

Kansas State University Department of Statistics

Dickens Hall ♦ Manhattan, Kansas 66506-0802 ♦ (785) 532-6883 ♦ www.ksu.edu/stats ♦ July 2004

Department Head's Desk

The 2003-2004 year has been interesting for the Department of Statistics.

There have been some faculty changes over the last year. New on board with us this fall will be Dr. Haiyan Wang. Haiyan comes to us from Penn State, where she did her dissertation work under the direction of Michael Akritas. Haiyan's research interests include nonparametric statistics, longitudinal data analysis, analysis of designs with large numbers of levels, and linear models. There is a short story about Haiyan elsewhere in this newsletter that will help you get acquainted with her. We are most happy to have her joining the faculty.

Leaving us after a year as a visitor is Dr. Nimal Wickremasinghe. Nimal, of course, earned his Ph.D. here under the direction of Dallas Johnson in 1995 and has been here on a sabbatical leave. In early August, he will return to his regular faculty position at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka. Nimal has been a valuable faculty member this past year, and will be missed as he returns home.

We will be starting this year without Dr. Tom Loughin on the teaching faculty. Tom, who, as you may remember from last year's newsletter, was promoted to full professor, will be moving with his family to Burnaby, British Columbia, to spend a year's sabbatical leave at Simon Fraser University.

A big item around here has been the continued work on our building. Most of our graduate students are displaced from their offices yet again, as more remodeling takes place. We've been assured that we are near the end of this process. And while it has created some inconveniences, this process has surely made our old building (built in 1908) a good deal nicer place to be. If you ever get to Manhattan, please come by and see us; you may not recognize the place.



In April we held our 16th annual Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture. Dr. George Fernandez from the University of Nevada was our featured speaker, giving both a technical workshop on spatial statistics before the conference and the keynote address to the conference. The conference was again attended by more than 130 folks, and we continue to be gratified at its success. Dallas

Johnson and George Milliken did the organizing again this year, and on behalf of the department and the attendees at the conference, I'd like to express appreciation to them for their hard work. Plans are already underway for the 17th Conference next spring.

I would point out that we are making an effort to breathe some new life into our undergraduate statistics degree program. We have been primarily a graduate program for as long as most of us can remember, but there does seem to be a need out there for undergraduates with statistics training. Dr. Joshua Tebbs has taken over as the undergraduate advisor and we've assumed a more active role in attempting to recruit undergrads into the program. We're anxious to see if we can build the program to a little higher level.

I will close this note with the usual request; if you know of potential graduate students for our program, please let them know about us and let us know about them. As you all know, graduate students are the lifeblood of this program and you who have been through it are our very best recruiters. You can tell folks of the value of your KSU education. I promise that we will follow up by contacting any student whose name you give us and seeing that they get the information they need. Any help you can give us in this important area will be greatly appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Boyer, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

John E. Boyer, Jr.



New Faculty Member

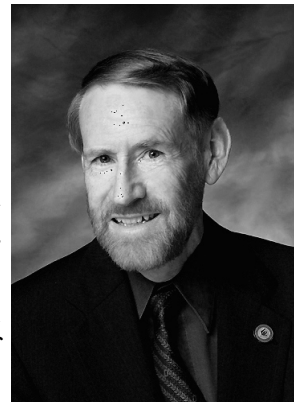
As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, *Haiyan Wang* will be joining the faculty for the coming academic year. Haiyan completed her Ph.D. this spring at Penn State under the direction of Dr. Michael Akritas and will be assuming a tenure track position in the department as an assistant professor in August.

Haiyan grew up in a small town in China named Hailong, which translates to “dragon in the sea.” With much encouragement from her parents, she wound up at Beijing University where she earned a Masters Degree in Statistics and broadened her view of the world. She has been in the U.S. for five years now, although she keeps in pretty close touch with her family in China, which includes two younger sisters. One thing that Haiyan really likes about the U.S. is that when people work, they work hard, but when they stop working, they take time to enjoy their lives. She was also surprised that people here have been a lot friendlier than she anticipated; she says the behavior contradicts the impression she had from movies and television. She has not seen a lot of the U.S., but presumes that will change with time.

