

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Statistics Newsletter, Volume 8, 2004-2005

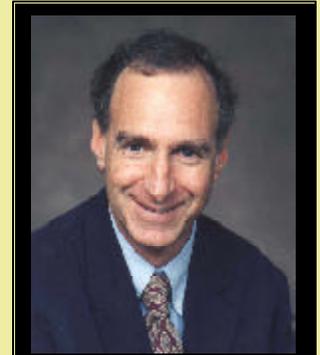
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A Message from the Chairman

Dear alumni and friends,

In the past year we have had a number of highlights, many of which you can read about in more detail in this newsletter.

Marten Wegkamp, who came to us from Yale University in August 2003, has been awarded tenure. Marten provides great theoretical strength in our offerings and research.



Myles Hollander

The new programs that were under development when I last wrote, namely (1) the M.S. in Biostatistics and (2) the 3+2 program for bright undergraduates in statistics who want to complete a B.S. and M.S. degree in five years, have both been officially approved and are up and running. The Biostatistics Program is under the direction of Dan McGee, assisted by Somesh Chattopadhyay. We are currently initiating the steps to develop a Ph.D. program in Biostatistics.

Under the direction of Anuj Srivastava, our Laboratory for Computational Vision has evolved into a Center for Applied Vision and Imaging Sciences. The Center is interdisciplinary and has participants from Statistics, Computer Science and Mathematics. Anuj has been a dynamic faculty member since joining in August, 1997 and in April, 2005 he received FSU's prestigious Developing Scholar Award.

Within our Department, in May 2005 Douglas Zahn will retire after 36 years of dedicated service to the Department and its Consulting Center. On April 23rd the department hosted a day of appreciation for Doug. We wish him and his wife Andrea future success.

Ian McKeague, a leading researcher in survival analysis, with 25 years of dedicated service to the department, took a leave this year at the Department of Biostatistics, Columbia University, New York, was awarded tenure there and has resigned from FSU. We wish him and his wife Marilyn future success.

Traveling on a less permanent basis, Kai-Sheng Song, Marten Wegkamp and I have been awarded one-semester sabbaticals for the 2005-06 academic year.

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This newsletter is produced by the Department of Statistics, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4330

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Designed and edited by Pam McGhee, Jennifer McKendree, Delenie Garrido, and Charlotte Abdul-Hakim. Photography by the FSU Photo Lab, James Stricherz, and Delenie Garrido.

Jayaram Sethuraman Retires



Jayaram Sethuraman

On May 17, 2004 the Department hosted J. Sethuraman day in honor of **Dr. Jayaram Sethuraman** who retired on January 31, 2004 after 36 years at FSU. Friends, family, colleagues, and former students of Dr. Sethuraman attended the half-day event which included talks by Nozer Singpurwalla, Robert L. Taylor, Jim Lynch, James C. Smith, Ram Tiwari, and Brett Presnell (all former Ph.D. students of Dr. Sethuraman).

Dr. Sethuraman's illustrious career in statistics began after receiving his B.S.c. and M.A. degrees in Statistics from Madras University in India (1957, 1958) and his Ph.D. from the Indian Statistical Institute in 1962. Over the years he has served as Associate Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute (1965-68), Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan (1974-75), Visiting Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute (Fall 1977), Visiting Professor and Acting Head, I.S.I Bangalore Centre (1979-80), Chairman of the Department of Statistics at FSU (1987-1990), ASA/NSF/NSIT Senior Research Fellow (1994), Fulbright Senior Research and Teaching Fellow (1995-96), and was awarded the title of Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor (FSU's highest faculty rank and honor) in 1993. In 2002 he was awarded the President's Continuing Education Award for his work

for with the Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (REAP) in which he has mentored 71 local high school students in Probability and Statistics since 1981.

Retirement has not slowed Dr. Sethuraman down. Post-retirement Sethu served as a visiting professor at the University of Pittsburgh for the Fall semester 2004. He also continues to perform research on a new grant from the Army Research Office. (This continues Dr. Sethuraman's streak of uninterrupted support from the Army Research Office since 1972.) In 2004, Dr. Sethuraman was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Award for 2004-05. Under the Fulbright Lecturing Award Sethu plans to visit the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras where he will lecture for a period of 6 months beginning in March 2005. This is his second Fulbright Award. In February 2005, Dr. Sethuraman was awarded the C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Award for 2005. The C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize is awarded by the Department of Statistics at Penn State University and was "established to honor and recognize outstanding and influential innovations in the theory and practice of mathematical statistics, international leadership in directing statistical research, and pioneering contributions by a recognized leader in the field of statistics."

