



## 2022-2023 Faculty Colloquium Series

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 1-2 pm  
Escalante Hall, Room 131

### “Data Findings Involving the Smuggling, Trafficking, and Interdiction Division of the Colorado State Patrol”

Dr. Rick Ott  
Associate Professor of Statistics



The Smuggling, Trafficking, and Interdiction (STIS) division of the Colorado State Patrol is a highly effective, specialty unit confiscating illegal contraband. In 2021 alone, over 4,000 lbs of illegal narcotics, as well as \$3 million in cash, were seized. The local branch, based in Fruita, CO, consists of four troopers and one former sergeant. This group has confiscated a significant amount of illegal contraband along the I-70 corridor in Western Colorado. Recently though, as documented in the Grand Junction Sentinel, a few questionable practices have been discovered. The Colorado Supreme Court ruled twice that charges be dropped for transportation of illegal narcotics such as heroin, fentanyl and methamphetamine based on the faulty procedures for pulling over suspects in April '21 as well as April '22. In addition, a November '22 investigation has also revealed that the STIS sergeant altered at least 13 reports over the last two years. The sergeant has been released from the Colorado State Patrol.

Associate Professor of Statistics, Rick Ott, was summoned to testify in court twice as an expert witness in Spring 2022. Dr. Ott will discuss the data from the traffic stop contact records, significant and unexpected differences among the STIS troopers, and comparisons between the STIS team as a whole to the three Western Colorado CSP non-specialty units.