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).

*Name:*_____ *Degree(s) and year(s):*_____

*Street Address:*_____ *City, State, Zip*_____

*Home Phone:*_____ *Website/Email address:*_____

*Position:*_____

*Business Name:*_____

*Work Address:*_____

*Work Phone:*_____ *Fax Number:*_____

Other Information:

Comments? Suggestions? 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.

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

The Department of Statistics at Florida State University

Newsletter, Volume 6

Highlights

Three New Professors Join the Department

Nonparametric Statistics Research Conference to be held at FSU in January 2003

Fred Huffer Receives Promotion

Jayaram Sethuraman Receives President's Continuing Education Award

Table of Contents

Departmental News...1-3, 6-7
Faculty Spotlight....4-5, 8
Student Spotlight 9
Alumni News..... 10-12

Celebrating Duane Meeter

Duane Meeter

Following a distinguished career in the Department of Statistics, Professor **DuaneMeeter** retired from the Florida State University in April 2002. On Saturday, April 20, the Department hosted Duane Meeter Day in recognition of his professional accomplishments and in deep appreciation of his many contributions.

Duane Meeter joined our department in 1964 after having received his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Meeter served as the department chairperson from 1993 to 1996. In his term, the department identified interdisciplinary research as a new area of emphasis. He also served as the Director of the Statistical Consulting Center 1975 to 1993 and he won a University Teaching Award in 1986 and a Teaching Incentive Program Award in 1994.

A display of photos from Duane Meeter's life

Duane Meeter Day consisted of reminiscences by invited friends and colleagues of Professor Meeter, including Mary Baggett (his last Ph.D. student), Frances James (a former Biology professor and colleague of Meeter's), Myles Hollander (our chairman), Fred

Continued on page 2

Greetings from the Chairman

Myles Hollander

Dear friends,

As this palindromic year closes, I am pleased to report that our Department has been sparked by the valuable additions of Dan McGee (Medical University of South Carolina), Somesh Chattopadhyay (Duke and Virginia), Eric Chicken (Purdue) and post-doc Hong Chang (telecommunications industry). They have infused the Department with new research perspectives and a broadened curriculum including six new courses in epidemiology and biostatistics developed by Dan. The Department welcomed a class of nine promising first-year graduate students. The Department has also increased its grant activities and interdisciplinary research. The Administration has made a strong commitment to the Department's growth and this year we are recruiting for two Assistant Professors, one endowed chair, one joint position with the School for Computational Science and Information Technology, and one Assistant in Statistics Position.

This year was diminished, however, by the departures of Duane Meeter to retirement, Lei Li to the University of Southern California, and Delenie Garrido to the Communications Disorders Department at FSU. We thank them for their contributions and wish them well. At the administrative level, President Sandy D'Alemberte is retiring after directing a decade of growth and numerous accomplishments including the establishment of our new Medical School. The University will miss the energy and dynamic spirit of the team of Sandy and his wife Patsy Palmer.

It is with sadness I note the passing of former FSU President John Champion who died on November 22. Dr. Champion was President of FSU from 1965-1969. He had many enduring achievements including the establishment of the Law School, the first FSU International Center (in Florence, Italy) and the Program in Medical Sciences, the precursor of our Medical School. He and his wife Mary graced the University community with warmth and dedication.

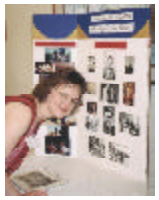
To all of our faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends, I encourage you to visit us when you can and I ask you to keep us up-to-date on your activities. Best wishes for the holidays and new year.

Duane Meeter Day

Continued from page 1

Leysieffer (professor and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs), Xu-Feng Niu (professor), Douglas Zahn (professor and chair of the Duane Meeter Day committee), and Blake Whitten (a Ph.D. alumnus). Brad Jones (a former student) gave a brief talk and played the violin. Special talks were also given by Carol and Erica (the Meeter daughters) who, afterwards, performed a duet on the flute and oboe. Dr. Meeter was also presented with piles of chocolates and a book of letters of appreciation from his many fans.

Additional photos from the Duane Meeter Day Celebration and a list of his Ph.D. students can be found on our website at http://stat.fsu.edu/DMD.html.



Carol Meeter

Brad Jones, Duane Meeter, Fred Leysieffer, and Doug Zahn

Erica Meeter

Xufeng Niu, Fran James, Duane, and Mary Baggett

The Meeter Family

Nonparametric Statistics Research Conference

To stimulate research in nonparametric statistics and to support the goals of the Nonparametric Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, the Department of Statistics at Florida State University is hosting a Nonparametric Statistics Research Conference on January 17th and 18th, 2002. The Program Committee consists of Flori Bunea, Myles Hollander, and Jayaram Sethuraman. Flori is coordinating the conference which will highlight the major trends in several areas of nonparametric statistics to facilitate the exchange of research ideas, promote collaboration among researchers from the US and Europe, and contribute to the further development of the field. The program will include invited talks and contributed posters on all areas of nonparametric statistics. More information about the conference can be found at http://stat.fsu.edu/nonpar/. A list of speakers and participants is below.

