Dear Alumni and Friends,

It is my distinct pleasure to inform you of some of the activities in the Department in the past year and give you a glimpse of our future. The most significant event was the external review of our program in April 2006. The review team performed a very thorough and thoughtful review and they submitted their report last June. We discussed the report during the fall and submitted our response to the ISU administration and the Board of Regents.

The review team focused on the deteriorating condition of Snedecor Hall and positioning the program for the future. This included making senior faculty hires to strengthen the theoretical and computational core of the program, to take advantage of research opportunities in genomics and metabolics, biorenewable energy, environment and climate, and to strengthen undergraduate education.

President Geoffroy responded by approving a long awaited renovation of Snedecor Hall. We have devoted a great deal of effort to working with architects and ISU facilities personnel in planning the renovation. The heating, cooling, plumbing, electrical, and telecommunication systems will be entirely replaced. Much of the interior of Snedecor Hall will be completely remodeled. The new plan will accommodate a 44 seat instructional computer lab on the first floor and 60 and 30 seat classrooms on the third floor. Graduate student offices will be located in the center of the south wing with faculty offices along the east and west sides of the south wing. This pattern will be replicated on all three floors. This will increase the number of graduate student desks from 80 to 100 and provide a much improved environment for graduate students. Graduate students will also have access to six small meeting rooms to hold office hours and interact with other graduate students. The number of conference rooms will increase from 3 to 6 to give the faculty adequate space to mentor teaching assistants and work on collaborative research projects. By conforming to current building codes, we will also gain the luxury of both men and women restrooms on each floor.

We are scheduled to move out of Snedecor Hall in December 2007 and come back to a beautifully renovated building in May 2009. The Department of Statistics and Statistical Laboratory will be temporarily located in Wilson Hall, an unused residence hall south of Campus Town. This will create significant disruption and inconvenience, but the end result should be well worth it.

The project also includes a plan for an addition to Snedecor Hall that would house an additional instructional computer lab, a 120 seat lecture hall and office space for the CSSM research staff. The addition will not be constructed, however, until we can obtain sufficient private contributions to help with the construction cost. Without the addition, we are unable to keep our entire program in Snedecor Hall and the CSSM staff will be relocated to the Research Park on the south side of Ames until the addition is constructed. Faculty and graduate students associated with CSSM will need to divide their time between Snedecor Hall and the Research Park. We will make every effort to maintain our traditionally strong bonds with the CSSM staff and faculty, but the physical separation will present some challenges.

Next year is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Statistical Laboratory and it coincides with the 150th anniversary of Iowa State University. We began the

(continues on page 15)
CINDY CROWSON (MS 2005). “Hi all! I finally finished my Master’s degree in Statistics and the ink has now dried on my diploma. I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for making my success possible. Thank you so much for your dedication to the Distance Learning program. Without this program I would not have been able to get a master's degree. I know much extra effort on your part is required to make this program work and I appreciate it. I learned a lot and it's made a world of difference in my life.

CLAY DUYAN (MS 2005). “I graduated from ISU with MS in Stat in Aug 2005. Since then, I have been working in CRM (customer relationship management) at Sears as a statistical analyst. Thanks to the excellent program at ISU, I was able to solve many business problems using statistical knowledge, especially with those I learned from Stat501 you (Dr. Koehler) taught in spring 2005 and Stat500 (Dr. Bonnet). Best regards.

SUE BELL (Non-Major) and JIM HULBERT (Non-Major). “Dean Isaacson, Thanks very much for your continuing contact over the years. Your letters arrive shortly after our donations to the ISU Stat Lab. If we ever hit the Powerball jackpot, your department will not know what hit it.

