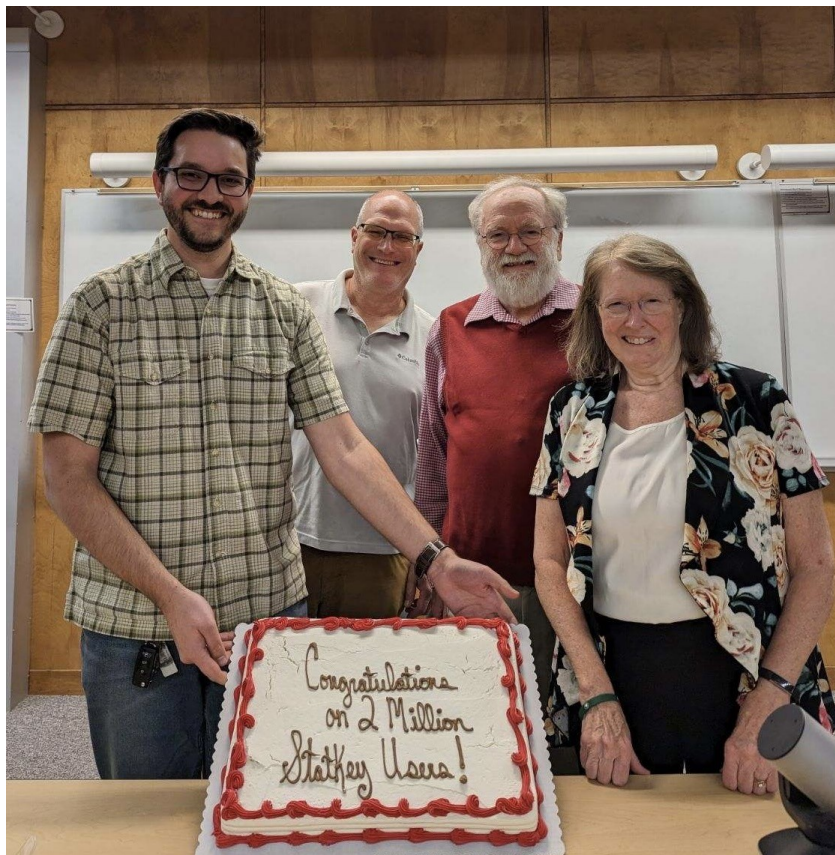


Dear Robin,

We would like to congratulate you on this well-deserved lifetime achievement award in statistics education. StatKey would not be impacting the lives of students around the world without your friendly, cheerful, serious, passionate, and tenacity in designing and championing this project. We're sorry for the steady stream of changes and tweaks that you had to BUG us about. With over 2 million users to date, this software is one of the most impactful projects we've had the pleasure of working on. It also launched the careers of a number of your students who worked on StatKey tirelessly over the summer months (while Ed watched).

Kevin is also sorry that his addition of the theoretical distributions meant you no longer had an excuse to look at those horrid tables. Rich congratulates you on 0.05% of all possible public IP addresses accessing StatKey. We all have benefited from your kindness, support, and humor over all these years.

Best wishes from the StatKey development team,
Rich Sharp, Kevin Angstadt, and Ed Harcourt



Dear Robin,
Congratulations on being the recipient of the 2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award! Your dedication to your students and the St. Lawrence is inspiring. I am honored to call you my colleague, and I have learned so much from you.

Best Wishes, Jessica

The department kids love spending time with “Dr. Robin”



When he’s not in the classroom, you can often find Robin on the disc golf course.



Dear Robin,

I am so happy that you have earned the Cobb award for 2024. You richly deserve it. **Congratulations!**

I've had much good luck in my life but meeting you at the Oneonta conference in 1987 is right near the top of the list. It was there that Rosemary and I got the idea for SLAW and where you became for SLAW what Lake Itasca is to the Mighty Mississippi. The first afternoon you and Patti gave wonderful talks where I learned about some nifty in-class ways to collect data from students, including the doctored dice, which became one of my favorites. I first wondered if it would really work—but it always worked like a charm. You also gave a great talk on computing and later showed a golf simulator. In 1987, I was still pretty new to teaching statistics, and you were already a pro.

