

## Department of Statistics

### Inside this issue:

50th Anniversary-Continued	2
Johnson-Continued	3
Nora Bello	4
Scholarship Winners	5
Scholarship Winners	6
Scholarship Winners	7
Recent Graduates	8
Faculty Visitors 10-11	9
Desk of Jim Neill	10
Alumni News	11
Faculty Activities	12
Faculty Activities	13
KSU JSM Dinner	13
2010 Ag Conference	14
Basketball Pool	14
Sponsors & Donations	15
Address Correction	16

### 50th Anniversary Celebration Held

On October 10, 2009, the department held an Open House in its Dickens Hall offices and a banquet in the K-State Alumni center, celebrating its 50 years as a Department of Statistics.

The department officially came into being by declaration of the Kansas Board of Regents on July 1, 1959, with Dr. Holly Fryer as department head, and a faculty of five, which included Dr. Fryer, Dr. Robert Cochran, Dr. Arlin Feyerherm, Dr. Gary Krause, and Dr. Stanley Wearden.

Of course, Dr. Fryer's leadership in the establishment of the department is well-known. He was the first statistician hired into the university in 1940, and in 1946, he was named the Director of the newly established Statistical Laboratory. As the demand for statistical expertise grew over the years, Dr. Fryer and his colleagues lobbied with the deans of the colleges of Arts & Sciences and Agriculture and the university president to establish a separate department. On March 25, 1959, the Board of Regents authorized a separate Department of Statistics (all the faculty members had been assigned to the Department of Mathematics up to that point in time) to begin operation on July 1 of that year.

We will not write an extended history of the department here. Those who are interested may wish to read a copy of Dr. Fryer's extensive manuscript on the history of the *(continued on page 2)*



Dr. James Neill, Dept. Head

### Johnson Wins Dixon Award



Dr. Dallas Johnson

It was recently announced that Dallas Johnson, Professor Emeritus in the department, will be presented the W.J. Dixon Award for Excellence in Statistical Consulting by the American Statistical Association at the this year's Joint Statistics Meetings to be held in early August in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Dallas has had a long and distinguished career as a faculty member and consultant, including 31 years in the Department of Statistics at K-State. Much of that time was spent on an appointment in which his duties included consultation with subject matter researchers supported by K-State Research and Extension, formerly known as the Agricultural Experiment Station. He was very busy and was constantly sought-after because of his vast knowledge of a wide variety of statistical areas and because of his ability to bring his consultees up to speed

so that they had their own understanding of their results. He was truly outstanding in these one-on-one settings, whether he was working with another statistician, a faculty colleague in another area, or a student just beginning to grasp the statistical methodologies appropriate to the work he/she was doing.

*(continued on page 3)*

Check out our brand  
new website!  
[www.ksu.edu/stats](http://www.ksu.edu/stats)



## Continued—50th Anniversary Celebration Held

department. It is also planned that a concise version of the history will be available on the department's new web site.

The department made special effort to invite the members of the original faculty to attend the anniversary celebration. We were honored with the presence and a few remarks from Dr. Arlin Feyerherm, now living in the Kansas City area, and Dr. Robert Cochran, who resides in Laramie, Wyoming. Mrs. Beth Fryer and Mrs. Lavonia Dayton, wives of Holly Fryer and Art Dayton, the first two department heads, were also present for the festivities and to renew old acquaintances. A good number of current faculty, former faculty and graduates of the department participated in the event as well.



*Department Heads and Friends*



*Dr. Lolafaye Coyne and Dr. Arlin Feyerherm*

The program opened with a welcome and perspectives given by the current department head, Jim Neill. John Boyer presented a short history of the department and listed some of its accomplishments and those of people who taught or were educated within it. The department then introduced the 2009 -2010 winners of departmental scholarships and described new scholarships and gifts which will enhance the department's ability to serve students. Several letters of congratulations from campus administrators were read. Then a time for remembrances, reminiscences and stories was provided, with a number of those present making remarks about how the department or individuals within the department had influenced their lives. Photographs were taken of various groups (scholarship recipients, all faculty, former department heads, etc.). Finally a time

for just visiting and getting reacquainted was enjoyed by all.

A quick summary of the accomplishments of individuals associated with the department would likely include the following:



*Dr. Robert Cochran, Dr. Feyerherm and Dr. Beth Fryer*

- 16 individuals have been named Fellow of the American Statistical Association.
- 5 individuals have been named Founders Award winners by ASA (the highest award for service to the association and the discipline).
- Dennis Cook, who got his Ph.D. in the department, was recently chosen to deliver the R.A. Fisher lecture at the joint meetings (one of the most prestigious honors for research bestowed by the association).
- Ron Iman, who earned his Ph.D. in the department, and Sallie Keller-McNulty, former faculty member, have served as President of the ASA in 1994 and 2006, respectively.
- Ray Waller, former faculty member, and Ron Wasserstein, Ph.D. graduate, have served as Executive Director of ASA.



