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Boyer Given ASA Founders' Award



John Boyer, Professor and Head of the Department since 2000, was presented an American Statistical Association Founders' Award

by ASA President, Sallie Keller-McNulty (former K-State faculty member) at the 2006 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle. Founders' Awards are given for long and meritorious service to the association and/or the profession. Only two to five such awards, in an organization with 18,000 members, are made annually

by the ASA. It's a very prestigious award.

Boyer has been active in the association for quite some time. (He reports that the JSM in Salt Lake City in 2007 will be his 30th in row.) He has held a number of offices in the association, including Chair of the Council of Chapters, Chair of the Council of Sections, and he is currently a member of the ASA's Board of Directors, representing the Council of Chapters.

Wasserstein to Head ASA



In January, 2007, the American Statistical Association announced that Ron Wasserstein would be appointed the next Executive Director of the association. The executive director is the

person who actually runs the organization on a day-to-day basis, and reports to the association's Board of Directors. Ron will succeed Bill Smith, who has served in that capacity since 2001. (An interesting tidbit is that Bill's predecessor in the position, Ray Waller also had KSU ties.) Ron earned his Ph.D. in the department in 1987 under the direction of John Boyer. He has been a faculty member at Washburn University in Topeka since 1984, rising through the ranks of the professorate, and serving as Vice-President for Academic Affairs (the equivalent of Provost at

KSU) since 2001.

Ron will take over his duties in mid-August, after the joint meetings in Salt Lake City. He and wife Sherry and their children will move their home to the Washington D.C. area. Ron will be in charge of an organization with approximately 40 full-time employees and an annual budget of \$8 million plus.

Ron has been involved in ASA in a variety of functions since before he completed his doctoral degree. He attended his first JSM in 1985 and hasn't missed one since.

See Wasserstein Page 6

K-Staters:

Join us for dinner at the JSM in Salt Lake City on July 30. See The Message board at the meetings to sign up.

Like to stay updated with statistics? Check out our website at <http://www.k-state.edu/stats/>

Ken Kemp, George Milliken Retire

Ken Kemp joined the faculty in 1968, after a year as a biometrician at a USDA Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland. He is a native of the

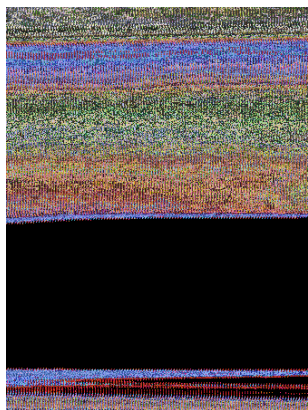
Detroit area and earned all of his academic degrees at Michigan State University. He has made a myriad of contributions to the department in teaching, research and consulting, but will likely be best remembered for his many contributions to

computing and statistical computing packages.

In the early days of his time on campus his appointment was part time in the computing center, and he helped develop a software library of statistical programs. He wrote statistical analysis programs, supervised GTA's who worked with him, and helped dispatch card decks back and forth between the departmental offices (then in Calvin Hall) and the computing center. After the department moved into Dickens Hall, department head Art Dayton secured grant money which purchased a Harris minicomputer system. Ken became the go-to guy for that system, writing software, installing hardware, and even building the raised floor (to allow for the huge number of cables that networked the systems together) that was in the basement room where the computer was placed. Then he wired the faculty offices on the first floor to the system so that they would all have access to it without leaving their offices. He then supervised that system for as long as it existed.

When the department

obtained a Unix system to replace the minicomputer, Ken once again did the majority of the setup. He did the Ethernet wiring, installed the hardware,



and did most of the system administration for as long as that existed.

His latest contribution was to move the department to a Windows 2003 server.

He installed all the hard-

ware, updated software on faculty computers and has maintained and been the administrator since it came into existence.

The retirement citation presented to Ken at the university's retirement recognition ceremony read, in part:

Ken has contributed to the success of the Department of Statistics on many fronts. For many years he was a consultant with the Agricultural Experiment Station, now K-State Research and Extension where he worked with a wide variety of researchers and became co-author of numerous research articles. He also made many of the connections that caused him to serve as a committee member for a variety of graduate students outside the department.

