

DEPARTMENT of STATISTICS

NEWS

Volume 7, 1999

Silver Anniversary Conference and 16th Annual Ohio Statistics Conference

The Department of Statistics Silver Anniversary Conference will be held Thursday and Friday, October 7 - 8, 1999, in the Fawcett Center on the Ohio State campus. The Organizing Committee is H.N. Nagaraja (Chair), D. A. Wolfe, and T. J. Santner. We attempted to contact all our graduate alumni by U.S. mail this past autumn. If you did not receive an invitation letter, please let us know immediately.

We will be following up with a second mailing late in the summer. The most current information about the conference can be found at our Web site, beginning at the Department of Statistics homepage www.stat.ohio-state.edu.



Environmental Statistics at The Ohio State University

There is a newly established Program in Spatial Statistics and Environmental Sciences, in the Department of Statistics at The Ohio State University. The program has a teaching role in the department with the establishment of a new graduate course in Spatial Statistics at the Ph.D. level

and a new course in Environmental Statistics at the master's level, plus an advising role in student projects and dissertations. It also has a strong research component, concentrating on areas of "big science," such as remote sensing of the earth on a global scale, and climate modeling in space and time.



Cockins Hall, Home of the Statistics Department, "Still standing after all these years."

The Web page includes a regularly updated list of alumni who will be attending. Check which of your friends are attending, and make plans to join them. It's not too late to register.

The events on Friday will be held in conjunction with the 16th Annual Ohio Statistics Conference. A banquet on Thursday evening will honor Ransom Whitney and Jagdish Rustagi for their critical contributions to the early development of the Department.

The first of a series of satellites to gather definitive data on global conditions will be launched by NASA in 1999 as part of the Earth Observing System. Enormous amounts of time and money have been spent on obtaining multiresolution satellite data with pinpoint accuracy. NASA currently uses rudimentary statistical methods, such as the sample mean and the sample variance, to interpolate these "level 2" data, irregularly distributed in space and time, to produce regularly distributed "level 3" data. In doing so, the obvious spatial and temporal dependencies present in remote-sensing data



Noel Cressie

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Welcome from the Chair:



Tom Santer

The View from the Top of Cockins Hall

By Tom Santer

I would like to personally invite each of you to attend the Department's Silver Anniversary Conference which will be held on October 7 and 8, 1999. The article in the newsletter gives the web address with details. Information about the conference and participants will be updated continuously.

In January 1999, Professor Stan Lemeshow joined Ohio State as Director of the Biostatistics Program. Stan has a joint appointment in Statistics and the School of Public Health. In addition to heading the Biostatistics activities, he will be teaching courses in discrete data analysis, sampling and survival, all areas in which he has published textbooks. The activities of the Biostatistics Program are highlighted in a separate newsletter article. There is also a nice article describing activity in Statistical Genetics, a growth industry in this "Dolly" age.

The program for Spatial Statistics and Environmental Science began in earnest as Professor Noel Cressie arrived on campus (also in January, apparently the popular month to move to Ohio). An article summarizing the activity of the program can be found in a separate newsletter article.

Twenty graduate students began studies in the Department in the summer of 1998. The list of the past years' graduating students is on the back cover. The job market continues to be strong for both Ph.D. and M.A.S. students. The featured speaker for the annual *Chhotey Lal and Mohra Devi Rustagi Lecture* was Professor Wing Wong from the University of California at Berkeley who spoke on bioinformatics and statistics.

This past year we have had a dramatic change in the staffing of the Department. Since October of 1997, the

entire staff of the Department has changed! Our most experienced staff member, Myrtle Pfouts, retired after 30 years of service to the university (pictured right). Alumni who are returning to campus for the Silver Anniversary Conference will have a chance to visit with Myrtle as she has promised to return and help with Conference logistics. In July 1998, the Department hired a new Office Manager and fiscal officer, Paul Brower. Then in December 1998, we hired a new Human Resources Administrative Associate, David Todd. Finally, in March 1999, we completed the hiring process by adding a new Administrative Associate, Martha Six to our staff team. In late 1997 we had hired Dianne Spinnazola as Graduate Studies Secretary and Administrative Associate. Please stop by and visit the Department in 404 Cockins when you next visit the campus.