Ibrahim Ahmad, University of Central Florida
Michael Akritas, Penn State University
Florentina Bunea, Florida State University
Raymond J. Carroll, Texas A&M University
Ralph D'Agostino, Boston University
Kjell Doksum, University of Wisconsin
Dana Draghicescu, Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL
Michael Ernst, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
Joseph L. Gastwirth, George Washington University
Joe Glaz, University of Connecticut
Tom Hettmansperger, Penn State University
Myles Hollander, Florida State University
Nicole Lazar, Carnegie Mellon University
Regina Liu, Rutgers University
Robert Lund, University of Georgia
James D. Lynch, University of South Carolina
David Mason, University of Delaware
Eric Matzner-Lober, CREST-ENSAI, France
Ian McKeague, Florida State University
Joe McKean, Western Michigan University
Per Mykland, University of Chicago
Mikhail S. Nikulin, Université Bordeaux II
Andrew Nobel, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
W. J. Padgett, University of South Carolina
Emanuel Parzen, Texas A&M University
Victor Partrangenaru, Georgia State University
Edsel A. Peña, University of South Carolina
Brett Presnell, University of Florida
Ronald H. Randles, University of Florida
A. K. Md. Ehsanes Saleh, Carleton University, Canada
Bill Schucany, Southern Methodist University
Pranab K. Sen, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Jayaram Sethuraman, Florida State University
Justine Shults, University of Pennsylvania
Nozer Singpurwalla, George Washington University
Robert Taylor, University of Georgia
Ram Tiwari, NCI/NIH
Alexander Tsybakov, Univ Paris VI
Marten Wegkamp, Yale University
Jon A. Wellner, University of Washington
Doug Wolfe, Ohio State University

Alumni Contributions

The Department of Statistics would like to thank the following alumni and corporations for their generous contributions to the Ralph A. Bradley Award Fund and the Statistics General Development Fund this year. We are proud of our alumni and are happy to know they continue to support us.

Douglas Ransom (MS 1984), Household International, Sylvia and **Terry Katz** (MS 1985), **Donald Jennings** (MS 1968), The Boeing Corporation, **Bradley Jones** (MS 1980), **Charles White** (MS 1987), **Jagbir Singh** (Ph.D. 1967).

Luck, Gratitude, and Giving Thanks

Michael W. Sill

Michael is a Senior Biostatistician with the Gynecologic Oncology Group Statistical and Data Center at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He received a B.S. in Chemistry from FSU in 1994 and earned a Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Pittsburgh in 2000.

Occasionally, at social gatherings a person will approach me with a question involving the concept of luck. Often they want to know how to increase it — "Have you figured out a way to beat the lottery?" they will ask. Rather than quote some theoretical law of large numbers, I prefer to tease some by saying, "Yes. Don't play." That usually draws out a wisecrack response like, "And you get paid for doing statistics?"

All kidding aside, there are two kinds of luck that I'm aware of. One form of luck involves making decisions before we know the correct choice: if we later discover that we made the right choice, we commonly say that we were lucky …The other form of luck is the fact that there is so much about our lives that is beyond our control. Take for instance our birth. This is something we have absolutely no say in whatsoever. From whom we are born, where on earth we are born, when we are born… these are all things that are beyond our control, and yet, these very things have a profound influence on almost every aspect of our lives. I, for one, feel very lucky, very fortunate, to be born into a region and a time where people have a real chance to live in comfort and to pursue their dreams relatively free from oppression and injustice. It was from this environment where I was able to make a lot of my dreams a reality with the comfort of God, the support of my family, and the help of good people like Dr. Lin.

Near the end of my undergraduate program in chemistry, I decided to switch to statistics as my path in graduate school. It took about 4 years of chemistry to learn that I had a love for mathematics — some say I'm a slow learner. After taking an introductory course with Dr. Pi-Erh Lin in '92, I was convinced that I found my niche and went for my dream of doing statistical work in the biomedical sciences. However, breaking into the field of statistics as a graduate student with a background in chemistry was not easy. My first round of applications in '93 was met with a full set of rejections. Still, I didn't give up. I enrolled at Florida State's Dept. of Statistics the following year as an undergraduate and took a battery of courses, struggling to catch up. The faculty at the department were friendly and always open to my questions after class. Still, after that first year, my prospects for entering graduate school looked somewhat slim simply because of the lack of mathematical courses in my background. Yet luck would have it that I was able to receive an internship and that event brought me into weekly contact with Dr. Lin as my statistical advisor with work performed for Dr. Hofer at the Institute of Molecular Biophysics. Both men were really great, taking the time to show me the techniques of analysis in their fields of expertise as true mentors do. Few teachers are better than experience, and few things are more exciting than working in research on real problems. By the end of the summer, I was certain that I made the right decision about my future, and my fortune had changed entirely with a matriculation at a fine university in Pittsburgh. While in graduate school, I kept in touch with Dr. Lin over the years. My preliminary exams and proposal were particularly memorable times for me. One thing I never forgot were his cheers of happiness when I passed the preliminary for my Ph.D. He heartily said, Congratulations!" in such a way that I knew he was proud! He was behind me the whole way, and that is a rare gift in life.