But the SLAW idea really germinated that afternoon after your talks when the four of us—you, Patti, Rosemary, and I—shared conversation over beer. Rosemary and I were inspired by meeting you and when we organized SLAW I, you were the obvious first invitee. Without SLAW, my professional life would have been pretty blah. So thank you for saying “yes.”

But what became a professional break was also a personal one as your friendship has always been special to me. And what has made our association special was how the professional and personal blend. Recently I wrote down more memories than I can share here, but I'll share a couple.

At a Joint Math Meeting one unseasonably balmy January in Baltimore, we were strolling along the inner harbor, when I wondered aloud if the water in the Bay would be salt water? Ever the data guy, you knelt down, scooped up a handful, tasted it, and gave the verdict: “Not salty.”

In the 2007 SLAW meeting in Grinnell, I remember a walk after dinner to the home of my two grandkids. Jack was 3, so enjoyed the softball game with some of the gang, but the mental picture I have is of you holding three-month old Edie for the longest time. (Somewhere I have a photo but couldn't find it for this occasion.) By now you are surely earning another lifetime achievement award in being a grandfather. You were clearly a natural.

At JSM in 1996 (Chicago), we were having a celebratory drink with George, Don Bentley, and Laurie Snell on the occasion of Laurie's being named a Fellow. Don was declaiming the folly of the GPA as a valid measure, and I was being equally passionate on the other side of the issue. After we lost steam on the topic and we were all heading back to our rooms I asked you on the DL, “Do you think it makes sense to compute GPAs?” “Of course it does,” you answered. We got a laugh out of that, and it is probably the only time you didn't come through for me. But I got you back on that ninth-hole lake fiasco at the Grinnell Country Club.

Then there are the times your inner GPS instincts came to bear. At the end of that 1996 Chicago JSM, I needed to get to O'Hare. I had flown into Midway, but by luck our departure times were close, so I just let you guide me through

Chicago's streets to the proper El stop and on into ORD. I didn't have to think a bit and by saving a cab fare for Grinnell College, I assuaged my tightwad sensibilities. Your uncanny sense of direction also came in handy for the memorable 2 a.m. Kinkos run in San Antonio in January of 1993.

Thank you so much for your loyal participation in SLAW for over 30 years and for all you have done for me. But thank you also for all you have done for our beloved field of statistics education, for which this award is so richly given. I will end with one other memory about Laurie at another JSM when he and I were having lunch together. I forget the particulars, except that at some point he made it clear that he was keeping an eye on the clock because – and I paraphrase – “Robin Lock is giving a talk this afternoon and I don't want to miss it. Robin's talks are always great.” I had a pretty smart advisor and as usual he was right. I didn't want to miss it either and we finished our lunch on time.

Enjoy eCOTS and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Tom

PS: Here is a photo from an early SLAW meeting at Grinnell House. You and the eponym and some other great folks.



Dear Robin,

Congratulations on winning the 2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award, a well-deserved recognition of your many, many valuable contributions to Statistics Education. Hundreds of college instructors and high school teachers have greatly benefited from your innovative and influential work on developing effective teaching methods. You have been an important contributor to the success of AP Statistics, providing insightful leadership at AP Statistics Readings and providing greatly appreciated guidance and encouragement to AP Statistics teachers during the last two decades. Thank you for all you have done.

Ken

Ken Koehler

Dear Robin,

Congratulations on receiving this award! From my very first statistics class to completing my honors project, you have always been one of the most supportive people throughout my academic journey. You pushed me to make the most of my St. Lawrence experience both inside and outside the classroom, and I can't thank you enough. You have been an inspiration for countless students, and thank you for showing all of us your passion for teaching. Wishing you the best for everything to come!

Thank you for everything!

