Understanding the Flow Mechanism in Ice Streams and Glaciers

Professors Mark Berliner and Noel Cressie are involved in a collaborative research effort with Professors Ken Jezek and Kees van der Veen from Ohio State’s Byrd Polar Research Center and the Department of Geological Sciences. Three RAs from Statistics, Eric Lam, Yongku Kim, and Rajib Paul, are also participating in the project. The research is funded by the National Science Foundation, with funds coming jointly from the Office of Polar Programs and the Probability and Statistics Program. The title of the grant is “Dynamics of Ice Streams: A Physical Statistical Approach.”

Ice streams are believed to play a major role in determining the response of their parent ice sheet to climate change and in determining global sea level by serving as regulators on the fresh water stored in the ice. Understanding the relative forces controlling the flow of ice streams is essential for developing models for future evolution of polar ice systems. In this project, the researchers are applying “physical statistical” models, developed via a Bayesian hierarchical strategy. The central idea of physical statistical modeling is to develop statistical models that rely strongly on physical reasoning regarding the phenomena of interest. Glaciologists have developed models from applications of physics regarding ice stream flow. Also, relevant datasets have recently become available. These include remotely-sensed observations of ice thickness, the topography of ice-stream and glacier surfaces, and velocities of surface flow.

Two fundamental problems motivate our approach. First, both physical models and observations provide important information but are both subject to uncertainty. Studying the length of time that it takes a subject to respond to a given stimulus, i.e., the subject’s response time (RT) to the stimulus, has long been a topic of interest among cognitive psychologists. With research funding from the National Science Foundation, Professor Trisha Van Zandt of the OSU Psychology department and Professor Mario Peruggia of the Statistics department are developing accurate Bayesian models and computational methods for RT analysis.

How well a person performs a task is often evaluated by way of how quickly he or she can respond during the task. Measurements of RTs are important for both theoretical and pragmatic reasons. Theoretically, RTs are used to test...
Letter from the Chair:

Clickety-Clack the Train is Back In the Wheelhouse with New Travel Orders

By Doug Wolfe

Last summer we welcomed a new dean, Richard Freeman, to our College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and that has had tremendous influence on our Department of Statistics during this past year. A self-described “Mario Andretti on the racing edge,” Rick has injected new life and leadership into the college and instilled a Silver Streak mind set in all his constituents. At times this has found us gasping for air just to keep up, but at other times we have been able to sense the thrill of a well-run race and enjoy the sweet rewards of a good finish. Many of these changes are documented elsewhere in the newsletter. I will concentrate here on the faculty and staff of our department.

Faculty Awards and Honors

This has been a year filled with awards and honors for our faculty. Shili Lin and Mario Peruggia were selected as Fellows of the American Statistical Association. Jason Hsu spent a winter in Iceland working on genetics research as a Fulbright Scholar. Statistical Association. Jason Hsu spent a winter in Iceland working on genetics research as a Fulbright Scholar.

Our new dean hit the College running and gave us the green light to conduct searches for an unspecified number of new faculty at all academic levels. We took him seriously and the Executive Committee spent a busy December and January reading over 130 applicant files! Then it was the entire faculty’s turn to contribute by serving as host for 16 applicant interviews. From this group, we have been fortunate to hire two outstanding new faculty members for our department, one senior and one entry-level. Both will join us in autumn quarter 2004, bringing the number of full-time faculty on our Columbus campus to 25. I am pleased to introduce them to you (for more details, see separate article in the newsletter).

Arijit Chakrabarti from Purdue University is joining our faculty as a new assistant professor. Arijit’s dissertation research involves statistical model selection techniques for high or infinite dimension problems using a Bayesian approach. He also has an interest in working collaboratively with biologists to address challenging questions in genomics.

Tal Shaio joins our department as a full professor. He received his Ph.D. from Oxford University and comes to us from his current position in the Department of Statistics at Texas A & M University. His research interests currently include bioinformatics and data analysis/curve estimation, but he brings substantial expertise in probability and limit theorems and their applications to extreme value theory and long-memory time series. We anticipate that he will establish an important collaborative research link with the Biomedical Informatics and Human Cancer Genetics programs in the College of Medicine.

Jackie Miller has been a ball of fire in her new role as a new assistant professor program specialist for the department. Not only does she teach our introductory courses better than I thought possible, but she does it with a smile! Her rapport and effectiveness in working with our graduate teaching associates are exceptional. Jackie has done such a fine job that we decided to hire an additional statistics education program specialist! Welcome back to Deb Rumsey, a Ph.D. graduate from our program who worked with Elizabeth Staats. Deb joined our department in spring quarter 2004. This dynamic duo is already working on new and exciting ways to teach our undergraduate service courses as well as planning (and funding) additional undergraduate course offerings and an improved statistics minor (for more details, see separate article in the newsletter).