An important part of Haiyan’s life is her daughter Luann, who is three. Luann loves to make up stories and to watch Disney movies like Cinderella, Snow White, the Lion King, Tarzan, and then to imitate the characters. She also loves going to the park and playing.

Haiyan’s personal likes include swimming, fishing, dancing, and cooking. She feels she’ll have outlets for all of these interests in Manhattan.

Iman Cited for Research



In your copy of the *K-Stater* magazine coming out this fall, watch for the name of **Ron Iman**. Ron (Ph.D., 1973,

M.S., 1970) has been recognized as a Highly Cited Researcher by the Institute for Scientific Information, and that will be highlighted in this university publication.

Of course, you’ve read of many of Ron’s activities in the American Statistical Association on the pages of this newsletter over the years. He has held numerous offices and led many activities in the association, most visible of which was the year in which he was the national president (1994). But just as importantly, Ron has been an active researcher throughout his career, primarily as a statistician for many years at the Sandia National Laboratories and since then as a private consultant. He has given talks in a variety of areas on his many visits back to the KSU campus, and that has been greatly appreciated by the department. Congratulations Ron!



ASA Elections

In the recent elections held by the American Statistical Association, KSU was well represented.

Sallie Keller-McNulty (former faculty member) won election to ASA’s highest office, that of President. Sallie will serve in 2005 as President-elect, then will take over the reins of the organization in 2006. Sallie is currently leader of the statistics group at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, NM.

Ron Wasserstein (Ph.D., 1987) won election as Chair of the ASA’s Council of Chapters. This is the part of the organization that oversees all the local chapters, including the Kansas-Western Missouri chapter to which most of the local ASA members belong. Like Sallie, Ron will assume his primary duties in 2006, after a year as Chair-elect. Ron is currently the Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Washburn University in Topeka, KS.

John Boyer (current department head) was elected Chair-elect of ASA’s Council of Sections, the umbrella organizations that deals with the various ASA special interest sections. He, too, will serve primarily in 2006.



Get together in Toronto

The annual gathering of K-State alumni and friends at the Joint Statistical Meetings (this year in Toronto) will be held on Monday evening, August 4th. Check the message boards under 'K' for more information and a sign-up sheet. Come out and catch up with your friends!

Recent Grads and Jobs

Ph.D. degrees

Eun-Joo Lee has completed her work under the direction of Dallas Johnson. She and her husband and young son have moved to the San Jose, California area where she will be employed by AMD (Advanced Micro Devices).

Gilbert Shanga finished his dissertation under the guidance of Dallas Johnson. He moved his family to Stillwater, Oklahoma, where he worked as a visiting faculty member for a year at Oklahoma State University. He has now taken a job with Unilever in Edgewater, New Jersey.

Zhaohui Su has completed his doctorate under the direction of Winston Yang. He and his family have moved to Boston, where he has taken a position with the Department of Biostatistics in the Harvard School of Public Health, working on a large AIDS project.

Veronica Taylor has finished her dissertation under the direction of George Milliken. She continues to live in Manhattan and work for George's consulting operation.

M.S. degrees

Yi Cao finished her M.S. work with Dallas Johnson. She took a postdoctoral position (she also earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry while at KSU) with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. She is working on problems dealing with the causes of muscle tumors and muscular dystrophies using both her statistical and biological abilities. She and her husband enjoy the northwest, particularly the mountains and beaches.

Chun-Yen Cochrane has finished her M.S. work under Suzanne Dubnicka. She will stay with her family in Manhattan and look for work here.

Liang Fang has finished his M.S. work under the direction of Tom Loughin. He has elected to stay on in the department and pursue a Ph.D. degree. He has worked both

as a teaching assistant in the department's classes and as a graduate research assistant for Dr. Karen Garrett in the Department of Plant Pathology.