Myrtle Pfouts enjoying her retirement party after 30 years of service



The Y2K staff - From left to right, Dianne, Todd, Martha and Paul

Lastly, we remind you that the newsletter is posted on the departmental Web site www.stat.ohio-state.edu. If you know of Ohio State alumni who have not received a hard copy of the newsletter, please tell us and we will send them one; in the meantime you can also point them to the Web! We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

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www.stat.ohio-state.edu



Editor:
Mike Fligner

Environmental Statistics (continued from page 1)

gathered from satellites are ignored. We are addressing this problem through empirical Bayesian methodology based on multiresolution spatial models.

The dramatic worldwide shifts in weather patterns and associated societal impacts caused by the 1997-98 *El Niño* brought unprecedented attention to the role of interannual climate variability in our daily lives. Climate processes exhibit substantial spatio-temporal variability that is often non-stationary, non-linear, and dependent. Although it can be quite difficult to model such variability with traditional spatio-temporal approaches, we demonstrate that it is possible to use highly structured (hierarchical), stochastic, spatio-temporal, mixture models. Physical knowledge of the system is used wherever possible in constructing the models. There is a project under way to study sea surface temperature in the Southern Pacific Ocean in order to forecast *El Niño* (and *La Niña*) events, and another project just starting that will model air-sea interactions.

Another area of investigation is optimal decision making based on multiple data sources of many different types, e.g., numeric, voice, image. Modeling, filtering, and estimation in this context is enormously challenging. The results will be applied to problems in Command and Control.

Support for this new program comes from several sources. The first source of support is a 1998 Academic Enrichment Award by the Office of Academic Affairs. A second source of support is a three-year grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to Noel Cressie (Ohio State), Mark Berliner (Ohio State), and Christopher Wikle

(U. Missouri) in Environmental Statistics. Also, the Office of Naval Research has awarded Noel Cressie a three-year grant in Spatial Statistics. This has allowed the hiring of two postdocs for 1999-2000: Andrew Mugglin (Ph.D., Biostatistics, U. Minnesota) and Birgir Hrafnkelsson (Ph.D., Texas A&M), and has supported visits from Hsin-Cheng Huang (Statistica Sinica, Taiwan). Finally, Mark Berliner (Ohio State) is collaborating with Ralph Milliff (National Center for Atmospheric Research), Pearn Niiler (Scripps Institution of Oceanography), and Christopher Wikle (U. Missouri) on a three-year NASA funded project on air-sea interaction modeling.

The Department is renovating space in Cockins Hall to house the program, hiring an administrative secretary, and assigning a statistical computing scientist to work on projects from 1999-2001.

A workshop, jointly sponsored by Ohio State and ASA's Section for Statistics and the Environment, is being organized for May 14-16, 2000 on the Ohio State campus. It is the Workshop on Hierarchical Modeling in Environmental Statistics.

For further inquiries about these initiatives, please contact:

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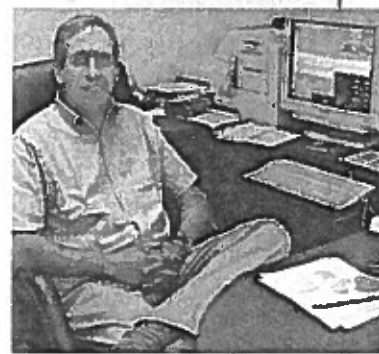


Professor Wing Wong (standing, left) was the featured speaker for the annual Rustagi lecture. Also pictured are Professor Shen (center), Professor Goel (right) and Emeritus Professor Rustagi (seated)

What's Happening in Biostatistics

In a word ... lots! The Biostatistics Program is now almost three years old and is experiencing an exciting period of growth as it adds to the cast of professors and staff members who are responsible for its activities.

The Ohio State University Biostatistics Program is located in the historic Starling-Loving Hall, in the



Stan Lemeshow

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heart of the Ohio State Medical Center. As far as we know, this program is unique among similar entities at other universities in the United States since the program does not fall within any one school or department. Instead, the Vice President for Research oversees the program, which reaffirms the University's recognition of the importance of statistical methods to the entire University community and, in particular, to the biomedical sciences.

