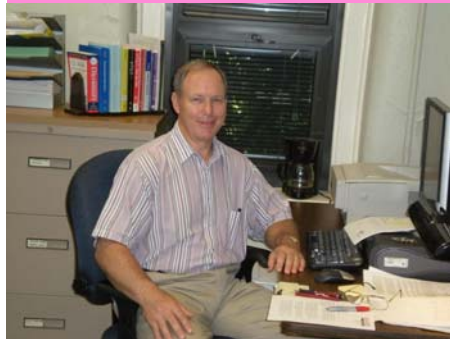


**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS NEWSLETTER**

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**NEILL TAKES OVER AS DEPARTMENT HEAD**



He earned his B.S. degree at Eastern Illinois University in 1971 and his M.S at the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1973, where he became acquainted with both Dallas Johnson and Jim Higgins who later took faculty positions in the department. So when he looked at graduate schools, he decided to come to K-State.

Jim finished his Ph.D. in the department under the direction of Dallas Johnson in 1982, writing a thesis entitled "Testing Regression Function Adequacy without Replication". Following his graduate work, he took a faculty position at Texas Tech University, and then moved to Upjohn Pharmaceuticals (now Pfizer) in Kalamazoo, Michigan. In 1986, he applied for and was hired into a tenure track faculty position in the department.

On December 19, 2008, Dr. James W. Neill (Jim) took over the reins as head of the Department of Statistics from John Boyer. Jim has been a long-time faculty member here, joining the department in 1986.

He is a native of Champaign, Illinois.

**(continued on pg. 2)**

**LYNN LIN HONORED AS ALUMNI FELLOW**



The Alumni Fellow program is intended to recognize those people who have been highly successful since their days on campus and attempts to bring those folks back to campus to share the keys to their success with the current K-State students. Dr. Lin certainly fits the qualification of a highly successful individual. After finishing his M.S. at K-State, he earned a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota. He then went on to a long and distinguished career in the marketing area, including serving as joint manager of Quantitative Method Development & Market Information Services at the Pillsbury Company, vice-president of Booz, Allen & Hamilton, president of Burke Analytical and Consulting Services, chairman and CEO of Burke International and vice-chairman of AC Neilsen BASES Company. It was here that he developed

Dr. Lynn Y.S. Lin, pictured above with KSU president Jon Wefald, was named an Alumni Fellow for 2008-2009 by the university. A 1963 M.S. graduate of the department, Dr. Lin and his wife made a visit to the campus in February for the ceremony where the honors were bestowed.

**(continued on pg. 3)**

**K-Staters:**

On July 1st, we observed the 50th anniversary of The Kansas Board of Regent's authorization of a Department of Statistics at KSU. Watch for an announcement of a celebration event in the fall.

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

## JUAN DU-NEW FACULTY MEMBER



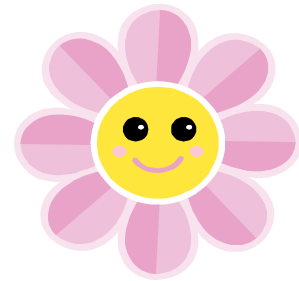
The department is proud to welcome Juan Du as she joins the faculty. Although her given name might look Spanish, she is proud of her home area in China. She is from Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province. Her mother is an elementary Chinese education researcher and her father a doctor in China. She reports growing up in “the warmest home I could ask for” and she would do anything to make her parents happy in return.

Juan wanted to be a teacher like her mother; however she got interested in math after encountering an excellent math teacher in middle school. Thus she chose to study mathematics education as an undergraduate and then entered the masters program in probability. She worked as a university lecturer for three years until she realized how important it was to learn applications as well as theory. At this point, she entered the Ph.D. program at MSU to pursue a Ph.D. in Statistics.

