Dear Alumni and Friends,

These are very exciting times for our program. The prospect of renovated and expanded facilities, outstanding new faculty hires, new initiatives in the graduate program, and continued growth in the undergraduate program all point to a very bright future for our program.

On May 1, President Geoffroy visited Snedecor Hall to announce that the Snedecor Hall remodeling project will soon become a reality. We are now beginning to plan to move everyone out of the building in May 2007 so that the interior of the building can be completely remodeled. This newsletter contains some photographs of exterior remodeling that was done this year. A new membrane was applied to the roof last fall to stop the leaks that plagued us for years. The second floor women’s restroom was totally remodeled, much to the delight of our female faculty, students and staff. This summer, new windows will be installed on the north side of the building. The remodeling will not solve our space shortage, however a 15,000 square foot addition is being planned for the west side of Snedecor Hall. Alumni donations toward the addition would help to move along the approval and planning process. We are excited to announce the creation of a Snedecor Hall Renovation and Expansion Fund at the ISU Foundation. Contributions to this fund will be leveraged against state dollars to make the addition to Snedecor Hall a reality. Charlie and Vicki Sampson have made a generous contribution to this fund (page 19), and they urge all Statistics alumni and supporters to get involved.

We are proud to welcome some exciting new members to our faculty this year. Karen Kafadar joined us as a Full Professor and as the Laurence H. Baker Chair in Biological Statistics last August. At the same time Arka Ghosh, Dan Nordman and Cindy Yu joined as new assistant professors, and Ulrike Genschel began work as a lecturer. Liang Peng joined us as an assistant professor in January, after spending the fall in Munich as a Humboldt scholar. Brief introductions are provided on pages 7 and 8.

Our faculty and students continue to receive national and international recognition. Members of the Graphics group were proud winners of the 2005 InfoVis Competition. We congratulate Dianne Cook, and three alumni, Lonnie Vance, Scott Vander Wiel and Jay Ver Hoef, on their election as ASA Fellows. We also congratulate Soumendra Lahiri on becoming an Elected ISI Member. We are grateful to our alumni and corporate partners for helping to support scholarships that enable us to support some truly excellent students. We are also proud to announce the receipt of a new Research Training Grant from the National Science Foundation to develop Ph.D. statisticians in the engineering and physical sciences. Support from this program will enable students to become immersed in “real world” aspects of their dissertation research by spending a year working at one of our partnering research laboratories.

The faculty devoted considerable effort this year preparing for a review of our program that took place in April by a panel of seven distinguished statisticians. This included drafting a new strategic plan for the Department and preparing a self study that evaluates progress since the previous review in 1998 and provides a vision for the next seven years. The review team will deliver a formal report in early summer that will be used by the Department and administration to map out the strategies needed to keep us among the best programs in statistics.

Last year we tried to save some paper and money by emailing the newsletter to our alumni and friends, but a number of you informed me that you did not receive it. I apologize for our inability to reach you electronically, and this year we went back to mailing printed copies. This newsletter is available at our alumni web site, http://www.stat.iastate.edu/alumni/homepage.htm, along with additional news and employment opportunity notices that are updated throughout the year. If you have news or pictures that you would like to post on the alumni web site, or if you know any alumni who need to update their contact information, please contact us at StatTimes@iastate.edu.

I greatly enjoyed meeting with those who attended our alumni picnic last August at the JSM in Minneapolis, and I am looking forward to another gathering at the upcoming meetings in Seattle on Monday, August 7 from 5 to 7 pm. We have not yet been informed of the location, but it will be at a conference hotel and the event will be listed in the JSM program. I hope to see you there.

Ken Koehler
Chair and Director

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LUIS GONZALEZ (M.S. 2002) “Thanks a lot for keeping us involved in the Department’s activities!”

GARY M. JEPPSON (M.S. 2002) “Just a quick note to tell Professor Koehler hello for me. I am in SLC and using my statistics background all the time. I appreciate him and all the other professors at Iowa State that helped me learn this material as a distance student. I graduated in 2002, and I will never forget their professionalism and kindnesses. Best Regards to all!”

DAVE JOBSON (Ph.D. 1972) “Thanks for sending the web page addresses. I enjoyed reading them. Seeing the pictures of Snedecor Hall brings back fond memories. Almost four years of my life were spent in a third floor office. I have just retired from the University of Alberta after 33.5 years and was appointed Professor Emeritus. I will continue with a part time teaching appointment for the next two years.”

TOM KIRCHOFF (Ph.D. 1996) (left), Senior Technical Statistician, Richmond, Virginia and TODD MANKE (M.S. 1992) (right), Statistics Manager, Dallas, Texas, are employees of Capital One. Tom and Todd were both in Snedecor Hall in November 2005, to interview current graduate students for positions within Capital One. Tom and Todd were former classmates; both began their graduate work in Statistics at ISU in 1990.

REID LANDES (Ph.D. 2005) “We did not come up for graduation, but plan to pass through on our way to Minneapolis for the Joint Statistical Meeting. Things are going well here. It is great to have more free time to hang out with the family. And it’s great to worship at a place where they have classes for all the little ones... that way Ang and I get more out of the adult classes. And it’s great to be closer to family. So we are glad to be back in Arkansas. The job is also nice. At the start, there was not much UAMS stuff going on for me (takes a little bit of time to build up a “client” base.) During the slow times, I’ve been working on things that interest me, so that is cool. Will teach a class this summer... summer classes are the hardest, I think; but will do my best. I do miss the folks (and weather) up in Iowa and am looking forward to our stop there in August. Hopefully I will be able to see most folks. (I guess I’ll not get to see Miss Norma and Miss Jeanette, though.). Have appreciated your updates on the stat webpage. The pictures and descriptions are great. Sure hope you and yours (both family and departmental family) are well. Should you ever wish to send an update, please feel free. Cheers, Reid.