Ken was certainly an accomplished teacher and researcher in statistics. However, he may be best known to those connected to the department as the leader in bringing high speed computing to the department. He established several systems

and each time a new one came into being, he learned new protocols and brought the faculty and students up to speed on the latest developments in computing.

George Milliken joined the faculty fresh out of graduate school at Colorado State University in 1969. George grew up in southeastern Colorado (around Ordway and Rocky Ford) and earned all of his academic degrees at Colorado State, with his Ph.D. directed by Dr. Franklin Graybill. He moved rapidly through the professorial ranks and served as head of the department from 1985 to 1990.

George has probably acted as major professor to more graduate students than anyone else in the history of the department, having served more than 35 Ph.D. students and 40 M.S. students in that role. In addition, he has served on a large number of supervisory committees for both statistics students and students from other disciplines.

Of course, he is noted nationally and internationally for the Messy Data textbooks and course, developed jointly with Dallas Johnson. He was also a prolific and enthusiastic consultant for the whole campus, with a special emphasis on the agricultural disciplines. He designed and analyzed experiments for multiple generations of KSU grad students and faculty.

The citation read by KSU president Jon Wefald at the university's retirement recognition ceremony reads in part:

George has contributed to the success of the Department of Statistics on many fronts. He was a leader in the establishment of the KSU Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture.

For his entire career, he has been a consultant with the Agricultural Experiment Station (now K-State research and extension) and became co-author of many research articles. He also made many of the connections that caused him to serve as a committee member for many graduate students outside the department.

His contributions as teacher and researcher within the department are considerable as well. He is author of a wide variety of technical articles and has been author or co-author of 5 books. He has been a favorite instructor within the department and has given lectures all over the country. He has been recognized on the national level by being named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association.



George is well-known for his caring attitude toward his students and his colleagues and his strong enthusiasm for statistics. His strong intellectual curiosity and

his devotion to good science have made him an outstanding teacher, researcher, mentor, consultant, collaborator, and colleague.

From the Head's desk

The past year has been a good one for the department, although big changes are occurring. By the time classes resume in the fall semester, the place will look quite different to those who have known it for any significant length of time.

From a faculty point of view, there will be some major changes. Dr. Ken Kemp has retired after 39 years of service and Dr. George Milliken is retiring in August, after 38 years on the faculty. There is a separate article about them on page 3 in this newsletter. (Of course, many of you saw that Dr. Dallas Johnson retired last summer, so we have lost our three most senior faculty members in the space of one year.) And an additional sad note is that Dr. Jeff Pontius passed away last August after a tough battle with prostate cancer. Thus the department will do some reorganizing and rearranging. Clearly that situation put us busily into the job market this past year.

The (very) good news is that we have hired three outstanding new faculty members who will join us in August. Dr. Leigh Murray will come to us from New Mexico State University and join us as a full professor; Dr. Gary Gadbury will leave University of Missouri-Rolla and join us as an associate professor, and Dr. Weixin Yao has recently finished his doctorate at Penn State and will enter as an assistant professor. Also, Dr. Abby Jager, who finished her doctoral work at the University of Chicago in 2006 and spent the 2006-2007 year in a visiting position in the department will join us for another year. We have great expectations for these new folks. There is an article with a bit more detail about them in another part of the newsletter.

In late April and early May, we held our 19th annual Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture at the Clarion Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn) in Manhattan. Dr. Rebecca Doerge from Purdue University was our keynote speaker and



workshop leader. Her workshop on the statistics of Quantitative Trait Locus mapping was very well received. We continue to be pleased by the steady attendance at the conference. Who would have known when it began that it would have the long and steady run that it has had? Planning for the 20th conference is already well underway. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Tom Loughin of Simon Fraser University, a former faculty member in the department, will return to Manhattan to assume the role of keynote speaker and workshop leader for that conference, which will be held April 27, 28, and 29, 2008. Please check our website for up-to-the-minute information.

One last note of pride: we are very excited for Ron Wasserstein, who earned his Ph.D. in the department in 1987, to be taking the reins at the American Statistical Association as the new Executive Director. Ron will take over right after the Joint Statistics Meetings (mid-August) and we are all sure that he will do a terrific job. If you run into him at JSM, please deliver your congratulations to him.

