

Kansas State University

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Volume 21 Issue 1

July , 2011

Experimental Design on your Feet

In April, faculty members Nora Bello (our newest faculty member who is also a veterinarian and an animal scientist, and who has been assisting with our STAT 945 consulting class) and Leigh Murray (who teaches the consulting class and our graduate level design of experiments course) organized a field trip for departmental students and faculty to visit the K-State dairy farm. Dubbed "Experimental Design on your Feet", this was an opportunity to get a first-hand look at where real data actually come from. Of particular interest were the situations and logistical constraints in the field that lead to the experimental designs that the students ultimately encounter in a statistical consulting session.

Prior to the field trip, Nora introduced the 945 class to some of

the key aspects of a dairy operation using a Power Point slide show. This gave folks at least a rough idea of what to expect at the farm... and thus, how to dress appropriately for field work. Not a minor sideline to this story if one considers that high-heeled shoes and cow manure may *not* be a winning combination.

Tour participants included 8 graduate students, 6 faculty members, and 3 accompanying visitors (2 from out of town!). The group was kindly received by the farm manager, Mr. Mike Scheffel, who toured folks around the farm and patiently answered an endless stream of questions. Specifically, the group visited the milking parlor, the calf nursery, the pens where the

dairy cows are managed daily and the tie stalls, where, to the amazement of non-farm folks, an artificial insemination training happened to be in session. By being there and doing that, tour participants quickly became acquainted with some of the practical constraints in the logistics of designing and conducting real experiments in real research settings.

The field trip proved to be not only fun but also educationally rich in many aspects, ranging from applied



Continued on page 2

Stroup posits new approach to mixed model methodology

The department hosted its 23rd annual KSU Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture in early May, with Dr. Walter Stroup from the University of Nebraska serving as keynote speaker and workshop leader.

Stroup is an internationally recognized expert in the theory of generalized mixed models. He spent the 2010-2011 academic year in the depart-

ment at K-State, much of his time here devoted to writing a textbook on the topic. In both his workshop and his keynote address, he suggested that he foresees the discipline completely rethinking how one approaches the field we once called "linear models" but now term "generalized mixed models". He argued that to take advantage of what is now available, particularly in the comput-

Continued on pg 3



Continued.....Experimental Design on your Feet

statistics to learning about animal agriculture and our food supply. Following up from the field trip, the in-class discussions continued for 3 class periods during which the students worked on case studies prepared by Nora and Leigh. For starters, the students were asked to design a study to evaluate milk replacers in calves... the catch was that the study was to be conducted on this particular farm, thus accounting for a number of logistical and circumstantial factors on the field. Nora and Leigh also asked the students to evaluate an on-going research protocol in a dairy nutrition study with ruminant cows. Both case studies generated a lot of good discussion that continued well outside the classroom. Questions about what was truly the experimental unit, issues of blocking and repeated meas-

ures, whether or not true replication took place, split plots, and subsampling were all raised and considered at length, now in the context of cows and under the umbrella of a real research farm.

"Experimental Design on your Feet" at the K-State dairy was one of the many venues by which the Statistics Department strives to train students with an understanding of real world problems and how to attack them. As our department develops into new and exciting areas of statistical research, we strive to maintain the problem-solving focus that guarantees the relevance of statistics in the sciences, as it is our legacy.



Statistics represented on College Alumni Advisory

The most recent issue of *Influences*, the news magazine of K-State's College of Arts & Sciences was issued in May. One of the photos in the magazine was a group picture of the members of the College's Alumni Advisory Council.

The Department of Statistics is especially well-represented on the Council, with graduates holding three of the sixteen positions (impressive in a large college which encompasses 24 departments or divisions). Pictured as members were Julie (Ohmes) Stoner ('95), center front, Ray Waller ('63), left rear, and Ron Iman ('62), third from left rear.



Continued.....Stroup posits new approach to mixed model

ing end of things, students and subject matter researchers actually have to “unlearn” some of the things they are routinely taught in classic linear models courses. He urged a complete rethinking of the instructional basics, noting that at the present point, most institutions simply add things like GLIMMIX to the existing core. He conceded that this would be a major paradigm shift for the discipline but argued forcefully that it would be highly beneficial to the discipline.

In addition to Stroup’s presentation, the 2011 conference had its usual selection of contributed papers, posters, and social events. One new feature this year was an evening event at the Konza Prairie Biological Station, which sits

just a few miles outside of Manhattan. This is a biological field station of 8600+ acres owned by Kansas State, through the assistance of the Nature Conservancy. This land has never been plowed and serves as a site for long-term ecological research, education, and prairie conservation. It is a unique outdoor laboratory that provides opportunities for the study of tall-grass prairie ecosystems and for basic biological research on a wide range of taxa and processes. Conference participants shared an outdoor meal on the facility, then took short tours of the bison pastures (it was relatively late in the calving season, so there were a number of young animals to see) and the grassland

experimental areas.

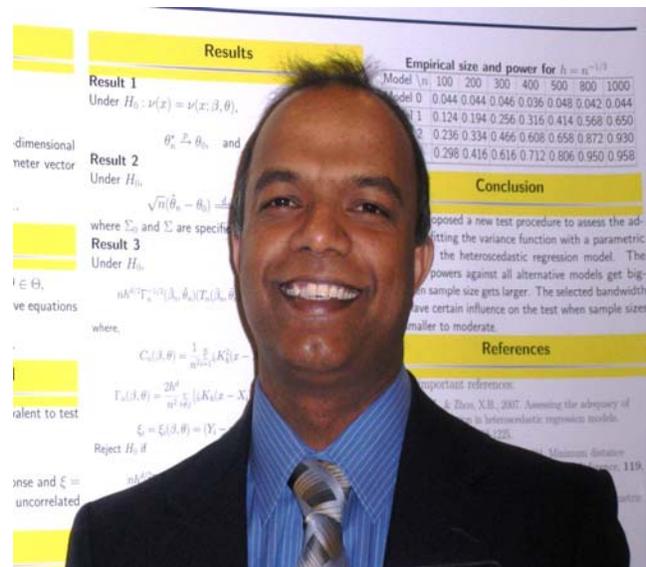
Plans for next year’s conference, the department’s 24th annual, are already underway. It was recently announced that the keynote speaker and workshop leader for the 2012 conference will be Rob Tempelman of Michigan State University, and he will focus on Bayesian applications in agriculture and the related fields.



Grad student wins K-State Hero Award

Nishantha Samarakoon, PhD student from Sri Lanka, was notified late in the spring semester that he had been selected as Spring 2011 K-State Hero Award Recipient by the K-State PROUD Hero Awards Committee. The selection was in recognition of his leadership and presence in campus life on the K-State campus and was made by his student peers within the university.

Sam, as he is known to all about him, was awarded \$500 from funds collected entirely from students to recognize leadership and exceptional citizenship. The department is proud of Sam and all that he does to make this a better place.



Recent Graduates

BS

Mengna Chen from Shanghai, China graduated with a bachelors degree in Statistics at the spring commencement.

