DEPARTMENT *of* STATISTICS
NEWS

Volume 8, 2000

Our Silver Anniversary Conference-October 7 and 8, 1999

Σ25 Department of Statistics THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY *25th* Anniversary

The following is an account of the Anniversary Conference written by Professor Nagaraja, one of the conference organizers:

On a crisp October morning in 1999, our alumni, friends, faculty and students assembled at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow for the special occasion of celebrating our evolution as a Department —we turned 25 in 1999! (But, the presence of Statistics at Ohio State through the Mathematics Department can be traced back at least to the early 1950's.) The second day of this two-day conference was a dual event as the 16th Annual Ohio Statistical Conference was held in conjunction with the Anniversary conference. This brought additional participants from Ohio colleges and high schools. When heads were counted, 34 alumni presented talks or posters, and an additional 24 alumni participated. All together there were 45 presenters with over 150 participants on the first day, and over 250 participants on the second day including 90 high school students and 8 high school teachers. Sandwiched between the statistical presentations was a banquet on Thursday night, attended by over 100 alumni, their spouses, faculty and friends.

On the first day, alumni were welcomed by Doug Wolfe and the first plenary speaker, Dr. Gary MacDonald from General Motors Research & Development Center who spoke on "Shaping Statistics for Success in the 21st Century: The needs of Industry." The other plenary speaker of the day, Professor John Klein from Medical College of Wisconsin (and a past faculty at Ohio State for over a decade) spoke on multi-state models in

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Conference attendees enjoy John Klein's talk.

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) and Ohio State

The lifeblood of the statistics field is its application to real problems. In response to critical needs for the development of large-scale collaborations among statistical scientists and researchers from a wide variety of disciplines, the major national statistics societies established a committee to formulate proposals for the enhancement of our discipline. Their major recommendation was to establish a national center featuring statistical work directed toward "big science" collaborations. After an open competition, the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) was established in 1991 in the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina. As described on their web page (http://www.niss.org), the mission of NISS is to

- Perform and stimulate cross-disciplinary research involving statistics
- Confront complex, data-driven scientific problems of national interest
- Provide career development opportunities for statisticians and scientists, especially those in the formative stages of their careers.

Under the leadership of its founding director Dr. Jerry Sacks, and associate director Dr. Alan Karr, NISS has been

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Tom Santner

Parting Shots

By Tom Santner

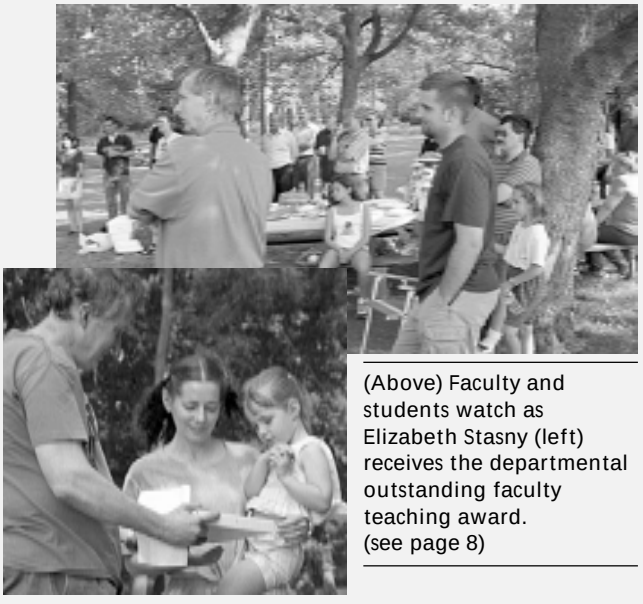
The Statistics Department has been a beehive of conference and workshop activity this past year. I would like to thank all of those who were able to attend the Department's Silver Anniversary Conference in October. There is a report on the conference activities in this newsletter and, on the web, a list of Department Alumni and a (short!) Department History. Start at the Department homepage (http:/www.stat.ohio-state.edu) to find the latter two items. In addition to the Silver Anniversary Conference, the Department hosted the Ohio State-Cleveland Clinic-Case Western Biostatistics Symposium (May 11), a workshop on Hierarchical Modeling in Environmental Statistics (May 14-16), and the First Midwest Conference for New Directions in Experimental Design (May 18-20).