I will close this note with my usual request; if you know of any potential students for our program, please let them know about us and let us know about them. You can tell folks of the value of your KSU education. I promise you that we will follow up by contacting any prospective 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.

And we want to be sure thank you all for your various modes of support of the department and the university. I learn over and over again what a caring and talented group of individuals have come through the department over the years.

John Boyer

K-State Dinner at JSM to be Held on July 30, 2007



It is a tradition to have a K-State get together at annual Joint Statistical Meetings. This year's meetings in Salt Lake City will be no exception. The dinner will be held on Monday evening

(that is July 30th this year) as usual. Please check the message boards in the convention center for the rest of the details. There will be information and a sign-up sheet posted by Sunday morning, and you will have until mid-day on Monday to sign up. Please join us; it is always lots of fun.

Attached are photos from the 2006 gathering at the JSM in Seattle. We had nearly 30 people with all kinds of KSU connections, and had a

wonderful time as well as a terrific seafood dinner.



News of Our Alumni



Jason Bar-
gen (M.S.
2003) has
moved to
Sprint in
Kansas City;
he and wife
Gabriel now
live in Over-

land Park. He works as a statistical modeler attempting to score consumer behavior which is then used to develop strategic initiatives for promoting acquisition and retention. Jason and Gabriel (whose background is in audiology) are headed to Guatemala in June on a medical mission; something they have done twice already and find very rewarding.

Rajesh Kaldate (M.S. 2001) has taken a job as a contract employee with Smith-Hanley. He is currently assigned at Genentech, a large firm in San Francisco, and is working on clinical trials for breast cancer.

Kathleen Kiernan (M.S. 1993) has been promoted to Senior Statistician at the SAS Institute. She reports that working with such folks as Oliver Schabenburger has been very rewarding. She continues to train for and compete in triathlons across North Carolina.

Yuhua Wang (Ph.D. 1999) has left Quintiles and the Kansas City area for Centecor, a biotech subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson located in Pennsylvania.

Ron Wasserstein (Ph.D. 1987) has accepted the position of Executive Director of the American Statistical Association. See a full story on front page and page 6 in this issue.

Eric Gibson (Ph.D. 1997) and wife Victoria have left the rat race of Manhattan (the *BIG* Apple, not the little one) for the comparative sanity of New Jersey. They have purchased a home in Cedar Knolls and he now works for Abbott just a few minutes from his home. He reports that his time with Pfizer was exciting and eventful, but he is currently enjoying the change of pace.

Kevin Chartier (Ph.D. 1997) reports that he will soon be figuring out what to do next. He went to work for Parke-Davis in Ann Arbor, Michigan, which was bought out by Pfizer. Pfizer has recently announced its plans to close the Ann Arbor facility around the end of the calendar year, so Kevin isn't sure what will happen. Kevin and Lori and their family (twin sons Justin and Jeremy, Jessica, and Joshua) have loved Ann Arbor; the twins graduated from high school there this spring.

Sumedha Jayawardene (Ph.D. 1991) has been assigned temporarily by his employer Novartis to Novartis-India as group head in the Biostatistics and Statistical Reporting group. He has been in Mumbai (we used to call it Bombay) since July, 2006 and will be returning to the U.S. and the parent company in the fall of 2007. He has enjoyed this experience, among other reasons because he has been able to make some more frequent trips home (Sri Lanka) to see his family.

JoAnn Plachecki Thompson (M.S. 1992) worked for Ciba-Geigy (now Novartis) right after graduate school, but in '95 moved to North Carolina to work for Quintiles. There she met the love of her life, husband Ryan, whom she married in '98. She is mother to Mary-Katherine who was 3 in March. She continues to work for Quintiles, although she has switched gears a couple of times in her work. She now works at the beginning of drug development, on the clinical side, identifying qualified investigational sites for a variety and large volume of studies.

Qing Kang (Ph.D. 2005), husband **Chris Vahl** (Ph.D. 2005) and daughter Sydney have moved to Fargo, North Dakota where both Qing and Chris have joined the faculty in the Department of Statistics at North Dakota State University. In addition they have purchased their first home in the area.