Xiujuan (Wendy) Feng has finished her M.S. work under Paul Nelson's direction and has taken a job with the state Department of Corrections in Topeka. She plans to stay close to Manhattan until her husband finishes his degree in industrial engineering at K-State.

Weiwei Liu has finished her M.S. degree under Tom Loughin. She has moved to Lafayette, Indiana where she will look for work and live with her husband who is still in graduate school at Purdue.

Tim Perez has finished his work under the guidance of Jeff Pontius. At the time of this writing, Tim is still interviewing for jobs.

Xin Sun completed her M.S. work under the direction of Paul Nelson. She has moved with her family to the Boston area and has begun to work in the Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health - the same department where her husband Zhaohui Su is employed.

Xuemai Yang wrote her report under the direction of Winston Yang. She continues her work toward a doctoral degree at KSU in the area of science education.

Liangsheng Zhu has finished his M.S. work under Winston Yang. He has accepted an assistantship and begun work on his Ph.D. in Statistics at North Carolina State University.

B.S. Degrees

Randy Stout has finished his work in statistics. He will stay on campus and pursue a secondary teaching certificate program.

Scholarships



The winner of the *Beth and Holly Fryer Scholarship* in Statistics for the 2004-2005 academic year is **Qing Kang**. Qing is a Ph.D. student working under the direction of Paul Nelson. She obtained a Ph.D in Biochemistry at K-State and earned an M.S. degree in Statistics at the same time. She then left the university to work for a while and in 2003, she returned to enter the Ph.D. program in Statistics.

Qing came to this country from the city of Shi Jia Zhuang in the Hebei province of China. Obviously, she came here to pursue her education in molecular and cell biology, but got excited about statistics in the process.

Qing likes to cook, garden, and do crafts. Of course, Qing's biggest news is that she was recently married to Chris Vahl, another Ph.D. student in the department. Chris is a native of Montana, and on a visit to Chris' home area, Qing and Chris tied the knot on June 2.

The Fryer Scholarship is generously provided by Holly and Beth Fryer. Holly was the first statistician hired by Kansas State and founded both our Statistical Laboratory and the Department of Statistics. The generosity of the Fryers and their continued support of students in the department is greatly appreciated.

The winner of the *Ronald and Rae Iman Scholarship* in Statistics for the 2004-2005 term is **Kevin McBeth**. Kevin will be a sophomore Statistics major this fall. He is a graduate of Washburn Rural High School in Topeka. He's an aficionado of classical music and plays both the piano and the marimba. He is also a serious juggler - he currently juggles 7 balls or 5 clubs or a variety of other items such as machetes and torches, and he is active in the KSU juggling club.

Kevin plans to head into either actuarial science or biostatistics when he finishes his degree. He currently finds data mining to be an intriguing topic.

The Iman Scholarship is supported by Ron and Rae Iman of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ron received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the department and has been active in a wide array of statistical arenas. He is a former president of the American Statistical Association. The department and students truly appreciate the support of the Imans.

Two *Statistics Scholarships* were awarded for the coming academic year. One will go to **Liang Fang**, a Ph.D. student in the department. Liang is working under the direction of Dallas Johnson; he previously completed an M.S. under Tom Loughin's guidance. Liang's wife is a Ph.D. student at KSU as well, working on a degree in Human Nutrition. Liang spends his spare time reading and watching movies (he likes history and science fiction), as well as traveling, camping, hiking, and taking photographs.

The other was awarded to **Rebhi Bsharat**. Rebhi is also a Ph.D. student, doing his work under Jim Higgins. Rebhi is from Palestine; came to us from Wichita State University where he had earned his M.S. degree. He followed his brother to Wichita and keeps in close contact with the brother and his family who now live in the Kansas City area. Rebhi says one of his keys to keeping his mind straight is his effort to exercise regularly; it allows him to think more clearly and reduces stress.