THOMAS (TSUNG-HUA) LIN (Ph.D. 1987) “As a brief update of where my career is, I would like to report that I have been with Allergan Pharmaceuticals since 1999. My responsibilities have been increasing over years and my current job title is VP, Biostatistics, Data Management and Programming. The number of people reporting to me directly and indirectly has increased from 7 to over 100. A few months ago, the HR of Allergan did get in touch with the Department, hoping to raise some interest of job candidates in talking with us. From time to time, Dr. D. F. Cox sends me message with news and status of the department. Although I do not have all details, but there are bits and pieces letting me know that Professor Koehler is doing a great job. I am all happy learning about the good news from Ames. One good thing about living in Irvine is that at this time of the year, I still swim in an outdoor pool. I do miss the winter from both Midwest and New Jersey, sometimes.”

MICHAEL ROGERS (M.S. 1983, Ph.D. 1985) “Thanks for sending us ISU Stat. It is always interesting to see what is happening in the Stat Department at Iowa State. Please keep sending us the newsletter on-line.”

Michael is an associate professor at Millikin University in Decatur, IL, in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. His wife, JEAN MEMKEN (Ph.D. minor, 1984) is an associate professor of Housing and Environmental Design at Illinois State University in Normal, IL. Jean teaches a graduate statistics course for the College of Applied Science and Technology. They live in Bloomington, IL and have three children, Benjamin, Sarah and Jonathan.

ADAM SALES (Ph.D. 1998) (letter written to Professor Dean Isaacson and shared here with permission)

“I know you like to keep track of where your graduates are and what they are up to. I apologize for being so delinquent in communicating, but be assured I think about ISU in someway (my peers, professors, statistics, or simply reminiscing) most every day.

With that said, I feel compelled to provide you with a brief update of the most recent chapter in my life. After spending 4 years in Evanston, IL (Chicago) working in healthcare information, I resigned...that was a year ago already! Chicago was great. I had several great colleagues and worked on a variety of interesting problems forecasting the utilization of medical resources and epidemiology projects looking at incidence of various medical conditions/diseases. Overall, I was quite happy there. Chicago was also a great place to live. While there I added a few more hobbies including acting, singing, juggling, and pottery.

However, ever since my time at Grinnell, I have had the desire to live in a foreign country and solidify my ability to communicate in Spanish. So Jenn and I planned a 2 year hiatus and are now living and working in Ecuador. We have a
teaching contract with Universidad Tecnica de Manabi. We are working through a US non-profit organization called World Teach. We arrived to Ecuador last March and live a Portoviejo, a provincial capital of 20,000 people, near the coast. The school year and our contract, ends in January. Afterwards, we are planning to work with an ecological reserve in the rainforest for several months before returning to the US.

Our experience here has been great, but we have every intention of returning to the US by this summer and resuming a more traditional lifestyle. Before making this transition, I anticipated missing statistics and analytical work...and I do. On returning home we both plan to search for positions similar to those we had before. Jenn is a pharmaceutical SAS programmer and has worked in IT interfacing SAS with other software. However, where we wind up is still a big question mark. After spending a year in an ecuatorial tropical environment, we might favor the warmer weather.

I hope all is going well, for you, your family, and the department. I'll let you know when and where we land.”
KEVIN ANDERSON (Ph.D. 1985). “I have been at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for 15.5 years now. Here are two future statisticians, Alicia and Haley, born 12/2000 and 6/2003, respectively.”

SARA (PETERSON) CHRISTIANSEN (M.S. 1993) “I celebrated my 10 year anniversary with Medtronic this year. I am no longer a practicing statistician, but still review plenty of statistical plans and results in my role as a Sr. Regulatory Affairs Specialist in the Cardiac Rhythm Management division. I married Blake Christiansen in 2000. I have 3 children, Arne 4, Finn 4 mo’s (Dec. 31, 2005) and Signe 2 ½.”


KIMBERLY (WENTZLAFF) PRINS (M.S. 1999) “I just wanted to share the most exciting news in my life. My husband Matthew and I welcomed our first child into this world on October 4, 2005. Benjamin Dale Prins weighed in at 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 21 1/2” long. He continues to grow and thrive, and we are all happy that he is already sleeping through the night at three months old. I returned to work this week (at Capital One, where I’ve been since graduation) and am still adjusting to not being with Benji all the time. I sent an announcement to Edith a month or so ago, so you may have already seen Benjamin’s hospital photo. Here are some more recent snapshots.”

JUERGEN SYMANZIK (Ph.D. 1996) “Hello all, some of you already know, but here is the official announcement: Alexandar (with “AR”) Michael Symanzik was born on Wed August 10, 2005, at 1.05 am in the morning in Creve Coeur, Missouri (I suppose this makes him an American by birth) - about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, I missed the birth and still was at the JSM in Minneapolis that day and only got to St. Louis on Friday. Natascha and Alex were released from the hospital on Friday evening and we returned to Natascha’s apartment here in St. Louis. At this point, Alex is back in the hospital with some eating problems. Our plan is that the entire family will be in Logan during Natascha’s maternity leave. If everything works fine with Alex, we plan to be there in late August or early September, just in time for me to start teaching in the Fall semester. All the best, and more once we have “recovered” from our newborn baby boy, Juergen - Natascha, and Alex

PS: And yes, the TH “Alex” CD is ready and waiting to be popped into the CD player once we get back to Logan [to be followed by Boa’s “Michael”]

PPS: Attending the conference in Minneapolis until the end revealed one interesting Web page: 

http://babynamewizard.com/namevoyager/lnv0105.html

While “Alexander” was the #15 of baby names in 2004 in the U.S., “Alexandar” does not show up in the top 1000 in any decade – uff And “Michael” is declining - from #1 to #2 now. Try yourself.”
REID LANDES (Ph.D. 2005) “Well, I'm sure you know how busy kids can keep us... and how many smiles they afford during that time...