The Statistical Consulting Service (SCS) continues to grow under outstanding leadership from Tom Bishop. The number of graduate students and faculty across the university being served by the SCS has increased throughout the year. This growth has led to hiring Jeni Squiric to help Tom coordinate and manage the Consulting Service activities and projects. We welcome Jeni to our department (for more details, see separate article in the newsletter).

Finally, Mary Turner resigned her staff position in the department to accept a similar position elsewhere in the university. We are pleased to introduce everyone to Kathy Stone (Patty Shoults’ not-a-twin sister) who has been hired to fill this vacated position.

Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates

The Department of Statistics is winding down its summer Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program due to a lack of a consistent source of funding. In our fourth and final summer we will host a single REU participant, Ms. Lee Strassenberg from Pomona College in California. She will be working with Haikady Nagaraja on a longitudinal study of lupus, an autoimmune disease affecting mostly women.

Starlight Express

I am very thankful for the outstanding faculty, staff, and graduate students in our program for the many good things that happened in our Department of Statistics over the past year. As I turn my attention to another four exciting years with these dynamos, I feel a bit like Rusty the Steam Engine from the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical Starlight Express. All around me are electric, diesel, and bullet express trains carrying our department to bigger and better things, and I must keep stoking the furnace and piling in the coal (has been environmentally treated, of course) to keep my little steam engine chugging along just to keep up with their accomplishments! I surely hope that maestro Webber knew what he was talking about when he suggested that steam can still keep pace! See you next year when it is time to once again slow down long enough to report on our department.

MBI Year to Focus on Genomics, Proteomics, and Bioinformatics

Under the direction of Arter Friedman, the Mathematical Biosciences Institute (MBI) has just completed its successful emphasis year on cellular processes and is looking forward to an exciting year in 2004–2005 that focuses on genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics.

The year begins with a tutorial from September 13–17 on microarrays taught by Chandan Sen of Ohio State’s Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute. The following week Nick Jewell from the statistics and biostatistics programs at University of California, Berkeley, will teach a tutorial on statistical methods for genomics. Key highlights of the year include fall workshops on expression data (October 11–15) and regulatory networks (November 8–12), winter workshops on proteomics and mass spectrometry (January 11–14) and on emerging technologies and data integration (February 21–24), and spring workshops on HIV and cancer biomarkers (April 18–22) and on evolutionary genomics (June 13–17).

About one-third of the statistics department faculty will play substantial roles in the MBI this year. Shili Lin will be taking her sabatical in residence at the MBI and is organizing the expression data workshop with Terry Speed. Hani Doss, Jason Hsu, Yoon Lee, Haikady Nagaraja, Tom Santner, and Joe Verducci have all received release time (paid by the college!) in order to allow their heavy involvement. Shili, Tom, and Joe will all be mentoring MBI post-docs and Dennis Pearl continues as an associate director of the Institute. In addition, statistics students Qianqiu Li and Kevin Tordoff are working with Dennis Hani Doss, Jason Hsu, Yoon Lee, Haikady Nagaraja, Tom Santner, and Joe Verducci have all received release time (paid by the college!) in order to allow their heavy involvement. Shili, Tom, and Joe will all be mentoring MBI post-docs and Dennis Pearl continues as an associate director of the Institute. In addition, statistics students Qianqiu Li and Kevin Tordoff are working with Dennis Hani Doss, Jason Hsu, Yoon Lee, Haikady Nagaraja, Tom Santner, and Joe Verducci have all received release time (paid by the college!) in order to allow their heavy involvement. Shili, Tom, and Joe will all be mentoring MBI post-docs and Dennis Pearl continues as an associate director of the Institute. In addition, statistics students Qianqiu Li and Kevin Tordoff are working with Dennis Hani Doss, Jason Hsu, Yoon Lee, Haikady Nagaraja, Tom Santner, and Joe Verducci have all received release time (paid by the college!) in order to allow their heavy involvement. Shili, Tom, and Joe will all be mentoring MBI post-docs and Dennis Pearl continues as an associate director of the Institute. In addition, statistics students Qianqiu Li and Kevin Tordoff are working with Dennis Hani Doss, Jason Hsu, Yoon Lee, Haikady Nagaraja, Tom Santner, and Joe Verducci have all received release time (paid by the college!) in order to allow their heavy involvement. Shili, Tom, and Joe will all be mentoring MBI post-docs and Dennis Pearl continues as an associate director of the Institute. In addition, statistics students Qianqiu Li and Kevin Tordoff are working with Dennis Hani Doss, Jason Hsu, Yoon Lee, Haikady Nagaraja, Tom Santner, and Joe Verducci have all received release time (paid by the college!) in order to allow their heavy involvement. Shili, Tom, and Joe will all be mentoring MBI post-docs and Dennis Pearl continues as an associate director of the Institute.
The undergraduate courses in statistics continue to be very popular with students, and enrollments are on the increase. With plans to move ahead in developing courses for a statistics minor, and eventually a statistics major, the department is looking forward to many exciting new developments in the undergraduate program in the near future. Jackie Miller and Deb Rumsey will be leading these efforts as the new department statistics education specialists. Jackie joined the department in July 2003 and Deb in April 2004. Both Jackie and Deb received their Ph.D.s from Ohio State and had academic positions before returning to OSU. Their current focus is on curriculum design and development, teaching and learning environments and assessment, and teacher training and support. They will work closely with the newly formed faculty Undergraduate Curriculum Advisory Committee to achieve department goals in statistics education.