The mission of the Biostatistics Program is to provide the University and the greater Ohio research communities with a valuable resource for consultation and education. There is presently considerable activity of program staff on numerous research projects primarily focused within the medical complex at Ohio State. Program staff work with investigators in planning and writing grant proposals, designing experiments, analyzing data, and writing papers for disseminating results in professional journals. Some examples of the projects going on right now include a study of the effectiveness of a new medication to promote healing in oral/facial herpes; a study to understand the effect of HIV in neurologic development; a study to understand the role of workload on water content of heart muscle; a study to compare bone densities in elbow joints in normal dogs and dogs with developmental elbow disease; a project to develop an efficient computer program to locate disease genes using robust statistical methods.

Faculty associated with the Biostatistics Program periodically present a series of courses that are open to the academic community. For example, during the Spring quarter, 1999 a Basic Biostatistics course along with a set of five mini courses was presented. Mini courses included Design of Biomedical Experiments, Analysis of Variance, Multiple Regression, Logistic Regression, and Survival Analysis. In addition, this set of courses may be presented off-site, e.g., to researchers at the Ohio Department of Public Health.

Following a long and intensive search, Dr. Stanley Lemeshow accepted the offer to become the permanent Director of the Ohio State Biostatistics Program. Dr. Lemeshow received his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1976 after spending two years working as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service stationed at the National Center for Health Statistics and earning his MSPH in biostatistics from the University of North Carolina in 1970. Dr. Lemeshow comes to Ohio State following 22 years as a professor of biostatistics at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts. In addition to his regular faculty position, Dr. Lemeshow has served as a member of the faculty of the New England Epidemiology Institute's

Epidemiology Summer Program, and the Erasmus Summer Programme in Rotterdam, Holland. Over the past 25 years Dr. Lemeshow has distinguished himself in collaborative work with other health scientists, has an outstanding reputation for being a fine teacher, and has strong administrative experience.

Dr. Lemeshow has also obtained many health-related grants during his career, including grants on disease prevention, biopharmaceutical research, and the development of mortality models for critically ill patients. He has received many awards and honors culminating in being elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1995, a strong indication of peer approval for his statistical work and contributions. Dr. Lemeshow's research interest areas include logistic regression and sampling methods. He is the co-author of four recent texts in applied statistical methods: Applied Logistic Regression, Applied Survival Analysis, Sampling of Populations, and Adequacy of Sample Size, all in the Wiley Series in Statistics. Dr. Lemeshow has also given short courses in the areas of regression, logistic regression, and sampling all over the world. Here at Ohio State, Dr. Lemeshow is a faculty member in the Division of Epidemiology and Biometrics in the School of Public Health and in the Department of Statistics.

The Ohio State - Battelle Connection

Gordon Battelle established the Battelle Memorial Institute in 1929 in Columbus, Ohio. This research and development company



Battelle

... Putting Technology To Work now features a staff of 7,000 scientists, engineers, and support specialists at more than 60 locations worldwide. Battelle serves the technology research needs of nearly 1,400 corporate and government clients. Mr. Battelle established the non-profit organization as a memorial to his family — leaders in America's early steel industry. In order to maintain its non-profit status, a large portion of the annual proceeds are donated to charity each year.

According to Bennet Pierce, who works in Statistics and Data Analysis Systems at Battelle here in Columbus, statisticians play a crucial role in many areas of Battelle's work. More than half of the statisticians currently employed by Battelle have some affiliation with The Ohio State University Department of Statistics. "There are really three major business areas that statistics supports," Pierce

explained. "First, we support environmental clients such as HUD and the EPA. We've helped to set EPA standards for lead poisoning prevention, for example. We also do work for other government agencies such as the Department of Energy, the Department of Transportation, and Health and Human Services. Third, we support internal research and development and other industrial clients."

Pierce explained that input from the statisticians can vary from design to analysis and is usually a combination of the two. "Statisticians can help with all areas of research, from the hypotheses, to the design of the experiment, the collection of data, and the analysis and interpretation of the data." As budgets narrow, the participation of statisticians becomes more crucial. The ability to design better experiments leads to more efficient data collection, allowing researchers to get more information for their money. Pierce has been working on projects as diverse as evaluating intelligent transportation systems at the Grand Canyon; and surveying renovation and remodeling experts about lead hazards for the EPA. Pierce has been with Battelle for seven years, starting as a research intern while attending school at Ohio State. He notes that four statistics graduate students from Ohio State will work as interns through the summer of 1999 in statistics at Battelle.