Brenden

Brenden Bready



Dear Robin-

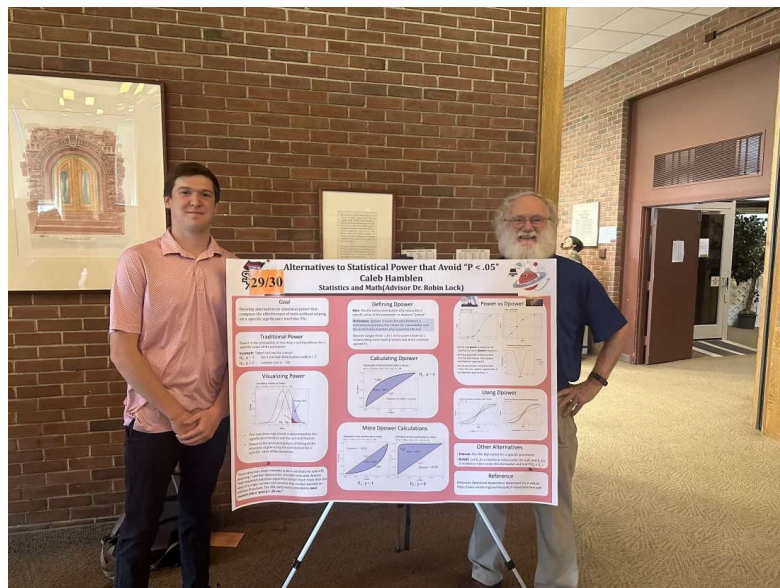
I am so pleased that you are being honored with the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award this year. My first Robin Lock memory is from the Technology in Statistics Education talk at Babson College in 1998. I was in graduate school at the time and was eager to learn how to become an excellent statistics educator. The resources you shared in your "WWW Resources for Teaching Statistics" talk gave me ideas about how to better my classes. Early in my career, I had the opportunity to visit Canton, NY for an interview at St. Lawrence University. You and Patti welcomed me to the department and into your home. (Who knew that your three teenage children would become your co-authors?) The conversations about teaching statistics that you and I had during my visit gave me food for thought for my own teaching. In the years since, I feel that you've had a consistent and supportive role in my growth as a statistic educator, and I thank you for that.

Congratulations on this honor!

My best-
Jack

Congratulations Dr. Lock! Working with you was an immense privilege and I gained invaluable insights throughout our collaboration on my honors thesis. Your patience, guidance, and mentorship played a pivotal role in shaping my academic journey, ending with a memorable experience presenting at HRUMC. I am grateful for your support and for bringing out the best in me. I will always cherish our time together refining our paper during senior week! Thank you for being an exceptional advisor and educator.

-Caleb





**Robin with students
(And the famous Statkey Lime Pie)**

Paul Roback

I remember coming out of grad school and just getting to know people in the stat ed world (slightly awed by all the big names I'd only seen in textbooks and articles), and I immediately and innately understood that Robin was someone to follow and to emulate. He always seemed to be two steps ahead of the field, from finding and using real data, to randomization and bootstrapping, to fun and exploratory visualizations. If I wanted to know where the field was headed in the next 5-10 years, just attend one of Robin's talks and see what he was working on. Plus, as a newbie to stat ed, I was so appreciative for Robin's humble, approachable, and welcoming nature. Robin is highly deserving of this honor as an ambassador and innovator in stat ed, made all the more impressive by the generous and thoughtful way he treats everyone he interacts with.

Congratulations!

Paul

Rob Gould

Dear Robin,
Congratulations on a long over-due recognition! I have fond memories of when we met long ago at the AP Stat reading in Lincoln Nebraska. It was a windy and hot evening, and you and --- if memory serves, Allan--- were huddled around a computer in the computing lab working on some sort of ski/ game/puzzle for the "talent" show. (Back in the days when the internet was limited to labs.) Obviously, the details here are a bit fuzzy, but I do remember being invited to join in the brainstorming and hitting it off, thinking "these AP Stats readers are fun people". Throughout the years it's always a pleasure to run into you and to hear the latest innovations in stats education that the Lock clan has revealed. **Congratulations!**

—Rob

Shonda Kuiper

Congratulations, Robin! Your dedication and passion for statistics education have not only transformed classrooms but also inspired countless teachers to reimagine the way they engage students. As the world of statistics education continues to undergo tremendous change, you continue to provide so many innovative ideas that easily apply to our classrooms. Your work has helped me personally and so many others.