The "stick" figure you see at the top right of this letter is me as I change hats this summer, moving back to the faculty ranks. Doug Wolfe will assume Chair duties on July 1, 2000. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many faculty, staff, and alumni who have given their support during the time that I have been Department Chair. In particular, I would like to thank Angela Dean, Bill Notz, and Mike Fligner who have all done wonderful work as Vice Chair during my tenure. No one knows more than me what a time consuming job this is when it is done well! Thanks to Doug Wolfe and Saul Blumenthal who have served as Graduate Studies Chairs, another time consuming but critical position for the department. The number of graduate student applications has increased dramatically since 1992; everyone's department experience is enhanced by graduate students who challenge the faculty and staff to do their best. Finally, on the faculty side, my thanks go to Doug Critchlow and Shili Lin for their work as Undergraduate Studies Chair. We have had four office managers since 1992, two system managers, and quite a number of staff changes. I would like to thank our current office manager, Paul Brower, for his hard work and the positive force he has been in our support operations. Brian Smith was our sole computer system administrator for quite some time and has made our system run like clockwork. Lastly, I would like to thank the Department alumni, for their contributions and their support of the Silver Anniversary Conference. I look forward to continuing to meet you, particularly those who graduated before 1990 when I arrived at Ohio State.

This year will be a zenith in graduate student recruiting-we have over thirty-four new students who form the Millennium Entering Class. On the other end of the spectrum, the list of millennium graduates can be found 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 Chotey Lal and Mohra Devi Rustagi Lecture was Professor Herbert David from the Iowa State University who spoke on the history of statistics.

Finally, we remind you that the newsletter is posted on the departmental web site (http://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!

Spring Picnic Awards Ceremony



(Above) Faculty and students watch as Elizabeth Stasny (left) receives the departmental outstanding faculty teaching award.
(see page 8)

Department of Statistics News
Volume 8, 2000

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Statistics
The Ohio State University
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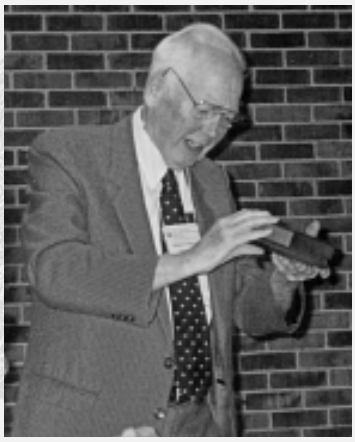
www.stat.ohio-state.edu

Editor:
Mike Fligner

Silver Anniversary *(continued from page 1)*



Dr. Ransom Whitney, founder and first chair of the Department of Statistics, accepts a Silver Apple Award.

survival analysis. There was a photo opportunity for the participants as well (see below). Tom Santner welcomed everyone to the banquet dinner gathering and Jagdish's MC role spiced up the atmosphere. Ransom and Jagdish were honored on that occasion and a booklet on the history of statistical science at Ohio State was issued. The evening was devoted mostly to the reminiscences of the alumni of the department. Among those who shared their Ohio State experiences were Henry Block '68, Bertram Price '69, Robert Foutz '74, Joanne Yang '77, Don Edwards '81, Steve Rust '81, Rakesh Shukla '83, Patty Costello '84, John Bunge '89, and Mark Zabel '95.

On the second day, in the tradition of the Annual Ohio Statistical Conference, the talks were applied in nature and many were targeted for future statisticians. A record number of high school students from all corners of Ohio participated and were treated to entertaining, informative talks. The first plenary speaker, Professor Jerry Sacks, Director of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences, spoke on "What is the Risk?" and Professor Gary Koch, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and an Ohio State alumnus, spoke on methodological advances that can strengthen the design and analysis of health science studies. As Friday evening approached, the drumbeats of the Ohio State band preparing for the Saturday's home game with Purdue were heard from the Ohio Stadium, and the conference was over - with a bang!

Our thanks go to all the alumni who participated in the conference and also to those who helped us with contributions from their employers. We compiled an alumni list as the department reached a milestone in history. The list and the short history can be accessed through the departmental web page: http://www.stat.ohio-state.edu. Finally, alumni may wish to note that the Statistics tradition at Ohio State goes farther back than they have ever imagined. Recently, Professor H. A. David from Iowa State University told us, at the annual Rustagi lecture, of a 1918 book entitled "Introduction to Mathematical Statistics" by Carl J. West, a Mathematics faculty member at Ohio State. It was published in Columbus and it was the first time the term "Mathematical Statistics" was used in English! Did you know that?