One of Jackie and Deb’s first major efforts will be the development of teaching and learning systems for our undergraduate courses, starting with Stat 145. Each learning system will contain a course packet for students, including lecture outlines, tables, and fully integrated lab activities, which will include additional exercises and examples and how-to information regarding course technology. All of the course materials will make clear connections between content and learning activities in a seamless format. Students will be able to listen and participate more in class, and will have to spend less time taking notes. Each teaching system will contain an instructor packet, including PowerPoint presentation slides, lecture outlines with all notes filled in, tables, lab activities, and additional examples and exercises with solutions. PowerPoint presentations will include a basic outline of the big ideas and examples that can be included or easily replaced as the instructor desires. Teaching systems will be designed to create clear, consistent, and easy-to-use framework for instructors to use to teach these courses, yet will allow for and encourage their own personal teaching styles.

This year, Ohio State devoted some money from the student tuition increase to technology development for deserving departments. The statistics department submitted a proposal for equipment and personnel to enhance and support our teaching efforts involving technology. Our proposal received a priority ranking from our college, and we have been told that we received $91,000 in cash and $100,000 in continuing funds.

**First U.S. Conference on Teaching Statistics Planned at Ohio State in 2005**

The first United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS) will be held on May 19–21, 2005, at The Ohio State University, hosted by CAUSE, the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education. USCOTS will be an active, hands-on working conference for teachers of statistics at the undergraduate level, in any discipline or type of institution, including high school teachers of AP Statistics. The theme of the 2005 USCOTS is “Building Connections for Undergraduate Statistics Teaching,” and will focus on ways that we can share teaching ideas, develop working relationships, and identify areas for future collaborations and projects at our own institutions. For more information about USCOTS, contact Deborah Rumsey, USCOTS program chair at rumsey@stat.osu.edu.

**Ohio Statistics Conference: Friday, October 22**

The annual Ohio Statistics Conference is being held at Ohio State this year. The concentration of the conference is promoting careers in statistics. The audience is primarily undergraduate students across the state of Ohio as well as local AP statistics students and their teachers.

For more information about the Ohio Statistics Conference, or if you are interested in participating as a speaker, please contact Jackie Miller, program chair, at miller.203@osu.edu.
Kristin Duncan

After receiving my B.S. in zoology from Miami University, that age-old question came up, “Now what am I going to do?” Having some experience working in hospital laboratories during my undergraduate days, I made the decision to become a medical technologist. I completed the clinical year of the medical technology program at Wright State University and received my technologist certification. For the last 10 years, I have been working full time on third shift (10 p.m. to 8 a.m.) in a hospital laboratory. It was during this time that I started taking math classes, just for fun. When I married and relocated to Columbus, I continued taking math courses at Columbus State Community College. It wasn’t long before I had completed most of the undergraduate math classes available. A professor at Columbus State urged me to put my recreational interest in math toward a master’s degree. I researched graduate programs on The Ohio State University web site and “randomly” sent an “advising” email. I never spoke with anyone in the program in person, and as a result of outdated Ohio State web page information, I actually sent my application to the wrong person. I do not recommend my admissions strategy to anyone. Despite the mix-up, I was accepted into the program and started in the summer of 2001. I planned to take one class at a time where I felt I could work full time at the hospital. My third shift schedule allowed me to take classes during the day. Unfortunately, that schedule didn’t allow for much of any sleep. My first class, Stats 602 with Dr. Wolfe, was a great preparation for future classes. I highly recommend that incoming students take advantage of these “baby steps” in the program. Still undecided about the type of degree I wanted, I then took the 620 theory classes. I soon felt overwhelmed. I was trying (and not succeeding) to do the work on my own. Dr. Stasny encouraged me to work with the other students. As I became acquainted with my classmates, I realized how invaluable the study groups were to my learning process. My earliest course work served to develop my technical skills, but as I have been working on my dissertation, Dr. MacEachern has taught me how to ask good questions. I am grateful to Steve for his guidance and for giving me the right encouragement to discover things on my own.