- Shonda

Dear Robin,

Congratulations on winning the 2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education. You are a role model to so many of us at St. Lawrence University. It is so obvious that you love your job and you are dedicated to helping students. You have positively impacted so many students, faculty, and friends! **Congratulations** on a such a well-deserved honor!

Ana and Tim

P.S. We will never forget your birthday since we share that auspicious date with you as our wedding anniversary!

Ana Estevez & Timothy Danehy

Celebrating Robin's 60th Birthday at Ana and Tim's wedding reception



Congrats Robin on receiving the George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education! I feel so lucky to count myself as one of your many statistics education mentees. Thank you for all you have taught me over the years and for the immense impact you have had on my growth as a statistics educator.

In reflecting on how you've impacted me, some things are easy to spot and articulate. For example, using the Lock5 book taught me how to teach a modern introductory statistics course! I even just used the Lock5Data R package yesterday to craft a review question for my students. Beyond the obvious impacts, you have also influenced me in ways I am struggling to express, but I will try to anyway. On more than one occasion I have seen you present during a speed session at JSM. I love the format of the speed sessions, but I have noticed that most of the presenters tend to be early career folks and that more established presenters opt for invited and topic contributed sessions. So, seeing you, one of the top influencers in stat ed, present in a speed session always left me with a really positive feeling. It seemed like you didn't care about the level of perceived "prestige" of your session but instead just cared about sharing your work with a wide range of people. And, a lovely side effect of the name "Robin Lock" being attached to the stat ed speed session is that it increased the attendance of the session, giving the other presenters a larger audience for their ideas.

I guess what I am trying to say is that what I love most about you, Robin, is that you have made such a profound impact on our field through many actions, both big and small. And, throughout it all, it has felt like you did what you did just because you wanted to contribute and improve statistics education and that you had no interest or need for recognition. To me, that makes you the most deserving of all. Thank you, Robin!

Sincerely,

Kelly

Dear Robin,

I write to offer my sincere **congratulations** on your selection as the recipient of the 2024 George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education.

This honor is both significant and well-deserved.

I have learned that St. Lawrence launched the Statistics major in 2014, and in doing so, was among the first liberal arts colleges in the country to offer a major in statistics. Fast forward 10 years to today, and we see that over 450 St. Lawrence students enrolled in Stat 113, and the Class of 2024 included 12 Statistics majors, 11 Data Science majors, and 20 Statistics minors.

Back in 1983, you were the only statistician at St. Lawrence. With your leadership and vision, the Statistics group has grown, with a 6th statistician joining this fall. I know that your colleagues in the department attribute the success of and growth in the statistics program at St. Lawrence, in large part, to you.

What a remarkable legacy!

With warm **congratulations**,

Kate

Great St. Lawrence friends



Dear Rups,

Congratulations!!! You are so deserving of this award, have contributed so much to statistics education, and I'm so proud to have you as a father!!! Thank you for choosing statistics education as your career, and for being so passionate about it that you inspired me to follow in your footsteps! Also, thank you for being the kind of dad that I want to work alongside! I have truly enjoyed talking with you about statistics and education, working with you on our textbook, traveling with you to conferences, running workshops with you, writing papers with you, learning statistics from you, and getting to enter the stat ed world as the daughter of my superstar father!

It's so amazing that you inspired all three of your children to follow your path and get a PhD in statistics (and even all three of your children-in-law have a PhD related to statistics!). You even inspired your wife to shift her focus from math to stat ed, leading to the "Lock5"! Talk about a true positive role model and source of inspiration! And now you have grandchildren who collect and analyze data for fun, and who chose to spend their birthday learning R and coding shiny apps! :) Your contributions to statistics and stat ed extend beyond your own lifetime of achievement, and include the contributions of all of us that you have brought into the field!