Grace Jackson from Andover, Kansas earned a degree with a double major in Statistics and Mathematics this spring. She will begin graduate school in Statistics at the University of Minnesota this fall.

Tim McGlachlin who came to K-State from Sedgwick, Kansas completed his Bachelors degree, earning a degree in Statistics at the winter commencement.

Patrick Roeder from Frankfort, Kansas finished his coursework for the BS this spring, and will be entering the University of Iowa to do graduate work in Actuarial Science this fall.

Jean Simpson, who hails from White City, Kansas earned a degree in Statistics this spring.

MS

Xiuqin Bai was advised by Weixin Yao for her Masters work. She continues as a doctoral student in the department.

Angela Crumer worked with Jim Higgins in writing her MS report. She is now doing graduate study in the Department of Psychology at KSU.

Santosh Ghimire is currently working on a Ph.D. in Mathematics at K-State. In the course of that work, he finished of an MS in Statistics under the advising of Haiyan Wang.

Hyoungjin Jun wrote his MS report under the guidance of John Boyer. He has taken a position with Vangent Computer Systems in Little Rock, AR.

Scott Kreider was advised by Leigh Murray for his MS work. He is currently employed by Craig Hospital in

Denver Colorado, a hospital known for its exclusive focus on brain and spinal cord injuries.

Beth Larrabee worked with Nora Bello for her MS. She has taken a job as a biostatistician with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

Mike McCants wrote his report under the tutelage of Jim Higgins. He has taken a job with the Value-Added Research Center (VARC), which is an extension of the Wisconsin Center for Education Research. It is affiliated with the University of Wisconsin, and located in Madison, WI.

Ebenezer Ogunyinka, who already has a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from K-State, finished a Masters report with John Boyer. He continues his employment with the Socio-economic Research and Development Section of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries.

Thilanka Paranagama finished her work with Paul Nelson. She has a new baby and her husband Dilan is a continuing Ph.D. student in the department, so she is currently looking for work in or near Manhattan, and especially on the K-State campus.

Muditha Perera will spend the summer in her native Sri Lanka after finishing her MS work under the direction of Paul Nelson. In the fall she will return to the US and join her husband in Florida, where she will begin her doctoral studies in Statistics at the University of South Florida.

Kumary Serasinghe has finished her MS work under the direction of Paul Nelson and has taken a position as a Biostatistician with Quintiles in Kansas City, MO.

Tej Shrestha wrote his MS report with Weixing Song as his advisor. He has taken a position as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at the Washington County branch of the

University of Wisconsin.

Tingting Song wrote her MS report with Gary Gadbury. She has remained in the department and is currently pursuing doctoral work.

Heath Yates finished his report under the direction of Jim Higgins. He has remained on the K-State campus where he will pursue a Ph.D. in Computer Science.

Tianhong Zhou worked with Weixing Song for her MS. She has joined her husband in Chicago, and is taking care of their son as her husband works on a post-doctoral appointment.

PhD

Robert Poulson has completed his dissertation under the direction of Gary Gadbury. He has taken a job with the U.S. Air Force at their flight test center at Edwards AFB in Southeastern California. His position will be in support of an initiative to "advance the culture of 'Statistically Defensible Test and Evaluation'". As such he will be helping teach engineers in a formal setting, enabling to help them understand important statistical issues. Robert and his family will reside in Tehachapi, CA.

Siti Tolos worked with Haiyan Wang and has defended her dissertation. She is now an Assistant Professor of Statistics at the International Islamic University of Malaysia.



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 Miami will be no exception. The dinner will be held on Monday evening (that is August 1st 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 Vancouver last year; (see the picture to the right) more than 25 people with all kinds of KSU connections joined in. If you are coming to Miami, we hope you'll be a part of this year's contingent.



Basketball Pool

Another basketball pool is in the books. Israel Wasserstein, son of Ron Wasserstein (Ph.D. 1987 or 1988 or sometime), and an English instructor (an *ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR????* – who let him into this thing???) at Washburn University in Topeka, ran away with this year's contest, picking 24 winners. Graduate student Xin Li was a distant second with 18 winners. Brandon Schaut (graduate), Chris Vahl (graduate), Holly Ridpath (wife of graduate Lance Ridpath, who will now make Lance wash dishes for a year because she beat him) and faculty member Haiyan Wang (whose picks were made for her by colleague Weixin Yao – how would it feel to lose to *yourself??*) all finished at 17.

Hall of Shame (last place honors) were widely shared this year. There was a 7-way tie, involving Rajarshi Dey (current grad student), Ayota Dey (wife of a current grad student;

guess which one?), Josh Tebbs (former faculty member), Mark Rothmann (former faculty member), Karen McGaughey (graduate), Sijia Xiang (grad student), and Gabriel Barga (wife of graduate). Each of these folks picked 8 winners. (One thing to note is that the strategy of using all your purchasing points to take the four #1 seeds, which is often a fairly competitive strategy in the contest, would have left you in this group in 2011.)

As usual, we lost to the MSU department in our competition with them again, although it was close (but close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades, right?). They will have yet another KSU mug to brag over.

Department head Jim Neill has announced that he has appointed 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.

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. 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.





Statistic Department Scholarships

The department is grateful for the generosity of its graduates, former faculty members and their families who have provided funding for the scholarships listed below. We are proud to introduce you to our students whose achievements have earned them these honors.

Holly and Beth Fryer Scholarship in Statistics



Samuel Seth Demel, who goes by Seth, is a proud Texan from Conroe, which is a little north of Houston. He recently got married to his lovely wife, Nicole. He grew up working on a cotton farm with his family in the summers and playing Fightin' Tiger football during the school year. He found his love for statistics at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX under the tutelage of Dr. Cecil Hallum. He earned both bachelor's and master's degrees there. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in spatio-temporal data analysis with Dr. Juan Du.

In his life away from the academics he enjoys a number of activities. His favorite hobbies are bow hunting for

white-tailed deer and bass fishing back home. Here in Kansas he has recently started to find fishing spots over the weekends. Cooking is another hobby, simply because it is something he loves. Seth is a big boy who loves food and cooking it. He claims "grilling is my friend, but barbecue is my passion." He is also enjoying learning how to play the guitar, Stevie Ray Vaughan style. The kid in him still enjoys Legos, models, and video games. He claims that these are the things that keep him sane while pursuing his Ph.D.

Arthur D. and LaVonnia B. Dayton Scholarship

Sijia (Grace) Xiang, is a PhD student and graduate teaching assistant who comes from Hangzhou, China, a city famous for its natural beauty. There are 5 members in her family; her parents, grandparents, herself. She is very grateful to have those family members in her life. She adds that her dad is a very kind and smart person, and it is him who inspired her and led her through her studies and her life.

She's been interested in logical thinking and playing with numbers ever since she was a little kid, a proclivity that she also attributes to her dad. As a result, she chose mathematics as her undergraduate major. During that time, she had

the opportunity to study in Washburn University (KS) for a semester as an exchange student. While at Washburn, she had the chance to study statistics and talk to many prominent statisticians both at Washburn University and at Kansas State University. She came away with more concrete ideas of what statistics really is, and finally made up her mind to pursue a doctoral degree in statistics.