She is especially grateful for the guidance of Professor V. S. Mandrekar and Professor Hao Zhang, who directed her doctoral dissertation research. Her current research focuses on some asymptotic and computational methods in spatial statistics. In addition, she is also working on the applications of

spatial clustering analysis and multivariate spatial statistics. In the near future she hopes to continue research without restricting herself only to her present area of interest. Her plan is to explore new areas of statistics, environmental studies and probability theory, collaborate with researchers and get involved in new projects.

In her spare time Juan enjoys dancing, singing and watching movies with happy endings.



# Welcome Aboard!!

## CONTINUED....NEILL TAKES OVER AS DEPARTMENT HEAD

Jim’s research area is primarily in linear and nonlinear models where much of his work has focused on general lack-of-fit tests in situations where replication does not necessarily exist. Jim and his wife Evelyn live in a rural home south of Manhattan where they enjoy their animals and the beauty of the Flint Hills.

After 7½ years as department head, John Boyer has returned to his duties of teaching, research, and statistical consulting. John has expressed his thanks to his faculty colleagues, staff members, and the students in the department for all their cooperation and assistance during his term as head.

# Congratulations!!

## CONTINUED....LYNN LIN HONORED AS ALUMNI FELLOW

the BASES new product sales forecasting system, the most widely used new product sales forecasting system in the world. In 2002, he left his position in the established industries to start his own consulting company, Lynn Y.S. Lin, Inc., headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. In the course of his business career, he has been a frequent lecturer/speaker at top business schools, including those at Penn, Columbia, Cornell, Berkeley, Ohio State, Minnesota as well as numerous international universities.

During his stay on the campus, Dr. Lin visited with students and faculty and presented seminars to both MBA students and Statistics Departments; his talk in Statistics was entitled "Secrets of New Product Success".

Dr. Lin and his wife Lizbie (who has a Ph.D. in Economics from K-State) have now established a Graduate Research Scholarship for the benefit of statistics students, and the department expresses its gratitude for their generosity.



Picture above includes: Dr. Lynn Ying Lin, Dr. James Neill and Dr. Arlin Feyerherm

## PAM SCHIERER HONORED FOR SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

In April, 2009, Pam Schierer, long-time administrative assistant in the department, was one of a number of classified employees honored for their long service to the university. Pam was honored with a plaque celebrating her 25 years with K-State, and a reception in her honor was subsequently held in the department.

Pam joined the department in 1993, after working for several years in the

offices of University Facilities. She has always been the "money person" in the department, handling all the financial transactions (salaries, appointment papers, travel reimbursements, purchasing, etc.). Over the last several years she has also handled the applications for graduate admissions to the program as well, so she has been the first point of contact with the department for most all of our grad students.

But most importantly, she has been the smiling face and the helpful attitude that have assisted all of us; the good friend who celebrates graduations, engagements, marriages, new babies, and promotions; the sympathetic ear who hears our sorrows and frustrations. The department is delighted to have her working with us and pleased for her at this recognition by the university.

# Congratulations for 25 years of Service!!

## NEWS OF OUR ALUMNI



**Chris Bilder** (PhD '00) and wife Kim proudly announce the birth of their first child.

Callum Daniel Bilder was born on May 2, and already has his own website – it's at

CallumBilder.com. We should also note that Chris received promotion and tenure in the Department of Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2006 (an event we failed to note at the time).

**Brian Fergin** (Ph.D. '95) and wife Lori are now the parents of four very active boys. The latest addition is twins who are now two. Brian continues his work for the USDA Veterinary Research Center in Ames, Iowa.

**Eric Gibson** (PhD '97) has taken a position with Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Pennsylvania, where he works with Kevin Chartier.

**John Harder** (MS '92) is going on 17 years at Ford Motor Co in Dearborn, MI. His current assignment is Cost Reduction Ideas Database Master for Body Exterior and Interior Engineering. This summer will be his 13th season as Hoosier Harder of the Greenfield Village Lahdedahs, a vintage baseball team that plays by 1867 rules. His elder daughter Chani was married on June 13 in Leamington, ON, where she will begin a career as math teacher at the Mennonite high school.

