

Harvard's Florence Nightingale Day

On Saturday, October 22nd, the halls of the Harvard Science Center were buzzing with middle and high school students at Harvard's inaugural Florence Nightingale Day⁴ (FND). Introduced by the American Statistical Association and the Caucus for Women in Statistics (CWS) in 2018⁵, FND⁶ is part of an international effort to celebrate women in statistics, biostatistics, and data science and to cultivate student interest and engagement in these fields. Harvard's FND was sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association; Citadel; RStudio, PBC; Hudson River Trading; and Harvard's Department of Statistics, Department of Biostatistics, and the Harvard Data Science Initiative, as well as by some alumni.

During FND at Harvard, we hosted approximately 50 students (from a diverse range of schools in the greater Boston area), parents/guardians, and teachers and 30 volunteers. In the morning, students grabbed their "swag" bags and worked furiously on their statistics scavenger hunt, vying for first place (the nifty data science journal prizes were distributed at the end of the day). Then student participants dug into hands-on activities led by Harvard faculty and students, such as data visualization and the Monty Hall problem, introducing students to concepts in probability, statistical research, and data science. In the College Panel, undergraduate and graduate panelists studying statistics and biostatistics shared their insight and tips on getting involved in research, preparing for college applications, and preparing academically for a STEM major in college. Our panelists, volunteers and participants continued the conversation on college and careers in small groups during lunch. Wrapping up the day, our Career Panel featured professional statisticians and biostatisticians with careers that varied from working in academia and industry on global health problems to working on optimizing baseball operations for the Boston Red Sox. After a fun-filled day of statistics, participants and volunteers took one more selfie with "Flo" (our life-sized, historical cut-out of Nightingale). We thank all participants, volunteers, and sponsors for making this a successful, enriching day, and we look forward to hosting everyone again next year!



⁴<https://www.harvardgush.org/florence-nightingale>

⁵<https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2019/03/01/fnday/>

⁶<https://fndaystats.org/>