"It's really a great situation," said John Orban, another Ohio State graduate and statistician for Battelle. "Through our relationship with the statistics department at Ohio State we get qualified employees that allow us to add flexibility to our schedule. Students have the opportunity to take part in contract research projects in order to find out if that's really what they want to do." Orban arrived at Battelle several years after he left Ohio State. First he

completed a post-doctoral research position at the Bureau of Standards now the National Bureau of Standards and Technology. Then, he taught for several years at SUNY-Binghamton. But it was his Ohio State connection that brought him back to Battelle. "I was looking for a job and spoke with a friend from Ohio State who was at Battelle," he said. "They had a position available and I applied for it. There's no question that Ohio State students benefit from the proximity." (Battelle is located across the street from the Ohio State campus). He also noted that Battelle benefits from a close relationship with Ohio State. "Often Ph.D. candidates interested in applied research will work part time at Battelle for several years, and then be hired full time after graduation," said Orban.

Steve Naber, another Ohio State grad actually went the other way. He started out at Battelle and then returned to Ohio State for his Ph.D. "It seemed to me that the people who got to work on the really cool projects all had Ph.Ds." said Naber. "I thought, I'll just go back to school." So he left Battelle to pursue his doctorate.

After graduation, Naber returned to Battelle. "I work closely with the geologists in Battelle's Environmental Restoration Department," said Naber. "My dissertation focussed on sub-surface modeling and several of my current projects deal with sub-surface contamination clean-up."

Pierce explained that The Department of Defense has many current and former facilities where sub-surface contamination is a pressing concern. Statisticians play a key role in designing and evaluating sampling networks and assessing the progress of clean-up activities.

The Development of Statistical Genetics at Ohio State



he genetics club mixes it up

In the past year we have seen substantial progress in statistical genetic research in our department. Mark Irwin, Shili Lin and Fred Wright form the core of a group working primarily in genetic linkage analysis. Fred, a faculty member of the Division of Human Cancer Genetics, has a joint appointment in our department. Other members of the group include graduate students Yuqun Luo and Zach Skrivanek from Statistics, and post-doctoral research associate Rong Cheng and biostatistician Xin Gao from Human Cancer Genetics. Our other postdoc,

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Daolong Wang, arrived in the middle of May.

The term "statistical genetics" actually encompasses a great variety of techniques, and the applications are often driven by the ever-improving technologies in molecular biology. Linkage analysis is a technique of inferring the rough chromosomal position of a gene based on the pattern of inheritance observed in a set of markers as the gene is passed from parent to offspring. Typically the families are treated as independent, and the inheritance information within each family provides the information for localization. The markers serve as "landmarks" on the genetic material, and the available sets of markers are continually improving. Linkage analysis has proven to be an important biomedical technique in discovering genes contributing to a variety of diseases.

In the fall of 1998, Shili Lin developed and offered a Statistics 882 course on statistical genetics. The first part of the course covered basic genetics and statistical methods for genetic analysis. The second part of the course surveyed an array of current research topics in gene mapping. There were sixteen students registered for the course, including students from Biophysics, Human Cancer Genetics, and Medical Microbiology. Several postdocs and faculty attended the lectures as well. This course will be offered as a biostatistics elective regularly every other year starting in the academic year 2000-2001. We advise students contemplating doing a Ph.D. dissertation on statistical genetics to take this course.

Our statistical genetics journal club has been going strong. Winter quarter, we discussed papers on mapping complex traits involving multiple genes. In the spring, our focus was on linkage and linkage disequilibrium mapping. We are likely to focus on other areas of statistical genetics as well in the future. Discussions are usually lively, and everyone has benefited from different ideas and perspectives of other people. All members of the department are welcome to participate.

Our research has been funded in part by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to Shili Lin (1996-1999), and a National Institute of Health (NIH) grant to Fred Wright (1998-2003). In addition, Shili has recently submitted an application to NSF, proposing to continue the work funded by the current grant and to pursue research in other areas as well. Mark, Shili, and Fred have also submitted an application to the National Cancer Institute for developing statistical methods in cancer genetics research.