Conference attendees pose for a group photo.

Statistical Sciences *(continued from page 1)*

involved in a large variety of high-profile research projects. The NISS is currently participating in federally supported research in the environmental sciences and an area called "Digital Government." The key challenge is the development and monitoring of procedures for Web-based dissemination of the statistical analyses of confidential Federal government information. They have participated in joint research with various industrial partners; examples include Glaxo Wellcome (drug discovery), AT&T Labs (network computer security), and Lucent Technologies (software engineering). They have participated in a host of other projects, often in collaboration with statisticians at universities (e.g., the three triangle universities: Duke, UNC and NCSU) and at national research centers (e.g., Los Alamos National Labs and The National Center for Atmospheric Research). Statisticians participating in these projects range from young NISS postdocs, in residence at NISS and/or at a partner of NISS, to senior academic researchers.

Recently, NISS has launched an "Affiliate Program." Affiliates include corporations and government agencies and university departments. Members have the opportunity to help chart the future interactions of NISS. In particular, faculty and students at university-affiliated departments enjoy a variety of opportunities to be involved in non-academic, often large-scale, collaborative research problems. Members of affiliated institutions have unique opportunities to establish significant ties to industry and government, as well as with each other.

The Ohio State Statistics Department has a long history of involvement with NISS. Faculty members, including Berliner, Cressie, Goel, Raghavan (now at AT&T), and Santner, have participated in NISS activities. Nancy McMillan (Ph.D. 1993) was a postdoc with NISS. This past year, our department joined 12 other university statistics departments as well as 19 corporate and government institutions as NISS Affiliates. The kickoff meeting for this group was held at NISS on March 3, 2000. Professor Santner was our departmental representative. The agenda included an overview of NISS and the Affiliate Program and discussions concerning the planning of new NISS initiatives. We take our affiliate role very seriously. To help insure the best benefits to both NISS and our department, we have established a departmental NISS committee (Berliner, Cressie, Goel, and Santner) charged with maintaining strong ties and disseminating information to the rest of the faculty and our students.

We are proud of our past involvement with NISS and look forward to a renewed participation in its activities.

Human Cancer Genetics at Ohio State

Fred Wright

Fred Wright is a statistical geneticist and Assistant Professor in the Division of Human Cancer Genetics (HCG) at Ohio State. Wright also has a joint appointment in Statistics, and works closely with faculty members Shili Lin and Mark Irwin. Fred spends about half of his research time engaged in methodological work, developing new statistical methods and computer programs for genetic analysis. The rest of his research time is spent collaborating with other genetic researchers in his Division. The statistical genetics efforts of our faculty and students were highlighted in the last Newsletter. We asked Fred to offer some philosophy on the field, and to describe his collaborative work in more detail.

"Statistical genetics is still a smallish field, partly because the training opportunities are limited," Wright said. "But the number of positions actually outstrips the supply. Look at the Amstat News and you'll see a number of industry and academic positions available in statistical genetics. The Ohio State Statistics Department offers a good opportunity for students to complete a thesis in this area. The genetics problems may be important scientifically, while the statistical problems are often nontrivial."

Wright contrasts statistical genetics with other related fields. "The fields of bioinformatics and computational biology typically give greater emphasis to the underlying biology and computer science," he said. "Statistical geneticists, like other statisticians, pay special attention to study design and the understanding of sources of error. Statistical geneticists apply statistical theory to properly extract the maximum amount of information from the data. This can directly result in the discovery of new genes and biological processes. The wonderful thing about this field is that once you reach a conclusion based on statistical evidence, the conclusion can often be tested more directly. Thus you often get to find out later whether you were right."

Wright actively collaborates with a number of HCG faculty on projects spanning a number of areas, including the analysis of linkage, genetic association and gene expression. In linkage analysis, the chromosomal location of a disease gene is inferred based on patterns of inheritance in families afflicted with the disease. Genetic association studies look for evidence that a particular gene variant is correlated with disease status in a sample of apparently

unrelated individuals. Gene expression studies seek to observe which genes (among thousands) are 'turned on' at a particular time in a particular tissue.