I doubt that I will ever be able to fully express my appreciation to those that I am forever indebted; however, I will try my best with a sincere heart, understanding that in the process, good things will be achieved, and that in itself is worthwhile, for although the world is big, I believe each contribution helps make at least one other person feel lucky. To say thank you and to give other promising students the chances I was given, it became my desire to establish the Lin Summer Internship for years to come. Again, thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Michael Sill

"One day after his graduation ... majoring in Chemistry, Mike walked in to my office and asked me to give him a Directed Individual Study (DIS) course studying multiple regression methods …It was a rather unusual request from (almost) a total stranger who did not have much prior knowledge in statistics. But he wanted to know many things ... His natural ***curiosity*** caught my attention… I firmly believed that, only if he knew more advanced mathematics and statistics, Mike would be an excellent researcher in a Biological Science related profession ... He stood in a crossroad and needed guidance. After meeting with Mike for an hour or so, I decided to accept him as a special student. I became his mentor since." -- ***Pi-Erh Lin***

Alumni News

Alexia Athienitis (M.S. 2001) is a Biostatistician with Pharmaceutical Products Development (Pharmaco) in Lawrenceville, NJ.

Lawrence Barker (Ph.D. 1979) is a Supervisory Epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Barker was appointed Branch Chief of the Assessment Branch, Data Management Division, National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Assessment Branch oversees, conducts, and analyzes the National Immunization Survey, the world's largest ongoing telephone survey and the US's primary tool for assessing immunization coverage in young children.

Heather Schonrock Brabson (M.S. 1997) is an Associate Director for the American General Financial Group in Houston, TX. "A lot has changed since I left school. I'm now married and working in Houston, Texas while my husband gets his MBA from Rice University. My new name is Heather Brabson. I work for American General Financial Group as Associate Director of Actuarial Product Management. I am in charge of software testing (actuarial, regression, and automated testing) as well as technical support of the software that our insurance agents use to sell our products."

Xu (Sherry) Cao (M.S. 1999) is a Statistical Analyst with Guidant Corporation in Santa Clara, CA. "I have been working as a statistical analyst at Guidant for almost 6 months. It's a medical device company. The headquarter is in Indianapolis and we are making stents here in Santa Clara." Sherry has a daughter, Jasmine, who is nearly 2 years old.

Cheng Chen (Ph.D. 1981) works for NEC America, Inc. in Irving, Texas.

Larry Crow (Ph.D. 1971) and his wife Mary Frances celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in April 2002 in Italy. Also, Larry's paper "A Method for Achieving an Enhanced Mission Capability" was selected as the winner of the Society of Reliability Engineers' Stan Oftshun Award as the best paper by an SRE member presented to the 2002 Annual Reliability and Maintainability Symposium, in Seattle, WA. Larry is the Vice President of Reliability at the IIT Research Institute in Alabama.

Ivo Dinov (M.S. 1998) is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in Statistics (a joint position with Neurology) at the UCLA School of Medicine. His first child, Anna-Sophia, was born in October, 2001.

Fain Folsom (M.S. 2001) received a "promotion" at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital where she is now officially working as a Statistician. "The hospital is making the investment in software (SAS, S-Plus, MINITAB, etc) and I will be spending a lot of time this fall getting the new Department (Statistical Center) off the ground."

Ramesh Korwar (Ph.D. 1972) took an early retirement last June from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. "I worked in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics there for 28 years. My wife and I have moved to Raleigh, NC to be with our daughter Arati, her husband Andy, and their two-year old son, Ross, who also live in Raleigh. Ramesh has the title of Professor Emeritus from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Dong Ho Park(Ph.D. 1982) is a Professor at Hallym University, Korea.

Ryan Petska (M.S. 2001) is a Senior Statistical Consultant with Ernst & Young LLP.

Brett Presnell, (Ph.D.1989) in collaboration with Peter Hall and Don Poskitt of the Australian National University, was awarded the American Statistical Association's 2002 Award for Outstanding Statistical Application for the paper "A Functional Data-Analytic Approach to Signal Discrimination" (Technometrics, Volume 43, No. 1, February 2001). The award was presented on August 13 at the Joint Statistical Meetings in New York. Brett is currently a Professor at the University of Florida

Brian Thomasson (M.S. 2001) is an instructor at Florida Community College in Jacksonville. "So far, I love it!"

Caren White (M.S. 2002) works at Economic Research Services in Tallahassee, Florida.

Bill Salokar (M.S. 1980) is a Marketing Manager with NFO WorldGroup in Atlanta, GA. "I'm enjoying my relatively new career (4 years) of working on the supplier side of the market research business. I have the opportunity to work with some of the largest US companies in a wide variety of industries.

Atlanta is a great place to live and work. My family includes my wife of 20 years, Nancy, and two children - Andrew, 16 and Elise, 11."

Mark Serafin (M.S. 1994) is a Research Associate for the Snohomish Health District in Everett, WA.