We congratulate Dr. Sethuraman on his retirement, his outstanding career, and his continuing success.

Faculty Honors



Marten Wegkamp

Dr. Xufeng Niu was promoted to full Professor effective Fall 2004.

Dr. Marten Wegkamp, Associate Professor of Statistics, was recently awarded tenure, effective August 2005. Dr. Wegkamp is originally from The Netherlands. Before joining us at FSU in 2003, he served as Associate Professor at Yale University. His research interests include classification, empirical process theory, nonparametric function estimation, and model selection.

Drs. Kaisheng Song, Fred Huffer, Florentina Bunea, and Xufeng Niu were nominated for Excellence in Teaching Awards for 2004-2005.

Dr. Anuj Srivastava was named Associate Editor of IEEE PAMI in 2004. Dr. Srivastava also received an FSU Developing Scholar Award for 2005 for his significant scholarly activities at FSU.

Dr. Kaisheng Song received a COFRS (Committee on Faculty Research Support) Award for Summer 2004-2005 for research support on the project "Convergence of a New Iterative Filtering Algorithm".

Dr. Jayaram Sethuraman received a Fulbright Scholar Award for 2004-2005 and will lecture at the Indian Statistical Institute. Dr. Sethuraman also received the C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize for 2005 (awarded by the Department of Statistics at Penn State University). In summer 2004, Dr. Srivastava mentored three local high school students as part of the Research and Engineering Apprenticeship (REAP) program sponsored by the US Army. The 2004 REAP students were Matthew Aune, Sanjiv Goli, and Anthony Kuhns.

Center for Applied Vision and Imaging Sciences -- CAVIS



Anuj Srivastava

Spring 2004 saw the creation of a center for interdisciplinary research in computer vision, involving faculty and students from the Computer Science, Mathematics, and Statistics departments at Florida State University. This center is named Center for Applied Vision and Imaging Sciences (CAVIS), and is located at 118 N. Woodward Street. Its goal is to centralize resources and activities in order to: (a) generate a dynamic environment that is conducive to interaction and collaborative research; (b) establish a state-of-the-art vision laboratory and an atmosphere that facilitates and stimulates experimentation and learning; (c) attract a larger number of students to research in computer vision at FSU; (d) enhance the productivity and visibility of the group as a whole and achieve national recognition. It currently involves five faculty members: **Anuj Srivastava** (Statistics), Xiuwen Liu, Ted Baker, and Piyush Kumar (all Computer Science), and Washington Mio (Mathematics). The center supports research activities of eight graduate students and three undergraduate students. Statistics graduate students participating in center research are: **David Kaziska, Sanjay Saini, Evgenia Rubenshtein, and Nikolay Balov.**

CAVIS research is supported by a number of grants from the Army Research Office and the National Science Foundation. In Spring 2004, center members received an ARO DURIP equipment grant of \$346K to create a new laboratory for “Real-

At right: Some members of CAVIS

For further details, please refer to the CAVIS website at cavis.fsu.edu



Delpish picked as PIE Associate



Ayesha Delpish

Ph.D. candidate **Ayesha Delpish** was appointed as the Department of Statistics' new Program for Instructional Excellence (PIE) Associate for the 2004-2005 academic year, through FSU's *Instructional Development Services*. As a PIE Associate, Ayesha assisted in developing instructional activities for the benefit of the department's graduate students, working closely with Dr. Doug Zahn our Teaching Coordinator and Dr. Steve Ramsier, our Associate Chair and Undergraduate Director. She also acted as a resource for TA's by helping them develop and enhance their professional development through providing information regarding conferences, workshops and seminars offered by the university and our department. In addition, Ayesha helped to coordinate the development of an integrated pre-fall teaching assistant workshop and with the required monthly graduate assistant seminars throughout the past academic year.

Selected Presentations

Anuj Srivastava gave invited lectures at SPAWC (Lisbon), EUSIPCO (Vienna), Westpoint Military Academy, Michigan State University, MIT, University of Georgia, and ENIC-- Univ. des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, Lille, France in 2004.

Myles Hollander gave invited talks on Bayesian repair models in reliability at the International Workshop on Applied Probability, University of Piraeus, Greece, March 2004 and at the Fourth International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability, Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 2004.

