

# Karen Chiswell

The Center for Women in Science & Mathematics Speaker Series

**Thursday, October 26, 2006**

**3:30 p.m. SMB 162**

**“AND THEY PAY ME TO DO THIS JOB?!”**

~Why I love being a statistician~



## Karen Chiswell

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“Our mission is to use statistical thinking to improve the way that science is done here”

This is how the director of Statistical Sciences North America once described the role of statisticians in his department at the pharmaceutical company, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

During my talk, I will attempt to convey why this statement is so exciting and inspiring to me. I will describe a project that I have been working on recently at GSK. Biologists leading the project are interested in characterizing the distribution of cell sizes in a sample of adipose (fat) tissue using an instrument called a coulter counter. The size of adipose cells is believed to be associated with insulin resistance, a cause of type II diabetes.

I will also describe my experiences as a statistics graduate student at North Carolina State University. My emphasis will be on aspects that have prepared me for my vocation as a practicing statistician.