Veronica Taylor (Ph.D. 2003) has left Manhattan and gone to work in the federal government for the Center for Veterinary Medicine within the Food and Drug Administration. She does design and analysis of experiments for studies used to evaluate efficacy and safety of drugs administered to animals; particularly food animals (cows, pigs, chickens, fish), companion animals (cats, dogs, horses), and minor species (deer, pheasants). She lives in nearby Rockville, Maryland and is enjoying the proximity of the District to her new home.

Ying Zhang (Ph.D. 2001) reports that Quintiles, where he has worked since 2001, has relocated its Kansas City office from the Missouri side to a very nice facility in Overland Park, shortening his commute considerably. Also, he and wife Bing Luo became first time parents on October 13, 2006 when Emma Zhang arrived on the scene.

Duane Brown (Ph.D. 1999) and spouse **Yihfen Chen** (Ph.D. 1999) have added a son to their family. Geoffrey Shaowei Brown, nicknamed "Little Mister Payback" because of his similarities to his father, joined older sister Britney in the household in January, 2005. They all live in Ridgecrest, CA.

Zhaohui Su (Ph.D., 2003) and wife **Xin Sun** (M.S. 2003) report the birth of Sophia Su on January 16, joining 4 year old Elena in the family. Both Zhaohui and Xin work in the Harvard School of Public Health. On the same day that Sophia was born, Zhaohui received news of his promotion to Research Scientist at Harvard. He is now the senior statistician for three HIV clinical trials.



More News of Our Alumni

Deb Schleusner (M.S. 1993) has moved from Kansas City to New Jersey (where her company became a part of Aventis) and three years ago relocated to Pocatello, Idaho. She now works as a telecommuting employee for pharmaceutical companies but to increase the amount of personal interaction she gets, she teaches entry level stat courses for Idaho State University as well; says it reminds her of her K-State GTA days. At Idaho State, she works with **Ann Gironella** (Ph.D 1978), another K-Stater.

Yan Li (M.S. 2001) is currently finishing up her doctoral work in Statistics at the University of Chicago. She anticipates completing and defending her dissertation sometime this calendar year, but has put off making commitments on just what she will be doing next until the degree is a bit closer to finished.

Sarah Loyer (M.S. 2001) married Jason Baxter in November, 2006. They live in Barrington, NJ, just 10 miles from Philadelphia. They are huge sports fans and outdoor lovers; they'll travel to Colorado this summer for baseball and some mountain experiences. Sarah has finished her first year in the Math Ed Ph.D. program at the University of Delaware but is thinking about moving to part-time pursuit of the degree for now.

Sam Wilson (M.S. 2006) and wife Kris are now comfortably located in the Raleigh, North Carolina area. Kris is working and Sam is pursuing a doctorate in Statistics at North Carolina State University, with the Ph.D. qualifying exam coming up in August.

Why is your news not here? Because you didn't send it to us, that's why!! We'd love to have it. The last page of the newsletter contains a form that you can clip out and mail us with your news, or you can just drop an e-mail to jboyer@ksu.edu. We are interested in your job changes and/or promotions, increases in family (weddings, births, adoptions), moves to new parts of the country, special honors, embarrassing moments, felony convictions, etc

Statistics Department Scholarships

The Holly and Beth Fryer Scholarship for 2007-2008 has been awarded to *Zhongwen Tang*.

Zhongwen comes to K-State from Jiangle, a city in a mountainous part of Fujian Province in China. He earned his bachelors degree in biochemistry at

Wuhan University before coming to the U.S. to study. He started at K-State in the Biochemistry Department and earned an M.S. degree there before seeing the light and moving to Statistics. He has passed the Ph.D. qualifying exam and has begun his doctoral research under the direction of Winston Yang. He is working on a



problem in nonlinear mixed models. He also has interests in Bayesian statistics, mixture models, high throughput analysis and structural modeling.

Zhongwen is married to Qi Li and they are parents to Lillian, who is now attending the Stonehouse program on the K-State campus. When he is not working on statistics, he enjoys going to the movies (in theaters) and playing poker (watch out for a bright statistician who likes poker!).

The Ron and Rae Iman Scholarship for 2007-2008 has been awarded to *Yan Ling*. Yan grew up in a small village on the Yun-Gui Plateau, and earned a bachelors degree in power engineering from Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in China. After coming

to Kansas State in 2002, she earned an M.S. in Statistics under the supervision of Paul Nelson. She has passed the doctoral qualifying exam and has begun her work on her dissertation with Dr. Nelson.

