Starting Your First Year at a Liberal Arts College
What to Expect and How to Do It?

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Joint Statistical Meetings 2016
Outline

1. First year

2. Look ahead

3. Challenges

4. Resources
First year

- Teaching 2+2 (normally 3+2)
- DataFest 2016 @ Vassar
- Letters of recommendation (internships, grad school applications, study abroad)
- Attending conferences (JSM, New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting, and 2 others related to my research areas)
- Wrapping up and submitting manuscripts
- Reaching out for new research collaborations nearby (NYU)
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Look ahead

These might be Vassar specific, but similar opportunities are available at many liberal arts colleges...

- Introduce new statistics courses (e.g. Bayesian Statistics)
- Restructure curriculum for a statistics minor (e.g. 2 flavors of intro stats, statistical computing)
- Get involved in teaching and research beyond the Department at the College (e.g. Urban Studies Program @ Vassar)
- Student research (e.g. through Vassar’s summer REU)
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Challenges

- Getting to know the students and school culture
- Curriculum coordination with other academic departments (e.g. Economics, Psychology and Biology @ Vassar)
- Balancing teaching, research and service
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Resources

- ASA Stats Ed, ISOSTAT list serv
- DatafestInABox mailing list
- Go to JSM (talks and business meetings) and other conferences
- Make use of the resources at the institution (New Faculty Orientation, monthly Talking about Teaching, Faculty Workshops, Faculty Happy Hour, Faculty Retreat @ Vassar)
- Colleagues within the department, outside the department and beyond the institution