**Deepthi Jayawardene** (MS '91) is now working for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Pennsylvania, where her co-workers include Kevin Chartier and Eric Gibson. She provides support for vaccine research.



**G. Brent Johnson** (MS '05) and mate Suzie announce the birth of their first child. Daughter Amaya Marie was born on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

They are enjoying the family's new home in St. Louis Park, MN. Brent was recently promoted to Decision Sciences Analyst II with his company, Fidelity National Information Services.

**Rajesh Kaldate** (MS '01) has left the statistical consulting world (he had been working at a variety of positions around the country as a contract employee) and has taken a job with Myriad Genetics, a molecular diagnostics company. In May he moved to Salt Lake City and began working as the Director of Clinical Biostatistics for his new employer.

**Karen McGaughey** (PhD '03) has returned to her faculty position in the Department of Statistics at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo after spending a couple of years in industry.

**Peter Njuho** (PhD '95) has a new job. He is working for the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), an agency established by the South African government to conduct research relative to all aspects of human and social development in the country. His work is now in Pretoria, South Africa, which is the capital city of South Africa. He is now dealing with statistics related to the health and social/behavioral aspects of

of HIV/AIDS specifically, but also public health in general; quite a different area from the agricultural issues he had been involved with for years. He says that he is enjoying the new challenges.

**Marta Remmenga** (PhD '92) has left New Mexico State University (after more than 15 years on the faculty) for a new position working for Veterinary Services, a program within the APHIS Animal Plant Health Inspection Service) agency of USDA in Fort Collins, Colorado. She works for the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) which is in the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, a unit comprised of veterinary epidemiologists, economists, and statisticians and which develops and evaluates national animal health surveillance plans. She and her family have purchased from her mother a part of the place near Fort Collins where Marta grew up and are enjoying the fruits of rural living.

**Alanson (Lance) Ridpath** (MS '05) will be changing employment in July, at which time he will start in a position with the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, WV. Lance will be the coordinator of academic research and evaluation at the school, and this will relocate Lance and wife Holly near her family's home.

**Mollie Poehlman Roediger** (MS '03) and husband Trevor (a Manhattan native she met while going to school at K-State), who live in the Twin Cities are expecting their first child (a boy) around August 13<sup>th</sup>.



## CONTINUED....NEWS OF OUR ALUMNI



**Sandeepa Sangras** (MS '05) has had some big changes in her life. She has moved her employment from Las Vegas to Bloomington, Indiana, where she now works as

an analyst at State Farm, the auto insurance company. Probably just as important is her June, 2007 marriage to Phani.

**Danelle Schuster** (MS '03) has left her

statistics job in Fargo, ND and taken up residence on the Italian Riviera. There she is living with and promoting music

for the Jonas Brothers while staying out of reach of the long arm of American law (she claims those charges of stalking Brad Pitt are just plain "bogus").



**Gilbert Shanga** (PhD '04) reports celebration in his family that he has successfully obtained his "green card" (permanent resident status). He now works for GSK Consumer Health Care, and relates that his youngest, Brayden Mwanga Shanga, turned 2 years old on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Hal Stephenson** (MS '66, PhD '69) has retired after 30 years of teaching at Central Michigan University. He has previously retired from General Motors Engineering, and the U.S. Army Reserve. Hal now spends a good bit of his time facilitating TRIZ-style innovation workshops. Hal and his wife Carol live in Rochester Hills, MI.

**Ying Zhang** (PhD '01) has departed Quintiles in Kansas City and moved his family to New Jersey, where he now works for Roche. Roche is a pharmaceutical company based in Switzerland, but their US operation is headquartered in Nutley, NJ, just 15 miles from downtown New York City.

**Congratulations  
to everyone on  
their successes  
and lives!!**

## RECENT GRADUATES



### B.S. degrees

**Timothy McClachlin** from Sedgwick, Kansas finished his BS degree in the spring of 2009.

**Alesia McNutt** from Wichita graduated in spring of 2009. She has taken a position with the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Panama City, Florida, as a Mathematician/Scientist.