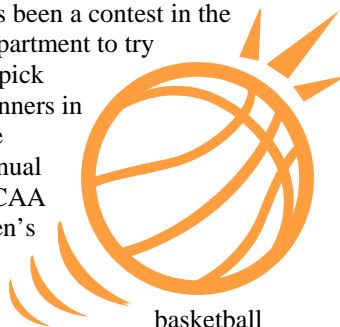
She and her husband Yiqiang Li are proud parents of a two and a half year old son named Simon. In addition to

maximizing her family time, when she is not working on statistics Yan enjoys stamp collecting, fishing, hiking and traveling.



Basketball Contest

For several years now, there has been a contest in the department to try to pick winners in the annual NCAA men's



basketball tournament. The contest in the department is in a unique format and we actually compete with the Department of Statistics at Michigan State University (alma mater of faculty members Boyer, Kemp and Song) for bragging rights.

Graduate students who have finished degrees and faculty members who have left have continued to participate even after leaving the department and the campus. (Josh Tebbs, former faculty member in the department and currently on the faculty at the University of South Carolina and Chris Vahl, Ph.D. grad who is now on the faculty at North Dakota State University, tied for this year's bragging rights.) The contest tends to generate a great deal of good natured braggadocio (hot air) and trash talk among contemporaries.

It has been so much fun that we have decided to open it to any KSU statistics grad. Each grad is allowed to submit one entry, and each grad may also allow *one* (and only one) member of his/her family or household to enter as well (it's more fun if two of you are talking about it). There is no entry fee (we aren't gambling here) and the top two placers will win a small piece of KSU memorabilia (coffee mug or something of the like) at the end of the tournament.

All you have to do to participate is to e-mail John Boyer (at jboyer@ksu.edu) a reliable e-mail address. He will add you to the basketball pool list. When the bracket for the tournament is announced on a Sunday evening in early March of 2008, he will e-mail you a full set of instructions. You will have time to make your choices (warning; this is unlike any pool you've participated in – you will need to read the directions carefully) and submit your picks to him by late the next Wednesday because the games begin on Thursday

morning. Electronic updates will be provided at least weekly, with appropriate bashing and cheap shots.

We cordially invite you to participate. If you want to try it, just e-mail Boyer with the subject line "Basketball Contest". If you would include the year and degree of your highest degree (like "M.S. '78" or "Ph.D. '02" or something of the like), it would better help people know who you are when they see your name on the list. Go ahead and do this now if you'd like to join in; you're not likely to remember to do it next winter. Boyer will send you a confirmation note (if you don't get one, try again) when he receives your note, and you'll be added to the list.



Wasserstein (Continued)

He has been active in both the Statistical Consulting and Statistics Education Sections, having served as chair of both. He twice served on the JSM program committee; has served on numerous ASA committees and task forces; served a term as chair of the Council of Chapters; and served a term on the Board of Directors. He has also been very active in the local chapter (Kansas-Western Missouri) of the association, having served two

terms as president and two terms as chapter representative, and he continues to serve as an associate editor of *The American Statistician*.

As the executive director of ASA, Wasserstein has listed his top four personal goals for the association as (1) increasing membership and retaining current membership, (2) increasing the visibility of the association and the profession, (3) vigorously supporting

statistical education at all levels, and (4) making the type and quality of service to members second-to-none. He qualified these goals by saying his agenda would not become the ASA's agenda without going through the steps to build consensus.

Recent Grads and Jobs

Ph.D. degrees

Christy Smith finished her doctoral work under the supervision of Dallas Johnson, who stepped in when Jeff Pontius passed away. Christy continues to live in Manhattan and work part time for George Milliken's consulting group, Milliken Associates while she mothers her baby Abby and her husband Mark finishes up his graduate work.

M.S. degrees

Matt Hoblin wrote his M.S. under the direction of Jim Higgins and has taken a position with Quintiles, a contract research organization in the pharmaceutical industry, in the Kansas City area. K-State Ph.D. Ying Zhang will be working in the same office.

Kevin Kennedy completed his degree under the direction of Suzanne Dubnicka. He has taken a job at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City Missouri. He will be working there with KSU grad John House.

