

# Department of Mathematical Sciences Colloquium

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## *Insight into Motivation of Introductory Statistics Students via Double-Blind Experiment*

Motivation is becoming an even more critical area in statistics education (ASA 2005). Double-blind experiments (No Child Left Behind's "best scientifically-based research") disguised as surveys were administered in (all) 5 sections of a university introductory statistics course during the fall 2005 semester to investigate the level (Likert quantitative data) and nature (narrative qualitative data) of motivation for carefully designed examples of two particular types of important but relatively unexplored contexts. One context (social justice) was found to be motivating at a statistically significant level ( $p = .05$ ), but the other context (counterintuitive results) was not. We'll discuss results, interpretations and curricular implications. This study was competitively selected (20% acceptance rate) to be presented as an individual research paper at the 2006 NCTM Research Presession.

**Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 3 pm in Bell Hall 143  
The University of Texas at El Paso**

Please note the unusual time for the Colloquium.
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Refreshments will be served in front of the colloquium room, 15 minutes before the start of the colloquium.

For further information, please contact Dr. Pavel Šolín, Bell Hall 220. Phone: (915) 747-6770, email: [solin@utep.edu](mailto:solin@utep.edu).