### M.S. degrees

**Celeste Yang** has finished her MS under the guidance of Paul Nelson. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Health at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

**Yevhen (Eugene) Yankovskyy** finished his work under the direction of Dr. Paul Nelson. He has taken employment at the Kansas University Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas.

### Ph.D. degrees

**Edwin Ndum** defended his thesis, written under the guidance of Dr. Gary Gadbury, in the summer of 2009. He has accepted a position with the ACT organization in Iowa City, Iowa, and will go to work for them in July.

**Zhongwen Tang** finished his dissertation work under the direction of Dr. Shie-shien (Winston) Yang in the fall, 2008 term. He has gone to work for Novartis Pharmaceuticals in Parsippany, NJ

**Ke (Kurt) Zhang** completed his doctoral work under the guidance of Dr. Haiyan Wang. He is currently working for Abbott Pharmaceuticals in the Chicago area.

**Congrats!!!**

## STATISTICS DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS



**The Holly and Beth Fryer Scholarship for 2009-2010** was awarded to *Dongdong (Grace) Li*. Grace is a Ph.D. student whose family home is in Henan Province in the central part China and she is working under the guidance of Dr. Haiyan Wang. She earned the MPH degree studying Epidemiology at the University of Massachu-

setts before coming to K-State. She has always been fascinated by numbers and logical reasoning, and finds statistics the perfect place to apply those interests. She is quite intense about collecting good data from well-designed experiments, and plans to focus on biostatistical applications. Her goal is to be in charge of her own research projects.

When she is not doing statistics, Grace describes herself as a “health freak”. She claims to be obsessed with healthy food and living a healthy lifestyle. She is also a long-distance runner; she runs in all kinds of weather and plans to run a marathon one day.

**The Ron and Rae Iman Scholarship for 2009-2010** was awarded to *Grace Jackson*. Grace is an undergraduate Statistics major who went to high school at Andover Central High School in Andover, Kansas (that’s just outside of Wichita). In August she will be beginning her third year at K-State, working towards a dual degree in Statistics and Mathematics. Grace explained, “In school I always enjoyed my math classes. When I had the chance to take a course including some statistics, I was immediately intrigued. After taking the class I knew that I wanted to continue learning statistics. After finishing my degree I plan on continuing my education in the field of actuarial science.”



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



**The Statistics Scholarship for 2009-2010** was awarded to *Karen Keating*. Karen is a doctoral student in the department who hails from Bryant, Arkansas. After Karen earned her MS degree in Operations Research she worked for several years as a decision support analyst in the Washington, D.C. area. She followed that with a stint teaching undergraduate mathematics and statistics courses at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. It was while

taking graduate level courses there that she got hooked on statistics and decided to come back to school and pursue her Ph.D. degree. She is excited about her studies, but is unsure of exactly what she will do after she earns the degree.

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

**Congratulations**  
**scholarship**  
**winners!!**

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

Trivia Answers: (from K-State trivia quiz found elsewhere in the newsletter)

1. 1959
2. 36
3. 108 (31+38+39)
4. 1982
5. 483
6. 1964
7. 151
8. 15,000
9. 61
10. 1940

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## FROM THE HEAD'S DESK

Greetings from the KSU Department of Statistics! As many of you may know, I was appointed as the seventh Department Head in December, 2008. It has been an exciting and demanding time, with many interesting changes taking place. I have found the position to challenge both my energies and time management skills to the hilt!

First, I would like to thank the faculty, staff and students of the department for helping make the headship transition as smooth as possible. I feel fortunate to have inherited such a collegial and able group, and look forward to working with everyone. In addition, I want to especially acknowledge Dr. John Boyer for his support and patient advice this past spring semester. More broadly, on behalf of the entire department, I would like to express tremendous gratitude to John for his many years of service as head of the department. John's consistent attention to the administration of the department has been significant and is much appreciated by all. Fortunately for us, John remains in the department and continues to offer his wise counsel with characteristic Nebraskan good humor!