Elena Verbych has finished her degree under the supervision of Dallas Johnson. She has taken a position in Boston, Massachusetts.

Nanyen Weng has finished her M.S. work under the direction of Winston Yang. Since her husband is a faculty member at K-State (Geography Dept.), she sought and found employment on the campus. She currently works as a bioinformatics specialist for the Division of Biology, doing microarray data analysis and data base programming under the supervision of Dr. Sue Brown.

Smriti Shrestha has completed her M.S. under the supervision of Paul Nelson. She has accepted a position working with the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI.

B.S. degrees

Megan Sisco of Prairie Village earned a B.S. degree with a double major in statistics and mathematics.

Kelly Newlan of Osage City finished a bachelors degree in Statistics in the spring term. She and her family have moved back to her native Michigan.

Josh Eicher of Hesston finished his degree with a double major in statistics and mathematics in the spring semester.

Jeffrey Amos of Olathe graduated with a joint degree in statistics and mathematics. He will begin graduate studies in the Department of Mathematics at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ this fall, planning to study combinatorial mathematics.

Dustin Maurer of Mission finished earned a B.S. degree with majors in statistics and mathematics.

Kevin McBeth of Topeka finished at K-State with triple majors in statistics, economics and mathematics. He was also active as a juggler and studied piano with Dr. Dobrzanski.

He has taken a job with the Travelers Insurance in St. Paul, MN, where he has begun work as an actuarial analyst and will tackle the series of exams given by the Society of Actuaries.

Remembering Dr. Jeffery Pontius



Jeff Pontius, Associate Professor and a faculty member in the department since 1994, past away on August 28, 2006, after a long and

couregeous battle with prostate cancer.

Jeff was born in Harrisburg, PA on January 25th, 1954, the oldest child of Homer and Janet Pontius. When Jeff was very young, the family lived in Enola, which is just outside of Harrisburg, but they moved into Harrisburg proper before Jeff was old enough to go to school. He graduated from Central Dauphin high school in 1972 and went off to school at Millersville State in Pennsylvania. There he earned a degree in Biology in 1976 and also swam competitively. After his graduation he worked for some time for a company which did construction site inspection, often doing work with core samples of soil. He then moved to North

Dakota State University in Fargo where he earned a Master's degree in entomology in 1982.

He then came to Kansas State University where he entered the doctoral program in entomology. He was required to take several statistics courses as a part of his degree program in entomology and discovered he not only was pretty good at statistics, he liked it as well. He moved over from entomology into statistics and began taking courses in the department, even though it meant stepping back some in terms of his preparation – he had some math courses and background work he needed to do. He got an M.S. degree from the department and was interested in a Ph.D., but decided to move on and strengthen his preparation. He subsequently enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Statistics and obtained his doctorate from the Department of Statistics at the University of Wyoming in Laramie in 1994 with a specialty in ecological

sampling.

Following his formal education, he took a faculty position in the Department of Statistics at Kansas State University, with responsibilities both in the College of Arts & Sciences and to K-State Research and Extension. In 2000, he married Eunhee Kim in Manhattan.

Jeff died at the Mercy Hospital in Manhattan, Kansas. He is survived by his wife Eunhee Kim of Manhattan; father Homer Pontius of Harrisburg, PA; brother Eric and sister-in-law Donna of Lancaster, PA, sister Paula of Harrisburg, PA; and brother Chris and special friend Raina of Miami, FL. He was preceded in death by his mother Janet. He is greatly missed by a large number of colleagues, students, and friends.



Faculty Additions

Abby Jager, who was hired into the department on a visiting faculty line in August of 2006, has agreed to stay on for another year in her visiting position.

Abby grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan and attended Calvin College as an

undergraduate. She finished her Ph.D. at the University of Chicago in the summer of 2006, in the area of causal inference. She particularly likes Manhattan as she has a sister and brother-in-law in town, but especially because of the young nieces who live here that she feels obligated to spoil. When not working, Abby plays the violin (she played in her college orchestra), reads, swims and enjoys the company of her sister's children.



Leigh Murray joins the faculty as full professor. Leigh earned her Ph.D. in statistics at Virginia Tech. Her first faculty position in statistics was at North Dakota State University, and she comes to K-State after several years at New Mexico State University. She has significant experience in linear models and agricultural consulting. She, too, will have a joint appointment with K-State Research & Extension.