Selected Publications

- Bunea, F. and McKeague, I.** (2005). Covariate Selection for ~~Semiparametric Hazard Function Regression Models~~*The Journal of Multivariate Analysis*, vol. 92, pp. 186-204.
- Bunea, F.** (2004). Consistent Covariate Selection and Postmodel Selection Inference in Semiparametric Regression. *The Annals of Statistics*, vol. 32, No. 3, pp.989-927.
- Bunea, F., Wegkamp, M.** (2004). Two-Stage Model Selection Procedures in Partially Linear Regression. *The Canadian Journal of Statistics*, vol. 32, pp. 105-118.
- Dixon, J.R., et al.** (2004). NXS2 Murine Neuroblastomas Express Increased Levels of MHC Class I Antigens Upon Recurrence Following NK-Dependent Immunotherapy. *Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy*, 53, pp. 41—52.
- Dixon, J.R.,** Kosorok, M.R., and B.L. Lee, (2004), Functional Inference in Semiparametric Models Using the Piggyback Bootstrap. *Annals of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics*, (to appear).
- Hollander, M. and Sethuraman, J.** (2004). Nonparametric methods for repair models, 747-763, 2004, *Handbook of Statistics*, 23, *Survival Analysis* (editors C.R. Rao and N. Balakrishnan).
- Hollander, M.** and Peña, E. (2004). Nonparametric methods in reliability, *Statistical Science* (to appear).
- McGee, D.L., et al.** (2005). Weight-Height Relationships and Body Mass Index. Some Observations from the Diverse Populations Collaboration (accepted by *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* (in press)).
- McGee, D.L. Chattopadhyay, S., et al.** (2005). Body Mass Index and Mortality, A Meta-Analysis Based on Person-Level Data from Twenty-Six Observational Studies (accepted by *Annals of Epidemiology* (in press)).
- McGee, D.L., Hollander, M., Niu, X-F., Chattopadhyay, S. et al.** (2004). Smoking, Body Weight, and CHD Mortality in Diverse Populations. *Preventive Medicine*, vol. 38, pp. 834-840.
- McGee, D.L., et al.** Wide Pulse Pressure as a Risk Factor for Cardiovascular Mortality Among Puerto Rican Men. *Nutrition Metabolism and Cardiovascular Disease* (accepted).
- McGee, D.L., et al.** (2004). Diabetic Retinopathy and Serum Lipoprotein Subclasses in the DCCT/EDIC Cohort. *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, vol. 45, pp. 910-918.
- Niu, X-F.,** and Jagger, T. (2005). Asymptotic Properties for a Class of Space-Time Count Processes. *Accepted by Statistica Sinica* (in press).
- Niu, X-F.,** Elsner, J.B., and Jagger, T. (2004). Markov Chain Monte Carlo Change-Point Analysis: An Application in Hurricane Climatology. *Journal of Climate*, vol. 17, pp. 2652-2666.
- Srivastava, A.,** and **Neher, R.** (2004). A Bayesian MRF Framework for Labeling Terrain Using Hyperspectral Images (in review at *IEEE Transactions on Geosciences and Remote Sensing*).
- Srivastava, A.,** Mio, W., and Liu, X. (2004). Spaces and Curves, Dynamical Contours, and Localizations in Computer Vision (accepted for publication in *International Journal of Computer Vision*).
- Srivastava, A.** and Liu, X. (2005). Tools for Application-Driven Dimension Reduction. *Journal of Neurocomputing on "Geometric Methods in Neural Networks and Learning."* (in press).
- Srivastava, A.,** Joshi, S., Mio, W., and Liu, X. (2005). Statistical Shape Analysis: Clustering, Learning, and Testing. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, vol. 27(4) (in press).
- Srivastava, A.,** Liu, X., and Heshner, K. (2005). Face Recognition Using Optimal Linear Components of Range Images. *Journal of Image and Vision Computing* (in press)..
- Mio, W., **Srivastava, A.,** and Klassen, E. (2004). Interpolations with Elasticity in Euclidean Spaces. *Quarterly of Applied Mathematics*, vol.62 (2), pp. 359-378.
- Liu, X., **Srivastava, A.,** and Gallivan, K. (2004). Optimal Linear Representations of Images for Object Recognition. *IEEE*

Selected Publications, continued

Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, vol. 25 (5), pp. 662-666.