*Dr. Ron Wasserstein and Dr. Ray Waller*

## Continued—Johnson Wins Dixon Award

But Dallas became much more than a good one-on-one consultant. His many collaborations moved him to get involved with the development, jointly with his colleague and friend, George Milliken, in the “messy data” series of books. The first of these, “Analysis of Messy Data, Volume I: Designed Experiments” was published in 1984, and quickly garnered for each a national reputation. This book spawned a whole assortment of short courses, workshops, traveling courses, and seminars that strongly influenced a whole generation of statisticians, students, subject matter researchers and statistical consultants. The book describes not only methods of analysis, but provides strong guidance on how and when to apply those methods, gives advice about diagnostic tools, and exhibits code for software that will accomplish the necessary tasks.

Following on the success of this book, Dallas then co-authored two more books in the messy data series, one on analysis of covariance and another on nonreplicated experiments. In 1998, he authored a notable text on multivariate analysis entitled “Applied Multivariate Methods for Data Analysts” which was again quite successful. The text was widely acclaimed for its layout of a variety of analyses, with a large number of illustrated examples including code and output from both SAS and SPSS. The reviewer of the book for **Technometrics**, an employee of a chemical company, praised the book for the thoroughness of the analysis and the ease of its use, concluding that “I actually wish I were back in the university so that I could teach a basic course in multivariate methods using this book”.

Dallas’ talents have not been confined to Kansas State University. He has done a significant amount of work off campus as well. In particular, he has done a significant amount of consultation for the federal government. His most recent work has been as a member of the Human Studies Review Board for the Environmental Protection Agency, where his expertise has helped advise a wide variety of researchers on methodologies for conducting their experiments and guide the agency on oversight of sponsored research.

Even since his official retirement in 2006, Dallas has been active and productive. Most notably, he has continued his advisory work with the EPA and he and George have accomplished the long-anticipated revision of the original Messy Data Book.

Dallas grew up in Central City, Nebraska, earned a Bachelor’s degree from Kearney State College in Nebraska, a Master’s degree from Western Michigan University and a Ph.D. degree in Statistics from Colorado State University. He taught high school mathematics and served on the faculty at the University of Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri University of Science and Technology), before joining the faculty at K-State in 1975. In addition to his long and powerful record of consulting, his many connections caused him to serve as a committee member for more than 100 graduate students outside the department. He was also one of the driving forces behind and the first editor of the *Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics*, an official outlet of the American Statistical Association. He has been recognized by the American Statistical Association by being named a Fellow of the Association and by being given the association’s Founders’ Award, the highest honor given for service to the association.

The W.J. Dixon Award is presented annually by the association, but has only been in existence since 2008, so Dallas is the second winner. It is provided to honor the memory of Wilfrid J. Dixon, a long-time faculty member at UCLA, a noted applied statistician, and after his retirement from academia, a noted private statistical consultant.





## Nora Bello To Join Faculty



This fall, **Dr. Nora Bello** will be joining the Statistics faculty at KSU. Nora is originally from a small town called La Cumbre by the sierras of the province of Cordoba in Argentina, South America, where she grew up in a family of five, consisting of her parents and two younger sisters. Before coming to the US, Nora studied Veterinary Medicine in Cordoba and decided to work in large animal production medicine... statistics had not kicked in yet.

With this in mind, Nora accepted an offer from Michigan State University to pursue a Masters in Animal Science with

an emphasis in cattle reproductive physiology. The graduate program required two semesters of applied statistics... and this did the trick! Wow! Granted, the instructor, Dr. Rob Tempelman, was a great motivator in showcasing how powerful linear mixed models were to tackle real life biological problems. Do you know how the Statistician's Decalogue says "Nobody wants our jobs"? Nora soon found herself really enjoying the powerful flexibility of a subject that most animal scientists refused to dive into but every researcher needed, no exceptions. What a niche!

Nora went on to pursue a Masters in Applied Statistics at Michigan State, which was enriched by over two years of statistical consulting across the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. For her PhD, the merging of her quantitative and biological backgrounds seemed a natural interdisciplinary synergism, especially within the land-grant mission of Michigan State. This mission triad of research-teaching-service/extension has remained very close to Nora's heart and is now to be continued at Kansas State as she joins the Statistics Department this coming fall. Nora is thrilled with this opportunity and is looking forward to interacting with the Department, the University and the local community. Feel free to stop by her office, introduce yourselves and say hi as she gets settled in Manhattan this August.

In case you are wondering, Nora also loves her life outside of work, in particular hiking (especially with her dogs), horseback riding, nature watching and the outdoors in general, be it summer or winter and better if shared with friends and loved ones. Also reading, good food, some golf and farm visits for a "cow fix" every once in a while.



## Scholarship Winners

In the last year, due to the generosity of its graduates, former faculty members and their families, the department has been able to expand the number of scholarships that it offers. We hope to continually expand in order to recognize the large number of strong students who study in the department, and to ease somewhat the financial burdens of pursuing their degrees. The short items below tell you a little about the winners of the department's scholarships for 2010-2011.

### Holly and Beth Fryer Scholarship in Statistics

The winner of the **Holly and Beth Fryer Scholarship in Statistics** is *Dilan Paranagama*. Dilan is a Ph.D. student in the department, originally from Kandy, the large city in the central hills of Sri Lanka. Dilan moved to the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo to go to college and discovered statistics as a discipline there. One thing that continues to attract him to statistics is the idea that one can extract great amounts of information about a population from a relatively small sample.

Dilan loves photography, travel (has been to a number of famous places in the U.S. and has plans to see the Grand Canyon next), music and cats. (He indicates that he has 10 cats at home, and does not have one here only because his apartment complex forbids pets.)