Wright is currently engaged in collaborations with Drs. Ralf Krahe, Paivi Peltomaki and Charis Eng of his Division to map genes for various disorders, including several types of cancer and diseases of the bowel and muscle. For some of these diseases, the disease gene may be traced to a single ancestor in the distant past. Careful comparison of the genetic information among diseased individuals can then be used to map the gene very precisely. This detection based on shared ancestry has been used with great success in Finland, which has a genetically isolated population. One of the unique features of the HCG Division is its strong and continuing connection to Finland. HCG Director Dr. Albert de la Chapelle, himself a Finn, has used this advantage to establish himself as one of the world's foremost gene mappers.

Recently Wright has been working with Ralf Krahe in the analysis of gene expression. This area is exploding with activity and technological development, but statistical approaches are lagging behind. Wright is actively recruiting postdoctoral personnel to develop tools and procedures to help extract meaningful information from the data.

For further information on Fred Wright's research activity, contact him at wright-4@medctr.osu.edu or see pegasus.med.ohio-state.edu.

Workshop on Hierarchical Modeling in Environmental Statistics (WHIES)

The Workshop on Hierarchical Modeling in Environmental Statistics (WHIES) was held in Columbus at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow, May 14-16, 2000, and was attended by 110 people from the United States and abroad. The purpose of the workshop was to present and discuss the usefulness and potential of hierarchical statistical approaches to modeling environmental phenomena.

The workshop was cosponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Statistics and the College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at The Ohio State University, and the ASA's Section for Statistics and the Environment (ENVR). Serving on the scientific program committee were Mark Berliner, George Casella, Noel Cressie (Chair), and Tim Gregoire. Local organization was handled by Ohio State's Program in Spatial Statistics and Environmental Sciences

A WHIES plenary session (top) A breakout discussion group (bottom)

(SSES), with a committee made up of Noel Cressie (Chair), Terry England, Birgir Hrafnkelsson, Gardar Johannesson, Andy Mugglin, and Brian Smith.

The Workshop featured four sessions of invited presentations with sixteen speakers; a poster session; and a series of directed discussion groups involving all attendees. The Workshop program can be viewed at the SSES Web site (http://www.stat.ohio-state.edu/~sses/WS2K/). The four sessions of invited presentations were: From Ecology to Toxicology; Disease Risk in Human Populations; Air and Water; and Climate and Weather. The program was designed to have all oral presentations given in plenary sessions, with ample break time between sessions to allow for informal discussion.

An important design component of WHIES was the involvement of its participants in moderated discussions of the challenges of hierarchical modeling that confront the statistics profession. Discussion was conducted in five break-out groups that met for three one-hour sessions during the second and third days of the conference. Each group focused upon five topics, designed so that a total of 11 topics were discussed and each topic was discussed by two or three groups. The invited group discussion leaders were responsible for preparing a report of their group's discussion, and they were ably assisted by Ohio State Statistics 'locals:' Pankaj Choudhary, Jeff Lehman, Martina Pavlicova, Jim Rogers, and David Wendt. A distillation of the recommendations from these discussion groups will appear as a document delivered to the U.S. EPA, and will also be available at the SSES Web site given above.

Immediately prior to the Workshop, Mark Berliner and Christopher Wikle gave a very successful half-day short course on Hierarchical Bayesian Statistics; approximately half the WHIES registrants enrolled for the short course. Full-time students were able to attend for reduced fees. Proceeds of the short course will be put into a conference fund in ENVR and in the SSES Program.

Experimental Design Conference

The First Midwest Conference for New Directions in Experimental Design was held in Columbus on May 18-20, 2000. The conference goals were to provide encouragement to junior researchers in experimental design, and to stimulate interest in research topics of practical relevance to science and industry. The local organizing committee was comprised of faculty, visitors, students and alumni of the Statistics Department: Angela Dean, Sue Lewis, Dan Voss, Brian Williams, Jeff Lehman, David Woods, Ofelia Marin, Yufeng Liu and Mauricio Cabrera-Rios. Roxana Alexandridis and Tena Katsaounis also helped by taking participants to and from the airport.

