



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Department of Statistics
STATISTICS COLLOQUIUM

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**The Heat Is On! A Statistical Look
at the State of the Climate**

MONDAY, May 6, 2013 at 4:00 PM

133 Eckhart Hall, 5734 S. University Avenue

Refreshments following the seminar in Eckhart 110

ABSTRACT

We investigate two statements from the NOAA State of the Climate web site. One assigned a probability to the event that 13 consecutive months of US average temperature fell in the upper tercile of the historical record, while the other declared the year 2012 the warmest year ever in the US. In order to assess the first statement, we develop some models under which such a calculation can be made, both under a stationary and a nonstationary climate. For the second, we develop an approach to estimate the uncertainty in ranking objects which themselves are subject to uncertainty. The first project is joint work with Peter Craigmile, Robert Lund, Richard Smith and Peter Thorne, while the second is joint work with Amy Kim.

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