Klassen, E., **Srivastava, A.**, Mio, W., and Joshi, S. (2004). Analysis of Planar Shapes using Geodesic Path on Shape Spaces. *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, vol. 26(3), pp. 372-383.

Liu, X., **Srivastava, A.**, and Wang, D.(2003). On Intrinsic Generalization of Low Dimensional Representations of Images for Recognition, *Neural Networks*, vol.16, no. 5 and 6, pages 537-45, June 2003.

Srivastava, A. and Klassen, E. (2004). Bayesian and Geometric Subspace Tracking. *Journal of Advances in Applied Probability*, vol. 36(1), pp. 43-56.

Wegkamp, M., Fermanian, J.D., and Raduloviæ, D. (2004). Weak Convergence of Empirical Copula Processes. *Bernoulli*, vol. 10(5), pp. 847-860.

Wegkamp, M. and Lugosi, G. (2004). Complexity Regularization via Localized Random Penalties. *Annals of Statistics*, vol. 32(4), pp. 1679-1697.

New Graduate Students

The department enrolled (15) new students in Fall 2004. They are: Nikolay Balov (Bulgaria), Chandramouli Banerjee (India), Steve Brown (US), Jeffrey Dobias (US), Wenhao Gui (China), Shuva Gupta (India), Steve Kropp (US), Peiqing Liang (China), Yang Liu (China), Greg Miller (US), Kunle Olumide (US), Sanjay Saini (India), Carl Siebert (US), Xia Wang (China), and Deniece Williams (US).

Photo at Right: First-Year Students at the Fall Departmental Picnic held at Tom Brown Park (Tallahassee) and hosted by the faculty. From left to right: Shuva Gupta, Sanjay Saini, Nikolay Balov, Jeff Dobias, Kunle Olumide, Greg Miller, Yang Liu, and Peiqing Liang



Chandramouli Banerjee, Steve Brown, Carl Siebert, Weihao Gui, and Xia Wang

Recent Staff Changes

The department underwent many staff changes within the last 12 months-- starting with the promotion of Virginia Hellman, former Office Manager, to Senior Training Specialist in the College of Arts and Sciences.

From Virginia: "I started in the Statistics Department as the Departmental Secretary in December 1995 and was promoted to Office Manager in August 1996. Shortly after accepting the Office Manager position I remember a Professor walking by my office and upon seeing the mass of paperwork on my desk and the tired look on my face looked at me and said 3 little words – 'learn to delegate'. I learned to delegate and a lot more during my 9 years in the department. I will fondly remember all the people - Professors, staff and students - I met and got to know over the years. No matter where I go on campus, Statistics will always be my 'home' department."

Virginia was with department for a total nine years, eight of which she served as the Office Manager. She was a huge asset to the department and although we were sad to see her go, we are excited that she will still be in the College of Arts and Sciences and only an email or a phone call away. After Virginia's departure Pamela McGhee was promoted to Office Manager in May 2004, Charlotte Abdul-Hakim was then promoted from Senior Secretary to Program Assistant and Jennifer McKendree was hired as the new Senior Secretary in July 2004.



Jennifer McKendree

in my life including Lexi, my dog, who is a total doll, and I love her. I enjoy working with people of all ages; however, my passion falls with seniors and small children. I am a strong supporter of the Federal Head Start Program. In the past, I have volunteered at the Tallahassee Senior Center, Treehouse Group Home for Abused and Neglected Children, Sabal Palm Elementary, and with the Academic Resource Center. In my spare time, I enjoy painting and drawing, going to ball games, participating in a pick-up game of soccer, and of course, like most other

About Jennifer: "I am a native of Tallahassee and graduated from Florida State University with a B.S degree in Family and Child Care Development on May 2004 from the College of Human Sciences. I am engaged to my high school sweetheart, Chris Rivera, who will be finishing his Master's degree in Computer Science in Spring 2005." (Chris and Jennifer will exchange vows on August 13, 2005 at McClay Gardens.) "What I enjoy most is spending time with my family, my fiancée, and with the pets

females...Shopping!" Some of Jennifer's artwork hangs in the home of FAMU's former president, Dr. Frederick S. Humphries.

Then in December 2004, Program Assistant Charlotte Abdul-Hakim left the department to move to Michigan where her husband Ismail recently started in a tenure-track position at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in Michigan. Charlotte, Ismail, and their daughter Queen are excited about their new life and are even more excited about the newest member of their family, daughter Ruby Melissa, who arrived in early April.