The conference was supported by the National Science Foundation as well as by the Ohio State Statistics Department, the College of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, and also by a local industry—Executive Jet. Speakers came from prestigious statistics, business and industrial engineering departments from around the U.S. and from as far afield as Germany, Hong Kong, Taiwan and England. Talks also featured statisticians from a range of industries which make excellent use of experimental design in their day to day operations; for example: SmithKline Beecham, Pillsbury, Pfizer, General Motors and Capital One. The conference included round table discussions where experimental design issues of importance to industry were discussed and ideas were exchanged among the participants.

Pictured at the conference from the left are Angela Dean, Ohio State; Derek Bingham, University of Michigan; Jeff Robinson, General Motors; and Fred Hulting, Pillsbury.

A large number of new researchers (including students in the midst of their Ph.D. work and young faculty just starting their academic careers) gave talks and presented posters of extremely high standard. These new researchers created an atmosphere of high energy and enthusiasm!

Conference attendees enjoy lunch together. From left: Brian Williams, Tena Katsaounis, Jeff Lehman and Ofelia Marin

The second conference in the series is tentatively planned to be in Vancouver in 2002, with the third moving back to the midwest—possibly Minneapolis—in 2003 or 2004.

Graduate Student Profile

Editors note: The Statistics Newsletter has a tradition of featuring profiles of our fine graduate students. Brian Williams will receive his doctorate in the Summer Quarter of 2000 and is taking a position with the Rand Corporation. The Statistics Department wishes Brian the best of luck in the future.

Brian Williams

Brian writes:

Before arriving at Ohio State, I had obtained my B.S. degree in astronomy and applied mathematics but had very little training in statistics. My original interest in statistics began with some public policy work I was engaged in, at which time I realized how much more effective I could be with a greater knowledge of data analytic techniques. This led to consultations with a statistics professor regarding graduate study, and eventually I came to OSU. I was particularly impressed with the recruitment efforts of Dr. Wolfe and the department's preparatory summer program, which was exactly what I needed!

When I first arrived at OSU, I was somewhat concerned about having had only two statistics courses as an undergraduate. However, my concerns were alleviated in large part due to the quality of faculty teaching in this department. I served as a Teaching Assistant during my first two years at OSU. Overall, I enjoyed my experiences in this capacity, because teaching allowed me to improve

my understanding of basic principles through explaining them to my students. Plus I had the opportunity to work with several very personable faculty members.

Beginning with my third year, Dr. Santner and Dr. Notz offered me the opportunity to join a component of their research program as a Research Assistant. I have assisted them with several projects, including work that has lead to the basis for my dissertation. I have enjoyed every aspect of my involvement with this research, and I am particularly grateful for the excellent advice and support I have received from my advisors, Drs. Santner and Notz, during the time I have been here. Dr. Santner was kind enough to invite me to spend two quarters in Germany while he was on leave in Munich. That was my first stay overseas, and I will fondly remember this experience.

My dissertation is in the relatively new and fascinating area of computer experiments. With the advent of modern computing capabilities, scientists have enhanced power to solve models of complex physical systems. Statistical techniques have been introduced to design and analyze experiments in which these intricate codes are used to produce system outputs in lieu of physical experiments. I have studied sequential design strategies for optimization of a single output and constrained optimization for multiple outputs.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my years in the statistics department at OSU. I have met many remarkable people during this time, including several who have become close friends. I have been the fortunate recipient of kindness and quality advice from many faculty members in the department. In addition to my advisors, I would particularly like to acknowledge Dr. Dean and Dr. Irwin in this regard. I look forward to the possibility of working with people at OSU in the future.

Summer Biostatistics Program

The Ohio State Biostatistics Program has made enormous strides during the past year. Notable is the fact that we have formally applied to become a University-recognized "Center" and are optimistic that we will succeed. Besides collaborative research, the new Center for Biostatistics will promote methodological research in statistical methods applied to the biomedical sciences and will continue to offer educational opportunities to the Ohio State community and beyond.

June marked the beginning of the first annual Ohio State University Summer Program on Applied Statistical Methods. Students attended from as far away as Austria, England, Germany, Holland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Brazil, Venezuela, Japan, Korea, Puerto Rico and Canada. Although we realized too late that the program's acronym is "SPASM," we looked forward to stimulating courses and a marvelous atmosphere.

There were a total of 10 courses (8 one-week courses, one day-long course and one half-day course). These courses are of great interest, especially because they are all applied (rather than theoretical) in orientation. They are described as follows:

Course Schedule:

Week 1:

Sunday, June 18: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

- Applied Regression Analysis
  Instructor: Stanley Lemeshow, Ph.D.