One last time, I want to thank everyone (all my professors, staff, and fellow students) for all the help and encouragement. I am proud to have a master’s degree from the statistics department at Ohio State.

Shawn Levy

Having decided on a master’s degree in applied statistics, I needed time to study for the MAS exam. With my full schedule, time management had always been a challenge. My fourth (and last) year offered additional challenges. My wife and I were expecting our first child, I needed to study for the MAS exam, and I had several more classes to complete before graduation. During my last two quarters, I decided to work part time in order to double up on my class schedule and study for the exam. The MAS exam was May 13 and May 30. (We were hoping the baby wouldn’t come early.) Actually, she did come early, but luckily not until after I had taken the exam. I found out I passed the exam, and two days later my daughter was born. Alyssa Jean Levy was born May 20th, 2004 at 9:03 a.m. For all you stats people, she was 6 lbs. 15 oz., and 18 inches long. On her two-week checkup she was 7 lbs. 2 oz., 19 inches, 25th percentile in weight, and 10th percentile in length. She is a little one, but growing well. She was born at The Ohio State Medical Center, and while I stayed with my wife in the hospital, I was able to walk to class. Between studying for finals and caring for a newborn, I admit I was a little sleep deprived.

Since graduation, I have been taking a break from my hectic schedule while I look for a job and spend time with my new daughter. I had a wonderful experience at Ohio State, and encourage anyone who wants to combine work-full time with getting a master’s degree to go for it. My advice for all new students is not to do it alone. Talk with your professors, they are full of good advice. Get to know your classmates, learn from each other. This is an experience that is better shared with your new statistics friends.

One last time, I want to thank everyone (all my professors, staff, and fellow students) for all the help and encouragement. I am proud to have a master’s degree from the statistics department at Ohio State.

Shawn Levy

(continued from page 6)

Kristin Duncan

(continued from page 6)

(continued on page 7)

(continued on page 7)
Congratulations to our Award Winners!

Departmental Awards

Powers Teaching Awards
The Thomas and Jean Powers Teaching Awards are presented each year in two categories: (1) the best TAs teaching either recitations or lectures, and (2) an outstanding professor in the department. These awards were instituted in 1986 through a generous gift to the Statistics Development Fund by Tom and Jean Powers. The department is lucky to have a large number of excellent graduate teaching associates. The selection of the best TAs is never an easy task, and there are always a number of extremely good teachers who are runners-up for the award. In 2003-04, the award for best TAs was presented to Jonathan Powell and David Wurmensch. Each of these TAs made an outstanding contribution to the teaching mission of the department. The faculty award was presented to Professor Angela Dean.

Whitney Awards
In 1992, Professor Emeritus Ransom Whitney and his wife Marian Whitney made a generous gift to the Statistics Development Fund to institute several awards for graduate students. In 2003-04, the winners of the best consultant in the Statistical Consulting Service were Cheryl Dingus and Shilin Ruin. The award for the best research associate was shared among Yongku Kim, Eric Lam, and Jun Feng Sun. The award for best research leading to the Ph.D. was awarded to Brady Brady, Elizabeth Corrigan, and Trisha Van Zandt.

CRAIG COOLEY MEMORIAL PRIZE
The Craig Cooley Memorial Prize for 2003-04 was awarded to Subharup Guha. Each year this award is presented to a graduate student in the department demonstrating exceptional scholarship and leadership abilities. Craig embodied these two qualities throughout his graduate career. Tragically he was killed just before receiving his Ph.D. in 1996. To honor his memory, the department created the Craig Cooley Memorial Prize. For additional information about contributing to this fund, please see below.

University Fellowships
Single year University Fellowships were awarded to Brady Brady, Elizabeth Cornett, Crystal Dong, Daniel Draguljic, John Draper, Jessica Gebler, David Kadonosky, Prasenjit Kapat, Christopher Sroka, and Zhen Wang. In addition, Melissa Ludack and Shari Modur were awarded Graduate Enrichment Fellowships.

Industrial Fellowships
Each year the Department of Statistics is able to offer special recruitment fellowships to some of the very best new applicants to our graduate programs. These fellowships are funded through the generous support of sponsoring industrial organizations, for which the department is always grateful. The sponsoring organizations, their fellowship stipend amounts and the 2003-04 student recipients are as follows:

Lubrizol Foundation Fellowships
An award in the amount of $3,000 is provided by the Lubrizol Foundation. The 2003-04 recipients were Crystal Dong from Ohio Wesleyan University and Daniel Draguljic from Millerville University.