In her spare time, Grace would like to travel to different places, see historical or modern architecture, meet friends, and try different food. While she's here in Manhattan, she enjoys a great variety of sports activities, including swimming, volleyball, badminton, and the like.

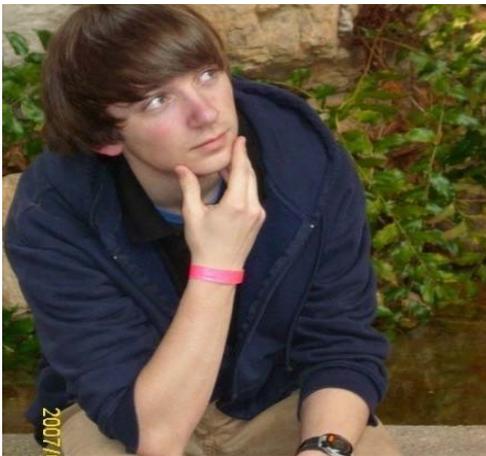


Ron and Rae Iman Scholarship Awards for 2010-2011

Zach Button is a junior pursuing a dual B.S. in Statistics and Mathematics at KSU. Born in Fort Worth, TX, he was raised in Emporia, KS. He grew up in a single mother home, the youngest of four children, and is paying for his education totally on his own; this makes scholarship help especially welcome.

He graduated with honors

from Emporia High School in May 2009, having been involved with National Honor Society, the Honors Program, Resources for Enriched Learning, choir, and various chess clubs. He's been a math type since preschool, and knew in high school that it would be his eventual profession. The Putnam Scholarship awarded by K-



State in April of 2009, allowing him to come to his #1 preferred school for a math/stats degree, was a big influence on him. After earning his BS, he plans to move on to graduate school in Statistics, and Kansas State is high on his list of possible universities.

Outside of his education, there are basically two hobbies that consume Zach's time and energies: chess and choir. He was a founding member of the Emporia Chess Society in 2004, and he continues to attend the weekly chess club whenever possible. He participated in nearly 30 adult and scholastic chess tournaments from 8th to 11th grade. The results ranged from zero wins in his very first contest to being crowned Kansas Scholastic Champion in the same tournament three years later. He attended a summer chess camp at the World Chess Champion Anatoly Karpov School of Chess in Lindsborg, KS, where he received

training from International Grandmaster Yuri Shulman along with some of the top scholastic players in Kansas.

He first started singing in choir in 6th grade, and it turned into a passion in high school. A large reason why he loved K-State was from attending KSU's Summer Choral Institute in 2008, a program for which he is now a 2nd-year counselor. He currently sings in K-State's Concert Choir and In-A-Chord, as well as Emporia State University's Tallgrass Chamber Choir. He is also entering his second year as a KSU Choral Ambassador. He maintains that singing in choir keeps him sane in the midst of all those math-related courses, and he hopes to sing long after graduation.

A.J. Chinn is the oldest of five children, and he was raised in Topeka, Kansas. An enjoyable weekend for him may entail going home to spend time with his family for numerous hours on the Wii and plentiful jokes. He is currently in his third year at K-State, pursuing joint BS degrees in Mathematics and Statistics. He figures to graduate with both degrees in the Spring of 2012.

Math and numbers have been a great passion of his since childhood. In elementary school he excelled in math competitions; in fact, he finished 5th grade math halfway through his 3rd grade year. Nothing piques his interest in statistics more than that of sports. His dream job is to work for ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut in the Statistics and Information Department or as a Statistical Analyst. His other career options include: statistician, actuary, or teacher.

In his free time, A.J. enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, Amy. They enjoy watching movies, playing mini golf, and travelling. He also enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including golfing, fishing, camping, grilling, and running. In the past year, he has become a fitness enthusiast and has fully completed the P90x DVD series. His goals include completing 5K and 10K running races. He likes to keep up to date on the latest sports news including following and writing about his favorite professional teams: the Oakland Raiders, Boston Red Sox, and Kansas City Royals.



Dr. Lynn Ying-Shiang Lin Graduate Research Assistant Scholarship

Carlie Shannon is a graduate student in the Department of Statistics at Kansas State University working towards a master's degree. She is currently employed as a research assistant working in the KSU Statistical Consulting Lab. This is a position that she particularly enjoys because it allows her to work with researchers in a wide variety of fields and to provide practical solutions to statistical analysis problems. Many of the projects she has worked on have come from food science or agricul-

ture related fields, but she is most interested in pursuing a career in statistics related to manufacturing engineering.

Prior to moving to Kansas to pursue an advanced degree, Carlie resided in Lexington, KY where she worked as a broadcast technician and as a stage hand for live performances. She has always enjoyed electro-mechanical bench repair and she tries to always maintain some

form of employment as a repair technician. She currently repairs turntables at an independent record store. Her most prominent hobby is collecting heavy metal records released between 1975 and 1990. She uses her collection to produce a weekly radio show called Metal Vinyl Night for the Kansas State University student-run radio station. She holds a BS in Mathematics from the University of Kentucky and an AAS in Electrical Engineering Technology from Lexington Community College.



Statistics Scholarship



Girly Ramirez was born and spent her childhood years in Cabagan, Isabela, one of the towns through which the Philippines' longest river runs. Her undergraduate degree and Master's degree are both in Statistics and earned at the University of the Philippines, the country's premier university. Her mother and elder sister are both in the field of statistics and whenever

where she can conduct research and teach statistics, while collaborating with government and private agencies.

Girly is married to Noel who is in Landscape Architecture, and they just had their first child on May 1st, 2011. During her free time, she enjoys watching movies and TV shows, window shopping, nature tripping, traveling and of course, taking care of the new baby.

they are at home, they all talk about statistics. This motivated Girly to major in statistics. When she went to college, she learned to appreciate the discipline and developed a passion for it. She is currently in her third year as a PhD student, and continues studying statistics because of the important role it plays in various disciplines. Datasets are collected in all disciplines, and she believes that they will have meaning through statistics.

After completing her PhD, Girly would like to teach at a research-oriented university

From the Department Head's Desk



Greetings once again from the K-State Department of Statistics. This past year has indeed been another year of significant developments within the department. Dr. John Boyer has diligently gathered and edited much information, and compiled yet another newsletter brimming with department and alumni activities. For example, 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, interdisciplinary collaborations and directing our large contingent of graduate students. I also mention that John and I have completed the writing of a chapter for inclusion in a Springer book entitled "*Strength in Numbers: The Rising of Academic Statistics Departments in the U.S.*", planned for publication in early 2012. The book will be edited by Dr. Alan Agresti, University of Florida, and Dr. Xiao-Li Meng, Harvard, and will document key aspects of the history of major U.S. Statistics departments that were founded by the mid-1960s. Additional historical information is planned for the department website.