Sue and I remain grateful to the statistics department, particularly the statistics lab and the programs you have developed for non-majors. We took several more than the required number of stat courses, beginning with those for either family environment (me) and anthropology-sociology (Sue) majors, between 1979 to 1985. The education we received has made it possible for both of us to have much more satisfying careers and advancement than would have been otherwise likely. Sue is a graduate professor of nursing at Mankato and nationally-known in the field of nursing ethics and ethics research. I am a faculty member at Northwestern Health Sciences University, teach statistics and research appraisal, and have published on chiropractic treatment of the upper extremities.

Without the capacity to design research and interpret results of research, we feel we would be tempted to waste effort on the defensive bravado frequently found in those with less-rounded, innumerate backgrounds. As it is, we are comfortable with all phases of research: theory, hypotheses, research design (qualitative and quantitative), data gathering, data management, data analysis, and appropriate statistical reporting (narrative and graphical). Statistics has permitted us to develop integrated understanding of all phases of the research process.

During our time at Iowa State, we were students of: Phillip Cox, Robert Johnson (Sue); and Mac Shelley, Kathy Shelley (as a consultant), Fred Lorenz, Robert Johnson, and Paul Hinz (Jim); also, statistics and programming consultants, in addition to these.

We attended some seminars, including one by Oscar Kempthorne. The faculty and staff were kind, professional, and inspiring. Thanks again and please stay in touch.” Jim Hulbert.

XIAOHU (Simon) LIU (PhD 2001). “I was in ISU Statistics Department from September 1995 to July 2001, graduated in 2001 with a PhD. degree in statistics (with you and Dr. Opsomer as my advisers). I took three of your graduate level courses (stat 500, stat501, stat557). These courses turn out to be the most important tools in my daily work: setting up marketing tests, building predictive models, and making suggestions for business practices.

My time with the statistics department has been a pleasant experience. What I have learned from ISU is very valuable for me in my current work. I am proud of my connection to the department… and wish you the best.” Xiaohu Liu, Analysis and Information Management, Bank of America.

GREG SAMPSON (BS 1962). Greg and his wife, Carole, and Malini Krishnamurti visited the department in November, 2006. Greg worked at Kodak for 20 years and in retirement has settled in Carroll, Iowa. Malini was a coworker at Kodak and is a cousin to Professor Krishna Athreya with whom she was pleased to reunite for a brief time. Greg remembered that Snedecor Hall was known as 'The Service Building' while he was attending ISU and he was shown the plaque near the front entrance which states "The Service Building 1959".

JAMES R. VEALE, (PhD 1972). Letter written to Dean Isaacson: “Hi Dean, Thanks for your letter acknowledging my gift to the statistics department. I am happy to give what I can and hope to be able to increase this in the coming years. I always appreciate hearing from you.”
Regarding your planned retirement in a couple of years, I have mixed feelings. I’ll miss seeing a familiar face at the department when I visit, but I know what hard work teaching is (I don’t miss it!) and it sounds like you are looking forward to the time off. South Padre was the Fort Lauderdale of the 80s (famous for spring break), but in any case you will probably avoid this scene if you just do winters down there. I’m sure it’s quite beautiful. My parents used to go to the Brownsville area during the winter after my dad retired. They had a good-sized travel trailer they stayed in.

Regarding my own situation, I really didn’t get rolling with my career until my 40s, so I plan to work another 10 or more years. I have been blessed with good health and my work is my “baby” (since I have not married and have no family of my own). One of my colleagues/co-authors is stepping down from the Iowa Department of Education in March after 35 years of service – but he’s calling it his “rehirement.” He’s saying that we’ll be doing even more work together if things develop for him as planned... On the other hand, this may be my last year with two grant programs, although we are working on sustaining them and if successful I may stay involved. And the private sector work seems to be continuing in the training evaluation area. I like all of the work and the people I work with, so this is another blessing! Good to hear that the remodeling will be getting underway for Snedecor. It will be great to see the finished product! At least you should have one year in the renewed building before you “hang up your spurs.” Best wishes to you in 2007, Dean!