Battelle Fellowship
An award in the amount of $5,000 is provided by Battelle. The 2003-04 recipient was Christopher Sroka from Wayne State University.

P&G Fellowship
An award in the amount of $3,000 is provided by P&G. The 2003-04 recipient was John Draper from Florida State University.

Wyeth-Ayerst Fellowship
An award in the amount of $3,000 is provided by Wyeth-Ayerst. The 2003-04 recipient was Jessica Gehler from Marquette University.

University Enrichment Fellowships
We appreciate all the support from the Lubrizol Foundation, Battelle, P&G, and Wyeth-Ayerst. The 2003-04 recipient was Christopher Sroka from Ohio Wesleyan University and Danel Draguljic from Lubrizol Foundation. The 2003-04 recipients were Crystal Dong from Ohio Wesleyan University and Danel Draguljic from Lubrizol Foundation.

University Enrichment Fellowships
An award in the amount of $5,000 is provided by the Lubrizol Foundation. The 2003-04 recipients were Crystal Dong from Ohio Wesleyan University and Danel Draguljic from Lubrizol Foundation.

Chairs
The 2003-04 recipient was Brady Brady, Elizabeth Cornett, Melissa Ludack, Karen McEachrane, Colleen O’Rourke, Bryan Ray, and Clint Roberts.

Thank you!
We wish to say a special thank you to all of you who help support our department activities through your donations to the University. You are helping to make lives richer for the students who are following in your footsteps. We encourage you to specify your University donations to be applied to one of the following statistics department funds. Keep in mind that memberships in the Presidents Club can also be designated to one of the following funds.

Powers Award - Teaching awards for graduate students and faculty
- Fund # 325898

Whitney Scholarship - Awards for consulting and research for graduate students
- Fund # 536826

Rustagi Memorial Lecture - Fund # 526245

Statistics Support Fund - Includes support for visiting colloquium speakers, conference travel awards for graduate students, and the Craig Cooley Memorial Award
- Fund # 536699

Departmental Awards

Bayesian Analysis of Response Time Data (continued from page 1)
Welcome New Faculty!

Arijit Chakrabarti

I was born in a small town on the outskirts of Calcutta, India. I received my undergraduate education at Presidency College, Calcutta with a Statistics major. Afterwards, I worked on a master’s degree at the Indian Statistical Institute with a specialization in Mathematical Statistics and Probability. I graduated from ISI in 1996 and took up a job with a consulting company. I left the job and came to the United States in 1999 as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Statistics at Purdue University. I will finish my doctoral research in August 2004. My advisor is Professor Jayanta K. Ghosh.

My research has been in the area of model selection for high or infinite dimensional problems. I looked into the problems of model selection in the context of function estimation in the Gaussian White-Noise model and Nonparametric Regression model. This led to a proof of decision theoretical optimality of some well-known model selection criteria (or modifications thereof) as well as new Bayesian model selection rules. I also proposed a generalization of the Bayes Information Criterion suitable for high dimensional problems and studied this new criterion theoretically and computationally. In the next few years, I want to continue working on other relevant problems on model selection in high dimensional setup and function estimation. I would also love to be involved in interdisciplinary research. I am interested in music, films, and literature. I love listening to Indian classical music and jazz and watching international films. I had some limited training in singing in my teens and enjoy singing a lot. Last but not least, I love watching cricket, my only panacea. I got married to my wife Madhumita in 2002. My parents and my younger brother live in Calcutta, India.

I will join the Department of Statistics at The Ohio State University in September 2004, and I am really looking forward to it. I think that there is an excellent match between my research interests and those of many of my future colleagues. I will also have a variety of interesting courses to teach, which I want to do very seriously throughout my academic life. I hope Ohio State will be an ideal place for me to learn and contribute to my discipline.

Tainen Hsing

I am very pleased to be in a position to introduce myself in this newsletter. I am originally from Taiwan. My doctorate degree was obtained from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I have worked in a number of places in the U.S. and abroad, most notably Texas A&M University and National University of Singapore.

My research interests can be largely grouped into four areas: extreme value theory, long-memory time series, functional data analysis (FDA), and bioinformatics, where the first two areas represent my past interests and the last two my present interests. Extreme value theory and long-range dependence are, in my mind, extremely important areas from both the theoretical and practical perspectives. However, at some point in the past few years, I concluded that I had worked in these areas for too long and that I ran out of good ideas. So I decided to step away, and FDA and bioinformatics came naturally to me.