We are pleased to announce Dr. Kun Chen will be joining the faculty in the fall 2011 semester. Kun recently earned his doctorate at the University of Iowa with research and teaching interests in dimension reduction, variable selection, multivariate analysis, time series, semi-parametric models, bioinformatics, Bayesian statistics, statistical computing and applications of statistics to genetics and ecology. We look forward to Kun's arrival in Manhattan this August.

In addition to Kun's arrival, the department once again welcomes Dr. David Smith, Professor Emeritus from New Mexico State University, who will be on campus helping to fill important teaching needs and consulting with university scientists. Dr. Paul Nelson will enter phased retirement this com-

ing academic year, joining Drs. John Boyer and Jim Higgins, all of whom will nevertheless be involved in critical roles for the department. In addition, Dr. R. Clifford Blair, Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics with the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida, has been appointed as an adjunct faculty member within the department. Dr. Blair has developed and will teach an online class in Biostatistics to support the accreditation needs of the university's Master of Public Health program, as well as enhance the department's Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics program.

On a very sad note, the department accepted the resignation of Dr. Shie-Shien (Winston) Yang due to health reasons. Winston is recognized for 32 years of dedicated service to the department, after having earned the PhD in Statistics from Iowa State University under the supervision of Distinguished Professor Herbert A. David. Winston contributed to the success of the department on many fronts, including research collaborations with scientists across campus, teaching a wide variety of graduate level classes and serving as major professor for several MS and PhD students. He is the author of many technical articles appearing in prominent scholarly journals, with an emphasis on research in nonparametric statistical inference. Winston's many friends in the department and across campus express their appreciation for his many accomplishments and dedicated service to the department and university.

The department was very pleased to make several significant scholarship awards this past year to very deserving undergraduate and graduate students (please see related article in this newsletter for recipients). 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. In addition, I want to acknowledge a significant bequest provided by Dr. Gaoxiong Gan, (PhD, '91). Gaoxiong joined the faculty at the University of Missouri-Rolla upon

graduation from K-State and is greatly missed by all of his colleagues. The faculty and students sincerely appreciate the support and generosity of all contributors to the important missions of the department.

The department's signature Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture was held this May in Manhattan. The twenty-third annual conference featured keynote address and a technical workshop presented by Dr. Walter Stroup of the University of Nebraska on Generalized Linear Mixed Models. Dr. Stroup's presentations focused on the evolution of the classical linear model in agricultural applications, concluding that a paradigm shift to GLMMs is necessarily upon us, were very well received and appreciated. The department looks forward to the next year's conference at which Dr. Robert Templeman of Michigan State University will present the keynote address and workshop.

In closing, I mention significant change in the College of Arts and Sciences leadership. In particular, the department welcomes Dr. Peter Dorhout as the Dean of the College, effective January 1, 2012. Beginning July 1, 2011, Dr. Joseph Aistrup, currently Interim Associate Dean of the College, has been appointed Interim Dean of the College until the arrival of Dr. Dorhout. The department has greatly appreciated the leadership of outgoing Interim Dean, Dr. Brian Spooner, and looks forward to working with Dr. Aistrup as well. At the departmental level, I will continue to work to facilitate the ongoing activities of the department, and with the help of an excellent faculty, staff and graduate student body, work to continue shaping the future directions of the department. If you happen to pass through the Flint Hills, please stop by the department for a visit. Our alumni and friends are always welcome.

Jim Neill

New Faculty Member



Kun Chen was born in Urumqi, the capital city of China's most northwestern province, Xinjiang. Magnificent snowy mountains, vast grasslands and China's largest desert typify the natural beauty as well as harshness of his hometown, where he grew up in a big family with a lot of kids around (one older sister, one younger brother and several

cousins). His parents are small business owners, and his father has also been working for the local government for years. His grandparents were both teachers, who taught him to enjoy doing mathematics, reading novels and poetry... and playing Mah-jong. One "hobby" he enjoyed the most (and also got him punished the most) as a child was to disassemble/assemble things; those things were then either fixed or broken (well, in many cases the latter).

Kun got his BS degree in Finance and a dual degree in Computer Science at the University of Science and Technology of China, and after graduation he worked as an investment analyst for about two years. Kun's first stop in U.S. was Alaska, where he obtained his MS degree in Statistics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and enjoyed two years' wild adventure as an Alaskan to the fullest. His enthusiasm for Statistics was greatly aroused during taking courses from several excellent professors especially Drs. Dana Thomas and Ron Barry, and doing research work at the International Arctic Research Center. His aspiration to work at the forefront of statistical research led him to pursue his PhD at the University of Iowa, where he worked with Dr. Kung-Sik Chan on dimension reduction, variable selection, multivariate analysis, time series analysis, and coincidentally, several ecological modeling projects about fish in the eastern Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska.

Kun Chen met his beloved wife Tingting in Iowa.

She is now working as an actuary and going to be a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries very soon. They both enjoy travelling, hiking and doing various indoor/outdoor activities. Tingting also enjoys cooking and watching Kun doing dishes (but then, what wife doesn't?). They are both very excited about Kun joining K-State!

The Department of Statistics is most happy to



Stay updated with the
Statistics Department!!

<http://www.k-state.edu/stats>

Alumni News

Keller receives Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research

James Landwehr, chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), announced that Sallie Ann Keller, former faculty member in the department, received the 2010 Jerome Sacks Award for Cross-Disciplinary Research. The award was presented at the NISS reception at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia last August.

The Awards Committee of the NISS Board of Trustees, which selected Keller for the award, cited her "pioneering work in cross-disciplinary research in reliability and computational technology for complex systems of critical national security and for her leadership in forging research relationships in new areas for statisticians in

government and academia."

The award was established in 2000 to "recognize sustained, high-quality cross-disciplinary research involving the statistical sciences," that exemplifies the NISS role of identifying, catalyzing, and fostering such research. In acknowledging the award, Keller noted "I have been fortunate to have access to important, frequently time-sensitive, problems that no one person or discipline could solve. I have had, and continue to have, wonderful career appointments that continually stretch my thinking. These appointments have exposed me to the depth, breadth, and critical need for cross-disciplinary interactions."

In September, after five years as Dean of the George R. Brown School of Engineering

and Professor of Statistics at Rice University, Dr. Keller became the director for the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) in Washington, DC. As director, she is charged to provide analysis of national and international science and technology issues for the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the White House, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the departments of Commerce and Energy.

Keller is fellow and past president of the American Statistical Association. She is also fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a National Associate of the National Academy of Sciences.



Classified Staff News

In August, the department hired a new Senior Administrative Assistant. The new hire is Angela Ladner from Ashland, KS, although she is a native of the Wamego area. Angie is the coordinator for the Ag Conference. She also serves as receptionist, maintains the website and has set up and maintained some new departmental databases. Angie has a 11 year old daughter named Lexie, who will be in the 6th grade this fall in Wamego.