JSM 2005 was good, no doubt; but the best part of it for me was the opportunity to pull through Ames and see the folks at Snedecor Hall, and then more of the Snedecor-ites up in Minneapolis at the ISU get-together. When we returned home, it was time for school to start up. This time, I was on the other side of the “desk” co-teaching a quasi-distance-ed nonparametrics course. But more importantly, Novelynn started kindergarten, and Andy started pre-school. Angela continued to stay at home giving Andy some much needed individual attention on his days off preschool. Andy turned 2 in October and is loving it! (So we... most of the time.) The boy turns peanut butter into jet fuel -- nonstop... until he crashes. But with Jack coming on the scene on January 21, Andy's world is quite different. He's been a whole lot more interested in Mommy than he used to be.Novelynn has “been there, done that” with new babies and is an excellent big sister with both Andy and Jack. She keeps Andy from running pell-mell into danger, Jack entertained when he's not sleeping, and Angela and I in stitches with new “yo” phrases “yo” she picks up. As for Jack: all babies are good and all babies are sweet, but not all babies are easy. Jack is easy. Angela and I count ourselves extra-specially blessed with an easy baby this go-around (which will, Lord willing, be the last of the biologicals). I do hate it, though, that Jack won't get to hang out in Snedecor Hall like the other two did. I'll never forget how truly gracious Snedecor-ites were to my kids... and me, for that matter. Y'all gave me a fine example to follow. I'll do my best.”

Warmest regards to all
Reid

AMY FROELICH (Assistant Professor) welcomed the birth of her second daughter on December 21, 2005. Jamie Lynn Froelich weighed 10 pounds and was 20 inches long. Parents Jim and Amy and big sister Sarah Angela are thrilled with the new addition to the family.

DAN NETTLETON (Associate Professor) welcomed the birth of his third child. Owen William Edward Nettleton was born on December 17, 2005. He gave dad about 14 hours to finish grading his final exam before entering the world. Owen weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 20.25 inches long. Dan, Karen, Sam (8) and Kate (5) are delighted with the newest member of the Nettleton family.

MIKE LARSEN (Assistant Professor) called the department recently to say their little bundle of joy had arrived. Lily Rose Larsen was born to Mike and Alice Larsen at Mary Greeley Medical Center in Ames, Iowa, on Tuesday, April 11, 2006, at 8:16 p.m. Lily weighed 9 pounds 6 ounces and measured 21 inches in length at birth. Mother, father and baby went home on Thursday the 13th. Faculty members Taps Maiti and Amy Froelich covered classes for Mike while he attended to his wife and daughter. Lily is Alice and Mike's first child.

‘In daddy’s shoes’
ISU 25-YR CLUB MEMBERS 2005

Six department faculty and staff were honored by the University and by the department for 25 years of service to the University. The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences recognized them at the 71st Annual ISU 25-Year Club Banquet. The department honored them with a brunch in the conference room that displayed a continuous-running PowerPoint presentation featuring pictures of them from a variety of years and circumstances, as well as previous 25-Yr and 35-Yr members.

Pictured from left to right are: Sharon Shepard, Bob Stephenson, Nancy Heathman, Kathie Reinertson, Kathy Shelley and Mack Shelley.

ISU 25-YR CLUB MEMBERS 2006

Two department faculty and staff were honored by the University for 25 years of service. The University honored them at the 72nd Annual ISU 25-Year Club Banquet.

Mervyn Marasinghe

Krishna Athreya

FALL PICNIC, SEPTEMBER 2005

The Department held its annual picnic at Emma McCarthy-Lee Park on September 18, 2005. Kids, big and little, enjoyed the beautiful afternoon playing, eating and visiting with friends from Snedecor. The Department catered the meal for 106 from Hickory Park. Committee members who planned the event were (Walt Adair, Juri Bhattacharyya, Doug Bonnet, Petruta Caragea, Dick Dorsch, Ben Jones, Jeanette LaGrange, Edith Landin, Dan Nettleton and Marlene Tjernagel).
The Department of Statistics had an excellent year recruiting new faculty, with a total of four arriving for the fall semester 2005, and another that arrive for Spring 2006. In addition to new faculty, we have had a new lecturer join the department.

Dr. Arka Ghosh came to us as an Assistant Professor, from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he received his Ph.D. in 2005. His research interests include applied probability, stochastic processes, stochastic control theory, stochastic modeling for networks and internet traffic, heavy traffic analysis and time series analysis. For the fall of 2005, Dr. Ghosh is teaching Statistics 322, Probability for Electrical Engineers.

Dr. Karen Kafadar has accepted the position as the Laurence H. Baker Chair in Biological Statistics. She came to us as a full professor from the University of Colorado-Denver. Dr. Kafadar has wide and varied experience, not just in academia, but also at the National Bureau of Standards, Hewlett Packard Company and the National Cancer Institute. She is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and a past editor of Technometrics. Dr. Kafadar is currently teaching a special topics course on exploratory data analysis and robust estimation. Her research interests include robust methods and exploratory data analysis with applications to physical and biological sciences, statistical methodology for spatial data with applications in epidemiology, statistical graphics and visual displays of quantitative information, instrument performance and measurement processes, and statistical methodology for randomized cancer screening trials.

We welcome back Dr. Daniel Nordman. Dr. Nordman received his M.S. from Iowa State in 1999, followed by his Ph.D. in 2002. He spent two years as a post-doc in the Department of Statistics at Dortmund University, and returned to the United States as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse. Dr. Nordman's research interests include empirical likelihood, long-range dependence, resampling/subsampling methodology and spatial statistics. While a student at Iowa State, Dan received Excellence awards in Teaching, Research and Consulting, as well as the George W. Snedecor Award for the most outstanding Ph.D. candidate in Statistics for the year 2000. Dr. Nordman is currently teaching Statistics 401, Statistical Methods for Research Workers.

Dr. Cindy Long Yu is the fourth new faculty member to arrive this fall. Dr. Yu received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2005. Her research interests include Bayesian statistics, computational statistics, statistical inference of Stochastic processes, MCMC, time series, multivariate analysis, financial econometrics, mathematical finance and survey sampling. She is also associated with the Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology. Dr. Yu is currently teaching Statistics 226, Introduction to Business Statistics.
Dr. Liang Peng came to us as an Assistant Professor, from the School of Mathematics at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Peng's research interests include limit theorems, extreme value theory, heavy-tailed distributions, long-range dependence, nonlinear financial time series, nonparametric smoothing, empirical likelihood methods, survival analysis and environmental statistics.