Monday June 19-Friday June 23
Mornings: 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

- Statistical methods and web-based technology in Clinical Trials
  Instructors: Stanley Azen, Ph.D. and Joyce Niland, Ph.D.
- Applied Logistic Regression
  Instructor: Stanley Lemeshow, Ph.D.

Afternoons: 1:15 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- Applied Longitudinal Data Analysis
  Instructor: David Kleinbaum, Ph.D.
- Sampling of Human Populations
  Instructor: Paul S. Levy, Sc.D.

Week 2:

Sunday, June 25: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- Reporting Statistical Results in Applied Journals
  Instructor: Tom Lang

Monday June 26-Friday June 30
Mornings: 8:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

- Statistical Methods in Medical Research
  Instructor: Albert Hofman, MD.
- Applied Survival Analysis
  Instructor: David Hosmer, Ph.D.

Afternoons: 1:15 p.m. - 5 p.m.

- Statistical Methods in Human Genetics
  Instructor: Ellen Wijsman, Ph.D.
- Categorical Data Analysis
  Instructor: Gary G. Koch, Ph.D.

Please check out our web page concerning this program. It is:
http://www-biostat.med.ohio-state.edu/summer/summer.htm

Congratulations to our Award Winners!

POWERS TEACHING AWARDS

The Thomas and Jean Powers Teaching Awards are presented each year in two categories to (1) an outstanding professor in the Department, and (2) the best TA's teaching either recitations or lectures. These awards were instituted in 1986, through a generous donation to the Statistics Development Fund by Tom and Jean Powers.

In 1999-00, the faculty award was presented to Professor Elizabeth Stasny. The Department is lucky to have a large number of excellent Graduate Teaching Associates. The selection of the best TA's is never an easy task, and there are always a number of extremely good teachers who are runners-up for the award. In 1999-00, the award for best TA's were presented to Bridgette Byrd and Nakendra Magee. Each of these TA's made an outstanding contribution to the teaching mission of the Department. This year a special award was given to Jackie Miller in appreciation of her outstanding teaching and service over the last two years. Jackie taught most of the Statistics 135 lectures while she was completing her Ph.D. degree in Statistical Education.

Jackie Miller

WHITNEY AWARDS

In 1992, Professor Emeritus Ransom Whitney and his wife Marian Whitney made a generous donation to the Statistics Development Fund to institute several awards for graduate students. In 1999-00, the winner of the best consultant in the Statistical Consulting Service was shared by Jin Shao and Yanhong Yang. The award for the best research associate was presented to Petra Graham for her contribution to the Electronic Encyclopedia of Statistical Examples and Exercises (EESEE) project. We congratulate these people and thank them for their hard work.

CRAIG COOLEY MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Craig Cooley Memorial Prize for 1999-00 was awarded to Jeffrey Lehman. 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 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 Chad Husby, Yufeng Liu and Tao Wang. In addition, Kristin Blenk was awarded a two year 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 1999-00 student recipients are as follows:

Lubrizol Foundation Fellowships

Two awards in the amount of $2,500 each are provided: The 1999-00 recipients are Ofelia Marin from University of Pittsburgh and Heather Mathews from Kenyon College.

The Dow Chemical Company Foundation Fellowship

One award in the amount of $2,500 is provided: The 1999-00 recipient is Kristen Blenk from the University of Dayton.

Quintiles Fellowship

One award in the amount of $2,500 is provided: The 1999-00 recipient is Christa Hayes from the University of Dallas.

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

DEPARTMENT FELLOWSHIPS

The 1999-00 recipients of Department Fellowships which are single year awards in the amount of $1000 were given to incoming students: Patrick Bobitt, Meng Chen, Ralynn Ernest, Subharup Guha, Yufeng Liu, Shannon Stetzer and Fengjuan Xuan.

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

A Sampling of Summer Internships

Our graduate students have been very successful in finding summer internships, many in companies in which our alumni are employed. We asked several students to describe their internship experiences from the summer of 1999.