Pam Schierer, Senior Administrative Specialist/Business Manager, celebrated 18 years with the department of Statistics in April. She joined the department in April, 1993, at Conference time. Pam took her annual camping trip with her sister in September. Pam had her left thumb joint replaced the end of May. She is having to deal with a cast on her hand until mid-July but otherwise everything seems to be going well.



Alumni News

Rebhi Sari Bsharat (PhD '07) continues his work at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis; he finds it stimulating and interesting. What is growing is his family. Rebhi and wife Iman welcomed their first child, a daughter named Nima, into the family in 2008. In 2009, a second daughter, Hasna, was born. In 2010 they became parents again, this time to twin daughters named Bayan and Layan. Any person with some mathematical training can see where this is headed!



Wendy Boberg Archer (MS '04) and husband Keith Archer announce the birth of daughter Rosa Nicole Archer on June 8, 2010, weighing 7 lbs and 10 oz. She joins big sister Kayla in the Archer household in Little Rock, AR. Wendy's company, Buccaneer, has been purchased by Vangent, but her work continues without major change.

Marjorie Bond (PhD '96) has been promoted to (full) Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Monmouth College in Monmouth, IL. Currently she is co-chair of a research cluster group working on motivation, perception, and attitudes toward statistics. The group has been working together for two years and the group members have recently reenlisted for another two years. They presented a contributed session at JSM 2010 and hope to offer a session at JSM 2012. At USCOTS 2011, the group presented four posters, and it continues to be quite active.

Kevin Chartier (PhD '97) started a new job at Novartis in August. He is called a franchise head, with a group of statisticians, programmers, data management folks, database programmers, and medical writers under his leadership. The group has colleagues in the US, UK, Basel, Swit-

zerland, and Hyderabad, India. It is working on Respiratory and Established Medicine. The Established Medicine group is what most companies would call Phase IV, but with a slightly different orientation.

This fall will mark the start of **Dennis Clason's** (PhD '87) 25th year on the faculty at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM. His home department has recently gone through a name change that now reads Department of Economics, Applied Statistics and International Business (getting the word "statistics" in there has been a task of significant duration). Dennis' son Brian is now a Captain in the Army, just back from a one-year tour in Afghanistan. He is now posted at the Corps of Engineers office at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and is working on a master's in mechanical engineering (through an on-line program) at Purdue, despite his father's encouragement to consider K-State.

Frank Curriero (PhD '96) was promoted last year to Associate Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health in Baltimore. This year he received (for the second time) the Advising, Mentoring, and Teaching Recognition Award given by the school's student assembly.

Regina Estes (MS '90) and husband Drew Woods (a software engineer) live in Covington, KY, in a neighborhood of homes dating from the 1820's and just love it there. Their house is a 1917 bungalow, and Gina is learning carpentry skills as they go.



across the Ohio River in Cincinnati; she has a short commute to work and continues to enjoy her job. Her dream is to get ahold of an old Nash Metropolitan and put an electric engine in it.

Indrasiri Fernando (PhD '94) has left the corporate world to strike out on his

own. He resigned from Celgene (a pharma company in the Kansas City area) in late 2009 and has started his own consulting firm, working primarily for clients in the pharmaceutical area. He still maintains his residence in Overland Park, KS.

Bonnie Fijal (MS '95) has moved from Johnson & Johnson to Eli Lilly in Indianapolis. Her position there is Group Leader for Neuroscience Pharmacogenomic Statistics.

Eric Gibson (PhD '97) has moved back to Novartis Pharmaceuticals in New Jersey. He was with them earlier, before taking a couple of positions with other pharmaceutical companies in the area (Pfizer and Wyeth), and has returned (as of 2010) as Global Franchise Head for Integrated Information Sciences - Integrated Hospital Care. Eric and wife Victoria reside in Cedar Knolls, NJ, and Eric's big hobby is fishing – five to ten miles offshore in the Atlantic!

Ann Gironella (PhD '77) left the US for her native Philippines after earning her degree. She spent her career there as a professor of Statistics at the University of the Philippines, until her retirement in 2003. At that point, she returned to the states and started a new career. She is currently a tenured faculty member in the Department of Mathematics at Idaho State University in Pocatello, ID, where one of her colleagues is Deb Schleusner (see note below).

Alan Hartung (MS '06) and his family now live in Belleville, KS, about an hour and a half northwest of Manhattan. Alan and Sarah (whose hometown is Belleville) have been married since April of 2008. Their first child, son William, was born in March of 2010, and is described as "amazing". Alan currently works for Advance Auto Parts as a Senior Marketing Analyst. A big benefit is that he gets to work entirely from home. He does a broad range of customer analytic

Alumni NewsContinued

work, including response modeling, direct mail, and market analysis.

Molly Hort Van Norden (MS '08) is working with a small 401(k) administrative firm in Houston called Nova 401(k) Associates. Husband Vince is with ExxonMobil. Although Houston is OK, both hope to eventually be closer to their Kansas families.

Kim Howell (MS '94) is now, in her 11th year at Microsoft in Seattle, Director of Privacy & Online Safety Policy. She reports that she doesn't do statistics on a day-to-day basis, but her background definitely helps when working with engineers who want to collect and analyze data. Daughter Jaden will turn 7 this month while they are on a cruise in Norway.



Jennifer Hunter (MS '05) is still working at Statsoft in Tulsa, OK with fellow K-Staters Win Noren and Shannon Dick, but with a bit of a twist. Since her husband Matt is working to take over the family business, an appliance store in Jennifer's hometown of Woodward, OK, they have moved back there and Jennifer now telecommutes to Statsoft. Jennifer and Matt have two children, Isaac, 2 and Ellena, 2 months.

Adam Jarvis (BS '02) has moved from StrategicOne to join Sprint Nextel in Kansas City as Senior Statistical Consultant for the Consumer Relationship Management Group. He is the subject matter expert for the group, responsible for mentoring and consulting of statisticians and internal marketing clients. Adam and wife Jamie also announce the birth of their first child. Colby Frederick Jarvis came into their world on 9/9/09 and life has never been more enjoyable for them.



Sumedha Jayawardene (PhD '91) still works for Novartis in the pharmaceutical industry, but has made several moves in the last few years. He spent 2006-2007 on a job rotation for the company in Hyderabad, India, came back to the US for two years, and then decided to move back to India permanently. He's been in Hyderabad since October of 2009. There he works in Integrated Information Sciences (IIS), which includes Statistics, Statistical Programming, Regulatory Medical Writing, Data Management, and Database Programming. He is the IIS-India Head and works closely with both Kevin Chartier and Eric Gibson who are Global Franchise Heads within IIS. One of the very nice things about an India location for Sumedha is that it allows him to make frequent trips to nearby Sri Lanka (at least once a month) to visit family.

G. Brent Johnson (MS '06) reports that he and wife Suzie got married on September 19th of 2010. Their daughter Melissa turned 13 in January and recently made a traveling, competitive cheerleading squad based out of the twin cities. Their daughter Amaya turned 2 in April. Brent works for the Risk, Fraud and Compliance Division of Fidelity National Information Services (FIS) in the twin cities. He has recently been promoted to Analyst II and is happy with his job.