Leigh is a native Oklahoman, having been born in Ardmore, and she calls Oklahoma City her hometown. When not doing statistics, she likes to walk and hike with her two dogs, bicycle, ride horses (English style) and read.



Gary Gadbury will begin his K-State faculty career this fall as an associate professor. He comes to us from the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Gary earned a bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering at Southern Illinois, then worked in industry for a while before going on to graduate school. He earned his Ph.D. in Statistics at Colorado State University under the direction of Hari Iyer. He will have a twelve month joint appointment with K-State Research & Extension. He brings considerable expertise in analysis of microarray data to the department.

Gary grew up in Monticello, Illinois where his parents still live today. He likes books and bookstores and enjoys reading whenever he gets the chance. He says he used to play a little classical guitar but hasn't made the time lately to do it and is afraid he has forgotten a lot of what he learned. He is hoping to get back to it in Manhattan.

Weixin Yao was born in Jiangyin, China, a beautiful city in southeast China with a population of about one million. He and his younger brother grew up in a house about a mile from the Yangzi



River, the longest river in China. His brother

is now a teacher in a high school in his home city.

Weixin came to the U.S. in 2002 and entered the Ph.D. program in statistics at the Penn State University. He just defended his dissertation in June and will join the faculty in the department in August.

He met his wife, Jian Guo, in China in 2002. They both studied at Penn State, and got married there in the summer of 2005. Jian currently works as an accountant. In his spare time, Weixin likes playing tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, as well as traveling and watching movies.

Johnson, Milliken Honored by CSU

Dallas Johnson and George Milliken were honored recently by their doctoral degree-granting department, the Department of Statistics at Colorado State University. At the banquet at sixth annual Graybill Conference, the department announced the inauguration of a new Distinguished Alumni award, to be given annually to a graduate of the department in recognition of outstanding achievement in statistics, and the first winners of the award (for 2006 and 2007) were subsequently named.

Dallas was named the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for 2006 and George was named the Distinguished Alumnus

of the Year for 2007. The K-State department is very proud to be the home department of the first two winners of the award. We feel like they have set the bar high with these selections.

It might be pointed out that George finished his Ph.D. at Colorado State in 1969; Dallas finished his in 1970. Furthermore, it is interesting to note that both did their doctoral work under the supervision of Dr. Franklin Graybill, whose work is honored by the conference at which the selection was announced.

The department adds its congratulations to both George and Dallas; they are very deserving individuals.

Loughin to Lead 2008 Conference



Dr. Thomas Loughin of Simon Fraser University in Burnaby and Surrey, British Columbia, has agreed to be the keynote speaker and workshop leader for the department's 20th annual Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture, to be held on April 27, 28 and 29 of 2008 at the Clarion Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas.

Tom was a member of the faculty in the department from 1993 through 2006 and has been an active participant and support of the conference. As a professor he has been an outstanding teacher, consultant, collaborator, and researcher, with very strong ties to agriculture.

Tom's Sunday workshop will focus on methods and models for categorical data in agriculture.

Faculty Activities

In January, **John Boyer** began a term on ASA's Board of Directors. He chaired ASA's Council of Sections in 2006; in 2007 he is finishing his term with the group serving as past chair. He also continues to serve as the coordinator of the statistical judging for the International Science and Engineering Fair. That meant a trip to Albuquerque for this year's fair. He currently serves as administrative advisor to a group called NCCC-170 (formerly NCR-170), which provides statistical training and instruction to the agricultural disciplines. He attended that group's annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

In 2006-2007, **Suzanne Dubnicka** served as president of the Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter of the ASA. She also attended the JSM in Seattle and made a poster presentation last summer, and in April she gave an invited talk at Colorado State. She currently serves as the treasurer of the ASA section on Nonparametric Statistics.

Jim Higgins attended the JSM in Seattle (and got caught up in the security fiasco at the airport, just as the meetings were ending, as did so many others). He also published papers with two of his Ph.D. students; one with Jamie Perrett in *Crop Science* and one with Mohammed El-Haj Ebrahim in *Applied Math and Computation*. For 2007, he is the chair of the ASA's Noether Award committee; the group that doles out the prestigious awards of the Section on Nonparametric Statistics.