We are pleased to announce Dr. Juan Du will be joining the faculty in the fall 2009 semester. Juan recently earned her doctorate at Michigan State University with primary research interests in the analysis of spatial and spatio-temporal data. We look forward to Juan's arrival in Manhattan this August. Please see a related article elsewhere in the newsletter to learn more about Dr. Juan Du.

The department was honored this past spring as one of our graduates, Dr. Lynn Lin, (MS, '63) was recognized as a 2009 Arts and Sciences Alumni Fellow. During his visit to campus to receive the award, Dr. Lin shared his expertise in statistical forecasting techniques with students and faculty at a departmental seminar. The department is extremely appreciative to Dr. Lin for establishing a generous Graduate Research Scholarship. In addition, the department expresses deep appreciation to Dr. Lolafaye Coyne (PhD, '72) for establishing a most generous Statistics Graduate Scholarship. Dr. Coyne completed her doctorate at KSU under the supervision of Dr. Arlin Feyerherm and had a successful career with the Menninger Foundation. The opportunity to award these scholarships, along with previously established endowments (please see a related article in this newsletter) will significantly enhance the department's ability to attract and retain qualified students planning a career in Statistics. The faculty and students sincerely appreciate the support and generosity of all contributors to the important missions of the department.

The department's signature Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture was held this April in Manhattan. This twenty-first annual conference featured keynote addresses and a technical workshop presented by our well-known emeritus professors, Dr. George Milliken and Dr. Dallas Johnson. Having established KSU's prominence in the area of applied statistics, George and Dallas provided a great opportunity for conference attendees to obtain the latest developments in 'Messy Data' (aka non-orthogonal data analysis). The department appreciates the long standing contribution Dr. Milliken and Dr. Johnson have made to the conference. And someone said these guys have retired!?

Various updates to the department's infrastructure are underway or recently completed. These updates include a completely re-constructed departmental website and wireless capability in Dickens Hall. In addition, Dickens 108, our gathering place with speakers prior to seminars, will sport new and refurbished furniture. Dickens 109 will be renovated as a multi-purpose departmental area, serving as a conference room and general meeting place for teaching, consulting and socializing.

In closing, I mention there will be significant changes in the university leadership this coming year. In particular, the department welcomes incoming President Kirk Schulz, as well as Interim Provost Ruth Dyer and Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Brian Spooner. At the departmental level, I will work to facilitate the ongoing activities of the department, and with the help of an excellent faculty and graduate student body, work to shape 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 here!

Jim Neill

## CONFERENCE ON APPLIED STATISTICS IN AGRICULTURE

In April, 2009, the department held its 21st annual (can that *possibly* be right??) Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture at the Clarion Hotel in Manhattan. This conference has continued to prosper and attract a steady audience of agricultural researchers in ways that we didn't anticipate when it began in 1989.

This year's workshop leader and keynote speaker duties were shared by Dr. Dallas Johnson and Dr. George Milliken, both retired faculty from the department, but both still very active professionally. They presented a Sunday workshop in which they brought updates of their classic work on the Analysis of Messy Data. Each gave a keynote talk to the conference on Monday, George's entitled "The Process of Designing Experiments" and Dallas' "Some Messy Experimental Designs". Their presentations were very enthusiastically received.

In addition to the workshop and keynote address, the conference always includes contributed presentations and

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

Planning is already well underway for the 2010 conference. It promises to be another great conference; we hope you will plan to attend.



## K-STATE DINNER AT JSM TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 3, 2009



It is a tradition to have a K-State get together at annual Joint Statistical Meetings.

This year's meetings in Washington will be no exception. The dinner will be held on Monday evening (that is August 3<sup>rd</sup> 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-day on Monday to sign up. Please join us; it is always lots of fun.