Dilan is married to Thilanka who is an M.S student in the department. After graduation, he hopes to get some practical experience in industry or one of the research settings, and then eventually move to an academic position.



### Ronald and Rae Iman Scholarship in Statistics



*Patrick Roeder*, a senior statistics major from Frankfort, Kansas, has been named the recipient of the **Ronald and Rae Iman Scholarship in Statistics**. Patrick describes himself as a small-town guy who has always loved math and statistics. He is planning on attending grad school after he gets his Bachelors degree, perhaps with the notion of pursuing the actuarial exams.

When he is not doing statistics, he says he loves sports (college sports on television, among others) and recreational distance running. He also loves to travel; he has been to Europe twice and claims Greece as the favorite spot he has visited.

### Statistics Scholarship

This year's **Statistics Scholarship** has been awarded to *Muditha Perera*, a Ph.D. student from Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. She discovered statistics early; in the first year of her Bachelors degree work at the University of Colombo, and immediately declared it her major. After finishing the undergraduate work, she entered the KSU statistics department in the fall of 2008, with the intention of earning a Ph.D. Currently, her plan is to focus on biostatistical applications and her long-term goal is to become a good researcher.

Outside of statistics, Muditha loves to travel, cook new things, and sew. She reports that full-time graduate study with the concomitant teaching duties makes it hard to find enough time to participate in these things a lot, but they are still important in her life.



## Arthur D. and LaVonnia B. Dayton Scholarships

The **Arthur D. and LaVonnia B. Dayton Scholarships** have been awarded to *Karen Keating* and *Dongdong (Grace) Li*. Both are Ph.D. students in the department.



Karen Keating hails from Bryant, Arkansas. After she earned her MS degree in Operations Research she worked for several years as a decision support analyst in the Washington, D.C. area. She followed that with a stint teaching undergraduate mathematics and statistics courses at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. It was while taking graduate level courses there that she got hooked on statistics and decided to come back to school and pursue her Ph.D. degree. She is doing her research under the direction of Dr. Gary Gadbury. She has been working with him and Dr. Ari Jumponnen from the Biology Department on some data Dr. Jumponnen collected on fungi that live on tree leaves. That project is about to wrap up and she is anticipating that she will have her name on a publication soon. It is all exciting to her, but she is unsure of exactly what she will do after she earns the degree.

In her free time, Karen enjoys working with stained glass, being involved in living history projects (demonstrating daily living skills from 2 centuries ago), sewing and textile arts, theatrical costume design and construction, and designing and building websites.

Dongdong (Grace) Li came to the U.S. from Henan Province, China. Her undergraduate major was medicine. However, she wasn't crazy about the medical courses; she was more intrigued by the statistics and mathematics courses. Although she obtained the medical degree and finished her residency, she did not pursue her medical career. Instead she moved to epidemiology where she earned a Masters degree, and then entered the program in the K-State Statistics Department to pursue her Ph.D. degree. She is satisfied that she made the correct choice. She loves the training she has had in the statistics department, both the theory and the applications courses, the programming and the research presentations, etc. Her plan is to graduate by next fall, focusing on biostatistics in the public health and/or medical field.

As for her non-statistics life, Grace is a dedicated road runner. Her goal is to run happy and run through her whole life. She is proud to be physically and mentally strong enough to run distances, and she enjoys the attitude that running has brought her.



## Howard Siepman Memorial Scholarship

The **Howard Siepman Memorial Scholarship** has been awarded to *Rajarshi Dey*. Raj is a Ph.D. student from Khardaha, a suburb of Kolkata (nee Calcutta) in the Eastern part of India, and he is working under the direction of



Paul Nelson. He recalls becoming excited about statistics as a youngster listening to election results come in during a 1984 election, held in the aftermath of an assassination of the Indian prime minister. He still enjoys election statistics, but in his studies he is also fascinated by nonparametric statistics. His current focus is on finishing his dissertation and moving toward an academic position.

Raj is married, but a newlywed, and the accompanying picture with his wife was taken on the south rim of the Grand Canyon on an especially memorable day. During his college days in India, he participated in soccer, cricket (he says that Indian fervor for cricket is much stronger than the American love of football), drama club, and singing in cultural programs. He also likes geography, movies, reading, team sports, cooking (especially experimental dishes), and taking his wife window shopping.



# Congratulations!



## Dr. Lynn Ying-Shiang Lin Scholarship

*Zhining Ou*, a Ph.D. student in the department, is the winner of the **Dr. Lynn Ying-Shiang Lin Scholarship**. Zhining was raised in the city of Guangzhou located in southern China. She went to college in the Philippines to study Computer Science. After that, she was admitted to New Mexico State University at Las Cruces intending to study computer theories like artificial intelligence and data mining that make use of statistics. Eventually, she entered the masters program in Experimental Statistics and worked under the supervision of Dr. Leigh Murray, where she began participating in cross-disciplinary projects. She finds this area to be fascinating. She especially enjoys the exchange of ideas with researchers and seeing their smiles of satisfaction. In the future, she hopes to build a career as a consulting statistician.

In her leisure time Zhining reads historical literature or media, but if she has plenty of time, she likes to exercise. Badminton occupies a regular slot in her weekly schedule; other activities include hiking and fishing. She collects stamps and currency; also likes live jazz and hangs around at museums whenever she can. She has an aging but active cat that is an important part of her life. Her future travel plans include visiting her brother in Canada and her parents back home.