New Lecturer:

Dr. Ulrike Genschel originally came to ISU as a Dortmund Graduate exchange student from 1998-2001. Dr. Meeker was her advisor for her masters creative component. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Dortmund, Germany. Dr. Genschel is currently teaching Statistics 226, Introduction to Business Statistics, and Statistics 330, Probability and Statistics for Computer Science.

Dr. Bill Kennedy Hangs out his ‘Gone Fishing’ Sign

Professor Kennedy has taught for the statistics department for 41 years. Bill came to ISU in 1965 from Oklahoma State with his MS in order to go through the PhD program and work as an instructor. In 1969 when he received his PhD he was appointed an Assistant Professor, in 1973 was appointed an Associate Professor, and in 1978 Bill became a full professor. Bill had the privilege of being one of Ted Bancroft's last students.

Professor Kennedy is one of the pioneers in statistical computing. The book, Statistical Computing, that he co-authored with Jim Gentle in 1980 helped to define the field. Bill served as editor of both The American Statistician and the Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics. He directed 12 PhD students and 25 MS students in statistics at ISU.

Although Bill taught his last class this spring and will officially retire June 30th, he will remain in Snedecor Hall and do research. The department had a small 'Gone Fishing' Party to congratulate him and wish him the best. Bill Kennedy, Kathy Shelley and Mervyn Marasinge (photo above right with ‘Gone Fishing’ cake) remember almost 30 years of working together.

WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY 2005

The Statistics Department held its annual Holiday Party on Wednesday, Dec. 13th. Many familiar faces took time out of busy schedules to come and visit with students, staff and faculty. Social Committee: Jeanette La Grange, Edith landing, Sherri Martinez, Sharon Shepard, Marlene Tjernagel and co-chairs, Norma Elwick and Denise Riker.

We are sad to report that Florence Jebe died in November 2005. Florence and Emil Jebe were good friends and generous supporters of our program. Emil Jebe died in 1996. Emil had B.S. and M.S. degrees in Economics from Iowa State and a Ph.D. in Statistics from North Carolina State. He was an associate professor in our department from 1949-1959. Emil and Florence visited Iowa State on several occasions. Florence wrote a book, 'The Bonus Years', that she donated to our Reading Room. She and Emil both lived rich and productive lives. They will be missed.
“It has been another busy year for Stat-ers. There were many seminars hosted by Vice President Katie Gustafson. The purpose of these seminars was to show students the diversity of job opportunities in the field of statistics. The Social Committee did a great job in planning and organizing our annual Halloween and Super Bowl parties along with other departmental events. We have celebrated birthdays and have seen the effects of random sampling when some of us have been randomly selected to bring the cake. We have been involved in service projects as we have collected food for the Food Bank and will be in the University-wide effort in helping build playground equipment for a school that does not have any. For this year’s fundraiser, Stat-ers were able to vote on a new design for a mug. Many of us are excited to put another year behind us.”

Gina Borrowman, President

President .......................................................... Gina Borrowman
Vice President ......................................................... Katie Gustafson
Treasurer .............................................................. Ivan Ramler
Secretary ............................................................. Andrew Halvorsen
Intramural Coordinator ............................................. Tim Bancroft
Social Committee Chair ......................................... Jen Huckett
International Committee Chair ............................... Dirk Hugen
Recycling Coordinator ........................................... Will Baumann
Community Service Coordinator .............................. Rachel Graham
Webmaster .......................................................... Hadley Wickham
Birthday Coordinators ............................................ Jessica Chapman, Gina Borrowman
First Yr Representatives ......................................... Emily Berg, Derek Hoffman
GPSS ............................................................. Gina Borrowman, Katie Gustafson, Andrew Halvorsen
Co-Faculty Advisor .................................................. Petruta Caragea
Co-Faculty Advisor ................................................... Michael Collyer

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS – FALL 2006

On Friday, August 19th, 2005 Professor’s Dean Isaacson and Alicia Carriquiry welcomed 22 new M.S. and Ph.D. graduate students to the Statistics Department. Of the 22 new graduate students, 16 students plan to pursue a Ph.D. in statistics. Ten of the 16 Ph.D. students are VIGRE Fellows.
2005 VIGRE Undergraduate Summer Research Seminar (July 28, 2005)

Similar to past summers, the department held a VIGRE (Vertical Integration of Research and Education) 2005 Summer Conference Day. There were six visiting undergraduate researchers in the summer VIGRE program, plus one other visiting student (Atekah Owais), that presented projects at Howe Hall. The students worked on their projects for eight weeks and gave 20-25 minute presentations with a question/answer time for the professors and graduate students that attended the conference. There were three project presentations in the morning and three in the afternoon. Lunch was provided in the Howe Hall atrium. Will Baumann and Rhonda DeCook coordinated the program again this year. (Photos courtesy of Rhonda DeCook.)


[2] Mike Claveria presented “The rise and fall of high tech industry.”

[3] Katie Elsbernd presented “Predicting improvement in science scores under an active learning approach to teaching science.”


NSF Awards RTG Grant to the Department of Statistics at Iowa State University

The National Science Foundation has recently awarded a Research Training Group (RTG) grant to Iowa State University’s Department of Statistics for a project entitled Statistics for the Engineering and Physical Sciences. The initial group of Statistics faculty who will participate in the research group include (in alphabetical order):

Alicia Carriquiry
Song Xi Chen
Arka Ghosh
Heike Hoffman
Ranjan Maitra
Bill Meeker
Max Morris
Liang Peng
Derrick Rollins
Steve Vardeman
Huaiqing Wu

Graduate students who participate in the RTG are expected to pursue a Ph.D. in Statistics or jointly in Statistics and a second discipline within the Engineering, Mathematical or the Physical Sciences. Hence, we are seeking applications from students with a background in Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Statistics or a related field. As part of the program, students will spend up to a year working on a “real world” research project at one of the RTG’s partner laboratories, either on or off campus. The program has four graduates who will start this summer and another three will begin in the fall. Interested students can find more information and application materials at http://www.stat.iastate.edu/grants/RTG/.
The Fall Convocation welcomed the Department of Statistics new faculty. They also recognized and congratulated Steve Vardeman for his promotion to University Professor and Dianne Cook for her promotion to Professor.

UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION "Pursuing Excellence" (Sept. 26, 2005). The University Convocation for 2005 was held in the Sun Room of the Memorial Union on Monday, September 26th at 3:15pm. The Statistics Department had two department members that were honored with awards.

UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AWARD: The title of University Professor is bestowed on a senior faculty member who has had a significant impact on his or her department and the university in the areas of teaching, research and professional service. The awardee receives a base salary addition of $2,500 and retains the title for the remainder of his or her career at the university.

The award was presented to Stephen Vardeman by Gregory L. Geoffroy, ISU President.

STEPHEN VARDEMAN, Professor of Statistics and Professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering, is considered one of the top five experts in the nation in industrial statistics. He has an impressive record of publications, curriculum development and graduate students supervised. Vardeman is also nationally acclaimed for helping government and industry adapt to new ways of operating and doing business. He is co-director of a National Science Foundation-funded project to develop a research collaboration between Iowa State and General Motors that received the American Statistical Association's first-ever award for Excellence in Academic and Industrial Cooperation in 2002.

REGENTS AWARD FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE:
The Regents Award for Faculty Excellence recognizes a faculty member who is an outstanding university citizen and who has rendered significant service to Iowa State University and/or to the state of Iowa. The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, hosts a dinner each year for recipients from all of the Regents institutions. A $1,000 award is granted. The award was presented to Derrik Rollins by Thomas L. Hill, Vice President for Student Affairs.

DERRICK ROLLINS, inspires young minds to pursue careers in science, mentors gifted young scholars to help them be successful in their careers and works diligently to ensure that Iowa State University is a welcoming and supportive environment for all people. He has provided diversity leadership throughout the university and community, including serving as the diversity adviser for the President's Cabinet for eight years. He is also an outstanding teacher and scholar in statistical approaches to engineering.

At InfoVis 2005, Oct 23-25, Minneapolis, Hadley Wickham and Heike Hofmann presented their winning entry “Boom and Bust of Technology Companies at the Turn of the 21st Century” in a short presentation and as a poster. The conference had many interesting talks on information visualization, especially network visualization.

Hadley writes of his experience, “It’s unusual to get a data set and told to explore it, but that’s just what we had to do for the InfoVis 2005 data competition. We had no prior beliefs about what we might find, and no client to influence the path we took. This can be overwhelming, but it is nice to have so much freedom. The InfoVis data set was much bigger than the data sets we normally see in statistics and we all had to learn some new techniques for dealing with that amount of data. We also practiced our data cleaning, movie making, and team-work skills. It was a great experience, and if you’re interested in practical statistics, I recommend you try it out! (it also looks great on your vita). The conference web site is http://www.infovis.org. This year’s (2006) competition focuses on visual representations of the 2000 census data.
TWO OF FIVE LAS FACULTY NAMED ‘MASTER TEACHERS’ FROM THE STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

The 2005-06 LAS Master Teachers named are **Doug Bonett**, professor of psychology and statistics, and interim chair of the Department of Psychology; **Carol Chapelle**, professor of English; **Philip Dixon**, professor of statistics; **Mark Gordon**, Distinguished Professor of chemistry; and **Jonathan Wendel**, professor and chair of the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology.

This is the seventh year of the LAS Master Teacher program, which recognizes teachers who have a reputation for using unique methods to enhance student learning. This year the award focused on teaching at the graduate level.

**PHILIP DIXON, Professor of Statistics**, has effectively taught graduate level statistics courses to statistics majors, non-statistics majors and distance education students. Most of Dixon's teaching includes the courses Statistics 401 and Statistics 402. Students in these classes are graduate students from other departments who need a knowledge of statistics in order to do their research. Many of these students ask Dixon to serve on their committee during which time he advises them on data collection and analysis related to their research. Dixon has developed a course for the College of Agriculture's off-campus Master of Agriculture program, a course he continues to teach. He also supervises the consulting work of several graduate students in the Department of Statistics' consulting activities with the Agriculture Experiment Station.

**DOUG BONETT, Professor of Psychology and Statistics, and Interim Chair of the Department of Psychology.** In addition to being an outstanding classroom instructor, Douglas Bonett provides excellent mentoring and statistical consulting to a broad range of students. He currently serves on approximately 35 student committees where he is the primary statistical consultant and he provides countless hours of consultation to many other students. Psychology students, in particular, have come to rely on his availability, eagerness to assist, enthusiasm and sound statistical advice in developing, implementing and reporting thesis and dissertation research. He has regularly taught the two primary statistics courses, Statistics 401 and 402, taken by students in many academic disciplines. Despite that, Bonett has consistently received high student evaluations.

**SOUMENDRA LAHIRI**
Professor, Elected ISI Member

**DIANNE COOK**
Promoted to Professor and Elected ASA Fellow Member

**165th Annual Meeting of the ASA Plenary Awards Sessions – Minneapolis, MN, Aug. 7, 2005**

*Dianne H. Cook*, ISU Professor of Statistics, (Rutgers-1993). **Elected ASA Fellow Member** for outstanding research contributions to the fields of statistical graphics and high-dimensional data visualization, including contributions to XGobi and GGobi; and for service to the ASA and the profession.

*Arka Ghosh*, ISU Assistant Professor, (Univ. of NC-Chapel Hill-2005). Received the Laha Travel Award.

*Lonnie C. Vance*, (ISU, Ph.D. 1973). QQuest Corp. **Elected ASA Fellow Member** for improvements in automotive quality by novel implementation of statistical methods into business sytems; for applied research; and for service to the profession.