Charlotte Abdul-Hakim

From Charlotte: "I worked in the Department of Statistics at Florida State University for a year and a half as a Senior Secretary first and then as a Program Assistant. I had to resign because my husband accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids Michigan. I had a wonderful experience working with a diverse faculty, and diverse graduate Students, and of course with a very professional staff.

What I miss the most is the friendly and close relationship I had working with our Graduate students and faculty members. It was like a big family there! I also will miss our annual Christmas lunch and the special treats we always get from our faculty! To the amazing staff in Statistics, please keep up the good work, and I miss you guys dearly!"

After Charlotte left, Jennifer McKendree was promoted to Program Assistant and the department had to hire a new senior secretary. The department selected Delenie Garrido who served as Secretary in our department from 2001-2002. Delenie is happy to be back in the department and we are very fortunate to have her back.



Delenie Garrido

One more staff change: Evangelous Robinson, Senior Grants Specialist in our department has changed from half-time status to full-time.

In Memoriam

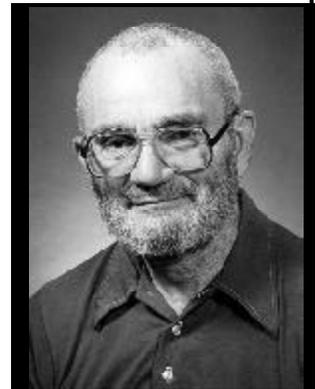


I. Richard Savage

Former Professor **I. Richard Savage** passed away on June 4, 2004. Richard Savage taught at FSU from 1963 to 1974 and was named Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor in 1973. He was a world leader in nonparametric statistics and in the use of statistics for public affairs such as DNA fingerprinting, human rights, and national defense. After he left FSU in 1974, he joined the Statistics department at Yale University where he retired as Professor Emeritus in 1991. Richard Savage is survived by his wife Jo Ann; sisters Joan and Barbara; daughters Martha and Donna; and grandchildren, Adam, Max, and Rose. (*Savage photo courtesy of Yale Dept. of Statistics*)

Former Professor **Frank Proschan** passed away on Saturday night December 27, 2004. Frank Proschan joined the department in 1970, bringing new strength in the field of reliability as he was a world leader in that area. He started a Reliability Center, a Saturday morning Reliability Club, and inspired many faculty members and students

to do research in the probabilistic and statistical aspects of reliability. He was named Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor in December 1984 and retired in 1992 at FSU. Frank Proschan is survived by his wife Edna; son Michael; daughter Virginia; grandsons Daniel and Andrew; and twin granddaughters Laurel and Rachel.



Frank Proschan

Student Honors



Radu Herbei, Mahtab Munshi, and Moeti Ncube

Radu Herbei (Ph.D. candidate) was awarded first place in the Best Student Paper competition hosted by the Florida Chapter of the American Statistical Association at the 2005 annual meeting in Tallahassee, Florida. **Mahtab Marker** (Ph.D. candidate) tied for second place with Moeti Ncube (University of West Florida).

Mahtab Marker was named Best First Year Student in Applied Statistics for 2003-2004. The Best First Year Student in Theoretical Statistics resulted in a tie between Ph.D. candidates **Fei Tan** and **Jianghua (Wendy) He** for 2003-2004.

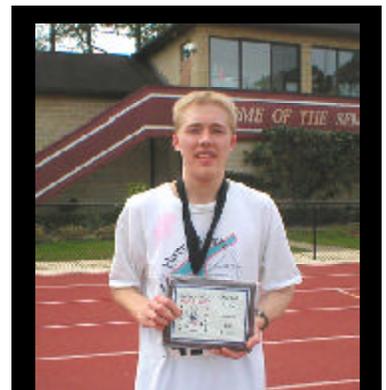
Rob Neher (2004 graduate) was awarded The Anna & Yongyuan Li 2003-2004 competition for the best student colloquium for this talk on "Heavy-Tailed Distribution for Analyzing Hyperspectral Images.

Billy Franks (Ph.D. candidate) was awarded a Predoctoral Fellowship from the Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate Research Committee of the American Heart Association. Billy's fellowship amount is \$20,000 per year and runs until June 30, 2006. Billy will be working with Co-PI Dan McGee on the grant "Investigating the Categories for Cholesterol and Blood Pressure for Risk Assessment of Death by Coronary Heart Disease".