Congratulations to our Award Winners!

POWERS TEACHING AWARDS

The Thomas and Jean Powers Teaching Awards are presented each year to: a) an outstanding professor in the Department, and b) the best TAs teaching either recitations or lectures. These awards were instituted in 1986, via a generous donation to the Statistics Development Fund by Tom and Jean Powers.

In 1999, the faculty award was presented to Professor Douglas Wolfe. 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 1999, the awards for best TAs were presented to Amy Kurokawa, Martina Pavlicova and Craig Shirk. Each of these TAs made an outstanding contribution to the teaching mission of the Department.



Teaching awards presented at the spring picnic. From left, Tom Santner (chair), award winners Amy, Craig and Martina, and Mike Fligner (vice-chair). The two "shorter" people are prospective graduate students Victoria and Alysha.

WHITNEY AWARDS

In 1992, Professor Emeritus Ransom Whitney and his wife Marian Whitney made a generous donation to the Statistics Development Fund to institute three new awards for graduate students. These awards are for Statistical Consulting, performance as a Graduate Research Associate, and for Ph.D. research. In 1999 the winner of the best consultant in the Statistical Consulting Service was presented to Dionne Swift. The award for the best consultant working as a research associate on a research grant was presented to Qiang Wang. The award for the best research leading to the Ph.D. was shared by Laura Salter and Dionne Swift. We congratulate these people and thank them for their hard work.

CRAIG COOLEY MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Craig Cooley Memorial Prize for 1999 was awarded to Nicole Demers. Each year this award is presented to a graduate student in the department demonstrating exceptional scholarly excellence and leadership abilities. Craig embodied these two qualities throughout his graduate career. Tragically, he was killed in a hit-and-run automobile accident on June 14, 1996, just before receiving his Ph.D. To honor his memory the department has 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 Magee Nakendra, Amy Kurokawa, Jin Shao and Xiuling Ying. In addition, Gregory Slone was awarded a multi-year Dean's Distinguished University Fellowship.

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 1998-99 student recipients are as follows:

Lubrizol Foundation Fellowships

Two awards in the amount of \$2,500 each are provided: The 1998-99 recipients are Melynda Hazelwood from Cumberland College and Leigh Weiss from Vanderbilt University.

The Dow Chemical Company Foundation Fellowship

One award in the amount of \$2,500 is provided: The 1998-99 recipient is Seda Ekizoglu from the Middle Eastern Technical University.

Marion Merrell Dow Fellowship

One award in the amount of \$2,500 is provided: The 1998-99 recipient is Charalampos Papachristou from Aristotle University.

We appreciate all the past support from the Lubrizol Foundation, Marion Merrell Dow, and the Dow Chemical Company.

CHAIR FELLOWSHIPS

The 1998-99 recipients of Chair Fellowships which are single year awards in the amount of \$1,000 were given to incoming students Swati Biswas, Pankaj Choudhary, Petra Graham and Jonathan Glasgow.

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 # 525898

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 # 537669



The Refs Blew It

For the second consecutive year, we are happy to report that the Statistics intramural teams have all had "successful" seasons. In stats department lingo, "successful" means that the number in the wins columns was strictly greater than zero. While this may not seem very "successful" to many of you, it's important to remember the years of losing that Statistics intramural teams have undergone.

The fall started off on an enthusiastic note. We had enough participation to field both a coed volleyball team and a four-man football team. The volleyball team tore up its league and finished at an astounding regular-season record of 1-3. While many of the alumni may have trouble believing this amazing record, the Ohio State intramural record books prove that it is the truth. The volleyballers then moved into the playoffs where they were unfortunately eliminated by a referee's questionable line call. However, the effort and determination that this team displayed was reminiscent of the 1969 New York Mets.

The four-man football team, consisting of Craig Shirk, Jeff Lehman, Doug Mayfield, Justin Slauson and honorary man Bridgette Byrd, also exhibited these qualities. They began the season with two disappointing losses (again, the refs made several bad calls that cost them the game), but

were able to salvage the season with an amazing, come-from-behind win in the last regular season game. The football team rode this high note into the post season, where they met the dreaded Physical Education department's team. It was a tight game most of the way, but the Phys. Ed. Team pulled it out in the end and the Stats Department once again went home with nothing to show for their amazing effort.

