
Mathematics & Statistics Department

Lewis and Reynolds Kickoff Lecture



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Associate Dean for Faculty Advancement

Leading with purpose: using math + biostatistics to do so with intention

Mathematics can help us understand patterns, quantify differences, and make sense of an increasingly data-driven world. But it can also help us ask consequential questions about people, places, and communities—and provide evidence that leads to meaningful change. In this talk, I will share my journey from amath-loving kid growing up in Southwest Philadelphia to a mathematician, biostatistician, public health researcher, mentor, and academic leader. Along the way, I will reflect on the people and experiences that helped me discover not simply what I wanted to do, but why I wanted to do it.

I will illustrate how that sense of purpose shapes my research through work examining cardiovascular health across U.S. neighborhoods. Using the American Heart Association's Life's Essential 8 framework and spatial statistical methods, we examine geographic patterns in cardiovascular health across more than 3,000 U.S. counties and consider the social and structural conditions that may contribute to those patterns.

Ultimately, this talk asks us to consider how we can connect our technical skills to purpose, use mathematics and statistics in service of communities, create spaces of belonging, and lead from wherever we are. The question is: What will we choose to do with what we know?

Tuesday, September 8

4:15pm Refreshments

4:30pm Lecture

Chang Hou Hall

(Science Center 101)