## Foundation Scholarship In Statistics



*Grace Jackson*, a senior statistics major from Andover, Kansas has received a **Foundation Scholarship in Statistics**. Grace went to high school at Andover Central High School in Andover, Kansas (that's just outside of Wichita). In August she will be beginning her fourth year at K-State, working towards a dual degree in Statistics and Mathematics. Grace explained, "In school I always enjoyed my math classes. When I had the chance to take a course including some statistics, I was immediately intrigued. After taking the class I knew that I wanted to continue learning statistics. After finishing my degree I plan on continuing my education in the field of actuarial science."

When she is not studying, Grace enjoys a variety of activities. She relaxes by spending time oil painting. She also likes spending time with friends and family laughing. She enjoys quilting and learning how to cook. One of the treasured things in her life is taking care of her adorable pet hedgehog, Pandora.

## Recent Graduates of the Department

### Ph.D. recipients

**Mike Anderson** wrote a dissertation under the direction of Suzanne Dubnicka. He has taken a faculty position in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Oklahoma College of Public Health in Oklahoma City. Mike and his family are currently living in Edmond, OK.

**Yoon-Sung Jung** finished his degree work with Dallas Johnson. He has a faculty position at Alcorn State University in Alcorn, Mississippi. He and his family are now living in nearby Vicksburg, MS.

**Yan Ling** completed her dissertation under the direction of Paul Nelson. She is now working at VBI (Virginia Bioinformatics Institute) at Virginia Tech University as a Postdoctoral Associate. The position title is Systems Genetics Analyst, and she is a part of a team of researchers and scientists that generate and analyze systems genetics data, both human and plant.

**Wijith Munasinghe** worked with Jim Neill. He has taken a position with Abbott Pharmaceuticals and he and his family are living in the Chicago area.

**Edwin Ndum** was a student of Gary Gadbury. Upon completion of his degree, he took a position with the ACT Corporation in Iowa City, Iowa. He and his family are living in Coralville, Iowa.

### M.S. recipients

**Will Chernoff** wrote an MS report under the direction of Leigh Murray. He is continuing to seek employment.

**Lei (Isaac) Dong** worked with Haiyan Wang. He has taken a position with the Department of Internal Medicine at the K.U. Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

**Lixia Fan** worked under the direction of Gary Gadbury. She is currently in Syracuse, New York with her family and seeking employment in the area.

**Suelen Gayle** did her work with Paul Nelson. Since her husband is a K-State faculty member who will be taking a sabbatical in the Boston area this fall, she has put off looking for full-time employment for the short term.

**Roby Johaness** finished an MS report under the direction of Gary Gadbury, while also finishing a Ph.D. in genetics. He is currently working for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

**John Richards** wrote his MS report under the direction of Suzanne Dubnicka, and has taken a position with the NASS (National Agricultural Statistical Service) of the USDA, in the Topeka, Kansas office.

**Sharad Silwal** worked with Haiyan Wang. He is currently a doctoral student in the Department of Mathematics at K-State.

**Yun Wu** wrote her M.S. report with Paul Nelson. She is currently working as a Research Assistant in the statistical genetics area for KSU's Department of Agronomy. Her job responsibilities include conducting analysis of field experiment data and molecular marker data, adapting statistical methods to genetic data analysis, and running analysis using various software packages designed for genetics and genomics data.



### B.S. recipients

**Christopher Juarez** from Garden City, Kansas, finished his B.S. in the spring term, and will be continuing in the department's graduate program as a GTA and M.S. candidate in the fall.

**Andrew Leonard** from Olathe, Kansas has finished his degree and is currently seeking employment.



## Faculty Visitors For 2010-2011

The department has reached agreement with two senior faculty members to spend a good part of the upcoming year with us.



*Walt Stroup* is a faculty member and the department head in the Department of Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and is well-known to many K-Staters from his long involvement with and support of the Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture. He has obtained a sabbatical leave from Nebraska and will be spending it in the Department. He has a number of ambitious goals in mind for his time here, the most prominent of which is to finish a textbook that he is writing tentatively titled "Introduction to Statistical Modeling: A Generalized Linear Mixed Model Perspective". In addition, he will teach our Statistics 902, Generalized Linear Models course. Finally he will serve as keynote speaker and workshop leader for the 2011 Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture.

Walt was born in Hays, Kansas while his dad was a faculty member at Fort Hays State, and spent most of his growing-up years in Lexington, Kentucky, although two of those years (8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades) were spent in Saigon, Vietnam as things were heating up there. He earned his Bachelor's degree at Antioch College, his M.S. and his Ph.D. degrees from the University of Kentucky. He taught for one year at Hollins College, an all-women's school in Roanoke, Virginia before joining UN-L in 1979. He was named a Fellow of ASA in 2008.

Walt is known for his love of golf, but he is also fond of hiking and climbing (he and his son Frank have scaled at least one 14,000 foot peak each summer since 2006), biking, wall climbing, and snowshoeing. And since his son has declared his intention to major in music education, Walt has resumed his trumpet playing.