FDA considers data analysis problems in which the data are functions. There is no shortage of such data in our everyday life, a result of our ability to generate and store data in the modern world. Although I still consider myself a student in FDA, I am making steady progress. A goal for the next few years is to publish a book in FDA. Bioinformatics is a field that has enjoyed a high profile recently. The progress in science and technology makes this an ideal time to engage in research in bioinformatics. I have done some work related to the analysis of microarray data. I would like to learn more biology and computing in the next few years to be able to understand the statistical issues in gene regulatory networks.

Based on what I have seen, I rank the combination of Columbus and The Ohio State University as one of the most exciting for an academic statistician. I am looking forward to an interesting professional and personal experience in Columbus.

Understanding the Flow Mechanism in Ice Streams and Glaciers

(continued from page 1)

Second, the key objects of scientific interest, namely forces acting to control ice flow, are not observable directly. Hence, we need to combine models and observations to develop inferences for forces. We also need to accomplish this in a fashion that manages the uncertainties. Hierarchical Bayesian analysis provides a mechanism for tackling the problem.

We are developing analyses for the Whillans Ice Stream, which drains into the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica. We are analyzing a portion of the Northeast Ice Stream in Greenland. Understanding and comparing behaviors of such seemingly different ice-stream systems is a fundamental portion of the research.

Statistical Consulting Service Revamped (continued from page 5)

The SCS consultants are also engaged in the analysis of the relationship of yes/no responses to questions related to willingness to pay increased taxes to support curbside recycling programs to respondend demographic data. This project involves research comparing the properties of ordinary least squares and logistic regression estimates of parameters in econometric taxation models.

Through these various projects, SCS consultants are also gaining experience with project management, database design, computer programming, simulation analysis, and many other statistical techniques.

As SCS activities continue to expand, there will be new opportunities for graduate students in the Department of Statistics to gain practical experience in consulting by joining the SCS staff.
Grad Student Corner

Our Ph.D. Graduates Prepare To Make Their Marks

We are proud of this year’s bumper crop of Ph.D. graduates! They are making their marks in statistics from very prestigious positions, as you can see from the list below:

- Swati Biswas: Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biostatistics, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Haiyong Chen: Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, Wake Forest University
- Kristin Blenk Duncan: Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences, DePaul University
- Subharup Guha: Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University
- Nicole Kelblick: Senior Consulting Research Statistician, OSU Center for Biostatistics
- Yufeng Liu: Assistant Professor of Biostatistics and Operations Research Statistics, The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- Martina Pavlova: Assistant Professor of Biostatistics (Psychiatry), Columbia University
- Yuxiao Tang: Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine (Statistics), Rush University Medical Center
- Qiang Wang: Senior Statistician, Abbott Labs

Statistically Significant News From Former Students

- Peter Beshuk (MS, 1984) is an enrolled actuary at Ohio National Financial Services. He is currently doing product development work in life insurance. John Felix’ sister (Terri) is a coworker. Peter says hello to John Bath, Paul Wood, and all his other friends from OSU.
- Mario Davison (MS, 2002) and wife, Anita, became new parents on May 14. Xayvion Antonio Davison weighed in at 5 pounds, 35 ounces, and was 20 inches long.
- Juan Du (current student) and his wife, Yufeng Liu (Ph.D., 2004), are the proud parents of a son, Andrew Haolian Liu, who was born March 12.
- The summary statistics were weight 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and height 20.25 inches.
- Anthony C. Hamlett (MS, 1993) began working for Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceutical Research Institute in 2003 where he is currently a research biostatistician.
- After leaving Ohio State in 1993, he went on to receive his Ph.D. from the University of Idaho in 1999. He then taught graduate statistics for one year and did a two-year post-doc at the Harvard School of Public Health before joining Bristol-Myers Squibb.
- Yongdai Kim (Ph.D., 1997) started a new position this year at Seoul National University, Korea.
- Ellen Mecklenburg (MAS, 2003) is happy in her position as a research methodologist at N.O.R.C. in Chicago.
- Tom J. Shannon Jr. (MS, 1993) has been an associate at Health Data Management Solutions of Beachwood, Ohio, since December 2002 (www.hdms.com). He works from home in Grand Rapids, Mich. (work phone 616 459 2728, e-mail tshannon@hdms.com), where he prepares health insurance claims datasets for analysis. He primarily uses base SAS for data processing and analysis. Tom married Kristen (Galle) Shannon in April 1998. Their first child is a daughter, Alexandra (Lexy). Shannon, who was 3 years old in June. A second child is expected in October.
- The summary statistics were weight 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and height 20.25 inches.
- Zhengda Shen (MAS, 1997) was the winner of the 2002 Chairman’s Award from Merkle Direct Marketing, Inc. Shen was selected as the fourth recipient of the annual award from more than 700 employees for his exceptional contributions in analytics and marketing. To acknowledge this achievement, Merkle has awarded Shen the Chairman’s Award commemorative plaque plus a two-year lease on a steel-blue 2003 BMW 330i.
- Theresa Papa Stern (Ph.D., 1997) gave birth to twins Madison Ann and Andrew Jonathan on May 1. Theresa is thankful that the twins live so far have been uneventful! She also reports that dad, mom, and big sister Alex are doing well.
- Darryl Yamashita (Ph.D., 1993) is the manager of Data Mining for Wa-chovia Bank with a database marketing firm named Bridgetree based out of Church Hill. N.C. Darryl’s second son, Jonathan, was born June 6. Darryl reports that Jonathan is a real joy in their lives (along with big brother David and big sister Beth).