Radu Herbei, Ayesha Delpish (Ph.D. candidate), and **Gregory Miller** (first-year student) were nominated for Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards in 2005.

First-Year Student **Jeffrey Dobias** received a University Fellowship in the amount of \$15,000 for the 2004-2005 and he recently won the University Fellowship again for 2005-2006. Jeff also placed first in the 2005 Tallahassee Marathon.

First-Year Student **Deniece Williams** received a Delores A. Auzenne Fellowship for 2004-2005.



Jeff Dobias

New Degree Options for Statistics Majors

Master's Degree in Biostatistics:

The Board of Trustees has approved the implementation of the Statistics Department's **M.S. in Biostatistics**. The program will begin in Fall 2005 and will prepare graduates needed in private and public sector research and health care settings who can apply statistical principles, processes, applications, and analytic methods to design, implement, and analyze health related studies including both experimental (clinical trials) and observational (epidemiological) studies. For more information about the program, go to <http://stat.fsu.edu/graduate/redbook/biostatistics.html>.

5- year combined BS/MS degree in Statistics:

The combined BS/MS degree program in the Department of Statistics is designed for academically strong students who wish to pursue an accelerated program culminating in a Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics and a Master of Science degree in Applied Statistics. This five-year program allows up to 15 credits of coursework to be dually counted toward both the BS and the MS degree. For more information about the combined BS/MS degree in Statistics, go to <http://stat.fsu.edu/graduate/redbook/5Year.html>.

Student Profiles-- Billy Franks and Mahtab Munshi



Mahtab and Billy

Ph.D. candidates Billy Franks and Mahtab Munshi were married on July 10, 2004. Billy is from Arkansas and Mahtab is from India. Both earned MS degrees from our department in 2003 and both expect to finish their Ph.D.'s this year in our department.

Last year Billy was awarded a Predoctoral Fellowship from the Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate Research Committee of the American Heart Association. Billy's fellowship amount is \$20,000 per year and covers the periods from 7/1/04-6/30/05 and 7/1/05-6/30/06. Billy is working with co-PI Dan McGee on the grant "Investigating the Categories for Cholesterol and Blood Pressure for Risk Assessment of Death by Coronary Heart Disease".

Mahtab Munshi was awarded a College Teaching Fellowship in 2002 at FSU and she was also co-winner of the Department of Statistics' Best First-Year Student in Applied Statistics Award. Mahtab is also working with Dr. Dan McGee on coronary heart disease.

Alumni News



Gang Ye

GANG YE (Ph.D. Spring 2005) currently works at Nemours Children's Clinic in Orlando. His dissertation "Inferences for Semiparametric Time-varying Covariate Effect Relative Regression Models" was supervised by Ian McKeague.



Robert Neher

ROBERT NEHER (Ph.D. 2004) is now with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Air Force Institute of Technology, Dayton, OH as an Assistant Professor in The Department of Mathematics and Statistics. His dissertation "A Bayesian MRF Framework for Labeling Terrain Using Hyperspectral Images" was supervised by Anuj Srivastava.

JULIE MCFARLAND (MS 2004) is now working as a Biostatistician at the University of South Florida where she performs research on rare diseases. Julie was married to Justin Anderson on June 11th, 2003. They currently reside in Orlando, FL.

CONSTANTINE DIAVATOPOLOUS (MS 2004) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Finance at The Florida State University.

KEVIN KRIEGER (MS 2004) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Finance at The Florida State University.

ANGELA ROBERSON (MS 2003) works as a biostatistician at the CDC in Atlanta in the Respiratory Diseases Branch.

NICOLE ISHILL (MS 2003) works for FOODNET with the Centers for Disease Control. Prior to joining FoodNet, Nicole taught statistics at Florida State and Tallahassee Community College.

ANYA SAVAGE (MS 2003) works as an instructional assistant at Nassau Center, Florida Community College, Jacksonville, Florida and was married to Brian Thomasson (MS 2001) who is a Professor at North Florida Community College in Jacksonville, Florida.