Attached is a photo from the 2008 gathering at the JSM in Denver. We had more than 50 people with all kinds of KSU connections, and had a wonderful time as well as a terrific dinner.





## FACULTY ACTIVITIES

*John Boyer* is currently serving on the Board of Directors (he's in the last year of a three-year term) of the American Statistical Association, so he has made several trips to the ASA offices in Alexandria, VA for meetings, including one in June of this year. He also was elected to the KSU faculty senate and now has found a sure-fire cure for insomnia.

*Suzanne Dubnicka* currently serves on both the Noether Award Committee and the student paper award committee for the ASA's Section on Nonparametric Statistics. She gave a contributed talk at the JSM in Denver. She spent a week as a visitor at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where she worked collaboratively with Dr. Shane Reese. She was a participant in K-State's GROW (Girls Researching Our World) Summer Workshop.

*Arlin Feyerherm*, who retired from the faculty several years ago lost his beloved wife of 56+ years, Junavae, last summer. The department remembers her and extends its condolences to Arlin and the rest of her family. Arlin has continued to keep active, even long after his official retirement date. This spring he returned to the Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture to deliver a paper on a project he has worked on for a number of years; that of updating comparisons of yields of wheat varieties over a nine-state region using the DYA (differential yielding ability) method. His results are shared with wheat breeders and specialists across the region.

*Gary Gadbury* is serving as the ASA Council of Chapter Program Chair for the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings. He has served both 2008 and 2009 as Proceedings Editor for the KSU conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture. He gave talks last year at St. Olaf College and the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He was very active at the JSM in Denver, giving a contributed talk, chairing a session, and watching three of his graduate students make presentations. At the ENAR meetings in San Antonio he participated in a workshop on bioconductors for the analysis of genome-scale data and a tutorial on mass spectrometry based

proteomics. He is an active researcher on a project funded by the Wynn Feline Foundation and reports a favorable first review by NSF on a large (\$750+K) project dealing with plant stress responses. In addition, he had two papers and a book chapter published in the last year.

*Jim Higgins* worked with animal scientists to come up with a method for early detection of infection in cattle using time series data from implanted temperature sensors. They were able to show that cattle may have elevated temperatures up to two days before having visible signs of illness. This has the potential for earlier and more effective treatment of infections. He is a collaborator on a funded \$325,000 USDA grant: "Validation of a bovine pain model and development of effective pain relief regimens through pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic modeling". The Principal Investigator is Hans Coetzee from veterinary medicine. Jim also attended the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver.

*Abby Jager* attended the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver in August of 2008. She has spent a good bit of her spring and summer preparing for a complete re-vamping of Statistics 350, the first course in the sequence for business and economics majors. She will teach the first version of the newly reorganized course in the fall, 2009 term.

Former faculty member *Tom Loughin*, now on the staff at Simon Fraser University in the Vancouver, British Columbia suburbs, was named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver.

*George Milliken* had a very busy year, especially for a person who is nominally retired. He was the Statistics Keynote speaker 2009 SAS Global Forum in Washington, DC in March of 2009. He and *Dallas Johnson* jointly published the 2nd edition of their classic book, *Analysis of Messy Data, Volume I*. In addition, the two of them shared the duties of workshop leader and keynote speaker for the Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture.

*Leigh Murray* attended the Joint Statistics Meetings in Denver and the Conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture.

*Jim Neill*, in addition to taking over as department head (see related story beginning on the front page) attended JSM in Denver, and was co-author, with a Ph.D. student and Forrest Miller of KSU's Department of Mathematics, of a contributed paper. But perhaps his best news was of his promotion by the university to the rank of Professor.

*Paul Nelson* spent the spring term on leave from the university.

*Weixing Song* had two papers accepted this past year and gave an invited talk at the University of Missouri. He was also invited to give a talk at an international conference on statistics in Visakhapatnam in India in January of 2010. But maybe the big news for Weixing and wife Xiuqin Bai is that they have purchased their first house, and moved their family in; they are enjoying it very much.