*Scott Vander Wiel*, (ISU, Ph.D. 1991). Bell Labs, Lucent Technologies. **Elected ASA Fellow Member** for applications of statistics to meet the needs of engineers, scientists, and managers in the telecommunications industry; and for service to the profession.

*Cynthia S. Crowson*, (ISU, M.S. 2005) Mayo Clinic. Received the Student Travel Award, Section on Statistics in Epidemiology.

*Jay M. Ver Hoef*, (ISU, Ph.D. 1991). National Marine Mammal Laboratory. **Elected ASA Fellow Member** for innovative research in spatial and applied Bayesian statistics in ecological studies; for applications in monitoring of natural resources, including development of statistical software and GIS systems, and for leadership within the environmental statistics community.
FALL 2005 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Vera David Graduate Fellowship in Statistics Award
This fellowship, in memory of past director and head H.A. David’s late wife Vera, is given to a female student who has just completed her first year of graduate studies. The Vera David Graduate Fellowship is awarded to top female graduate students for the second year of study.

Holly C. & E. Beth Fryer Award in Statistics
This is awarded to a top graduate student for the third year of study with intention to complete the Ph.D. program. Scholarship recipients are selected by the Honors and Awards Committee, in consultation with the Department Chair. The winner is chosen each June from among those graduate students who have completed Stat 642 during the immediately preceding spring semester. Criteria include grades received in Statistics and related courses, performance in assistantship duties, and other information providing insight into the likelihood that the student will make career contributions to the statistics profession.

Oscar Kempthorne Award
This is a memorial fund established to honor Oscar Kempthorne, former ISU Statistics faculty member. He joined the Iowa State College statistics faculty in 1947 and retired in 1989. This award is given annually to a promising graduate student in the Department of Statistics at ISU. Although Dr. Kempthorne was recognized internationally for his contributions to statistics, he was most passionate about his students and his teaching. Throughout his professional life and into his retirement, he derived considerable pleasure in learning of the accomplishments of former students.

CORPORATE / INDUSTRIAL SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

Undergraduate:
Procter & Gamble Company – Kimberly Minnis

Graduate:
GlaxoSmithKline Industrial Scholarship – Soutir Bandyopadhyay
Eli Lilly Scholarship – Emily Berg, Nicholas Beyler, Anna Ericksen, Volodymyr Melnykov, Yaqin Wang, Xia Xu
Richard Kleber St. Olaf Scholarship – Anna Ericksen

ALUMNI / DEPARTMENT SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS

Undergraduate:
Herta & H. T. David Scholarship– Hang Li
Schillmoeller Family Scholarship in Statistics – Christopher M. Ryan, Phillip Sherman
Statistics Department Undergraduate Scholarship – Christopher Kielion
Team Stat – Gina Borrowman, Katie Gustafson

JOHN CHAMBER AWARD 2006

Hadley Wickham was selected the winner of the 2006 competition. Hadley received this year’s award for his submission on two R packages for organizing, summarizing and displaying data: ggplot and reshape. Information on the two packages is available at http://had.co.nz/jca2006. In addition to the US$1000 prize, the winner will have his JSM registration paid by the section and be reimbursed up to US$1000 for travel and housing at the meeting. For more info on the Chamber Award see: http://www.statcomputing.org/awards/jmc/announcement.html
SPRING 2005 AND 2006 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Bancroft Award

The Bancroft Award was first given in 1972. The award honors Ted A. Bancroft who was former Head and Director (1950-1972). It is presented to a doctoral student with declared minors in statistics or joint majors in statistics and another field. Candidates include co-majors who took the written exam the previous year and minors recommended by their minor professor. The winner is selected by the Honors and Awards Committee on the basis of a vote by the faculty. The Bancroft Award includes a certificate, a check for $500 and a one-year subscription to a journal of the recipient's choice.

Dan Mowrey Consulting Award

The Dan Mowrey Consulting Award is given to a graduate student who holds a consulting assistantship. It is given for excellence in consulting. The award was first given in 1988-89. It is sponsored by Dan Mowrey (Ph.D. 1980 under Dr. Paul Hinz) who now works for Eli Lilly.

George W. Snedecor Award

The Snedecor Award was first given in 1954. It honors George W. Snedecor, the founder and first director of the Statistical Laboratory (1933-1947). It is awarded to the most outstanding Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Statistics. Candidates for the award include Ph.D. students who complete the Ph.D. written exam during the previous year. The winner is selected by the Honors and Awards Committee on the basis of a vote by the faculty.

Vince Sposito Computing Excellence Award

This award is given to a student doing statistical computing in their assistantship. It is awarded for excellence in statistical computing. The Vince Sposito Statistical Computing Award was first given in 1991-92. It is sponsored by a memorial fund established in honor of Vince Sposito, who was a former graduate level mathematical programming and statistical computing professor in the department from 1970-1991.

Teaching Excellence Award

2006 Recipients (left): Ken Koehler presenting, Rachel Graham, Xiaohong Zhang and Tim Bancroft

2005 Recipients (right): Ken Koehler presenting, Kira Barclay-Sisson, Jessica Chapman and Ellis Ott

PUSHPAL MUKHOPADHYAY. The Department of Statistics wishes to congratulate Pushpal on being selected as one of the five winners of the student competition jointly sponsored by the Government of Statistics, Social Statistics, and survey Research Methods sections. The five winning papers will be presented at a topic contributed session at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Seattle, WA in August, 2006, where they will each make a 20-minute presentation. As part of their winnings, their trip will be paid for by the sponsoring sections.
Multicultural Student Services in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recognized students of color who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement (term and/or cum GPA of 3.0 and greater) during spring and/or fall of 2005 at a reception in the Great Hall on March 26th, 2006. Doug Epperson, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences presented the students with a certificate. Thomas Hill, Vice President for Student Affairs, was the keynote speaker. Three statistics majors were honored. Hyun Choi, Bing Fan and Courtney Merrick.

