INTERIM DEPARTMENT CHAIR NAMED

A search has been on to find a replacement for the chair of the Department of Statistics and director of the Statistical Laboratory. Dean Isaacson resigned as DEO officially on May 1, 2002 but continued until a new chair could be named.

A search last summer, including interviewing five candidates, did not provide the department with a new chair. As a result, Kenneth J. Koehler, university professor in statistics, was named the interim chair and director of the Statistical Laboratory.

Koehler has his B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin - Parkside, in Mathematics (1972) and a Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Minnesota (1977). Koehler joined the Iowa State's university faculty in 1977. In 1999 he was awarded the title of University Professor. In August 2000 he was named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. He is an associate editor for *Plant Ecology*.

Along with teaching graduate level courses and supervising research of graduate students, Koehler provides statistical consulting on the design of experiments and analysis of data to researchers at ISU, especially in the Colleges of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Science and Veterinary Medicine.

Isaacson will remain a very active force within the department. During the interim, Isaacson will continue to assist with some administrative duties. Long-term he continues to stay in touch with the hundreds of students gained their degrees during his tenure as chair. He is also enjoying having more time to teach and advise students.
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY AWARDED NEW SPAIG AWARD

The American Statistical Association, through the Statistical Partnerships Among Academe, Industry and Government Committee (SPAIG), established the SPAIG Award to recognize outstanding partnerships between academe and business, industry and government organizations and to promote new partnerships. (This award differs from other ASA awards as it recognizes organizations instead of individuals.)

Three organizations - Iowa State University's Department of Statistics, General Motors Corporation and the Mayo Clinic received the first award for an outstanding statistical partnership, which has resulted in significant distance education and degree opportunities for General Motors and Mayo Clinic employees, consulting and research opportunities for Iowa State University faculty, improved statistical practice at General Motors and the Mayo Clinic, and improvements in the Iowa State University curriculum for training students for industrial and biostatistical careers.

TOPICS IN LINEAR ALGEBRA CONFERENCE HELD AT ISU

The Department of Statistics was one four sponsors of a conference held on Iowa State University campus September 13-14, 2002. About 45 participants attended and 16 talks were presented during the two-day conference. A report of the conference will appear in a future issue of Image, the Bulletin of ILAS (International Linear Algebra Society).

NEW NAME FOR THE SURVEY SECTION

At their November 2002 the Iowa Board of Regents Meeting approved a name and organizational change for the Statistical Laboratory's Survey Section. An agreement has been worked out that separates the Survey Section from the Stat Lab, placing it directly in the new Interdisciplinary Research Institute for Survey Science (IRISS) organization.

In conjunction with this organizational change, the name of the Survey Section changes to the Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (CSSM). Sarah Nusser remains administrative leader for CSSM.
JS M RECEPTION IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Department of Statistics will hold an Alumni and Friends Reception during the 2003 JSM Meeting. It will be held on Monday, August 4, 5-7 pm in the Nikko III Room, Nikko Hotel. This hotel is one of the headquarter hotels for the conference. Refreshments and a cash bar will be provided. It's a good time to see classmates, talk with faculty and meet new friends. For your convenience, the reception will be listed this year in the JSM program.

Every year the STAT-ers design and sell t-shirts to the students as a fundraiser for the club's activities. This year they decided to be a bit more conservative in their design. They feel this is a design that alumni might enjoy wearing.

If you plan to attend JSM and would like to order a shirt, you can pick up the shirt in San Francisco. Otherwise, for a nominal fee, the shirt will be shipped to you. All order forms and payments must be received by Friday, June 27, 2003. Any questions, contact Tammy Brown (browntj@iastate.edu).

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ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2003

Please make checks out to Iowa State University.

Return order form and check to:
Tammy Brown, Department of Statistics, 102 Snedecor Hall
Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1210

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At the October meeting of the Iowa Board of Regents, Mack Shelley, professor of statistics and educational leadership and policy studies, received a 2002 Regents Award for Faculty Excellence. Shelley's award was one of only two awards given to Iowa State University.

At the Journal Statistical Meetings in August in New York, Soumendra Nath Lahiri, professor of statistics, was named a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. He was recognized for his important basic research contributions in the areas of resampling methods, long-range dependence, nonparametric curve estimation, and spatial and environmental statistics, and for excellence in teaching and graduate education.

Max Morris, professor in statistics, won the 2002 Jerome Sacks Award in Cross-Disciplinary Research. This award is given out by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences. This is only the second year this award has been presented.

