

1106-M5-2822      **Rebecca Nugent\***, rnugent@stat.cmu.edu. *Choose-Your-Own Capstone Adventure: Providing Flexible Paths for Undergraduate Statistics Majors.*

Recently, the ASA has devoted extensive effort to updating undergraduate Statistics curriculum guidelines. One focus is the role and variety of undergraduate Statistics capstones, traditionally defined as a final culminating experience synthesizing coursework and skills for all students. But what if there are too many? As elsewhere, the Carnegie Mellon Statistics major has exploded in size relative to other majors, growing by about 500% in five years. In addition, other programs such as Mathematics and Machine Learning also require our capstone courses. To provide a high level of quality and feedback requires a Herculean effort. Furthermore, students headed to industry require markedly different training than those headed to graduate school. At CMU, we are developing a framework that provides different capstone experiences depending on students' individual goals and talents. Our hope is that this flexibility will help align students with experiences that fit their career paths and alleviate faculty burden. This talk will focus on our program's progression to its current flexible form with an added emphasis on research experiences and fun competitions. We summarize the chosen student paths as well as student feedback about their Choose-Your-Own Capstone Adventures. (Received September 16, 2014)