*David Smith* is also a familiar face to many in the department. Dave is the husband of Leigh Murray, a current faculty member. Dave has recently retired from New Mexico State University after 26 years on the faculty there and moved to Manhattan to join Leigh on a more full-time basis. He has agreed to take on faculty duties (teaching and consulting duties) that opened up when John Boyer moved to half time status. Since John will be away from the campus for the fall term, Dave will step in there.

Dave is a native of Del Rio, Texas, and obtained all his degrees from Texas A&M. Before joining New Mexico State, he held faculty positions at the University of Houston, Louisiana State University, and North Dakota State University. Dave enjoys reading, pets, and travel (Dave and Leigh have been to Spain multiple times.)



The department is pleased to have attracted two such talented individuals and welcomes them to the K-State campus.

# WELCOME

## From the Desk of Jim Neill

Greetings once again from the KSU Department of Statistics! This past year has indeed been a significant milestone as the department celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, due in very large part to Dr. Holly C. Fryer. To formally mark the occasion, a celebration banquet was held in the university Alumni Center with alumni, friends and faculty in attendance. We were very pleased to have members of the original faculty at the gathering, each sharing interesting thoughts on the earliest days of the department. Building on the accomplishments of previous faculty and students, the department is poised for another fifty years of excellence. Please see a related article elsewhere in the newsletter for more coverage of the department's fiftieth anniversary celebration.



With most major U.S. Statistics departments having been created within the last sixty years, it has been proposed to document the key aspects of the history of each such department, along with current standing and visions for the future. In particular, it is anticipated that a book entitled *"Strength in Numbers: The Rising of Academic Statistics Departments in the U.S."* will be published by Springer with each department contributing a chapter. Our department has been invited to participate in this project, and Dr. John Boyer and I have agreed to co-author a chapter for inclusion in this book. Drafts of these chapters are due by the end of 2010 with publication of the book planned for early 2012.

We are pleased to announce Dr. Nora Bello will be joining the faculty in the fall 2010 semester. Nora recently earned her doctorate at Michigan State University with primary research and consulting interests involving linear mixed models with applications to the animal and biomedical sciences. We look forward to Nora's arrival in Manhattan this August.

In addition to Nora's arrival, the department welcomes Dr. Walter Stroup from the University of Nebraska and Dr. David Smith from New Mexico State University. Walt will be spending the academic year on sabbatical, and Dave will be on campus teaching and consulting with university scientists this coming fall. Also, Dr. John Boyer will enter phased retirement this fall (returning in the spring!) while Dr. Suzanne Dubnicka will spend the upcoming year on sabbatical at Brigham Young University. From the faculty activities section of the newsletter, one can see that faculty members are engaged in many scholarly activities, including participation at national and international conferences, research grant proposals, consulting and directing our large contingent of graduate students.

The department was very pleased to make initial awards this past year from newly established scholarships, including the Arthur D. and LaVonnia B. Dayton Scholarship, the Howard Siepman Memorial Scholarship and the Dr. Lynn Ying-Shiang Lin Graduate Research Scholarship. These scholarships add significantly to our previously established endowments consisting of the Holly and Beth Fryer Scholarship in Statistics, the Ronald and Rae Iman Scholarship in Statistics and the Statistics Scholarship. In addition, the Lolafaye Coyne Statistics Graduate Scholarship has been generously established as a planned gift to the department. The opportunity to award these scholarships, along with university Foundation Scholarships, greatly enhances the department's ability to attract and retain qualified students planning a career in Statistics. The faculty and students sincerely appreciate the support and generosity of all contributors to the important missions of the department.

Congratulations are in order for Professor Emeritus Dallas Johnson on being named this year's winner of the W.J. Dixon Award for excellence in statistical consulting, as presented by ASA. Dallas was nominated by former department faculty member Dr. Tom Loughin, and will receive the award at the 2010 JSM.

The department's signature Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture was held this April in Manhattan. This twenty-second annual conference featured keynote address and a technical workshop presented by Dr. Susanne May of the University of Washington on Applied Survival Analysis. Dr. May's presentations were very well received and appreciated. The department looks forward to the next year's conference at which Dr. Walter Stroup will present the keynote address and workshop.

In closing, I mention there has been a significant change in the university leadership. In particular, the department welcomes Provost April C. Mason, and also looks forward to working again with Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Brian Spooner. At the departmental level, I will continue to work to facilitate the ongoing activities of the department. We have an excellent faculty, staff and graduate student body, and we will be diligently charting the initial directions of the department for the next fifty years! If you happen to pass through the Flint Hills, please stop by the department for a visit. Our alumni and friends are always welcome.

## Alumni News

**Wendy Boberg Archer** (MS '04) married Keith Archer in September of 2009, and now has an instant family, including a step-daughter named Kayla. To top that off, she is expecting a daughter of her (their) very own this summer. And she has a new job, as a statistician for Buccaneer Computer Systems & Services, Inc., in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Duane Brown** (PhD '99) and wife **Yihfen Chen** (PhD '99) and family are still in Ridgecrest, California, where Yihfen is teaching a variety of mathematics courses online as well as face-to-face at Cerro Coso Community College. Duane has been promoted into a leadership position at the nearby China Lake Naval Weapons Center.

**Kevin Chartier** (PhD '97) is still in the Philadelphia area. He was working with Wyeth/Pfizer, and they were downsizing some. He could have stayed, but took a buyout, and has begun working with United Biosource Corp, a contract research organization for the pharmaceutical industry. It is, like his Wyeth job, located in the Philly suburbs, so they didn't have to move.