Heather Smith (M.S. 1989) is a Professor with the Department of Statistics at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA. "I love living and working in San Luis!! Teaching and consulting are both a lot of fun!!"

Peter Thall (Ph.D. 1975) is a Professor and Deputy Chairman at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Biostatistics in Houston, TX. " I am now a Bayesian biostatistician working at the largest cancer center in the world. I have designed more clinical trials than any other statistician on earth - over 300 at the latest count. My colleagues call me 'Rex the Wonderdog'. To get an idea of what I'm up to these days, take a peek at my March 2002 JASA article."

Mihiro Wakamatsu (M.S. 1999) now works for GlaxoSmithKline in Japan.

William Warde (M.S. 1967) is Professor & Head of the Statistics Department at Oklahoma State University. "I am involved with AP Statistics - grading for the second year this summer, & will be teaching a couple of courses at Hong Kong Institute of Technology for the OSU School of Hotel & Restaurant Administration."

Michiko Ishiyama Wolcott (M.S. 1999) works for Equifax in Atlanta, GA.

Andres Petrasovits died on July 24,2001. Andres received his Ph.D. from our department under the direction of Richard Cornell in 1970. The eulogy given at his funeral is available at http://www.med.mun.ca/chhdbc/Andres/Eulogy.htm.

Fred Huffer Promoted to Full Professor

Dr. Fred Huffer earned a B.S. in Mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1978 and received his Ph.D. from Stanford University in 1982. He joined our department in 1983 and has, since then, proven to be an excellent teacher, sound researcher, and invaluable member of the department. Earlier this year he was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor, effective Fall 2002.

Dr. Fred Huffer

Dr. Huffer has taught a wide variety of courses in our department. In recent years his STA 5326 (Distribution Theory and Inference), STA 5327 (Statistical Inference), and STA 5208 (Linear Statistical Models) have been a fundamental part of our core program for Ph.D. students. He has also served on many departmental committees, including the Faculty Evaluation & Merit Increase, Promotion & Tenure, Executive, Academic Affairs, and Graduate Student Evaluation and Awards Committees.

Dr. Huffer has actively participated in dissertation direction at FSU. Fred's five (completed) Ph.D. students are C. Park (Yonsei University, Seoul), C. Lin (Tamking University, Tamsui, Taiwan), H. Wu (Frontier Science and Technology Research Foundation, Harvard University), K. Lawson (Abbot Laboratories), and J. Stein (Rio Grande Medical Technologies, Albuquerque). He has written several joint publications with all but one of these students within the past 5 years. His research interests cover many areas including theory and applications of scan statistics, spatial statistics, survival analysis, Bayesian statistics using Dirchlet process priors, and Markov chain Monte Carlo estimation.

Biostatistics News

The Biostatistics Group at FSU currently consists of five faculty members (Dan McGee, Myles Hollander, Xufeng Niu, Florentina Bunea, and Somesh Chattopadhyay), one post-doc (Hong Chang), and two graduate students (Panagiota Kitsanta and Jeannette Simino) from the Department of Statistics at Florida State University.

Since its formation in August 2002, the group has focussed on the methodological issues that arise when applying meta-analysis and ROC curves to predict disease.

In the future we hope to collaborate with members of FSU's new College of Medicine and the epidemiology section of the Sociology Department.

For more information, see:
http://ogygia.stat.fsu.edu/

Jayaram Sethuraman Receives Prestigious Award

Provost Larry Abele (left) congratulates Dr. Sethuraman

Dr. Jayaram Sethuraman was recently awarded the 2002 President's Continuing Education Award for his work with the Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (REAP). The President's Continuing Education Award recognizes outstanding faculty contributions to continuing education and outreach as an important part of the University's mission.

With the award, Dr. Sethuraman received a $2000 honorarium and a plaque that reads, "For his distinguished and enduring commitment to the field of Continuing Education. He is especially recognized for his work, since 1981, with the Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (REAP) where he has personally mentored 62 high school juniors and seniors from Leon County and taught them problem solving skills in Probability and Statistics."

At right: Dr. Sethuraman with Summer 2003 REAP students Oufemi Oti, James Wilson, and David McCaleb. For more info, see http://stat.fsu.edu/people/reap.html.

Faculty Spotlight

Anuj Srivastava

A Theory for Study of Planar Shapes A. Srivastava and E. Klassen

For analyzing shapes of planar, closed curves, we have proposed a mathematical representation of closed curves using "direction" functions (integrals of the signed curvature functions). Shapes are represented as elements of an infinite-dimensional manifold and their pairwise differences are quantified using the lengths of geodesics connecting them on this manifold. Exploiting the periodic nature of these representations, we use a Fourier basis to discretize them and use a gradient-based shooting method for finding geodesics between any two shapes. Lengths of geodesics provide a metric for comparing shapes.

Shown in Figure 1 is an example of a geodesic path between a bird and a bottle outlines. To facilitate statistical inferences, we have defined the notions of mean and covariances on the shape space. As an example, the fifth panel in Figure 2 shows the mean shape of the four fish shapes shown in the other panels.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

Recent Publications:

Srivastava, **A.** , "Stochastic Models for Capturing Image Variability", *IEEE Signal Processing Magazine*, vol. 19, issue 5, pages 63-76, September 2002.