*Haiyan Wang* had an extremely busy year. Most prominently, perhaps, she gave invited talks at a University of Georgia symposium on New Directions in Asymptotic Statistics and at a workshop on Nonparametric Statistics; Refined, Redefined and Renewed, held in Dallas, TX. She also presented posters or contributed talks at the Statistical Methods for Complex Data conference held in College Station, TX, the Ecology in Genes Symposium in Kansas City, MO, and at the JSM in Denver. Her second Ph.D. student, Kurt Zhang, finished his work this year and defended his dissertation. Finally, she had four papers accepted for publication during the year.

*Winston Yang* spent the spring term on leave from the university.

*Weixin Yao* attended the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, where he presented a contributed paper. He gave invited talks at the statistics workshop for Innovation and Inventiveness in Statistics Methodologies at Yale University and to the Department of Statistics at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. He also published some of his doctoral thesis work in the Journal of the American Statistical Association.

## BASKETBALL POOL

The department's annual pool (no money, only honor involved) for prediction of the NCAA men's basketball championships was won in 2009 by Lucas Taylor (MS 2002 who currently works at Pfizer Animal Health in Kalamazoo, Michigan) with 20 winning selections. Lucas earns the right to be addressed as "Grand Poobah of Basketball" for the next 12 months.

Runners-up were Dr. Suzanne Dubnicka (faculty member) and Brandon Grossardt (MS 2003, who currently works at the Mayo Clinic), with 19 wins each, followed by Arlin Feyerherm (retired faculty member) with 18 wins. The names of the last-place finishers (9 wins each) have been hidden to protect the innocent.

If you would like to participate in next year's contest and think you can handle the trash talking that is involved, simply drop John Boyer an e-mail note at [jboyer@ksu.edu](mailto:jboyer@ksu.edu); you'll get an e-mail in early March with the bracket and instructions.



## TRIVIA CONTEST

The K-State Trivia Contest that we posted in last year's newsletter attracted only a small number of entrants. It was won by Chris Bilder (Ph.D. 2000) who is currently on the faculty in the Department of Statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The questions, as a jog of your memory, are repeated below. The answers can be found on pg. 6 of this newsletter.

1. Year that Holly Fryer was hired as the first academic statistician at Kansas State.
2. Year of K-State's last appearance in the Final Four of the men's NCAA basketball tournament.
3. Number of Ph.D. students advised by George Milliken over his career at K-State. (He retired in 2007, having advised more Ph.D.'s than any faculty member.)
4. Number of Landon Lectures delivered in this prestigious series, since it began with a lecture by Alf Landon (former Kansas governor and presidential candidate) himself in December of 1966.
5. The year the Department of Statistics was officially recognized as a department by the Kansas Board of Regents.
6. Number of departments or department-like units (one is called a "division", at least one is called a "school") in K-State's 9 colleges.
7. Total number of years of service to the Department of Statistics by long-time faculty members Dallas Johnson (who retired in 2006), Ken Kemp, and George Milliken (both of whom retired in 2007).
8. Number of student seats in K-State's largest classroom.
9. Year that the Department of Statistics moved from Calvin Hall into its present quarters in Dickens Hall.
10. How many parking permits (car, truck, motorcycle) were issued for the K-State campus for the 2007-2008 academic year (remember that we are a campus of 23,000+ students, with nearly 1,000 faculty, plus support staff)?

GOOD LUCK!

Friends of the Statistics Department,

2008-2009 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. These include

- Jim Neill took over reins as head in the department.
- We held the 21<sup>st</sup> annual conference on Applied Statistics in Agriculture.
- Dallas Johnson and George Milliken served jointly as keynoters and workshop leaders for the Ag Stat Conference in 2009, bringing updates of their classic work on Messy Data.
- Juan Du from Michigan State accepted our offer to join the faculty and will arrive on campus in August to begin her duties.

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, please 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).

Mail to:

**Kansas State University  
Department of Statistics  
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