As a student, a researcher, and a teacher, I always assumed (and still do!) that your brain is capable of solving any problem I couldn't fully grasp on my own. Every time I called you or came to you with a question or idea I was grappling with, you somehow were always capable of immediately understanding and helping me to better understand the topic, regardless of the area of statistics involved. This never ceases to impress me, and I feel so lucky to not only have grown up with the "phone a father" option, but also to have inherited (and now have my kids inherit) at least some of your amazing brain!

In addition to being your daughter and becoming your colleague, I'm lucky enough to have experienced your devotion to teaching and stat ed first hand! I took more classes with you than with any other professor! (Intro stat and Calc 3 officially, probability, math stat, and time series unofficially). I still remember collecting and analyzing the data for my project in your intro stat class (25 years ago!?) to test whether I was more consistent at double loops or double flips.

It has been so wonderful joining you in this awesome stat ed community! I treasure the experiences we've shared together in the field, and look forward to many more! I only hope I can eventually become even close to as influential, forward-thinking, well-respected, and/or universally well-liked in stat ed as my father! You are a true icon in the field, and I am so proud to be your daughter!!! I love you!

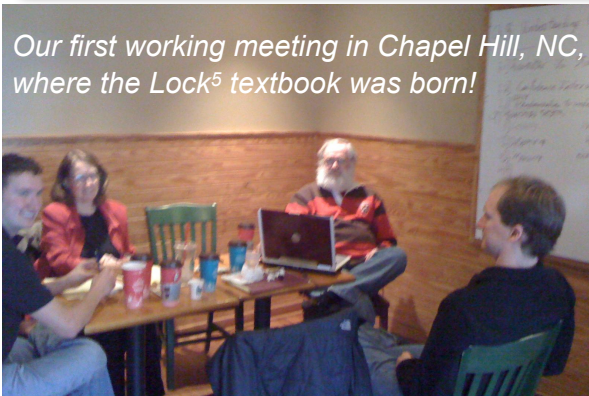
Love,

Kari

P.S. I hope you enjoy some of these select photos from our stat ed journey together! So many fun memories to capture!!! :)

Patriarch of the Lock⁵!

(Photo taken at JSM 2012 in San Diego)



Some of my absolute favorite statistics education memories with you are from our awesome ICOTS trips together! Here are some photos from happy ICOTS memories!



Photos from ICOTS 7 (2006, Salvador, Brazil):

Around Salvador, Brazil (picture one is you in the back of Allan Rossman's convertible!)



Our boat trip up the Amazon river after ICOTS with lots of fun stat ed people!



Iguazu Falls:



Photos from ICOTS 8 (2010, Ljubljana, Slovenia):

(Including our super fun week together prior, exploring around Lake Bled, Slovenia!)

The ICOTS 8 banquet:



Your birthday dinner during ICOTS 8:



The two of us exploring beautiful Slovenia! Such an AWESOME week together!!!



Getting ready to paraglide! Then kayaking! We did so many fun adventures together that week!



Photos from ICOTS 9 (2014, Flagstaff, Arizona)

*Cal Lock Morgan (grandson), taking his very first steps ever!!! At ICOTS!
Towards "GRups"!*





Side trip to the Grand Canyon!

Hiking in Sedona with his grandson, Axel Lock Morgan:

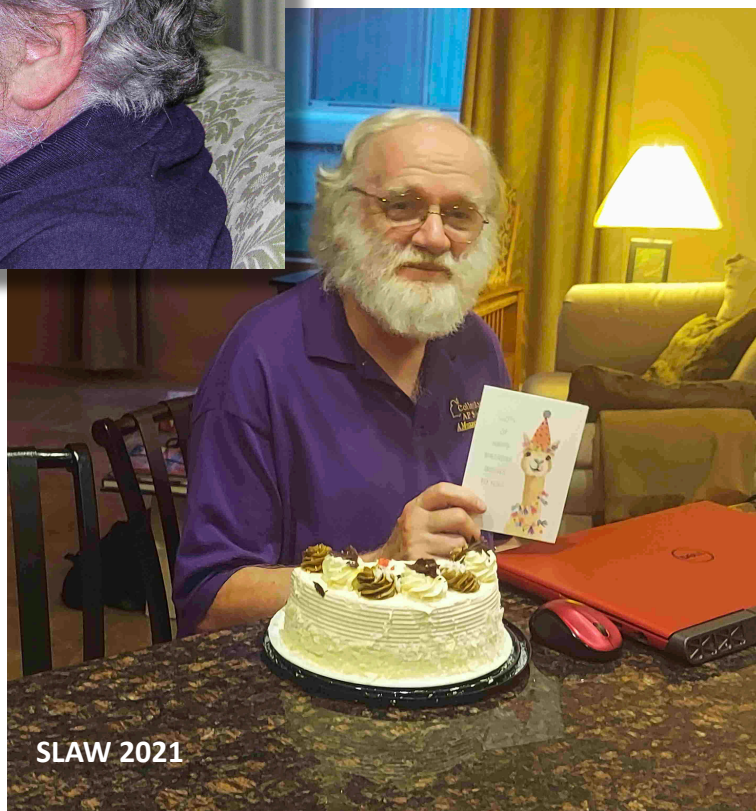
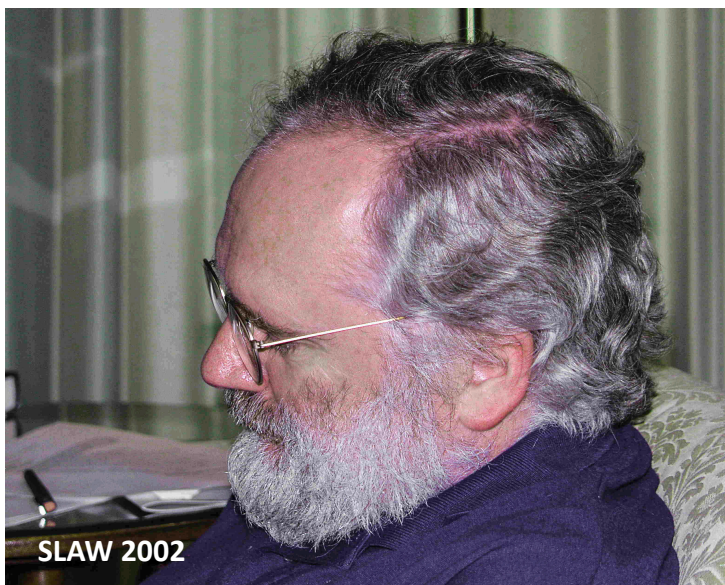


A different side of Robin: "GRups," an extremely loved grandfather!
(Pictured with 8 of his 10 grandchildren on his 70th birthday)



Many, many, many **congratulations** Rups!!! I can't think of anyone more deserving to receive this award. Your devotion to statistics education and the commitment of your life's work to this field inspires so many, myself included. Your abundant contributions at the college-level spill over into high school and grad school (e.g., two PhD students needing a crash course in time series). I even can think of a few elementary students who have learned some critical elements of statistics from you! It is an honor and a privilege to use Statistics: Unlocking the Power of Data in my own classroom, and to see it ignite an interest in data analysis in my students (and also to see them chuckle at some of the example problems). For all that you've taught us, and all that you teach us, and for all your lessons that lay ahead, may this award be a hearty 'Thank you!'. I can't wait to learn more!

-Eugene



Congratulations on receiving the Cobb Award, Robin! It's been great fun to follow you around from conference to workshop to meeting to Reading for the past three decades. Your contributions have had a huge impact on countless teachers of statistics, certainly including me. The most impressive and lasting impression is how you have made teaching and learning ***fun*** through all of these endeavors. You always give the appearance of having fun yourself while presenting and collaborating, and that fun is contagious to me and, I strongly suspect, to everyone else at these events. **Congratulations** on all that you have accomplished, and best wishes to you, all of the Locks, and also (albeit to a lesser extent) the Netminders for many years to come. **Congratulations** on receiving the Cobb Award, Robin! It's been great fun to follow you around from conference to workshop to meeting to Reading for the past three decades. Your contributions have had a huge impact on countless teachers of statistics, certainly including me. The most impressive and lasting impression is how you have made teaching and learning ***fun*** through all of these endeavors. You always give the appearance of having fun yourself while presenting and collaborating, and that fun is contagious to me and, I strongly suspect, to everyone else at these events. **Congratulations** on all that you have accomplished, and best wishes to you, all of the Locks, and also (albeit to a lesser extent) the Netminders for many years to come.