Fouzia Laytimi (MS '04) reports that her husband was transferred to her homeland of Morocco, so they packed up and moved from Chicago to her hometown. She continues to work for Tribune as a contractor (isn't telecommuting amazing?). Tribune is a media company of national newspaper, television and radio companies whose holding include the Chicago Tribune, LA Times, Orlando Sentinel, Fort Lauderdale Sun, Hartford Courant, Newport News Daily Press, Allentown Morning Call, and the Baltimore Sun. She's part of a national team that is responsible for optimizing advertising in all markets via email, direct mail or news-



paper inserts; they work with big retail clients combining the client's data with Tribune customer data to target specific customer groups. Fouzia invites those who have a desire to travel to Morocco to let her know; they have a house that has multiple guest rooms with views of the ocean.

Sarah Loyer Baxter (MS '01) and husband Jason report the birth of their second child, Daniel Jason, born the same night Roy Halladay pitched a perfect game for the Phillies in last fall's baseball playoffs. (Daniel joins big brother Andrew, almost three in the Baxter household.) In fact, Sarah argues, the excitement of the game (she's big Phillies fan) may have induced the labor. Sarah continues her teaching of statistics and math at nearby Gloucester County College.



Clem Maurath (PhD '67) has been retired for 7 years now from a long career in the pharmaceutical industry where he became an expert in the safety of drugs, working for Dow, Lederle, Abbott, GD Searle, Pharmacia, and Pfizer. He currently lives in Port Orange, Florida with his wife, Lorraine. They travel back to Kansas periodically to visit his mother (age 95, still living in Oakley, KS) and some siblings and hope to drop by the departmental offices one of these days.

Kevin McCarter (PhD '99) has earned tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Experimental Statistics at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge (to be officially conferred in August). Kevin and wife Susan are loving life in the deep South.

Edwin Ndum (PhD '09) is a Research Associate in the Statistical Research Department at ACT, Inc., in Iowa City, Iowa. The biggest news for his family that he and wife Marceline will soon be permanent residents (by the end of June). In addition, Marceline will be graduating from the nursing school of

Alumni News.....Continued

Mount Mercy University, Cedar Rapids, IA, next year.

Subashan Perera (PhD '00) left the KU Med Center campus and followed his boss to the University of Pittsburgh in 2004. He was recently promoted to Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. His wife is Janitha and sons (ages 7 and 3) are Kolitha and Sidath.

Tim Perez (MS '04) continues to work at Monsanto in St. Louis, MO, where he was promoted to Senior Statistician last year.

Jamis Perrett (PhD '05) continues to serve as a faculty member in the Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University. He recently took over as the head judge for the ASA/NCTM National K-12 Statistical Project Competition (grade school and high school statistical projects). He'll be doing that for the next three years. If anyone out there would like to be a judge a few projects (about three hours of your time, electronically, in the second half of June), that would be very helpful to Jamie, and greatly appreciated. He needs several more judges (drop him an e-mail at jamis@stat.tamu.edu if you are interested). He also had a book published by Springer: A SAS/IML Companion for Linear Models. Clearly, no home, school, or library should be without it. Finally, he turned in his tenure and promotion materials recently for consideration this fall. So there should be some exciting news next year (good luck Jamie!).

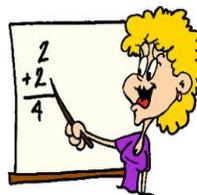
Lance Ridpath (MS '05) and wife Holly are proud parents of a son. Cash William Ridpath was born on July 26, 2010 in Ronceverte, WV, weighing in at 8 lbs, 7 oz. Cash traveled to the Midwest in May to meet his Iowa grandparents, and made his first visit to a Runza Hut (a milestone in any midwesterner's life!). Dad Lance is still a statistician at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medi-

cine in Lewisburg, WV, and loving it. The family resides in nearby Frankford, WV.

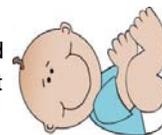
Mollie Poehlman Roediger (MS '03) reports that things are good in the Twin Cities. She's still at the U of Minnesota (8 years now) and still working on HIV research and enjoying it. She primarily analyzes data for publication, which she finds stimulating. Son Waylon will turn 3 in August and keeps Mollie and husband Trevor (a Manhattan, KS native and a stay-at-home Dad) hopping.

Peter Scherer (MS '95) has been with Dow AgroSciences (previously Dow Elanco) since 1995. Originally hired as a statistician, his work has evolved through Six Sigma training and work to corporate leadership positions. In September of 2009 he took on leadership of the R&D sub-function which facilitates and delivers research samples around the world for Dow. He sees this as a new opportunity, and it includes facility management responsibilities for most of the R&D buildings on the Indianapolis site. These facilities include several older structures (about 20 years old) plus a building currently under construction. Although there isn't much statistics to it, Peter describes his work as exciting. Peter and wife Ronda are parents to three; son Steven (14) and twin girls Rachel and Laura (12). Ronda home-schools the kids and they are progressing quite well.

Deb Schleusner (MS '93) is living in Pocatello, ID working at two jobs. By day, she is a contract employee for EMB Stats, a contract pharmaceutical company based in Kansas City. By night, she is a part-time instructor of statistics for Idaho State University. She loves the flexibility of being able to do her primary work from home. The stay in Idaho may end when her husband Pete finishes his degree at Idaho State (anticipated in the next year) but where that may lead is quite uncertain at this point.



Danelle Schuster Staebler (MS '03) and husband Matthew (but he goes by Bart) announce the arrival of their first child; son Sam Elliott Staebler entered the family on May 26th, weighing in at 8 lbs 3 oz. Danelle continues her work as a senior manager at Cetero Research in Fargo, ND.



Bryan Selby (MS '90) has been in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1995 working in the biotech/pharma industry and specifically at Medivation, a mid-sized company in that arena, for the last 4 years. He is head of the group that is responsible for collecting, processing, and analyzing clinical trial data. Bryan and wife Carol have one daughter, Stephanie, who is a junior at the University of California at San Diego. Bryan reports having worked over the years with a couple of other K-State alums, CC Hwang and Biao Lu, both of whom are still in the biotech/pharma industry in the Bay Area.

Brian Sherfey (PhD '96) has switched primary work groups at the China Lake Naval Weapons Center in the California desert. He has left the warfare analysis department (where he worked for 13 years) and has moved to the reliability and maintainability program. Among other systems, he will be doing reliability work for the Tomahawk missile, a program he has some prior experience with.

Hal Stephenson (MS '66, PhD '99) and wife Carol visited the campus in May on their way home to Michigan from their son Charles' college graduation from Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. Hal describes having his picture taken in front of Dr. Fryer's portrait in the Dickens Hall reception area as a highlight of the trip. He and Carol also managed to get a look at the Konza Prairie bison herd when there were a number of calves present; they were both impressed at that as well. Hal recently

Alumni News.....Continued

underwent cataract surgery and (thanks to implants) wears no glasses for the first time since the 4th grade. Having retired from a long and accomplished career with General Motors, Hal now teaches mathematics and statistics for the Oakland Community College system in the Detroit suburbs.