Srivastava, **A.** , Liu, X., and Grenander, U. , "Universal Analytic Forms for Modeling Image Probabilities" , *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence*, vol. 24, no. 9, pages 1200-1214, September 2002.

Srivastava, **A.**, Grenander , U., Jensen, G., and Miller, M. I., "Jump-Diffusion Markov Processes on Orthogonal Groups for Object Recognition", *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, vol. 103, no. 1-2, pages 15-37, April 2002.

Srivastava, **A.** , and Klassen, E., "Monte Carlo Extrinsic Estimators for Manifold-Valued Parameters" , special issue of *IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing on Monte Carlo Methods*, vol. 50, no. 2, pages 299-308, February 2002.

Articles written for Press:

"Comparing (Images of) Apples and Oranges" , Article in *SIAM News*, volume 35, number 4, pages 7-8, May 2002.

Papers in Conference Proceedings:

"Analytical Image Models and Their Applications" , in Proceedings of Seventh European Conference on Computer Vision, in press, Copenhagen, May 2002. (with X. Liu and U.Grenander).

"Principal Component Analysis of Range Images for Facial Recognition", Proceedings of CISST, in press, Las Vegas, June 2002. (with C. Hesher and G. Erlebacher).

Invited session: "A Compact Probability Model for Natural Clutter", IEEE International Conference on Image Processing, Thessaloniki, Greece, October 2001.

"Image Segmentation using Local Histograms", in Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Image Processing, volume 1, pages 70-73, Thessaloniki, Greece, October 2001. (with X. Liu and D. Wang).

"Spectral Probability Models of IR Images with Applications to IR Face Recognition", CVPR workshop on Computer Vision Beyond Visual Spectrum, Hawaii, December 2001. (with X. Liu, B. Thomasson and C. Hesher).

Invited Talks at Research Workshops/Meetings:

NSF Workshop on Pattern Recognition, University of Michigan and NSF, Ann Arbor, March 2002.

Workshop on Imaging, Classification and Clustering, UFL Statistics Annual Winter Workshop, Gainesville, FL, January 2002.

This newsletter is produced by the Department of Statistics
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The **FSU/UF Joint Colloquium** Speaker from UF this Fall was Clyde H. Schoolfield, Jr. Other outside colloquium speakers last year were: Greg Ridgeway (RAND Statistics Group, CA), Radu V. Craiu (Univ. of Toronto), Klaus Utikal (Univ. of Mainz, Germany), Alexandre Carvalho (Northwestern), Alfred Hero (Univ. of Michigan), Michael Mascagni (FSU Dept. of Computer Science), Amy Grady (National Center for Atmospheric Research), Richard L. Smith (UNC, Chapel Hill), Ronald A. Devore (Univ. of South Carolina), Monica Hurdal (FSU Dept of Mathematics), Dr. Richard Pfeffer (Rossby Professor of Meteorology, FSU), and Ruth Ann Killion (US Census Bureau).

Student Spotlight

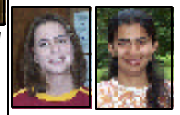
New Students

This fall we admitted 9 new students to the graduate program. They are **Tina Carter** (FL), **Constantine Diavatopoulos** (IL), **David Kaziska** (PA - a Captain in the Air Force), **Kevin Krieger** (FL), **Julie McFarland** (TX), **Eduardo Melendez** (PUERTO RICO), **Tracy Poole** (TN), **Dinesh Sharma** (INDIA), and **Min Tian** (CHINA).

Melendez, McFarland, and Poole (top) at the Fall TA Orientation Seminar

(left to right:) Sharma, Krieger, Tian, Diavatopoulos, and Kaziska

Student Awards



Radu Herbei (left) was named the ***Best First Year Student in Theoretical Statistics*** for 2001-2002**.**

Jeannette Simino (left) and **Mahtab Munshi** (right) tied for the ***Best First Year Student in Applied Statistics award*** for the 2001-2002 academic year.

Mick Smith (left) was awarded the ***Yongyuan and Anna Li award*** for the best student colloquium in 2001-2002 for his presentation, "Data Fusion for an Army Application".

Recent Graduates

Yichuan Zhao (Ph.D. 2002) is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Georgia State University. This June he received a R.L. Anderson Student Paper Scholarship for the 2002 SRCOS /ASA Summer Research Conference. He also received a Dissertation Research Grant from FSU in 2002. His paper "Goodness-of-fit test for proportional hazards assumption via empirical likelihood" (with Ian W. McKeague) was selected to receive the 2002 International Chinese Statistical Association ICSA Student Awards and Travel Fellowship — he received a certificate, $400, and tuition for some short courses at the Applied Statistics Symposium on June 6-8, 2002. Yichuan also won the ICSA Award and Travel Fellowship the year before. Finally, Yichuan was the winner of the Department's **R.A. Bradley award** in the 2001-2002 academic year. Initiated in 1979, the Bradley award is for a Ph.D. graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement. The award includes a cash prize and recognition on a plaque in the Department's Commons Room.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY AWARD
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
OR UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING
DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS JANUARY 10, 2003

Nominate your most outstanding teacher or advisor today! To nominate a teacher or adviser, send the info below to :University Teaching and Advising Awards Committee, Provost's Office, 212 Westcott Building, Tallahassee, FL 32306-1310.