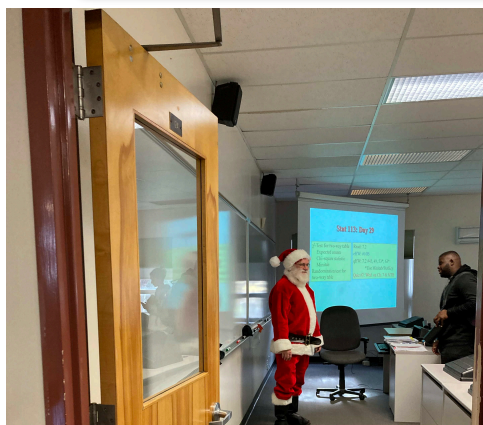
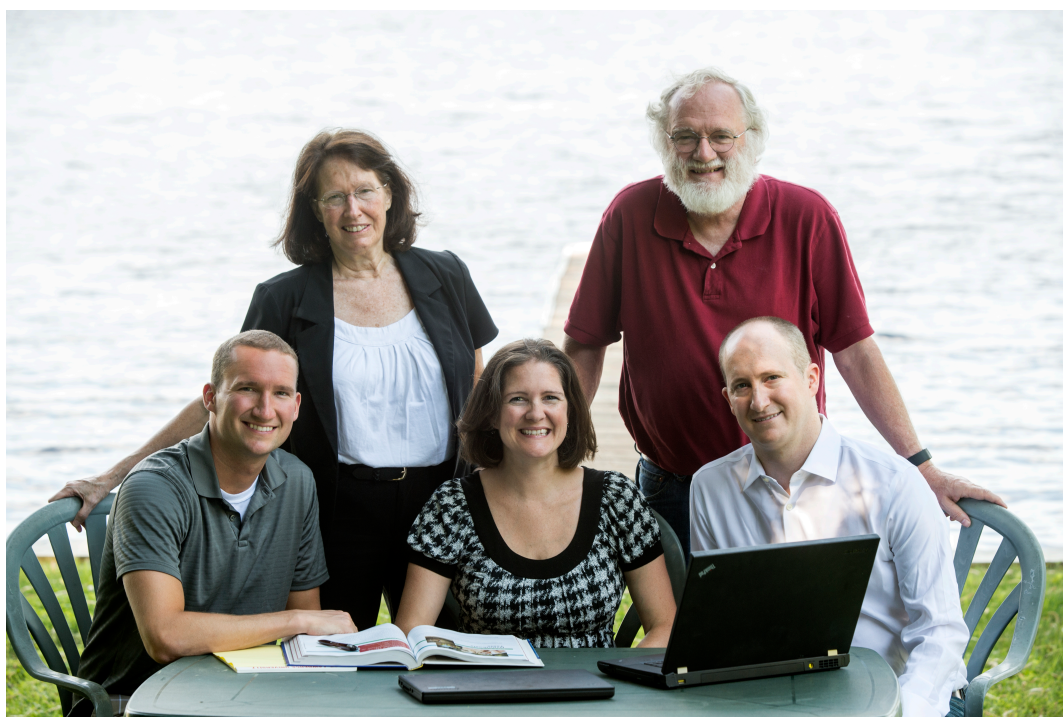