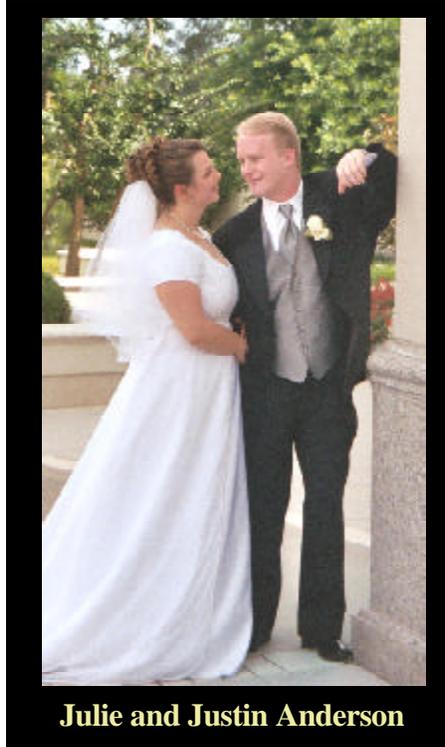
MIN TIAN (MS 2003) works for Abbot Laboratories in Chicago.

TRACY POOLE (MS 2003) teaches at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga in the Mathematics Department.

JASON MARTIN (MS 2000) now works for Merck doing clinical trials within their vaccine group.

MICHIKO WOLCOTT (MS 1999) returned to FSU in November 2004 on a recruiting trip for Equifax where she is a Senior Statistician for Equifax Prediction Sciences.

CYRUS AMIR (Ph.D. 1995) is currently working for GlaxoSmithKline.



Julie and Justin Anderson

HULIN WU (Ph.D. 1994) moved from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry to the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology in the Fall 2003 as a full professor. He is currently directing a group of research faculty and postdocs to work on two NIH projects for modeling HIV/AIDS.

TOM SCHROEDER (MS 1991) is Division Director, Division of Hazard and Injury Data Systems, US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, Maryland.

CHARLES REEVE (MS 1997) retired in 2003 after 21 years with National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland and 13 years with the Westinghouse Savannah River Company in Aiken, South Carolina.

NASSER REZA ARGHAMI (PhD 1981) is a Professor of Statistics and Dean of the School of Mathematical Sciences, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, IRAN.

JAMES STUART (MS 1988). The American Society for Quality (ASQ) recently awarded "Fellow" status to James E. Stuart. He was among 19 individuals elected Fellows by ASQ's board of directors in November 2004. By having Fellow status conferred upon them, they are being recognized as having achieved professional distinction and pre-eminence in the technology, theory, education, application, or management of quality control. James was recognized "For outstanding ability to teach, develop, influence, and implement quality and statistical methods in organizations; and for distinguished service and leadership both in his local section and in the ASQ Chemical and Process Industries Division." He has been at Eastman Chemical Company since 1989, working as a statistician, manager of the statistics function, and Black Belt. He is currently an Eastman Master Black Belt. (FROM ASQ Press Release)

TERRY KATZ (MS 1985) now works for ImClone Systems, Inc in New Jersey, "in the 19+ years since I graduated (MS, 1985), I've worked exclusively in the pharmaceutical industry. My new position is in oncology clinical trials with biotechnology derived products."

SHARAD CHITGOPEKAR (PhD 1968), who earned a Ph.D. from our department under the direction of I. Richard Savage, died in December 2003 as a result of an accident. He had been retired for about a year and a half from the College of Business, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois and was living in India.

A Message from the Chairman, continued

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In terms of continuing change, Dean Donald Foss, who has led the College of Arts and Sciences with great distinction for 10 years, is moving to a new appointment. He is becoming Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Houston Systems, and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston. We are grateful for the support he has given our Department and we wish him success with his new challenges.

Since I last wrote to you, two pillars of the Department passed away. Frank Proschan, a pioneering researcher in reliability theory who came to FSU in 1970, was named Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor in 1984 and retired in 1992 as Emeritus Professor, died at his home in Montgomery Village, Maryland on December 27, 2003. I. Richard Savage, a pioneering researcher in nonparametric statistics and the use of statistics for public policy decision making, who came to FSU in 1963 and left in 1974, died at his home in New Haven, Connecticut on June 4, 2004. Savage was named Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor in 1973. He left FSU in 1974 to join the Statistics Department at Yale University, and retired as Professor Emeritus in 1991.

The Department graduated one Ph.D. student and three M.S. students in 2004 and they obtained successful placements. Robert Neher received his Ph.D. in Fall 2004 under the direction of Anuj Srivastava and now works for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Air Force Institute of Technology, Dayton, Ohio. Rob is currently on a special assignment in Iraq and we wish him well. Dean Diavatopolous and Kevin Krieger received M.S. degrees in Spring 2004 and joined the Ph.D. program in Finance at FSU. Julie McFarland received her M.S. in Spring 2004 and is now working as a biostatistician at the University of South Florida. We are proud of our graduates and their achievements. Please write to us to keep us up-to-date on your accomplishments. To learn more about the Department, please visit our website at <http://stat.fsu.edu>.