Wayne Fuller, was the 2002 winner of the Waksberg Award. The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joseph Waksberg, who has made important contributions to survey methodology. Each year, as part of the Waksberg Invited Paper Series, a prominent survey researcher is chosen to author a paper that reviews the development and current state of a significant top within the field or survey methodology and reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterizes Waksberg's work.
REFLECTIONS
Another year has begun and there is plenty to fill our lives. Since Brooke Fridley stepped down as President this year, I have the opportunity to “step up to the plate.” I sit back and reflect on how easy my life was last year as a “first-year” graduate student. I would not change the experiences I have had. I do not even wish to get back all the sleep I missed studying for exams and finishing assignments. The fact is, the experiences I had last year and hope to have in the time I have left are enriched by the support received by the faculty, staff, and fellow graduate students. If it were not for the late night pep talks by “older” graduate students, the occasional encouragement from the faculty, and the incredible support from the staff I don’t think I would have made it through the year.

Ivan Ramler and Jude Burger arrived at the departmental picnic grinning; earlier in the day their team won their flag football game!!

Kudo’s to Iowa State’s Statistics Department for fostering this attitude that “we are not alone.”

STAT-ER SEMINARS
We have had three STAT-er seminars so far this year. The first was given by Dr. Bill Clark and Dr. Dave Otis from the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at Iowa State. They put in a plea for Statistics Graduate students to work on two projects they currently have: Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer and Malformation of Frogs.

The second seminar was given by Dr. Di Cook in the Statistics Department. Through the use of graphical tools, she showed us why Ames is considered the second best U.S. small city in which to live.

Our third and most recent seminar was given by two representatives from Glaxo-Smith-Kline who interviewed many students for internships and co-ops with their company.

STAT-ER ACTIVITIES
The STAT-ers began the school year with a pizza party in Snedecor to introduce the new students to the STAT-ers and its officers.

We then decided that a new T-shirt design was in order for this year’s STAT-ers. We started the voting with 8 designs, narrowed it down to 2 designs and ended up with a design that is as follows:

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Statistics

What does that say about the Statistics students this year?

On October 25, the STAT-ers put on their annual Halloween Party at the Howard House. With costumes ranging from a guy in a bubble bath and a girl in a Kissing Booth to the Austin Powers couple and Inigo Montoya, the party was a smashing success. We are planning to have an International Dinner November 16, which means good food and good conversation. There will be many activities to keep us busy until finals.

STAT-ER SPORTS
So far this semester, STAT-ers have been involved in Sand Volleyball, Women’s Volleyball, Women’s Broomball, Men’s Volleyball, Flag Football, Soccer and there may be a few I missed. We have not won any T-shirts yet, but with the participation in the Intramural sports increasing, we may yet win a shirt. Go teams!!
At the August 2002 Joint Statistical Meetings in New York City, forty-eight new Fellows of the American Statistical Association were named. Five of those new Fellows are alumni of Iowa State. They are:

**Sastry G. Pantula** (Ph.D. ‘82) - for contributions to research in time series analysis, for exemplary service in Graduate education as a teacher, researchers, mentor, and recruiter of graduate students and industrial partners, and for contributions to the profession. Pantula is currently a professor of statistics and department at North Carolina State University.

**Robert W. Mee** (Ph.D. ‘81) - for research in random effects and tolerance interval estimation, for exemplary leadership of a nontraditional statistics department, and for teaching excellence. Mee is currently a professor and department head of statistics at the University of Tennessee.

**Nell Sedransk** (Ph.D. ‘89) - for outstanding statistical leadership in our national metrology program, for consultative contributions in the statistics of oncology, for developing methods to achieve more ethical clinical medical trials, and for service to the profession. Sedransk is the statistical engineering division director at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

**Carol A. Gotway Crawford** (Ph.D. ‘89) - for influential collaborative research and innovative applications of statistical methodology across a spectrum of scientific disciplines and for key research contributions in spatial modeling, geostatistics, and environmental statistics. Crawford is a senior mathematical statistician at the National Center for Environmental Health.

**John L. Eltinge** (Ph.D. ‘87) - for outstanding research in survey sampling, for service to the profession, and for teaching excellence. Eltinge is currently a senior mathematical statistician at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Stephen Weigand** (M.S. ‘01) and **Tanya Hoskin** (M.S. ‘02) were married on June 8, 2002. Both are working at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. Tanya works on the statistics team that primarily serves the surgical and radiology departments. She also staffs a consulting help desk where she tries to teach clinicians how to accomplish their own simple research projects and instructs them in the use of JMP.

**Todd Sanger** (Ph.D. ‘92) has been promoted to Director of Global Statistical Sciences at Eli Lilly. Todd will be responsible for enhancing Lilly’s global statistical capabilities and providing leadership for the global statistics organization.

**Sarah Timms** (M.S. ‘02) announces her engagement to **Manual Suarez** (currently a grad student in statistics at ISU). Manual proposed up on top of a mountain next to a glacier lake. They will be married June 14th, 2003. Timms is a research statistician for the United States Geological Survey Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center in Onalaska, WI.

