

**Slippery Rock University**  
**Department of Mathematics and Statistics**

*Presents*

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**“Inverse Probability and the 200 year journey to  
Team Bayesian”**

*Abstract*

Thomas Bayes is now famous for the development of inverse probability, which has since been renamed Bayes Theorem. However, at many points over the past 200 years, Bayes and his theorem were disparaged as “fundamentally false and devoid of foundation.” The rise of frequentist methods in the early 20th century pushed inverse probability into the shadows, where it quietly evolved under the care of a few stalwart statisticians, until the development of fast computation allowed Bayesian methods to flourish. By the end of the 20th century, Bayesian analysis was here to stay.

This talk will explore the history of Bayes Theorem, taking us from the controversies surrounding the Bayesian interpretation of probability during the 19th and early 20th century, through the growth of Bayesian methods after World War II, into the virtual explosion of Bayesian analysis of the early 21st century. The talk is geared toward an undergraduate-level understanding of statistical methods.

**Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**VSC 116**  
**12:45 p.m.**  
**Students are welcome!**