GEORGE H. K. WANG (PhD 1976, Statistics and Economics, under Wayne A. Fuller and Earl O. Heady). George recently retired from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission as Deputy Chief Economist, Washington DC on December 31, 2006. He has accepted a faculty position as Research Professor of Finance in School of Management at George Mason University. George will continue to do research and teaching in derivative markets and applied time series to finance. In summer, 2007, he will be a visiting professor of Finance in Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

2007 Joint Statistical Meetings

July 29 – August 2, 2007
Salt Palace Convention Center
100 South West Temple,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.

For information, contact jsm@amstat.org or phone toll-free (866) 421-7169.

ISU Alumni Social

We are currently trying to arrange an outside gathering of ISU Statistics alumni, friends, faculty, staff and families at the JSM in Salt Lake City.

Watch for emails and check the department website for more information.

2006 Joint Statistical Meetings

The following faculty attended:
Ted Bailey
Alicia Carriquiry
Song Chen
Dianne Cook
Philip Dixon
Karim Dorman
Amy Froelich
Wayne Fuller
Ulrike Genschel
Heike Hofmann
Karen Kafadar
Mark Kaiser
Ken Koehler
Soumendra Lahiri
Mike Larsen
Fred Lorenz
Taps Maiti
Randjan Maitra
Mervyn Marasinghe
Bill Meeker
Dan Nordman
Sarah Nusser
Jean Opsomer
Ed Pollak
Mack Shelley
W. Robert Stephenson
Terry Therneau

The following graduate students presented papers:
Will Baumann
Shu-Ann Fang
Chunwang Gao
Rachel Graham
Jon Hobbs
Yili Hong
Ling Huang
Qi Jiang
Courtney Kies-Bokenkroger
Jason Legg
Wen Li
Xiaoxi Li
Lu Lu
Zheng Lu
Pushpal Mukhopadhyay
Min Hui Paik
Yingli Qin
Chengyong Tang
Dong Wang
Jianqiag Wang
Yaqin Wang
Hadley Wickham
Yu Wu
Shu Zhang
Yi Zhang
Yan Zheng

The following graduate students attended:
Kyle Hewitt
Kun Liang
Stephanie Platt
Xiaohong Zhang
present & future alumni...

XUEYUAN CAO, Student
“My second son, Kerry Cao was born on April 29th, 2006. He was weighted 7 lbs 7 ounces and 20 inches in length. Baby and mother are doing great. Photo is Kerry Cao, just before discharging from Birthway, Mary Greeley medical center.”

TAPS MAITI, Associate Professor, and Titun announce the birth of their daughter, born January 28, 2007.
“Our bundle of joy, Ovia Roy Maiti has arrived January 28, 2007 at 7:14 am 6.1 lbs, 18.5 inches long.”

MANUEL SUAREZ (MS 2002) and SARAH TIMM SUAREZ (MS 2002) and son Guillermo (Gillie) Rafael visited the department in November of 2006. Faculty and staff truly enjoy it when students, both current and previous, can spare a few minutes to stop by and visit...especially if they bring their children!

MANUEL SUAREZ (MS 2002) and SARAH TIMM SUAREZ (MS 2002) and son Guillermo (Gillie) Rafael visited the department in November of 2006. Faculty and staff truly enjoy it when students, both current and previous, can spare a few minutes to stop by and visit...especially if they bring their children!

LUKE & SARAH WILLIS with son Chase Dylan. The department received an email message from Sarah and Luke. Some of you will remember that Sarah was a student worker in the Main Office, while Luke was a graduate student in our department. They are now the proud parents of a son, Chase Dylan, born November 11th, 2006.

HUAIQING WU, Associate Professor, and his wife, Wenlu, announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Binlei Wu, born January 16th, 2007. She was born at 7:45 am and weighed 5 pounds 3 ounces, and was 18.5” long. Mother and baby are well, and it was reported that Huaiqing was “all smiles!”.