**Nicole** (MS '08) and **Shannon Dick** (MS '06) report the birth of their first child. Keagan Marie Lowell Dick arrived on May 19, weighing 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measuring 21¼ inches. Daughter, Mom and Dad are all living happily in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Brandon Grossardt** (MS '03), who has worked at the Mayo Clinic for seven years, was recently promoted to Biostatistician III, the highest career rung for MS level statisticians at the clinic. He primarily works on research related to Parkinson's disease and epidemiological methods.

**Joshua Habiger** (MS '06) has defended his Ph.D. dissertation in the Department of Statistics at the University of South Carolina. He has taken a faculty position in the Department of Statistics at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, starting in the fall.

**Mike Higgins** (BS '06) continues his studies toward a Ph.D. in Statistics at UC-Berkeley. He passed his qualifying exam (which is like to the prelim exam at K-State). Only the dissertation remains. He estimates it will take another year or year and a half to finish.

**Fouzia Laytimi** (MS '06) now works at Leapfrog Online in Chicago as a marketing analyst. On August 29<sup>th</sup> of last year, she married Harald Beutel, who is a manager of an Austrian construction company in the suburbs of Chicago. And the couple bought a condo and are now living in downtown Chicago.

**Danelle Schuster** (MS '03) has two big pieces of news. On a personal level, she is marrying Matthew Staebler on August 20<sup>th</sup> in Fargo, North Dakota, then will be honeymooning in Vancouver afterward. (We're betting there won't be much of a statistical aspect to this particular visit to Vancouver.) On the professional front, she was promoted to Senior Manager over the Statistics and Clinical Programming groups last July at Cetero (formerly PRACS Institute, Ltd.) in Fargo.

**Mark Sorell** (MS '88) and wife Traci announce the arrival of their first child, Carlos Alan Sorell, born November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Mark recently took a foray into the academic world, teaching a course on Introduction to SAS Programming at the University of New Mexico; he reports that he quite enjoyed himself.

**Sam Wilson** (MS '06) has finished his formal coursework and passed the "gate exams" in the Statistics Ph.D. program at North Carolina State University. He is employed at a small CRO called PharPoint as he works on his dissertation; he has hopes of finishing soon. He and wife Kris are still very much dog lovers and enjoying North Carolina.





## Faculty Activities

The big change this year for **John Boyer** will be moving to half-time status in the department on July 1<sup>st</sup> as the first stage of a phased retirement agreement. He is still active in a variety of venues, including currently serving on the K-State Faculty Senate and as a member of the ASA's Development Committee. He continues to do a good bit of the planning for the department's annual Conference on Applied Statistics. He serves as the administrative advisor to the NCCC-170 (Statistical Advances in Agriculture) group, which meets annually. He attended that group's meeting last summer in College Station, Texas, and will go to this summer's meeting in Ames, Iowa. He also made it to the Joint Statistics Meetings in Washington, DC, last summer (it was his 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive JSM).

**Juan Du**, who just joined the faculty last fall, was awarded \$1,200 as part of the ADVANCE Distinguished Lecture Series to invite and host Dr. Michael Stein from the University of Chicago for a visit to the department. On a personal level, she and her husband bought their first house in the U.S.

**Suzanne Dubnicka** continued her work on a USDA grant on bovine respiratory disease complex with two colleagues from the College of Veterinary medicine as well as a project in mechanical engineering. Her first Ph.D. student, Mike Anderson, graduated this past year. She also continued her service on the ASA's Noether Awards Committee and will be presenting a paper at the upcoming JSM in Vancouver. Her big news for next year is that she will spend a sabbatical on the BYU campus. And on a personal note, it should be pointed out that she ran (and finished) this year's Boston Marathon in April and reported it to be a terrific experience. The accompanying picture is of her holding her finisher's medal.



**Gary Gadbury** was the ASA Council of Chapters program chair for the 2009 JSM and organized an invited session on merging trends and evidence in high-dimensional "omics" investigations. He also began a term as Associate Editor for the Annals of Applied Statistics and is an Associate Editor for a special issue on statistical genetics for the journal *Statistics and its Interface*. In addition, he edited the 2009 Ag-Stat conference proceedings. He supervised one Ph.D. student and two M.S. students who finished in the last year. One of his PhD students, Edwin Ndum, completed his defense last summer and is now at ACT Corporation. Masters students Lixia Fan and Roby Joehanes completed their degrees under his supervision this past academic year. Additionally, he is a Co-PI on a \$748,286 four year NSF grant with Ruth Welti in biology and a collaborator on a newly funded NASA grant with Tom Barstow from Kinesiology. He was a team member on a large \$25 Million grant proposal for an NSF Science and Technology Center. The proposal attained the top 11 finalists for an NSF site visit and was ranked 6th out of the 11. NSF planned to fund the top 5. He had a paper, abstract, and book chapter appear in print during the last academic year.

**Jim Higgins** has continued his valuable work on distance and on-line education projects. This spring, he offered a small section of Stat 325 (our general undergraduate statistics course) on-line for the first time. It seemed to go quite well and will be offered to a larger audience in the fall term. This is the third on-line course he has developed for the department.