Unfortunately, the story is much the same for the Winter Basketball and Spring Softball Teams. Both of these teams were able to scratch out a couple of wins, but in the playoffs they were eliminated by teams that were just a little too much for them.

In addition to the many team sports that were played, several Stats Student participated in individual sports. Zachary Skrivane, who has been training in the Martial Arts for the past 10 years, recently competed in a national Bando tournament (similar to kickboxing), where he won 2nd place. Zachary has vowed to win 1st prize next year. And, in a little less violent sport, on Memorial Day Jeff Lehman shot a 73 on the Ohio State's Scarlet golf course. This is a round of one over par, and is quite an accomplishment for Jeff. His next goal is to play a round under par.

Congratulations to all of our intramural participants. It's a relief to know that there's plenty of space in the main office trophy case for all the trophies that we will be winning in the 99-00 season.



Department of Statistics Coed softball team - The "Dead Horse." (We thought you couldn't beat a dead horse, but we were wrong.)

CONGRATULATIONS

To the following students earning degrees in 1998-99!

M.A.S.

Autumn 1998

Margaret Burke Murphy

Winter 1999

Xiasong Zhang

Spring 1999

Laura Alvarez-Rojas

Wen-Hua Hsieh

Dustin Key

David McCready

John Phillips

Craig Shirk

M.S.

Summer 1998

Zheng Zhou

Winter 1999

Sandra Long

Jay Mandrekar

Spring 1999

Evan Barlow

Tadashi Koga

Jeffrey Lehman

Lisa Salacinski

Mark Zacherl

Ph.D.

Summer 1998

Scott Linder

Qin Ling

Shanggang Zhou

Winter 1999

Ramzi Nahhas

Spring 1999

Laura Salter

Min-Hui Wang

Your Comments Are Important

Please complete this form for
our files and return to:

Mike Fligner
Department of Statistics
The Ohio State University
1958 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210-1247

or reply by e-mail to fligner.1@osu.edu

Alumni Reply Form

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Degree(s) and year(s) _____

Current Professional Title _____

Institution/Company _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____ Fax Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Personal and/or Professional News

Please share some information about yourself with us. Unless you request otherwise, we will assume it may be mentioned in future newsletters.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Compiled by Mike Fligner

Karen (Wales) Sachs (M.A.S., 1982) has been working for Abbott Labs for the past 16 years where she is currently manager of Abbott Diagnostics Clinical Research Statistical Support. Karen is married and has two boys ages 7 and 9. (Karen.Sachs@add.ssw.abbott.com)

Randy Potter (Ph.D., 1977) is currently manager of the reliability engineering department at Lucent Technologies. Although he has been working for the same company for the past 21 years, the company has gone through several name changes, from Western Electric, to AT&T, to Bell Labs, then back to AT&T and finally to Lucent Technologies. Apparently Randy has learned the art of creating a long and impressive resume without ever having to move! (r.w.potter@lucent.com)

Eric Rilinger (M.A.S., 1987) is senior systems analyst at Price Waterhouse Coopers/Kwasha HR Solutions. Eric worked in actuarial jobs for nearly seven years, then moved to programming at Checkfree Investment services and

finally to his current position writing programming specifications. Eric is married and has two daughters ages 3 and 2 months. (eric.rilinger@us.pwcglobal.com)

Karen Blocksom (M.A.S., 1998) received her MAS while working on an M.S. in Zoology. She is currently a contractor with the U.S. EPA. In her position as an ecologist/statistician she is working on developing criteria for the bio assessment of lakes and developing "stressor signatures" for streams and rivers as well as other projects. (kblocksom@juno.com)

Deb Rumsey (Ph.D., 1993) has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Statistics at Kansas State University. (rumsey@stat.ksu.edu)

Brenda (Schulwitz) Hutson (M.A.S., 1992) is working for U.S. Biomaterials Corporation, where she helps to design, analyze and report results from clinical trials for medical devices. She also works on statistical aspects of QC in manufacturing. Brenda was married in 1997 and currently lives in Gainesville, where her husband is a faculty member of the Biostatistics department at the University of Florida. (BHutson@USBiomat.com)

Alumni Reply Form (continued)