Sumithra Ramaswamy

I worked as a Research Intern in the Statistics and Data Analysis division of Battelle. For the first few weeks, I worked in the Rural ITS project funded by the Department of Transportation and wrote several SAS Macros to do hypothesis testing and statistical inference as part of the project. The majority of the coding included "data cleaning" of the data sets which were large and messy. Simple frequency tables and reports were generated as part of the project. Later, I wrote some general SAS programs for data that followed log normal and log gamma distributions. These were written for general purpose use in some environmental projects. I also reviewed literature for a new project regarding the use of plants in removing hazardous chemicals from contaminated soils.

Jonathan Glasgow

My internship this summer was at Bank One in Columbus. I was placed in the Market Research Department on an Employee satisfaction survey. The survey, consisting of around 100 questions, was sent to the 95,000 bank employees. The response rate was 45% giving a data set of about 43,500 cases. The analysis which I conducted was done on SPSS and STATA. The main method of analysis was regression, both linear and logistic. The aim of the project was to determine which factors had the most impact on an employee's state of happiness at Bank One. The final results were reported and based on these a training program was implemented.

Bridgette Byrd

My summer internship was at Nationwide Insurance, where I worked in the Market Research department with wonderful marketing analysts. The Market Research department works on many projects that deal mainly with improving insurance sales. I had the opportunity to help with many of these projects either by setting up SAS codes or pulling data using SQL or entering data into reports. I never really knew what I was going to be doing that day until I got there, which made it interesting because you

(continued on page 10)

Send Us Your News!

Please complete this form for our files and return to:

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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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(continued on page 10)

Summer Internships *(continued from page 9)*

were always doing something new. Although I wasn't given much of an opportunity to analyze the data, I learned many SAS "tricks" and found the SAS course at Ohio State to be the most useful course for this internship. I have accepted a permanent position at Nationwide upon graduation this June.

Amy Kurokawa

Last summer I had the opportunity of working as a Research Intern in the Statistics and Data Analysis Systems department at Battelle. I spent my first week reading and summarizing current articles on commercial and residential HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning) research. While not exciting, it was a prelude to my main project for the summer: helping to finish a report characterizing the uses of various hearth products in residential homes. My tasks included generating graphs and updating SAS programs for the final report (which challenged my SAS skills), as well as validating some of the data that Battelle received from consumers. I also worked briefly on other assignments including researching internet surveys and writing and revising a test plan studying the implementation of a new system which provides weather and road condition information to highway maintenance. Although much of my work was not very 'statistical' in nature, it gave me a good exposure to working in a business setting.

Leigh Weiss

My internship at Capital One was a very rewarding experience. I was placed on one of their Statistician teams and given a project, which focused mainly on regression and logistic regression techniques. Capital One now has decorative credit cards, which they call 'pretty plastics.' A test mailing went out with the pretty plastics offer, but they ended up losing money on it. My project was to construct a model that would help them target customers who would most likely respond to the offer. The project, although it was not high priority, was implemented after I left. I liked the fact that what I did all summer did have a very small impact on the company. The project also gave me a good feeling for some of the problems associated with real data sets. I probably spent half the summer just getting a feel for the data and the variables. I thought the internship gave me a very realistic idea of what a Statistician does. I was also allowed to attend the ASA meeting in Baltimore, and to take an Enterprise Miner (SAS package) class.

Alumni Reply Form (continued)

Comments about the Newsletter

ALUMNI NEWS

Compiled by Mike Fligner. Alumni need to complete the Alumni Reply Form or E-mail me as that's the way to keep this column going!!

Theresa Trimbach Dean (M.S., 1981) continues to work at Proctor and Gamble, most recently as a Training Manager for Customer Service where she claims to be using her skills acquired as a Teaching Associate. They have been researching and implementing new methods to increase retention and understanding of complicated, dry technical training material (this must be the connection to teaching statistics!!). This March she gave birth to her fifth child, Kristin Lynn, and has been on maternity leave all summer, which has reminded her of her summers off back in graduate school. (deantt@pg.com)

Amy (Stai) Worden (M.A.S., 1998) married Brent Worden (M.S., 1997) on October 2, 1999. They are now working in the twin cities, Minneapolis-St. Paul Minnesota. Amy is a programmer for DynaMark, a part of Fair Isaac, Inc. - mostly SAS and some COBOL, and Brent is a computer consultant for Javelin Technologies. Good luck to the two of you! Another Stat department romance with a happy ending. (AmyStai@DynaMark.com)