**Abby Jager** has taken a major role in our undergraduate teaching efforts. In the past year, we converted Statistics 350 (the first semester of the sequence in Statistics for Business and Economics) from small, GTA-led sections to a large lecture format, and she led that conversion and taught the large lectures. This fall, she will take over the supervision of the classroom sections of Statistics 325 this past spring; this has been in Jim Higgins' hands for a number of years.

Being officially retired has not kept **Dallas Johnson** from being extremely active. Besides winning the ASA's Dixon consulting award (which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter), Dallas made a trip to India in January to give an invited talk in a session on Statistics in Agriculture at the International Indian Statistical Institute meeting in Visakhapatnam.

**George Milliken** isn't acting much like a retiree either. In August of last year, he presented a half day work shop entitled "Mixed Models Analysis using SAS" at the 11th Scientific Conference of Sub-Saharan Africa Network of the International Biometric Society at Kabarak University, Nakuru, Kenya. George and wife Janet went on a fifteen-day safari before the meetings. Then in February, he taught a five-day class on Design of Experiments and

## Continued-Faculty Activities

Analysis of Messy Data, for the African Centre for Crop Improvement, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. On that trip he and Janet spent 18 days touring South Africa which included Kruger National Park and Livingston Falls in Zambia. Finally, on a non statistical note, the Millikens accompanied the K-State volleyball team on their trip to Europe going to Budapest, Hungary, Ljubljana, Slovenia and Venice, Italy in May.

The big news for **Leigh Murray** is that husband Dave Smith has now retired from New Mexico State University and has joined her in Manhattan. (There is a little information about him and his appointment to the faculty as a visiting faculty member elsewhere in this newsletter.) And he brought their dogs along on the move – that was important too. Dave and Leigh have annually spent a good bit of their summer time at their cabin on Flathead Lake in Montana, and have plans to do so again this year.

**Jim Neill** traveled to the JSM in Washington, D.C. last summer, where he attended his first meeting of the group called the “academic representatives” (essentially department heads and chairs of departments from around the country). He supervised the work of Wijith Munasinghe who finished a Ph.D. dissertation on lack-of-fit tests in nonlinear regression models. He will attend JSM in Vancouver this coming summer.

**Paul Nelson** continues to serve as the department’s undergraduate advisor. He and wife Bonnie have plans to participate in an Elderhostel experience in Alaska this summer.

**Weixing Song’s** most interesting travel came early this year when he visited India to give an invited talk at the International Indian Statistical Association meetings and International Conference on Statistics, Probability and Related Areas at Andhra University in Visakhapatnam, India. He has also taken over as editor of the Proceedings of the department’s annual Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture starting in 2010, while he continues to serve as the department’s Graduate Program Director (a big job). In addition, he had five papers accepted for publication this past year.

The BIG (good!) news for **Haiyan Wang** is her promotion to Associate Professor with tenure at K-State. The department is very happy for her. Of course, that is reflective of an active career for her. She gave an invited talk at a Partnership for Comprehensive Equity colloquium series at the University of Montana in May, and she will give three invited talks at various Chinese universities this summer. She also received a Presidential Faculty Development Award from K-State. And to top it all off, she has had nine papers published or accepted in statistical and subject matter journals in the last year.



**Weixin Yao** made a presentation at the New Researchers in Statistics and Probability Conference at Johns Hopkins University in July, 2009, and he also attended the 2009 JSM in Washington. He will give an invited presentation at Simon Fraser University in August and will attend the JSM in Vancouver where he has organized a session on mixture models and applications.

## K-State Dinner at JSM



It is a tradition to have a K-State get together at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings. This year’s meetings in Vancouver will be no exception. The dinner will be held on Monday evening (that is August 2nd this year) as usual. We will gather about 6:00 and eat around 6:30. Please check the message boards in the convention center for the specific details. There will be information and a sign-up sheet posted by Sunday morning, and you will have until mid-afternoon on Monday to sign up.

We had a great time in Washington D.C. last year; more than 30 people with all kinds of KSU connections joined in. If you are coming to Vancouver, we hope you’ll be a part of this year’s contingent.

## 2010 Ag Stat Conference



Dr. Susanne May

In April, 2010, the department held its 22nd annual (can that *possibly* be right??) Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture at the Clarion Hotel in Manhattan. This conference has continued to prosper and attract a steady audience of agricultural researchers in ways that we didn't anticipate when it began in 1989.

This year's workshop leader and keynote speaker duties were handled nicely by Dr. Susanne May of the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Washington in Seattle. Her technical workshop was on Applied Survival Analysis and her keynote address was entitled "Challenges of Applied Survival Analysis and Applied Statistics in General". Both were enthusiastically received.

In addition to the workshop and keynote address, the conference always includes contributed presentations and posters. At this year's conference, additional emphasis and publicity was given to poster presentations (this is in line with what is happening at larger meetings of statisticians as well). Social events included the student pizza party and the Kansas country dance as well.