In Memoriam

We are very sad to report that Jennifer Ross (Ph.D., 1997) passed away on May 15. We remember Jennifer as a friendly student who was one of the instigators in getting the SAS class started. We extend our deepest sympathy to Jennifer’s family and friends.

Our Students Keep On The Move With Travel Awards!

Roxana Alexandridis won a Ray Travel Award from the ASA Section on Survey Research. She won $400 to attend the Joint Statistics Meetings in Toronto this summer, and also may attend one of the Continuing Education Courses offered by the Section at the JSM.

Kristin Duncan won a $300 travel award from the ASA Section on Bayesian Statistical Science to present her research, “Parametric and Nonparametric Bayes Models for Item Response,” at the Joint Statistics Meetings in Toronto. Kristin’s work is joint with S. MacEachern.

Cheryl Niermann won a $300 travel award from the ASA Section on Bayesian Statistical Science to present her research, “Fitting Response Time Models by Adaptive Importance Sampling,” at the Joint Statistics Meetings in Toronto. Cheryl’s work is joint with M. Peruggia and T. Van Zandt (Psychology).

Charalampos (Babis) Papachristou won a Ray Travel Award from the OSU Council of Graduate Students to present his work, “Assessment and application of a nonparametric confidence set approach based on the mean test,” at the American Society of Human Genetics 53rd Annual Meeting last fall. Babis’ work is joint with S. Lin.

Shiling Ruan won a travel award to present her research at the Spring Research Conference at NIST this year. Shiling spoke on “Estimation of Origin-Destination Trip Table Using Link Flow Information from Ground Data and High Resolution Satellite Images,” joint work with P. Goel, M. McCord (Civil Engineering) and M. O’Kelly (Center of Mapping).

Our Student Eat Their Awards!

Two students won spots at round table lunches at the JSM this August.

The ASA Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences awarded Tera Katsanos a place at the table discussing “Web-based catalogue of designs.”

The ASA Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences awarded Cheryl Dingus a place at the table discussing “Using data from customers to improve engineering design.”

Our Ph.D. Graduates Prepare To Make Their Marks (continued)

CURRENT STUDENTS AND ALUMNI - SEND US YOUR NEWS FOR THE GRAD STUDENT CORNER. CONTACT EITHER MIKE FLIGNER (mfligner@stat.osu-state.edu) OR ELIZABETH STASNY (elas@stat.osu-state.edu)
Grad Student Corner (continued from page 15)

Other Student Activities At The JSM

The department will be well-represented at the Joint Statistics Meetings in Toronto this August. Twelve current students will be presenting their research at the JSM. The students and the titles of their presentations are shown below:

* Haiying Chen: "Unbalanced Ranked Set Sampling for Estimating a Population Proportion"
* Cheryl Dingus: "Average Correlations in Projections Designs" (Cheryl also presented this talk at the Spring Research Conference at NIST earlier this year.
* Kristin Duncan: "Nonparametric and Parametric Bayes Models for Item Response Data"
* Jesse Frey: "Optimal Distribution-free Confidence Bands for a Continuous CDF"
* Subharup Guha: "Benchmark Estimation—Theoretical Results and Applications"
* Lori Hoffman: "Multivariate Statistical Analysis of the NBA"
* Tena Katsaounis: "A Classification of Two-level Designs"
* Xiaobai Li: "Estimation of the Finite Population Mean by Judgment Post-stratification"
* Bidisha Mandal: "Imputing Missing Income Data and Weighting Data with Imputed Income"
* Ofelia Marin: "An Empirical Comparison of Several Popular Designs for Computer Experiments"
* Cheryl Niermann: "Fitting Response Time Models by Adaptive Importance Sampling"
* Junfeng Sun: "Stochastic Models for Compliance Analysis and Applications"

And, in the statistician's version of "Survivor," Jesse Frey will be competing in the ASA Stat Bowl. Stay tuned for next year's performance to learn the results of that competition!