The Statistics Scholarships are supported by donations from faculty and former students. They are endowed to support able students in their study of statistics.



Hal W. and Carol (Turner) Stephenson Scholarship in Statistics at KSU

The Department of Statistics wishes to thank Hal Stephenson (Ph.D. 1969) and his wife Carol for their commitment to the department's scholarship program. Hal is a long-time employee of General Motors and he and Carol have allocated part of their company-provided life insurance to generate the Hal W. and Carol (Turner) Stephenson Scholarship in Statistics at KSU. Hal and Carol have been long-time supporters of the department.

Faculty Activities 2003-2004

John Boyer made a trip to Minnesota where he visited both Winona State University and St. Cloud State. In the process, he gave talks and recruited for graduate students. He also attended the joint meetings in San Francisco. In addition, he continues in his role as coordinator of the ASA's judging for the International Science and Engineering Fair. This year he again participated as a judge, joining members of the Oregon Chapter for the fair held in Portland. Finally, he was elected Chair-Elect of the ASA's Council of Sections; this means he'll serve as chair of this body in 2006.

Suzanne Dubnicka attended the joint statistical meetings in San Francisco.

Jim Higgins gave a talk entitled "Innovation in Statistical Education" to the (newly-formed) Department of Statistics at the University of Nebraska in January. He also created an on-line version of Statistics 351 (Business & Economic Statistics 2) and taught it for the first time this past spring. This course looks to become an integral part of KSU's "degree completion program" which is aimed at nontraditional students who have left the campus and are seeking to finish their programs while continuing to work.

Dallas Johnson made a trip to South Africa to be the keynote speaker at the International Biometrics Society Sub-Saharan Regional Meeting in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. He gave a talk on "Using Multiplicative Interaction Models to Analyze Genotype*Environment Models" and presented a 1½ day short course on the Analysis of Messy Data. While in South Africa, he also gave talks at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg and Cape Town University in Cape Town. Dallas also attended the Graybill Conference in Fort Collins, CO and helped arrange for a group of students to attend as well.

The big news on the Johnson family front is that son Kelly was married in Dallas, TX on May 1 to Jennifer, who has a six-year old son. So Dallas and Erma gained a beautiful daughter-in-law and became proud grandparents of Austin, and now have two Texas names in the family.

Tom Loughin attended the joint meetings in San Francisco, where he gave a talk entitled "Working with researchers in the agricultural sciences: Communication is the key." He also served as a member of the program committee for the 2004 Spring Research Conference for Statistics in Industry and Technology and attended that conference in Gaithersburg, MD in May. In June, he traveled to Washington and copresented (with Chris Bilder, formerly his Ph.D. student) the results of research entitled "Testing for marginal dependence between two or more multiple-response categorical variables" at the Third

Annual Funding Opportunity in Survey and Statistical Research Seminar sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Tom additionally served the academic year as president of the Kansas-Western Missouri chapter of the American Statistical Association.

George Milliken attended the NCR 170 meeting in Reno and gave a presentation on Design of Experiments for Precision Agriculture. He also made a presentation at Pfizer pharmaceuticals on Mixed Models. He attended both the joint meetings in San Francisco, and the Graybill Conference in Fort Collins, CO.

Jim Neill attended the 2004 ENAR meetings in Pittsburgh and presented a paper entitled "Sets of Complementary Lack of Fit Tests Based on Edge Clusters". He also attended the joint meetings in San Francisco, where he presented a preliminary version of the same paper, which represents joint work he has been doing with Forrest Miller of the Department of Mathematics.

Jeff Pontius attended the WNAR/IMS meeting in June in Albuquerque, NM at which he presented a paper entitled "Conditioning Plots Based on Experimental Designs."