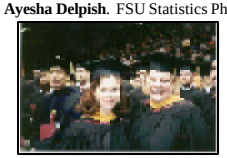
I wish to nominate:
Name (first and last):_____
Department: _____
Select one category:
a: ( ) TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD
b: ( ) UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING EXCELLENCE AWARD
II. Reason(s) for my nomination: Please give reasons for your nomination. Describe the ways the nominee was exception and, if possible, give examples to illustrate your points (can use a separate sheet).
III. Your name _____
( ) Undergraduate Student
( ) Graduate Student
( ) Alumnus

Ph.D.

Feiming Chen. Feiming will be working as a Research Analyst for Spectra Marketing Systems, Inc. in Chicago. (Fall 2002).
Sandra Hall. (Fall 2002)

M.S.

Sandra Hall. (2002)
Matthew Hall. Kansas University Medical Center, Cancer Research Division, Kansas City, Kansas.(2002)
Rob Fowler. Statistics Ph.D. program, FSU (2002).
Anna Auguste. Statistics Ph.D. program, FSU (2002).
Han Yu. Statistics Ph.D. program, FSU (2002).
Radha Bose . Tallahassee Community College, Science and Mathematics Division (2002)
Caren White. Economic Research Services, Tallahassee, FL (2002)
Ayesha Delpish. FSU Statistics Ph.D. program (2001)



Fain Folsom. Tallahassee Memorial Hospital (2001)
Alexia Athienitis. PPDI, New Jersey (2001).

Alexia and Fain at their M.S. graduation

Faculty Spotlight

Kaisheng Song

Recent Publications:

Song, K. "Goodness-of-Fit Tests Based on Kullback-Leibler Discrimination Information", *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, vol. 48, 2002, pp. 1103-1117.

Song, K."Asymptotic Analysis of a Fast Algorithm for Efficient Multiple Frequency Estimation", (to appear) *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, October Issue, No. 10., 2002 (with T. H. Li of IBM).

Song, K."Regulatory Traffic Jams", *Wyoming Law Review*, 2002, Vol. 2, pp. 253-289. (with J. Salzman of American Univ. , College of Law, and J.B. Ruhl, FSU College of Law).

Ruhl, J.B., Salzman, J., **Song, K.,** and **Yu, H.** "Environmental Compliance: Another Corporate Integrity Crisis or Too Many Rules?", *Natural Resources & Environment* (in press), Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002.

Doug Zahn

Recent Activities:

"Dan Boroto (Psychology) and I taught Offerings 12 and 13 of the Boroto-Zahn Consultancy Skills Course, along with an Advanced Course, a Groups Course, and two Booster Shots (review sessions for graduates of previous offerings of the course) to statisticians and other government professions in the United Kingdom Civil Service. We have now taught over 340 British civil servants, about 70% being statisticians, in our United Kingdom courses since 1996. Participants range from some of the newest statisticians in the Office of National Statistics (ONS) to some of the most senior executives in the ONS. Enthusiasm for the course continues to run high as Offering 14 which starts in December 2002 was fully booked by September 1 and there is now a waiting list for Offering 15 which will start in May 2003."

Other Professional Activities:

International Alliance for Learning, Houston, TX, January, 2002; ASA-NYC, August, 2002. "I have read a book called The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life by Parker Palmer that I am enthusiastic about and recommend to anyone interested in taking a different look at this vocation called teaching. I created a Topic Contributed Panel Discussion of this book for the ASA-NYC meetings in August 2002 which was well received."

Myles Hollander

Recent Publications:

"Nonparametric estimation with recurrent event data", *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 96, 1299-1315, 2001 (with E. Peña and R. Strawderman).

"Nonparametric methods: Advanced computational approaches", International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, N.J. Smelser and P.B. Baltes Eds., 10660-10667, 2001, Permagon, Oxford (with J. Sethuraman).

"Nonparametric methods: Rank-based procedures", International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, N.J. Smelser and P.B. Baltes Eds., 10673-10680, 2001, Permagon, Oxford (with J. Sethuraman).

"Models for recurrent phenomena in survival analysis and reliability", Mathematical Reliability: An Expository Perspective, (edited by T. Mazzuchi, N. Singpurwalla and R. Soyer) Kluwer (to appear), 2002 (with E. Peña).

"Nonparametric inference for repair models", 2002, (to appear), *Sankhya* volume in honor of D. Basu (with J. Sethuraman).

"Nonparametric methods for repair models", 2002, invited paper submitted for the volume Survival Analysis, Handbook of Statistics (editors C.R. Rao and N. Balakrishnan) (with J. Sethuraman.