Some Words Of Wisdom From Students After Their First Year In The Department

The incoming class of 2003–2004 has now completed its first year in the program. Several of those students have provided some thoughts and advice now that they have made it through year one. Here are their comments:

John Draper
This first year has been a great experience. Not only have I greatly furthered my base of knowledge both in statistics and other academic fields, I have made a lot of friends through the department. The support I have garnered through colleagues and professors alike for my extracurricular activities (primarily the OSU Marching Band) has been wonderful. In my first year, I have worked very hard to manage both classes and other activities, but the great people around me have greatly eased this burden and truly made it a joy. Who else can say they completed their first year of graduate school successfully as well as marching in "the best damn band in the land!" I consider myself lucky to have found a program that fits my high academic standards as well as providing avenues for enjoyment. I look forward to the years to come. Go Bucks, and don’t even think about leaving before knocking at their door twice before knocking at their door again. The professors are full of knowledge and wisdom. One never has to think twice before knocking at their door and asking them questions, whether they are academic or just something that has been bothering you. They are always there to help you and guide you in the right direction. Not only the professors but our wise Patty is there to help you out with everything from registering for courses to answering any queries one may have regarding any official paperwork. And of course there is our lovely Kim who makes you feel right at home by not only baking delicious cookies for us but helping us out in whatever way she can with a warm smile on her face. Last but not least, there is Paul, who has the "keys" to all our problems regarding our offices! Truly, this past year has been wonderful!!!

Celin O’Rourke
The process of personal change is a figurative death and rebirth. As a result of every experience, who one was ceases to exist and someone new takes his place. One can imagine this is not an easy process and involves much discomfort, as I found upon my enrollment in the statistics department. There is much yet to learn and I anticipate more than a few frustrating evenings crouching in a clueless fog over books with dog-eared pages. Yet, when I am most questioning of my judgment, it becomes apparent that tomorrow there will be a new person capable of so much more than the old.

Soma Roy
I just want to thank all the staff and faculty of this department for making the transition into graduate school so smooth for me. I think the ‘Early Start Program’ is a great idea, because it helps you settle down, get to know your classmates and the other people in the department. It is especially nice because fall is usually a difficult quar- ter and there is little time for anything other than classes and work. Summer is the best time to join the depart- ment because the classes scheduled for summer are not very difficult and they help orient you to all that is coming. I really am grateful to everyone for making me feel at home.

News Flash
During the last week in June, a new grad student, unaware of the top national ranking of the faculty golf team, was naive enough to suggest a student-faculty golf match. The match is currently being arranged for the fall, the teams are practicing, and the stakes (one or two hot dogs) are currently under negotiation. For those with long memories, the 2000 student-faculty golf tournament is still a sore point, with both teams claiming victory four years later. Because of the 2000 controversy, both teams will be allowed to give their perspectives on this year’s match in the next newsletter!
## CONGRATULATIONS

To the following students earning degrees in 2003–04!

### Master of Applied Statistics

**SUMMER 2003**
- Lan Bi
- Juliette Rene Gordon
- Brett Wayne Simpson
- Yan Wang

**AUTUMN 2003**
- Tsuei-Long Chen
- Amy Michelle Copas
- Jing Gao
- Chueh-An Hsieh
- Jia Liao
- Robert Aldridge Mehler
- Abby M. Mroczenski
- Kyle Matthew Porter
- Paul Cameron Walker

**WINTER 2004**
- Yimei He
- Paula Loredana Savu
- Liang Zhao

**SPRING 2004**
- Juan Gao
- Jianping Gao
- Yan Guo
- Shawn Monroe Lavy
- Chunmo Li
- Xia Liu
- Lindsay Caroline Paul
- Jonathan Donn Powell
- Chuang Wang
- Wei Wang
- David Alan Wuenschell
- Lin Yang

### Master of Science

**SUMMER 2003**
- Kevin Patrick Tordoff
- Shuyan Wan
- Yongli Zhang

**AUTUMN 2003**
- Yong Ku Kim
- Chen Quin Lam
- Mark Henry Nemeth
- Ke Wang
- Forrest Jason Westfal

**WINTER 2004**
- Edgar Charles Merkle
- Qingzhao Yu

**SPRING 2004**
- Zhenhuan Cui
- Ralph Jay DeLaubenfels
- Juan Du
- Jesse Conrad Frey
- Yifan Huang
- Hongfei Li
- Xiaobai Li
- Haiyan Xu
- Yan Xu

### Doctorate

**AUTUMN 2003**
- Swati Biswas
- Nicole Kelbick

**WINTER 2004**
- Yuxiao Tang

**SPRING 2004**
- Subharup Guha
- Yufeng Liu
- Qiang Wang