Joshua Tebbs attended the 2003 joint meetings in San Francisco and the 2004 ENAR meetings in Pittsburgh. He has also been nominated for president of the national statistics honorary Mu Sigma Rho (we are waiting for election results as this is written). In addition, he has helped write two successful Big 12 Fellowship proposals. One will bring Chris Bilder to the campus for a series of visits for the two of them to do joint work. The other will allow Chris to visit the Oklahoma State campus to continue his collaborative work with Mindy McCann.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

John Boyer continues to serve as Associate Editor for *The American Statistician*. He has also been serving as coordinator of statistical judging for the International Science and Engineering Fair.

Dallas Johnson serves as Associate Editor for *JABES*.

Tom Loughin has just ended a one-year term as the President of the Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter of the American Statistical Association. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the ASA's Section on Statistical Consulting and will soon be vice chair of the ASA Committee on Outreach Education. He continues to serve as Associate Editor for *Technometrics*.

George Milliken is serving as Associate Editor for *JASA*.

News of Our Grads and Friends

Chris Bilder (Ph.D. 2000) has been awarded a Big 12 Fellowship to work with faculty member Joshua Tebbs here at K-State in the coming academic year. Chris is in his second year as a faculty member in the newly formed Department of Statistics at the University of Nebraska.

Duane Brown (Ph.D. 1999) and wife **Yihfen Chen** (Ph.D. 1999) are building a family in Ridgecrest California. They have a daughter Britney who is three, and are expecting an addition to the family in February. Duane continues to work at the China Lake Naval Weapons Station nearby and Yihfen is Coordinator of Institutional Research and an adjunct faculty member at Cerro Coso Community College. Both have received certificates for online teaching and are currently working on developing online mathematics courses.

Heather Cotsworth (M.S. 2000) and husband Brian (a graduate of KSU in architecture) now live in Austin, Texas and like it a lot. Heather works for Signature Science, an environmental research firm. Heather and Brian are parents of two energetic boys, Joshua (20 months) and Jeremiah (4 months).

Jennifer Dickinson-Nezzer (B.A. 1992) followed her undergraduate work at KSU with an M.S. in Statistics from New Mexico State University, where her major professor was Marta Remmenga (KSU Ph.D, 1991). She also met her husband, Mike Nezzer there. They have settled in Austin and love it there for the parks, the music and the professional opportunities. Jennifer is also a proud mother to Rachel (5) and Rebecca (3). She has recently taken up running triathlons. Jennifer works for Signature Science in Austin, a firm which does environmental consulting. This past spring Jennifer returned to the department and gave departmental seminar on the company's work.

Doris Grosh (Ph.D. 1969) has had a lot of turns in her life recently. Doris was a long-time faculty member in both Industrial Engineering and Statistics at K-State. She fully retired from the university in 1990, at which time she and husband Gene threw themselves into a number of volunteer activities. Gene passed away in October of 2003 and in February, 2004, Doris moved into Meadowlark Hills, a retirement facility in Manhattan. Doris has continued to stay active with the Manhattan Arts Center (the main stage at the Arts Center has been named the Grosh Performance Hall in their honor) where she has done much administrative and computational work and is now an honorary lifetime member of the board. She is also involved with the League of Women Voters, the Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice, and she continues to serve as a volunteer at election time.

T. Robert (Bob) Harris (Ph.D. 1990) has taken a job in the Biostatistics group at the Dallas regional campus of the University of Texas School of Public Health at

Houston. He indicates that it is a very research-oriented position with a little teaching thrown in. Among other projects, he's involved in longitudinal studies of the effects of alcohol.

John House (M.S. 2001) continues to work for Mid America Heart Institute at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, where he is Project Manager/Biostatistician. He is still a dog lover, with two dogs currently residing with him. Last summer he traveled to Europe and greatly enjoyed the trip.

Vicki Lancaster (Ph.D. 1997) is still working for Neptune and Company, an environmental consulting firm whose home office is in Los Alamos, NM. Vicki, Tom, and Darwin live in Baton Rouge, LA. Darwin, now 13, is an avid baseball player, so much of Vicki's free time is spent keeping score at Darwin's ball games and generating the stars. They are the only team in the league with their own statistician.