"Inference for the proportionality function in the random censorship model", *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics* (to appear), 2003 (with G. Laird and K. Song).

Other Professional Activities: Dr. Hollander was an invited speaker at the Third International Conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, June, 2002. He presented a talk on "Nonparametric Bayes methods for repair models" (based on joint research with J. Sethuraman).

Fred Huffer

"I gave a talk "Symbolic and Numerical Computations for Distributions Involving Linear Combinations of Spacings or Exponential Variates" based on my joint work with Chien-Tai Lin at the International Workshop in Applied Probability at the University of Simon Bolivar in Caracas, Venezuela in January 2002."

Pi-Erh Lin

Pi-Erh Lin is Co-PI on a Florida DOT grant studying "the traffic fatality causes and effects" with Lisa Spainhour of the Department of Civil Engineering in the FAMU/FSU College of Engineering.

Florentina Bunea

Flori gave invited talks in Spring at the FSU/UF joint colloquia series at the University of Florida and at the University of Toronto. During the summer she participated in three conferences (including the JSM) and gave an invited talk at the International Conference on Current Advances and Trends in Nonparametric Statistics held in Crete and also at the 65th annual meeting of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Banff, Canada. She received an NSF travel award for the conference in Crete. Her recent technical reports include Semiparametric Hazard Function Regression Models (joint with Ian McKeague) and Two-stage Model Selection Procedures in Partially Linar Regression (joint with Marten Wegkamp).

Ian McKeague

Current Grants:

NSF Grant ATM-0222244, Opportunities for Research Collaborations between the Mathematical Sciences and the Geosciences Program, **"Ocean Circulation Climatology and Dynamics Using Bayesian Hierarchical Methods"**, 2002-2005, Ian McKeague (Project Director and Principal Investigator), in collaboration with Kevin Speer (FSU), Michael Lavine (Duke), Susan Lozier (Duke) and Chris Wikle (Missouri). Total budget ~$750,000. FSU portion: $260,000. FSU is the lead institution.

NSF Grant DMS-0204688, **"Bayesian, Empirical Likelihood and Counting Process Methods for Semiparametric Models"** Ian McKeague (Project Director and Principal Investigator), $87,000, 2002—2005.

NSF Grant, DMS-0207139, Interdisciplinary Grants in the Mathematical Sciences Program, **"Statistical Modeling in Oceanography"** Ian McKeague (Project Director and Principal Investigator), $81,000, 2002—2003. Grants under this program allow mathematical scientists to undertake research and study in another discipline (in this case Oceanography).

Recent Publications:

McKeague, I., Subramanian, S., and Sun, Y, "Median Regression and the Missing Information Principle", *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics*, 13, 709-727 (2001).

Loizeaux, M. A. , and **McKeague, I.**, "Perfect Sampling for Point Process Cluster Modelling", Chapter 5 of Spatial Cluster Modelling (A. Lawson and D. Denison, eds.), Chapman & Hall (2002), 87-107.

Papers Presented at Meetings:

Invited speaker, SAMSI Research Workshop "Challenges in Stochastic Computation,"Research Triangle, North Carolina, September 28 — October 1, 2002.

Invited speaker, WNAR/IMS Meeting, University of California, Los Angeles, June 2002.

Invited speaker, XXXIVemes Journees de Statistique, Brussels, Belgium, May 2002.

Invited speaker, Eighth Summer Workshop, New Zealand Mathematics Research Institute, Napier, New Zealand, January 2002.

Other Professional Activities:

Organized and chaired an IMS Invited Paper Session, "A Decade of Empirical Likelihood," Joint Statistical Meetings, New York City, August 2002.

Lecturer for a short course, "Empirical Likelihood Methods in Survival Analysis," as part of 3 week visit to Institute of Statistics, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, May 2002.

Colloquium speaker, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University, December 2001.

Xufeng Niu

Grant Highlights:

Statistical Analysis and Summary of Mercury Data Inter-laboratory Comparison Program(with Pi-Erh Lin and Duane Meeter, Project Period, June 2001 — June 2002.)

Development of an Operational System for Probabilistic Quantitative Precipitation Forecasting over the United States(with Richard L. Pfeffer, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Institute. Project Period, June 2001 — September 2003.)

Recent Publications:

Elsner, J. B., Bossak, Brian H, and **Niu,X-F.**, (2001), "Secular Changes to the ENSO-U.S. Hurricane Relationship," *Geophysical Research Letters*, Vol. 28, No. 21, 4123-4126. "This paper performed an analysis of the statistical relationship between annual US hurricane activity and the El Nino-Southern oscillation (ENSO). The legitimacy of considering annual US hurricane counts as a Poisson process is checked. Then Poisson regression is used to model the ENSO-US hurricane connection. A bivariate regression model verifies a significant negative correspondence between tropical Pacific sea-surface temperature (SST) and US hurricane activity."