In August, 2005 I will complete my current 3-year term (and 9th year overall) as Chair of the Department. It has been an honor and privilege to serve. I am pleased to inform you that our new Chair is Dan McGee who brings great talent and experience to the position. I know that Dan will do well in leading our department and he will be ably assisted by Associate Chair Steve Ramsier and our sterling staff: Pamela McGhee, Office Manager, who was promoted to the position after long serving and dedicated Office Manager Ginger Hellman, who served our department with dedication for 9 years, took a new position in the Dean's office; Computer Specialist James Stricherz; Program Assistant Jennifer McKendree; Grants Specialist Evangelous Robinson; and Senior Secretary Delenie Garrido.

Best wishes to all of you for the future.

Myles Hollander

Departmental Events

In February 2005 the Department hosted the Florida Chapter of the American Statistical Association Annual Meeting which was well attended by Statistics faculty and students from across the state. The Guest Speakers at the conference were David Madigan from Rutgers University and Michael Stein from the University of Chicago. The meeting was coordinated by **Dr. Xufeng Niu**, then treasurer of the Florida Chapter of the ASA and now Vice President. Dr. Mark Yang from the University of Florida is the new President and Dr. Hongmei Zhang from the University of West Florida is the new Treasurer.

In October 2004, Dr. Xueli Liu from the Department of Statistics, University of Florida presented the talk "Functional Convex Averaging for Time-Warped Random Curves and It's Application to Clustering Temporal Gene Expression Data" as the first installment of the FSU/UF Joint Statistics Colloquiums for 2004-2005. In March 2005, **Dr. John Dixon** from FSU travelled to the University of Florida to present his talk "A Computationally Quick Bootstrap Procedure for Semiparametric Models".

Contributions

You may show your support to the Department by contributing to any of the following funds:

The **Statistics General Development Fund** was created to provide general support for our department in a variety of areas.

The **Ralph A. Bradley Student Award** is named for our department's founder, Dr. Ralph A. Bradley. The award is presented to a graduating Ph.D. student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, culminating in the presentation of the best doctoral dissertation of the year.

The **Yongyuan and Anna Li Fund** was established by Anna Li in memory of her husband Yongyuan Li who died from cancer on April 7, 1997. The award consists of a cash prize and certificate and is presented to the graduate student who presents the best student colloquium each year.

The **Lin Fellowship** is used to support a qualified non-statistics undergraduate student who wishes to do statistics research or a statistics internship with a Statistics professor as a mentor. The first Lin Fellowship awardee was Amaly Johnson, a psychology major who focused on applied multivariate analysis and how it will help her in her studies. She was mentored by Dr. Eric Chicken. The second awardee was Ben Straub, who was interested in designing and analyzing game scenarios mimicking nation-level interactions. Drs. Chicken and Lin jointly mentored Ms. Johnson, while Dr. Chicken directed Mr. Straub. This year's winner is Tony Williams, an economics major.

The **Ronald and Carolyn Hobbs Endowed Fund** in Statistics was established by Ron Hobbs (M.S. '67) and his wife Carolyn. This fund will enable the Department to fill the Ronald and Carolyn Hobbs Endowed Chair in Statistics.

Thank You!

The Department would like to thank the following alumni and corporations who made very generous donations to the Statistics General Development Fund in 2004-2005: Nora F. Blair, Attorney at Law (M.S. 1975), Terry Katz (M.S. 1985), Doug Ransom (M.S. 1984), William D. Warde (M.S. 1967), Glenn J. Eschrich (BS 1966), and FLEET (matching gift program).

As always, we appreciate your continued support and are proud of our alumni and their accomplishments.

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Form 99SDDM

Florida State University
Department of Statistics
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4330

Alumni Update Form

Please complete the form below to update your information. Include any news (professional and/or personal) of your current activities that you would like to share with us. Unless otherwise requested, we may use your information in a future newsletter. Return the form to Pam McGhee, Florida State University, Department of Statistics, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4330 (fax: 850-644-5271, email: info@stat.fsu.edu).

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We look forward to hearing from you and to receiving your submissions for future newsletter items. You may reach us by mail, phone, fax, or email.*