**Paul Leaverton** (B.S. ‘56, M.S.,'61, and Ph.D. ‘63) wrote to the editor to say how much he enjoys hearing about folks he graduated with (most recently the note from Roger McCullough). Paul wrote: I have enjoyed a varied career in Biostatistics and Epidemiology. I spent the last 17 years at the University of South Florida in Tampa and was the founding chair (Epi and Biostat - College of Public Health) and finally retired last year. I’ve had the honor of serving as President of the American Epidemiological Society. Now I am spending most of my time in Southeast Asia but my wife and I still keep a place in Tampa.

**Jason Jones** (M.S. ‘84) is back working at 3M as a Black Belt in their 6 Sigma Initiative. From 1992-2000 he worked at 3M in Austin, Texas, but left to work for Deloitte Consulting for the past 2 ½ years so he could return to the Minneapolis area. Jason states he enjoyed his time at Deloitte, working on the process side of large Product Data Management systems implementations. But the travel got to him and to his family, so he went back to 3M this summer, this time in the Minneapolis area.
For approximately seventeen years an apartment on the corner of Howard and Story Streets in West Ames has been the unofficial home for the Department of Statistics graduate students. Since the mid 1980s at least four students have lived in apartment #100 in the Howard House - a house-turned-into-apartment complex.

There are nine apartments in the house, most have two-three bedrooms, but the stat grads have had the premiere apartment right off the house’s front porch. With four bedrooms the students live comfortably and, over the years, have provided the department’s grad students a place to gather, to party, and to study.

Denny Bentley, manager of the property, states this long-term relationship with one university department is a unique situation. “Everyone signs the annual lease and we’ve never had to worry about the entire group moving out. They just kept coming up with roommates to fill the openings. It’s great and, during all these years, it’s worked out fine.” Bentley states there have never been any serious problems with the statistics grad students.

Although no formal records were kept on which students lived in the apartment each year, Todd Melander (M.S. ‘88) was the original statistics student to rent it. He moved in the Fall of 1986 along with Doug Bearrood (M.S. ‘88). Previously the stats house had been on Beach Avenue and was called the Beach House, but the various tenants either graduated or moved into other apartments leaving no “house” for frequent festive stat gatherings.

Melander became aware of the house when he stopped there to pick up a friend and told her she lived in a pretty cool place. “My friend immediately asked if I wanted to live there the following year,” remarked Todd. “I had planned to live with fellow St. Olaf alum, Doug Bearrood, so the two of us stat geeks moved in with three undergraduate females!”

Once Todd and Doug moved in, the new stats house officially became the Howard House. The size and age of residence made it a popular place for organized revelry, and the debauchery of STAT-er’s Halloween parties held there is legendary.

Students chose to live in the Howard House for many reasons. Ross Dierkhising (M.S. ‘99) chose to live in the Howard House as an alternative the graduate dorms and their middle of the night fire alarms. “Everyone enjoys studying in the sun room on bright mornings,” he states.

Kevin Dodd (Ph.D. ‘99), informal historian of the Howard House, feels the main draw for living there was the extremely low rent (courtesy of having five bedrooms, of which only four were official).

Splitting less than a thousand dollars per month four or five ways provided inexpensive housing.

“Howard House was not necessarily the nicest place to live and having only one bathroom for the whole place caused its share of tension,” joked Kevin. “For many years, only a few females could stand to visit Howard House for an extended period. Since females have lived there, I understand curtains and other niceties have been added to the traditionally bachelor-oriented space.”

Kari Rabe (M.S. ’00) agrees. “The Howard House needed a lot of TLC and disinfectant when I moved in! On a more positive note, it was nice to have the moral support from students that had been in the program longer than I had, as they were living proof that statistics in grad school does not necessarily kill you.”
Howard House (cont. from page 7)

Some exchange students from Dortmund University in Germany lived in the apartment as part of their experience. They'd stay for a year or two and then arrange for the next batch of exchange students to take their place.

Jason Sinnwell (M.S. '02) comments, "The Howard House has a lot of storage space and many items are left behind when occupants leave for great-paying stats jobs. When Dean DeCock moved out, his sister Rhonda DeCook got the idea to clean the attic to see what stuff Dean and others had left behind. It was the first time in years the entire attic was reachable!"

Speaking of leaving things behind, Melander recalls, "In 1998 I was coming to Ames for H. T. David's retirement. I called my old Howard House phone number, which still worked, and invited me to spend the night on the couch. When I arrived, I saw all my old furniture and the carpet still stunk. Some things are meant to last forever, I guess."

As a result of the new city ordinance limiting the number of tenants in rentals, Cory Heilmann, one of the current residents, has been given the manager's permission to close the Howard House when the manager retires. He will then be closing its doors to the public.

"The Howard House is located in a neighborhood zoned for low density housing," states the manager of the building. "When this city ordinance goes into effect, the Howard House will be limited to no more than three unrelated tenants per apartment, even though the apartment has enough bedrooms to accommodate four people."

"It's been a great place for students to stay," Rhonda DeCook remarks, "but the stats graduates can't afford to keep it with only three tenants."