Chris Malone (Ph.D. 2002) and wife Shelly are parents to a fourth daughter. Newest addition Ella joined older sisters Emma, Anna, and Abby in the Malone household in Rushford, Minnesota. Chris is an assistant professor at his undergraduate alma mater, Winona State University, in Winona, MN.

Mollie Pohlman Roediger (M.S. 2003) and husband Trevor (a Manhattan native she met at KSU) visited the campus in the spring. Besides catching up with family, Mollie gave a departmental seminar on her work at the University of Minnesota.

Brian Sherfey (Ph.D. 1996) continues to work at China Lake Naval Weapons Station. He and wife Shantell are parents to Matthew, age 2, who is active in everything. Work continues to be very busy in the Warfare Analysis Department. He claims he's not had a chance to blow up anything very big lately.

Matt Strand (Ph.D. 1998) continues to work for the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver. He also teaches a graduate course in statistical theory to graduate students in the Biometrics program at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Matt and wife Linda are proud parents of Evan (4) and Emily (1) and have another child on the way. Matt plays guitar in the church worship band, runs, works on the house, and plays a little golf.

Xin Sun (M.S. 2003) has taken a job at Harvard University in the same department (Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research, a part of the School of Public Health) where her husband **Zhaohui Su** (Ph.D., 2003) works. They have also bought a house (only 1.2 miles from the beach, they report) and are now coping with life in the city of Boston.



The KSU Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture, held annually at the Holiday Inn in Manhattan in late April, was another huge success. The conference offers an opportunity for researchers in both statistical and agricultural fields to join together in addressing important problems.

The keynote speaker was Dr. George Fernandez from the University of Nevada. Dr. Fernandez also presented a workshop on Statistical Data Mining Using SAS Macro Applications.

The conference continues to publish a proceedings each year. Currently, there are fifteen editions available for purchase through the Department of Statistics. The proceedings are now available on CD.

Past Keynote Speakers

1989 . . . Ron Hocking	1994 . . . Ingram Olkin	1999 . . . Bryan Manly
1990 . . . Ray Littell	1995 . . . Roger Mead	2000 . . . John Cornell
1991 . . . Norm Draper	1996 . . . Charles McCulloch	2001 . . . Peter Westfall
1992 . . . Stu Hunter	1997 . . . Eleanor Allan	2002 . . . Ralph O'Brien
1993 . . . Frank Graybill	1998 . . . Douglas Bates	2003 . . . Marcia Gumpertz

Conference sponsors earning our heartfelt thanks this year were the American Statistical Association, Eli Lilly & Company, Pfizer Inc., Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Quintiles, Inc., and the USDA-ARS.

Next year's conference will be held April 24-26, 2005. Make your plans early as the hotel rooms fill up FAST! John Boyer is the Program Chair, and Dallas Johnson is the Local Arrangements Chair. For questions regarding next year's conference, contact John or Dallas.

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 Mail to: KSU Foundation, 2323 Anderson Ave, Suite 500, Manhattan, KS 66506

Contributions:

Your tax-deductible contribution to the Kansas State University Foundation can be designated to the benefit of the Department of Statistics. (Campaign number 0700903)

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____ made out to the KSU Foundation (Statistics Department in memo line.)

- To be credited to: Statistics Scholarship Fund (#Q90420)
 Arlin Feyerherm Distinguished Speakers Fund (#F63995)
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Below is a list of contributors to the Department of Statistics, as reported by the KSU Foundation. We are thrilled to see that the list is expanding each year. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in helping to sustain many vital activities not often supported by the university. For example, this year money from your contributions went toward recruiting new students, sending students to conferences, and purchasing software, manuals, and other equipment that falls outside of our university-supported budget. Our biggest fundraising event is the annual university-wide Telefund, held each spring. If you missed that opportunity to contribute but would like to help, you can use the form on page 7. Again, we thank you sincerely for your tremendous support.

Abbot Laboratories Fund
April MacKinnon
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