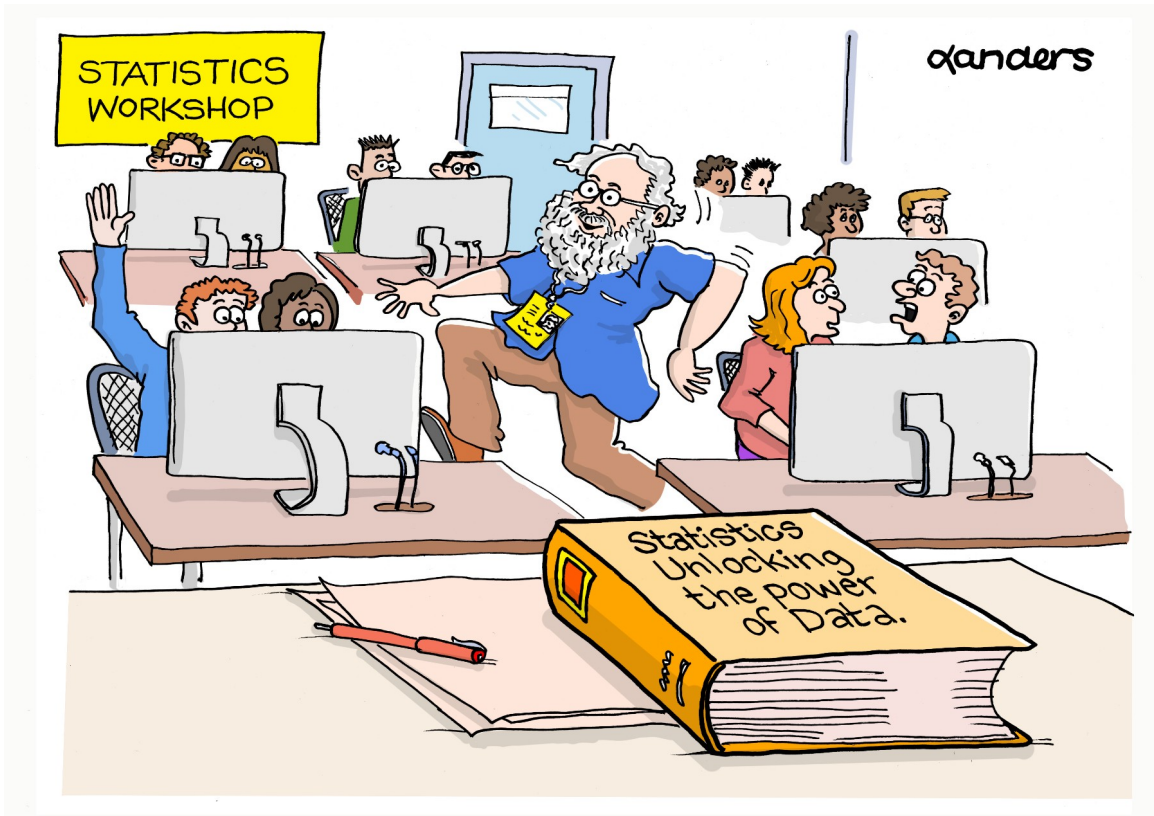
To Robin,

The smartest and kindest man I know. There is no one I would rather go through life with. There is no one I would rather write books with. **Congratulations!** I love you.

Patti

Patti Frazer Lock





"Does he remind you of another guy from up north with a big white beard and a great workshop who repeatedly simulates from the null: $H_0 - H_0 - H_0$?"

Dear Robin,

I hope you realize how much everyone loves you as a friend and colleague, and knows you as a brilliant instructor and mentor. Thanks so much for your pivotal role in CAUSE and the Statistics Education Community generally. Your work stressing the value of web-based resources, your advocacy for providing them free to users for teaching and learning, and your many workshops helping to spread the word to the otherwise disconnected are an inspiration.

Congratulations on this well-deserved award!

Dennis



Dennis Pearl



The George Cobb Lifetime Achievement Award in Statistics Education is presented by CAUSE at the Electronic Conference On Teaching Statistics (eCOTS) to an individual who, over an extended period of time, has made lasting contributions with broad impact to the field of statistics education.

The award committee is made up of the Director of CAUSE, the Chair of the CAUSE Board of Directors, the eCOTS and USCOTS Program Chairs and selected past winners. The 2024 committee (Dennis Pearl, Bob delMas, Chris Franklin, Danny Kaplan, Kelly McConville, Megan Mocko, Mike Shaughnessy, and Jessica Utts) presented the award to Robin Lock on Thursday June 13th, 2024 at the eCOTS concluding plenary session.