Paul Wood (M.S., 1982) has worked for Ford Motor Company for the past 10 years in a variety of strategic planning, international business development and governmental relations positions. Presently, he is serving a one-year term as a Director at USCAR, an umbrella organization of Daimler Chrysler, Ford and General Motors formed in 1992 to further strengthen the technology base of the domestic auto industry through cooperative, pre-competitive research. He began his career in 1982 as an operations research analyst at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and then became a Vice President of Corporate Planning & Development at Chase Manhattan Bank, both positions in New York City. Married with two boys, ages 11 and 7. (pwood1@uscar.org)

Zoltan Szentkiralyi, (M.S., 1997) Take this job and #*^$%#. After a very brief stint as a statistician, Zoltan quit his job as Senior Research Statistician at Nielsen Media Research in August of 1999 to pursue his musical career with his band Fire Bug. They temporarily relocated to California in the fall to promote their new CD and to drum up some attention from the major players in the record industry. Never one to let the grass grow under his feet, after a year and a half with Fire Bug, he has moved along and is now drumming away in a punk band called Rendered Useless. So far, Rendered Useless has released a 7" record, and played shows all over southern California, including an opening slot with hard rockers GODSMACK. Show dates and music can be found at their website www.uselessmusic.com. As soon as their truck is repaired, they plan to tour cross-country, small-town low-budget style! Look for them to roll through your town this fall!! (zoltan@prodigy.net)

Jill Santana (M.S., 1998) is working at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center. She is a woman of few words and sent me the following e-mail update. "I'm getting married in November." Congratulations to Jill and Mr. X!

Liming Cai (M.A.S., 1996) is working for the National Center for Health Statistics. Although he received a masters in economics at the same time he received his M.A.S., he claims the M.A.S. degree to be the more valuable so far. (limingcai@yahoo.com)

Sports Update

This year's intramural teams were good and bad. But that's understandable, since we are a statistics department. In the summer of 1999, our Co-Ed softball team did quite well, making a promising postseason run, and finally losing in the first round of the playoffs (this would be defined as a good season for those of you who don't know the recent history of Intramural success or lack thereof).

The fall Co-Ed volleyball team also had a strong season, finishing at 3-1 before losing in the 2nd round of the playoffs. The faculty even joined in on this team, sending Noel "The Spike Master" Cressie as their representative. The winter basketball team ... well, let's not talk about them. And finally, the graduate student golf team has remained undefeated throughout the year. However, they were given a scare in mid May by the faculty golf team, composed of Mark Berliner, Mike Fligner, Bill Notz and Doug Wolfe. The faculty were up 1 stroke with 4 holes to play and were about to bogey the 15th hole to make the match all square, when the skies opened up and the rest of the tournament had to be rescheduled. The makeup date is set for Wednesday, June 7th, and the student team is confident of yet another victory over the hapless faculty hackers. Check next year's departmental newsletter to find out how the match turned out.

(Editor's note: The reporting of the golf match seems to be a graduate student fantasy. When the downpour began, the faculty team was in the center of the fairway about 125 yards from the pin and preparing to make the birdie which would have effectively ended the match. The grad student team, while closer to the pin, had a rather large tree and sand trap between their ball and the cup.)

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT of STATISTICS NEWS

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There will be a dinner on **Monday, August 14, 2000,** at the **Indianapolis Joint Statistical Meetings** for department alumni and friends. The details concerning dinner location, departure place and time will be announced soon on the department web site, www.stat.ohio-state.edu, and by letter to all alumni.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the following students earning degrees in 1999-00!

M.A.S.

Autumn 1999
- Ming Hua
- Bin Li

Winter 2000
- Melynda Hazelwood
- Sangeetha Venkatraman
- Xiaohong Wang

Spring 2000
- Bridgette Byrd
- Sheng-zen Fan
- Amy Kurokawa
- Hui Li
- Douglas Mayfield
- Zhengda Shen
- Gregory Slone
- Leigh Weiss

M.S.

Summer 1999
- Li Liu

Autumn l999
- Martina Pavlicova
- Xiuling Ying

Winter 2000
- Olga Marchenko

Spring 2000
- Seda Ekizoglu
- Vlad Sachelarie
- Jin Shao
- Yuxiao Tang
- Yanhong Yang

Ph.D.

Autumn 1999
- Steven Bortnick
- Hsing-Chuan Tsai

Spring 2000
- Jackie Miller
- Dionne Swift

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