Undergraduate Statistics Students Invited to Join Phi Beta Kappa
Kimberly Minnis (Junior) and Hang Li (Senior), statistics majors were elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. The selection was made from 537 students that met qualifications based on GPA and the committee’s assessment of the rigor and breadth of the student’s academic program. Selection requires academic success over a broad range of liberal arts classes in the sciences, humanities, social sciences, mathematics and languages. The committee selected 23 Juniors and 84 Seniors. Kimberly Minnis received the Edward Allen Award for the top student in mathematical disciplines admitted to Phi Beta Kappa. The Statistics Department will sponsor a lifetime membership fee for the two statistics students.

ISU Alumni Social
Monday, August 7, 2006
5-7pm
Check the Conference Program for specific details!
ISU Statistics alumni, friends, faculty, staff and families are invited to gather during the JSM meetings in Seattle.

2005 Joint Statistical Meeting

The following faculty attended:
Alicia Carriquiry
Song Chen
Dianne Cook
Philip Dixon
Karina Dorman
Bill Duckworth
Doug Epperson
Thomas Hill

The following graduate students attended:
Xueyuan Cao
Ouyu Chung
Rhonda DeCook
Garrett Dancik
C. Yusuf Demirkale
Fang Fang
Ben Jones
Courtney Kies-Bokenkroger
Michael Lawrence
Kun Liang
Curtis Miller

The following graduate students presented papers:
Arindam Chatterjee
Liua Chen
Chunwang Gao
Qi Jiang
Jason Legg
Xiaxi Li
Tanzy Love
Haiming Ma
Pushpal Mukhopadhyay

Ken Koehler
Soumendra Lahiri
Ranjana Maitra
Bill Meeker
Max Morris
Dan Nettleton
Mack Shelley
Massiel Orellana
Yingli Qin
Justin Recknor
Dong Wang
Yaqin Wang
Hadley Wickham
Han Wu
Qun Xiang
Wuyan Zhang
Zhigang Zhou
Liza Nirelli
Adam Pintar
Monica Reising
Chengyong Tang
Yurong Wang
Yu Wu
Xia Yu
Xia Xu
Jianying Zuo
Just how accurate is the U.S. Census?

Statisticians, including Song Chen, working to make population surveys a little more accurate.

While it comes close to estimating the true number of people in the nation, it has a way to go before it is totally accurate.

“The American population is very mobile,” says Song Chen, associate professor of statistics. “One survey on a particular census date will give you a number. If you did another survey soon after that, people will move, die, leave the country, and you’ll have a different number.

“Another challenge of any population survey in this country is that the United States is not a homogenous population.”

Past US Census showed minorities, renters, people in their 20s and other groups are harder to count because they are harder to find.

Chen and fellow Department of Statistics faculty members Jean Opsomer and Sarah Nusser have been awarded a three-year, $280,416 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to come up with a way to account for people missing in population surveys. The US Census Bureau has taken an interest in the research project and will provide funding to support a graduate summer internship.

The researchers plan to use a combination of statistical methods to come up with a new and efficient way to count populations of people.

Through the NSF and Census Bureau funding, a statistics graduate student will spend most of the summer at the Census Bureau in Washington, DC, analyzing past census records.

“The graduate student will play with the data while we get the theory in order here,” Chen says, “and will go to Washington and apply the methodology to the data there so that it will hopefully produce more reliable estimates for the Census Bureau.”

Having good population data is important for any number of entities Chen says.

“If we can get a good handle on population surveys and improve the accuracy of the population size it will be a benefit to many,” he said.

Politically it’s important because Congressional redistricting is based on Census data conducted every ten years. If a state has a mobile or large minority population that is undercounted, they may lose additional Congressional seats.

Much of the federal aid given to states and cities is based upon population size. Businesses also rely on population surveys. “Population figures form the baseline for the marketing efforts of US companies,” Chen said. Once the Iowa State statisticians develop a new technique for the population surveys, the method will be useful to more than just the US Census.

“There are no boundaries with this approach. The research can be readily applied to the other surveys,” Chen said. “The research will provide understanding and techniques even for wildlife population size estimation.”

Chen’s interest in population surveys developed when he worked for government research agencies in Australia. There he helped conduct population surveys of tuna.

The new method can be used in the US for any number of wildlife surveys including deer. “Statistically this is a very challenging problem that will have many uses,” Chen said.
H. A. David, apprising the Statistics Department of its historical line.

Abstract

Statistics at Iowa State University started seriously with the appointment of George Snedecor in 1913. A pivotal event was the series of ten Saturday afternoon lectures in 1924 by Henry A. Wallace, resulting in the well-received bulletin *Correlation and Machine Calculation* by Wallace and Snedecor. With increasing recognition of the importance of statistics to agricultural and biological research workers, a Mathematics Statistical Service was established in 1927 under the direction of Snedecor and A. E. Brandt. Snedecor was one of the first in the U.S. to appreciate the value of Fisher’s ideas on the design and analysis of experiments and was able to bring him here for the summer of 1931. The Statistical Laboratory was founded in 1933 with Snedecor as director. In 1937 Snedecor published his famous *Statistical Methods*. A cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1938 made possible a sharp increase in size. In 1939 W. G. Cochran joined the faculty and a Ph.D. program was instituted. The Master Sample of Agriculture was begun in 1943, a major project which further consolidated the Laboratory’s standing as a leading statistical center. Snedecor retired from administrative duties in 1947, but all was in place for the immediate formation of the Statistics Department. In addition to those listed above, the following important persons were mentioned: Gertrude Cox, T. A. Bancroft, Oscar Kempthorne and H. O. Hartley.

After the seminar, Ken Koehler, Department Chair, announced the commencement of the Herbert A. David Distinguished Lecture to be given in Professor David’s honor. The first distinguished speaker was Professor Laurens de Haan, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands on April 24, 2006.