Planning is already well underway for the 2011 conference, which will be held on May 1, 2, and 3. As you may have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, Dr. Walter Stroup of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will present the technical workshop and keynote address. It promises to be another great conference; we hope you will plan to attend. [www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/applied-stats/](http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/applied-stats/)

## Basketball Pool

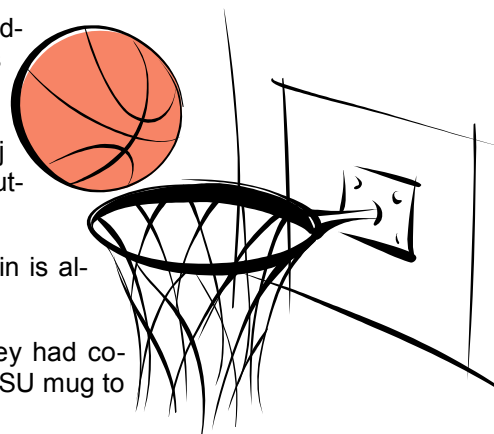
Another basketball pool is in the books. Dr. Gary (Mr. Humility) Gadbury (current faculty member) is declared the winner of this year's NCAA basketball pool, with 18 winners selected. Sarah (Loyer) Baxter (MS '01) had a big week end during the Final Four, and ended up at 17 wins, and tied with Chris Bilder (PhD '00) and Raj Dey (current Ph.D. student) for second. How close was that last Butler shot, Sarah?

Brian Fergen (PhD '95) is this year's anchor man, and Tom Loughin is already making up cheap shots to use on him next year.

We apparently got thumped by the MSU department again, as they had co-winners tied with 22 winners selected. They will have yet another KSU mug to brag over.

Department head Jim Neill has reappointed John Boyer to run the contest for one more year, but has indicated that he expects a better performance in next year's contest, or suggests that perhaps Boyer may be looking for work elsewhere. (Boy, is that crazy; or what? He doesn't LOOK for work anywhere, except maybe to avoid it!)

Thanks to all who participated. It was fun, as always. If you have not participated and would like to try your luck, just send your e-mail address to Dr. Boyer at [jboyer@ksu.edu](mailto:jboyer@ksu.edu). Note that there is no entry fee; it is primarily for bragging rights. However, there is a fair amount of trash-talking involved, so you may need a thick skin to survive.





## The Department of Statistics Thanks Our Friends For Their Support!

### \$100-\$249

Christopher and Kimberly Bilder  
Howard and Shirley Bird  
John and Lora Boyer  
Duane Brown and Yih-Fen Chen  
Robert\* and LaVone Cell  
Robert and Frances De Bruin  
Indrasiri Fernando  
Gary and Carol Gadbury  
John and Rebecca Groves  
Fariborz and Karen Khorasani  
Eun Hee Kim  
Martin and Irene Levy  
Weixing Song and Xiuqin Bai  
Mark and Traci Sorell  
Zhongwen Tang  
Christopher Vahl and Qing Kang

### \$250-\$499

Jim and Evelyn Neill  
Olabode and Dee Ogunyemi  
Leigh Murray and David Smith

### \$1000-\$4999

Gina Estes  
Kim Dayton and Laurie Hanson  
George and Janet Milliken  
Jong-I and Shian-Koong Perng

### \$5000-\$9,999

Lavonia Dayton  
Beth Fryer

### PLEDGED COMMITMENTS

Kim Dayton and Laurie Hanson

### CORPORATE GIFTS

Cambridge University Press  
Hallmark  
Corporate Foundation  
Pfizer Animal Health  
Pioneer Hi-Bred International  
Inc.  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals North  
American Inc.  
USDA ARS NPA Area Office

Friends of the Statistics Department:

2009-2010 was a busy and exciting year for the department. In other parts of this newsletter, you'll see stories that describe some of the most noteworthy accomplishments.

Our successes are made even greater because of support from you, our alumni and friends. Private support is vital to ensure that our department is a vibrant, exciting place where students can learn from top-notch faculty.

Please consider making a donation to the Department of Statistics. All gifts go directly to the support of our students and faculty. Your generosity is essential to our department and is greatly appreciated. If you have given in the past, please accept our grateful thanks for your contributions.

With many thanks,  
James Neill

## DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Here is my check or credit card authorization for a gift of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: KSU Foundation

Charge my credit card: 

IS THIS A BUSINESS CREDIT CARD? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
IF YES, BUSINESS NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

A CREDIT CARD GIFT MAY BE AFFECTED BY SERVICE CHARGES. FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CALL THE KSUF DONOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AT 785-532-6266 OR 800-432-1578.

Card number

Exp. date  /

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD GIFTS

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



Make your gift online at  
[www.found.ksu.edu](http://www.found.ksu.edu)

- ☐ Contact me/us about creating a scholarship.  
☐ Contact me/us about gifts that pay lifetime income.  
☐ I/We have provided for K-State in my/our will.

### Matching gift information

If you or someone in your household works for a matching gift company, contact your human resources department to see if your gift qualifies for a company match. Or call our matching gift coordinator at 800-432-1578.

### Thank you for your generous support!

Please return this card to: KSU Foundation, 2323 Anderson Ave. Ste. 500, Manhattan, KS 66502-2911.

F38300 / 0700903

Kansas State University  
Department of Statistics  
101 Dickens Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-0802

Check out our new website  
[www.ksu.edu/stats](http://www.ksu.edu/stats)

Address Correction/News Item Form

Mail to: Kansas State University  
Department of Statistics  
101 Dickens Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506-0802  
Or email: [jboyer@ksu.edu](mailto:jboyer@ksu.edu)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Job \_\_\_\_\_

News \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_