Applequist, S. Gahrs, Gregory E., Pfeffer, Richard L. and **Niu, X-F.** (2002), "Comparison of Methodologies for Probabilistic Quantitative Precipitation Forecasting," *Weather and Forecasting*, Vol. 17, 783-799. "This paper discusses different statistical procedures for forecasting twenty-four-hour probabilistic quantitative precipitation for 154 meteorological stations over the eastern and central regions of the United States. Comparisons of skill are made among forecasts generated using linear regression, discriminant analysis, logistic regression, neural networks, and a classifier system. The results indicate that logistic regression performs best among the five methodologies."

Jagger, T., **Niu,X-F.** and Elsner, J. B. (2002), "A Space-Time Model for Seasonal Hurricane Prediction," *International Journal of Climatology*, Vol. 22, 451-465. "A space-time count process model is explained and applied to annual North Atlantic hurricane activity. The model uses the best-track data set of historical hurricane positions and intensities, together with climate variables, to determine local space-time coefficients of a right-truncated Poisson process. The final chosen model has five nearest neighbours and statistically significant couplings. Hindcasts are performed on the hurricane seasons from 1994 to 1997."

Other Professional Activities:

I attended the 2002 Applied Statistics Symposium organized by the International Chinese Statistical Association, June 6-8, 2002. I gave an invited talk in the meeting.

I visited China from June 14 to July 19 and gave talks in Beijing University and Shanxi University.

Department of Statistics

Three New Professors and One Post-Doc Join the Department in Fall 2002

Dr. Somesh Chattopadhyay joined the department in August 2002. He received his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Virginia in 2001. After receiving his Ph.D., Dr. Chattopadhyay spent a year in the Institute of Statistics and Decision Sciences at Duke University as a visiting assistant professor before joining Florida State University. His primary research interests lie in the field of biostatistics and applied probability. In particular, he is interested in probability and statistical modeling and inference in biomedical problems, MCMC and Bayesian computation, and stochastic optimization. He has also recently become interested in genetics and microarray analysis. Dr. Chattopadhyay's dissertation at the University of Virginia was on hormone pulse detection and parameter estimation in human and other animals where he used a new idea of selective smoothing and an alternate Metropolis-diffusion algorithm.

Dr. Chattopadhyay and his wife Maitreyi Chattopadhyay both are originally from Calcutta (now Kolkata), India. He earned his B.Sc. in Statistics and M.Sc. in Statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute in 1994 and 1996, respectively.

Dr. Eric Chicken joined the faculty in August, 2002. He holds a Ph.D. in Statistics from Purdue University. His primary research interests lie in the field of nonparametric analysis. In particular, he works on problems involving data compression, denoising contaminated signals, high-speed automobile-bicycle interactions, image reconstruction, and nonparametric function estimation.

Dr. Chicken graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1986 with a B.S. in mathematics. After graduation, he entered the United States Air Force as an officer and began working as a satellite engineer in a mission control center for US and NATO communications satellites. After nearly ten years of working with the military in Colorado, Delaware, California, and Massachusetts, he left to pursue a degree at Purdue University. After graduating in 2001, he took a position as a visiting assistant professor at Purdue University.

Dr. Chicken married Rebecca Seelund in 1988. They have three children, a house not yet unpacked since their move from Indiana, and no lawnmower.

Dan McGee was hired this year as our newest full professor. He currently teaches an "Intro to Epidemiology" special topics course and will teach special topics courses in "Medical Consulting" and "Intro to Biostatistics" next Spring.

"I received my bachelors and masters degrees in mathematics from the University of California at Berkeley followed by masters and Ph.D. degrees in biostatistics from the Johns Hopkins University. I spent time as an enlisted member of the U.S. Marine Corps and as an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. After twenty years service time, I joined academia and worked at three different medical schools before joining the statistics department at FSU in August of 2002. I have a wife, two children, two grand children, and a dog.

My major research interest is the study of disease occurrence in human populations. I presently have funding from the National Institutes of Health that allows me to examine issues in summarizing statistical results from diverse groups from around the world. This research combines elements of meta-analysis, and data warehousing and mining."

Hong Chang joined our department this Fall as a post-doctoral research assistant working with Dr. McGee.

"I received my Ph.D. degree in Mathematical & Computer Sciences from the Colorado School of Mines in 1996.

I worked in the telecommunication industry before joining the Statistics Department of Florida State University in September 2002.

I earned my bachelors in mathematics and masters degree in meteorological statistics from China. I am interested in data management, data mining meta-analysis, and biostatistics."

Change is Good?

Delenie Garrido, who joined us in Fall 2001 as our Departmental Secretary, has earned a promotion and will be joining the Communication Disorders Department as their new Program Assistant starting this December.

Originally from New Mexico, Delenie moved to Texas when she was 12, and then moved to Florida after graduating from high school. She started working with us last August and has been attending classes at FSU and at Tallahassee Community College in her spare time. Delenie has been an excellent employee who daily brightened the department with her energy and enthusiasm. We are very sad to see her go, but we wish her the best and know that she will be an asset to her new department.

Our Departmental 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 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 the 2004-2005 academic 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 starts in Summer 2003. It will be 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. (See page 11 for the story behind the fellowship.)

Florida State University Department of Statistics Gift Form

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