Matt Strand (PhD '98) ran the Colfax Half-Marathon this spring. He claims he might have run faster "if I actually trained like I should and didn't indulge myself in so much basketball and volleyball..." Matt is still working at National Jewish Health in Denver and teaching in the Department of Biostatistics at the Colorado School of Public Health at UC - Denver. He and wife Linda are parents to an active brood: Evan 10 and entering middle school this fall, Emily 8 (but going on 17) and Edward 6.



Lucas Taylor (MS '02) announces his engagement and upcoming wedding. On July 9th, he will marry Lauren Griffin in Reidsville NC. They will then take a honeymoon trip to Costa Rica. She's a fellow Pfizer employee in Kalamazoo, who met Lucas when her poultry research group was moved from North Carolina to Michigan and he was assigned as statistical consultant to her group.

Sailesh Vezzu (MS '04) is currently a Senior Research Data Analyst at Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton, NJ. In October of 2008, he married Meg, a Pennsylvania native who also works at ETS (where they met).

He recently presented papers at NE-SUG 2010 (Northeast SAS Users Group) and at SAS Global Forum 2011.

Govinda Weerakkody (PhD '88) is still working in cardiovascular clinical research at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis. One of the drugs he worked for years to help develop (Effient) is now available on the market for secondary prevention of heart attacks. His daughter Emily (16) is a junior in high school, son Jamie (13) is now a middle schooler, and his wife Nadika is now attending Ivy Tech Community College.

Nimal Wickremasinghe (PhD '95) informs us that his daughter Charya, who went to Marlatt Elementary School in Manhattan for second and third grades (1993-1995), graduated last year from the University of Colombo with a 1st class in Chemistry and was the batch top and a gold medalist. For the coming year she has received a fellowship to do graduate work in chemistry at Rice University in Houston (where Sallie Keller was the Dean of Engineering). Nimal believes that her early background at Marlatt was very significant in her development, and is especially appreciative for the caring she got from her teachers there and also for the guidance she got from "Senora Johnson" - that would be Erma Jean Johnson, Dallas Johnson's spouse, who was a long-time staff member at the school.

Sam Wilson (MS '06) reports that after working full-time and making little progress on his doctoral dissertation at North Carolina State University for a couple of years, he has jumped out of the full-time employment position and back to work on the dissertation

and is now making nice progress on it. Wife Kris is doing well and the Wilson menagerie (dogs and chickens) was expanded yet again this past year with the adoption of another shelter animal (a border collie named Millie).



Qifeng Yu (PhD '99) worked for Quintiles in Kansas City right after graduation, but moved to Boston in 2002 and currently is director of biostatistics at Genzyme Corporation. He has two children, Jennifer (age 15) and Daniel (age 10). Jennifer was a baby when he was at K-State; she is now in 11th grade. Qifeng and wife Helen plan to take her to visit some college campuses this summer, encouraging her to look at some schools in the Midwest including K-State, but are suspicious that she wants to stay on the east coast.

Ying Zhang (PhD '01) left Roche pharmaceuticals in May and started at Novartis at East Hanover, NJ, in June. It was a convenient switch for him; his new job is actually closer to his family home in Morris Plains, NJ than his old one. He notes that he will be working with at least three other K-State grads (Kevin Chartier, Eric Gibson, and Sumedha Jayawardene) at Novartis.

We want **YOUR** news here next year. Email updates on your employment, education or family to <jboyer@ksu.edu>

Faculty Activities



Faculty Activities:

Her first year in the department has been a busy and productive one for **Nora Bello**. She has become intensively involved with the development of interdisciplinary collaborative research and statistical consulting across campus; collaborations with the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and the Division of Biology have proven to be particularly fertile grounds for problems involving cutting-edge development and application of statistical methodology. Examples range from epidemiology and clinical sciences (including cardiology, ophthalmology, neurophysiology and radiology), through animal nutrition and behavior, all the way to ecology and conservation of the tallgrass prairie wildlife and ecosystem. These interactions are not only statistically motivating but also sheer hands-on fun... have you ever fished for food samples in a cow's rumen? Seen a prairie burning? Assisted in an electroencephalogram? If this sounds like Tukey's "backyard"... well, you got it! Shortly after Nora arrived on campus last fall, she got the terrific news of the award of a USDA grant in collaboration with Michigan State University to develop statistical methods for whole genome precision selection in livestock species, accounting for multiple traits in heterogeneous environments. Genomic selection is an emerging and rapidly developing research area with an unprecedented abundance of data rich in statistical and computational challenges. Certainly a very promising

research arena to get involved with!

In the last year, Nora has given several invited talks, including in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology, the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, the Interdisciplinary Dairy Focus group (all at K-State) and at the annual meetings of the American Society of Animal Science Midwestern Section and the American Dairy Science Association Midwest Branch. For the summer of 2011, Nora has been invited to co-teach the Mixed Models Workshop at the Joint Annual Meetings of the American Dairy Science Association and the American Society of Animal Science in New Orleans. This workshop provides animal and dairy scientists with up-to-date training on the recent advances of mixed models methodology and guidelines for implementation in their disciplinary experiments. She will also give a talk at the NCCC-170 group (Research Advances in Agricultural Statistics) meeting in July.

In her free time, Nora has enjoyed getting to know a little bit of Kansas, through hikes in the Flint Hills and road trips around the state, as well as by reading about the local history of the Great Plains. What a beautiful surprise! ... the Kansas she encountered has little, if anything, in common with that of the Oz movie: Rolling hills of lush green prairie, colorful wildflowers by the bunch, a unique wildlife, elegant limestone outcroppings and fascinating historical sites.

John Boyer is finishing his first

year in his phased retirement, having moved to half-time status last summer. 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 Ames, Iowa, and will go to this summer's meeting at Purdue University. He also made it to the Joint Statistics Meetings in Vancouver.

Juan Du gave invited talks at the 2010 ICSA (the International Chinese Statistical Association) Applied Statistics Symposium in Indianapolis in June and to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Wichita State University in November. She also made poster presentations at the International Conference on Malliavin Calculus and Stochastic Analysis in Lawrence, KS, the Kansas Statewide EPSCoR Conference (also held in Lawrence), the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, BC, and the NRC (New Researchers Conference) at University of British Columbia. She was recently elected Secretary/Treasurer of the local chapter (Kansas Western-Missouri Chapter) of the American Statistical Association. In addition, she chaired a technical session at the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings.

Suzanne Dubnicka spent the

Continued.....Faculty Activities

academic year on sabbatical leave in the Department of Statistics at Brigham Young University, in Provo, Utah; she claims that she made an effort at "learning to be a better Bayesian." While there, she worked on Bayesian methods for multiple preference testing and did joint work with Shane Reese on Bayesian methods for environmental exposure data with a limit of detection. She also submitted an NSF proposal to the MMS program to develop Bayesian methods for multiple preference testing (she's still waiting to hear if the proposal was funded). The mishap of her year was that while in Provo, she slipped and fell on the ice; her chin broke her fall, literally. She needed 10+ stitches to close the gash in her chin and broke her jaw in three places. She is now completely recovered.