In August, **Weixing Song** attended the JSM in Seattle.

Although he doesn't officially go on the K-State payroll until late summer, **Gary Gadbury** has been a very active guy. He has had extensive collaborations with the Department of Biostatistics, School of Public Health at University of Alabama at Birmingham. He works with them on the analysis of high dimensional data and causal effects of obesity on measures of health and mortality. He attended a research meeting on obesity at the CDC in Atlanta this past March.

He spoke in an invited session at the Spring Research Conference in Ames Iowa this past May on the topic of simulating high dimensional data for comparing statistical methods. He will give an invited talk at the Joint Statistical Meetings this August on the topic of intentional weight loss effects on mortality. He serves on the editorial board, statistics panel, for the *Journal of the National Medical Association*.

George Milliken attended the JSM in Seattle. He also attended the NCCC-170 (formerly NCR-170) group meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. He also attended the 2007 Graybill Conference at Colorado State University.

Winston Yang attended the Graybill Conference in Fort Collins, Colorado in June.



Of course, nominally **Dallas Johnson** is retired, but he is not acting much like a retiree. He is still supervising graduate students; he had two finish this spring. Last year he served on two EPA Scientific Advisory Panels; the first concerned CCA treated wood on decks and playgrounds and possible exposures to arsenic and the second was dealing with pesticide exposure to humans handling the pesticides. He will serve on another EPA Human Studies Review Board in late June. This one will look at exposure to pesticides by agricultural handlers. Finally, he will be spending the fall semester at Texas A&M where he will teach Linear Models and Applied Multivariate Methods.

Haiyan Wang attended JSM in Seattle, where she made a contributed presentation and chaired a session. She is also currently serving as secretary/treasurer of the local (Kansas-Western Missouri) chapter of the ASA.

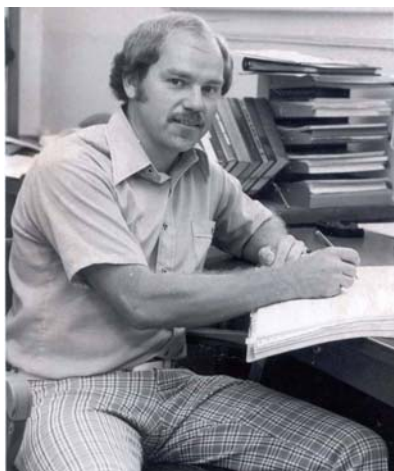
Just joining the faculty in August of 2007, **Leigh Murray**



reports that she attended and presented a paper at last summer's WNAR/IMS meetings in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The Plaid Pants Gang

Nearby are some photos we found in an old file folder in the department. Contrary to suspicions, this is not a gang of bank robbers (the “Plaid Pants” gang), a group of Saturday Night Live wannabe’s (Steve Martin and Dan Akroyd, eat your hearts out), or the BeeGees on a really bad day. These are three distinguished (and retired, or nearly retired) members of the faculty. By the way, their names are *NOT* Larry, Moe, and Curly.



A Note About Former Visiting Students

The department was pleased to learn recently that Veronika Skrivankova and Micha Juraska, who were undergraduate exchange students from Charles University in Prague of the Czech Republic in 2005-2006 have both been accepted into the doctoral program in biostatistics at the University of Washington. They will arrive in Seattle and begin their Ph.D. studies this coming fall.

Friends of the Statistics Department,

2006-2007 was a busy and exciting year for the department. In other parts of this newsletter you'll see stories that describe some of the most noteworthy accomplishments.

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

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

Last but not least, do stay in touch. We always enjoy hearing from our alumni and friends. Please feel free to write, call, or e-mail me with your thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

With many thanks,

John Boyer

Your tax-deductible contributions to the Kansas State University Foundation can be designated to the benefit of the Department of Statistics. (Fund number F38300)

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

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The Department of Statistics Thanks Its Friends for Their Support!

Below is a list of contributors to the Department of Statistics for the fiscal year 2007. We are thrilled to see that the list is expanding each year. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in helping to sustain many vital activities of the department. For example, this year's money from your contributions went toward bringing in outside speakers and sending students to professional meetings. If you would like to help, please use the form on page 11. Again, we thank you sincerely for your tremendous support.

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