Comments about the Newsletter

Bill Novik (M.S., 1976) worked for Kodak for 23 years. He completed an MBA from the William E. Simon School of Business Administration at the University of Rochester in 1996 and made the move to sunny California where he accepted a position as Director of Business Research-Entertainment Imaging in Los Angeles. He still applies his statistics by providing market research support for market and product planning. Bill is married and has two daughters, ages 11 and 13. (WGNNet@aol.com)

Maria Baron (M.A.S., 1994) has been working for the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services since March of 1995. She has held four different positions since joining NJDHSS and is currently a Research Scientist II in the Center for Health Statistics. Rumor has it that Maria has been getting together with some other Ohio State statistics alumni for Ohio State football viewing parties (basketball this year as well), so if you're in the Trenton area and are looking for folks to help you cheer on the Buckeyes, contact Maria. (MBaron4729@aol.com)

Ramzi Nahhas (Ph.D., 1999) and his wife had their first child, Lina Grace Nahhas born on January 26, 1999. Ramzi received his degree in March and started at Battelle on May 1. Good luck - and if you enjoy a major life event every two months, I hope the pace keeps up.

Laura (Snader) Hanby (M.A.S., 1992) landed a position in Wilmington, Delaware, as a biostatistician for ICI Pharmaceuticals, Inc. after graduation. The company quickly became Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and has now become Astra-Zeneca. Laura decided life wasn't interesting enough, so she bought a 100-year old house (renovation project), got married, changed jobs to the Marketing Department as a forecast analyst, and had a baby girl (called Georgia after her soon-to-be 100-year old grandmother). Laura turned 30 in December, but longevity is in her genes, so for those who are still around, you've got another 70 years to keep reading about Laura in the alumni news! (laura.l.a.hanby@phwilm.zeneca.com)

Jim Mulik (M.A.S., 1998) When Jim graduated from Ohio State, he already knew he was heading into the Peace Corps, but he did not find out that he was headed to Kiribati until the middle of August. He works at the Kiribati Teachers' College which is the only dedicated teacher training institution in the Pacific. When Jim is not in the classroom, he helps coach the college's men's basketball team. Now get out your globes, and "turn" to Hawaii. Jim says:

"Formerly known as the Gilbert Islands, Kiribati is a nation consisting of 33 coral atolls spread over two million miles of ocean. It is located about halfway between Hawaii and Australia. I work on the island of Tarawa, the capital

island. This may sound familiar to some of you because Tarawa was the site of a famous World War II battle. Even today, many war relics remain on Tarawa and the surrounding islands.

"Is it the tropical paradise that it sounds like? Well, no. Since Tarawa is the capital city, many people flock to it looking for jobs and happiness. This has led to a lot of pollution and overcrowding. For instance, there are over 30,000 people living in an area about 13 miles long and 1/2 a mile wide. Furthermore, the lagoon is not safe to swim in because of the dumping that occurs there (i.e. the beaches are restrooms and not sun-bathing places). But, I do get to see many beautiful coconut trees and sunsets everyday!

"The outer islands are much cleaner and less polluted, but there are few Western amenities there - most outer islands do not have electricity or running water, let alone telephones and cars. I lived on an outer island for my first three months in Kiribati. During this time the other new volunteers and myself had our training. We learned to speak the local language and became aware of the local customs. Now, however, the outer islands are nice places to visit during my school breaks. Even though things are much different here than in the States, I am very happy here. There is nowhere else in the world where I would rather be than right here in Kiribati. I have everything I need, and I wake up everyday and know I am doing something worthwhile."

Feel free to write to Jim as mail is VERY much appreciated. If you do write, please make sure it is sent Air Mail (or else he may never get it). His address is:

Jim Mulik
Peace Corps Volunteer
P.O. Box 260
Bikenibeu, Tarawa
Republic of Kiribati
Central Pacific

Justin Kubatko (M.A.S., 1998) is currently serving a one-year sentence at The Signature Group in Schaumburg, IL. If all goes well, Justin will be released from corporate life this summer. He plans to move to Albuquerque, NM with his fiancée Laura Salter. Laura received her Ph.D. in Biostatistics this past Spring and has accepted a faculty position at the University of New Mexico. Good luck to the two of you! Another Stat department romance with a happy ending.