Even 18 years after his official retirement, **Arlin Feyerherm** continues to do statistical work. He still provides annual reports to wheat breeders and specialists in a nine-state area. Reports compare varieties based on their yields, relative to checks, in performance trials using the DYA (differential yielding ability) method.



One of the highlights of the year for **Gary Gadbury** was giving an invited talk on "Treatment Heterogeneity and Individual Qualitative Interaction" at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Raleigh, NC. Dec. 14, 2010. He and wife Carol also took the opportunity of the JSM being in Vancouver last summer to road trip north and west; they had a terrific time. Gary is extremely active in the area of extramural grants and funding, working on projects in nanoparticles

for diagnosis and treatment of cancer (through NIH), protease-based cancer diagnostics (funded by Kansas Bioscience Authority), metabolomic profiling and functions of oxidized membrane lipids in plant stress responses (via the National Science Foundation), and standardized "pre-flight" exercise tests to predict performance during extravehicular activities in a lunar environment (for NASA). In addition he has several other projects in proposal or submission stages.

Gary is also very active on the national stage, currently serving as Associate Editor for the *Annals of Applied Statistics*, and having worked as Associate Editor for a special issue on statistical genetics for *Statistics and its Interface* in 2010. He also served on an NSF Review Panel for Postdoctoral Fellowships at the interface of Biology and Mathematics in Feb 2011.

Last, but not least, Gary anticipates that nearly all of his family will be in town in late June for a milestone birthday (but he will only admit that the number is somewhere between 20 and 80).

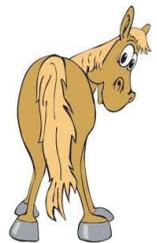
Jim Higgins and his co-authors were honored by SIGCHI - the special interest group for computer-human interaction - which named their paper "The Aligned Rank Transform for Nonparametric Factorial Analyses Using Only ANOVA Procedures," as an honorable mention among those presented at the CHI convention in Vancouver this year. That places it in the top 5% of 1500+ papers. Jim and wife Mary Lou also attended the JSM in Vancouver in August of last year.

Last summer **Abby Jager** attended a workshop in Boston, MA for faculty who teach business statistics, orchestrated by one of the major textbook publishers.

Over the winter break she took a trip to a traditional family destination - St. George Island, just off the coast of Florida.

Dallas Johnson is officially retired but continues to do a good deal of teaching for the department via the distance education program. He is also still consulting some, both off campus and on, having worked with the Army Research Labs, Everest Clinical Research Services, Inc., the IDEA Center, the College of Human Ecology, and the Animal Sciences Department in the last year. He still enjoys going to departmental seminars and attending, when possible, M.S. and Ph.D. presentations by our students. With family and grandkids in Texas, that has become a fairly frequent travel destination for Dallas and wife Erma. In September they will also go on a K-State Alumni Association cruise on the Rhine. This summer Dallas will attend his high school class' 55th year reunion in Central City, NE. And in thinking about milestones, it should be mentioned that Dallas and Erma took their family to Colorado last summer for a week in the mountains to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Horses and horseback riding are high priorities for **Ken Kemp** in his retirement. Ken, wife Genny, son Kevin and Kevin's wife will meet in Colorado in July and ride horses in the Pike National Forest west of Woodland Park for about a week. Genny and Ken will then go further west and meet friends for a ride in the Weminuche Wilderness area for another week or so. Around his country place, Ken reports that doing the usual maintenance on an acreage and training two Fox Trotter mares, a 3-year



Continued.....Faculty Activities

old and a 4-year old, to be ridden are taking up a good share of his time this summer.

Although he's nominally fully retired, **George Milliken** is still quite active. He gave an invited talk at the meeting of Animal Biologists Statisticians in Ames Iowa last fall, entitled "The 'Ands' and 'Ors' of Multiple Comparisons. He also gave an invited talk at the 10th Anniversary of the Department of Statistics at Western Michigan meeting held in conjunction with the Great Lakes Conference this spring. George and Janet just celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary, and George will attend his 50th year reunion of his high school class this summer.

The big news for **Leigh Murray** is that she and husband **Dave Smith**, who recently retired from New Mexico State University and joined her in Manhattan, report the birth of their first grandchild. The "most beautiful baby in the world" is Sonora, born on April 8th to Cameron Smith and Kristen Ogden, who live in College Station, TX.



Jim Neill traveled to the JSM in Vancouver last summer, where he represented the department on the "academic representatives" group (essentially department heads and chairs of departments from around the country). Jim and wife Evelyn recently escaped the Kansas heat for a week in the Canadian Rockies; a welcome respite from the hectic schedule he fills as department head. On his return, he underwent surgery for repair of his rotator cuff in his right shoulder; he just had the left one

done last winter.

Paul Nelson will begin phased retirement this coming year. He will drop his teaching load to one course per semester, but will continue to direct graduate students. He will also maintain his role as the department's undergraduate advisor.

Retirement seems to be sitting well with **Peter Perng** and wife Jong-I. They continue to live in Irvine, California, and report that they are gradually getting accustomed to the southern California way of life. Traveling, outings with senior friends, visiting their son's family and other relatives, and attending book study club are important parts of their retirement life. In February, they took a cruise trip to Panama Canal with several classmates, sailing through several ports, including Cartagena in Columbia, Aruba, Limon in Costa Rica, and Ocho Rios in Jamaica in addition to going through the canal.



Their son, William is still in Wichita, Kansas working for Terracon Engineering Consulting Company. He is married and has two sons and the third (a boy too) is on the way. They get together with his family twice a year, and treasure every moment of it.

Weixing Song traveled to East Lansing, MI to give an invited talk at Michigan State University in November. In August he will give an invited talk at the JSM in Miami. He reports that his three and a half

year old son already has a U.S. passport, while Weixing himself waits for his green card to be assigned.

Haiyan Wang gave talks at the Department of Statistics, University of Missouri at Columbia and at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Missouri at Kansas City in 2010. The talks were based on joint work with two of her recent Ph.D. students. She has been appointed to be an Associate Editor for the Journal of Nonparametric Statistics starting in January of 2011, and she also serves as a Review Editor for Frontiers in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. She has just been involved in the preparation of a large grant proposal to the NSF on the topic of "GEPR: Transcriptional responses of cereals to arthropod pests". Her co-investigators on this grant would be a number of distinguished faculty members from the K-State campus in the areas of Plant Pathology and Entomology.

Weixin Yao attended the JSM in Vancouver where he organized a session on mixture models and applications and gave one of the talks in the session. He'll be headed to Miami for this year's JSM as well. He also gave invited talks at Purdue University, East Carolina University, and Simon Fraser University (in Burnaby, BC) last year.

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



Address Correction/News Item Form

Mail to: Kansas State University

Department of Statistics

101 Dickens Hall