First Herbert A. David Distinguished Lecture

Dr. Laurens de Haan, Professor of Probability and Mathematical Statistics, Econometric Institute, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands, presented ‘Failure Set Estimation in Multidimensional Space’ as the first H.A. David Distinguished Lecturer in one of the department’s spring seminars.

Abstract can be seen at: http://www.stat.iastate.edu/seminars/abstracts/seminars2005-2006/deHaan.htm
NO MORE 1ST OF THE WORST!

Snedecor has lost its reputation for having one of the “worst women’s restrooms on campus”

The Statistics Department has had contacts from ISU Facilities Planning, the Office of the Provost, LAS Dean Whiteford and the ISU Foundation about the renovation and expansion of Snedecor Hall. The Snedecor Hall project appears to be at the top of the ISU Foundation priorities for finding a major external contributor.

Consequently, after 20 years of neglect, we are being asked to quickly begin the process of identifying our facilities needs for the future. Renovations of the current structure should be completed within two years, but the planned addition will take several more years.

Immediate renovations began with the remodeling of the 2nd floor women's restroom on Thursday, Sept. 15th. The remodel of the ladies restroom was the result of a memo sent to Lola Van Wyke, Facilities Planning and Management, in October, 2004. The memo stated the poor condition of the women's restroom, listing many of the problems, and requested that FP&M refurbish the restroom as soon as possible with the use of university infrastructure funds.

In January, 2005, notification was received that the university Maintenance Improvement Committee approved the remodel of the 2nd floor women's restroom in Snedecor with the use of university building repair funds. Therefore, the department would not be responsible for any funding. Originally the project was scheduled to begin in May 2005, but it was moved back to the middle of September 2005 and was completed the end of October.

A new roof was put on in October 2005.

On April 5th, replacement window installation began on the northeast side of the building (Mark Kaiser's office). Windows on the north side of the old building will also be replaced. This project will run from April to August 2006. Snedecor will also be getting new functioning thermostats installed in individual offices.

The department was cautioned that they would ‘experience some inconvenience’. “Noise”, “disabling air conditioner units”, “using restrooms in other buildings”, “patience”, “interruptions”, “end results will be much appreciated”, were a few of the familiar terms received in department emails as the various projects began.

We are beginning to plan to move everyone out of the building in May 2007 so that the interior of the building can be completely remodeled. The remodeling is scheduled to be completed within one year. We do not yet know where we will be temporarily housed, so if you are planning a visit here, you may want to check the department website (www.stat.iastate.edu) for relocation information. ♦
Charles Sampson remembers sitting near a third floor window in the northwest corner of Snedecor Hall watching snow blowing in around the edges of the windows. He was an Iowa State graduate then, back in the 1960s, working on his doctoral degree in one of the top statistics programs in the country.

It’s ironic that new windows for the north side of Snedecor are on the list for a major renovation of the 66-year-old building, made possible in part by a $100,000 gift from Charles Sampson (Ph.D. 1968) and his wife Vicki (B.S. 1965). A new roof, new heat regulation and many other upgrades fill out the list of much-needed projects.

“It seems to me that for the purposes of recruiting both faculty and students it will be better to have a bit more of a showplace,” says Charles. After graduation, Charles returned to campus many times to hire ISU graduates before retiring as director of decision sciences for Eli Lilly and Company in 1993.

“The Iowa State statistics department has a better reputation than it has a house.”

His feelings for the statistics program run deep. “I hired ISU graduates because many had experience in statistical consulting, and that’s different than just hiring a statistician who had only experience from books,” Charles says. “Some of the best teachers I had at Iowa State were those who had joint appointments in animal sciences and plant sciences as well as other areas. They were super teachers as well as practitioners and could give you great insight.”

Collaborative research among departments is alive and well at ISU, and the statistics department is integral to those efforts. Bioinformatics, for example, integrates the study of statistics with the biological sciences such as agronomy, botany and genetics. And statistics has been an integral part of ISU’s agricultural research since the early 1900s when George W. Snedecor, who developed the first statistics course offered by Iowa State in 1915, arrived on campus.

Emphasizing agricultural, engineering and environmental statistics as well as survey sampling and other research areas, has led to national prominence for the department.

Charles hopes the Snedecor Hall renovation will help recruit students who are considering a career in statistics. “One of the great things about being a statistician,” he says, “is there are opportunities in so many areas—industry, government, academia—with both theoretical or applied work. It’s a great way to participate in the scientific method without being responsible for carrying out the experiment first hand; and there are many ways to earn a good and interesting living.”

Charles encourages more alumni to get involved. “This is an initiative that needs to be realized,” he emphasizes, “and the quicker we get it done the closer the department will be to achieving its vision and mission.”

(Sampson Gift' article and pictures reprinted with permission from Connections-ISU Foundation)
ALUMNI, the department wants to hear about your personal and career news for future newsletters. Your submissions/photos can be sent to:

sherri martinez, editor
117 snedecor hall
ames, ia  50011-1210

OR
email: StatTimes@iastate.edu

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How you can help...
Many of you have remembered us in the past with contributions that allow us to provide our current students the same quality of education you received. We thank you and hope that you will continue to help us “Create, Share and Apply Knowledge”.

If you desire to make a donation to ISU, please consider designating it to the Department of Statistics. If your company offers matching gifts, please make arrangements for your company’s matching contribution. Make checks payable to:

ISU Foundation
Iowa State University
Statistics Department
102 Snedecor Hall
Ames, IA 50011-1210

Snedecor Hall Renovation and Expansion Fund
Bancroft Award
David F. Cox & Paul Hinz Endowment for AES Consultants
Herta & H.T. David Scholarship
Vera David Fellowship
Holly & Beth Fryer Scholarship
Oscar Kempthorne Memorial
Richard Kleber-St. Olaf Scholarship
Sampson Legacy Fund
George W. Snedecor Award
Vince Sposito Memorial Assist.
Graduate Student Scholarships
Undergraduate Scholarships
General-Dept’s Greatest Needs

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TRIVIA
The nearly 26,000 students enrolled at Iowa State University – represent all 50 states and 110 other countries.