CINDY YU, Assistant Professor, and her husband, Wei Zhu, announce the birth of their son, Adam Chenger Zhu.
“He was born on Nov. 4th, 2006 (Saturday) at 8:05 am at Mary Greely Medical Center. He came out two weeks earlier, so he was tiny baby. He weighed 5 pounds 14 ounces and 19 inches. Now he is catching up very quickly. The baby and mom went home on Nov. 6th. He is Cindy and Wei’s second child. Their first child is Yuer Joyce Zhu, who is 4 years old girl and attending the Children Development Lab School at ISU.

XIAOLI ZHANG, Student
“I am glad to let you know that our new baby son, Hanson Miao, was born on January 30th, 2007. He weighed 10 lb and 12 oz, and 22.5 inches in length. He is really a big boy. Both he and I are doing well. I want to thank you for all your help with my MS exam and the following paper work for spring graduation. It’s hard to imagine that I can have time to study with a new born baby, plus work during the day. I am so glad I did it before the baby was born.”
ISU 25-YR CLUB MEMBERS OF 2006

Steve Vardeman (left) and Jeanette La Grange (right) were honored by the University at the 72nd annual ISU 25-Year Club Banquet. The banquet was held at Scheman on February 22nd. The 25-Year Club was formed in 1934 to recognize men and women who have loyaly served Iowa State for 25 years or more.

(Photo courtesy of Al Landin)

NEW FACULTY

We are extremely pleased to announce that Dr. Peng Liu, Ph.D., 2006, Cornell University joined our faculty in August 2006. Her research interests include statistical genomics, bioinformatics, Bayesian statistics, statistical inference for high-dimensional data, and biostatistics. She taught a course in design and analysis of micro array experiments in spring 2007 and she has already become engaged in a number of collaborative research projects.

VISITING SCHOLAR

Mary Meyer, Ph.D. Statistics, University of Michigan. Research interests: Nonparametric function estimation and inference using shape restrictions; constrained optimization; collaborations with researchers in other fields.

DEPARTMENT RESIGNATIONS

Liang Peng, 1/2006-5/2006. Associate Professor, Georgia Institute of Technology.

William Duckworth, 8/1998-5/15/20006. Associate Professor, Marketing and Management, Creighton University, Omaha, NE.


IN MEMORIUM

ISU and the Department of Statistics received the sad news that Ed Schillmoeller passed away on November 13th, 2006. Ed, his daughter Laura and son Michael, were all alumni of this Department. Ed received a BS degree in 1953 with a major in mathematics and a minor in statistics. His extracurricular activities included three years on the Iowa State Football team. After graduation Ed was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force and was discharged as a First Lieutenant in 1955. He went to work as a statistician for A.C. Nielsen and had a very successful career. His career as a statistician must have looked good to his children, since two of them studied statistics at Iowa State. His son, Michael, earned a BS in statistics in 1979 and his daughter, Laura, completed her MS in statistics in 1992. These connections led to the establishment of the Schillmoeller Family Scholarship in Statistics. This endowment provides a scholarship for an undergraduate majoring in statistics. Many students have benefited from this scholarship. The Schillmoeller family has continued to support both the Department of Statistics and the Athletic Department. Their support has made both departments better. Successful graduates like Ed are the best measure of our accomplishments as a department. We will miss him.
VEISHEA 2007

The ISU Statistical Laboratory is 75 years old next year. As part of the celebration, we sponsored a tent on central campus during the 2007 VEISHEA celebration, held April 20-21. The celebration included six different displays, one of which was the “Leaders and Landmarks” poster shown below. The poster highlights the Statistical Laboratory leaders across the middle, with distinguished professors of the past above and below. Also of historic interest, we had a line-up of calculating machines used in Snedecor Hall over the decades, accompanied with a video explanation narrated by Bill Meeker. These two historic themes were offset by three displays of modern technology, including one demonstrating state-of-the-art methods of data display, organized by Di Cook and Heike Hoffman, and a second demonstrating modern methods of sampling for the National Resource Inventory, organized by Sarah Nusser and Russ Hoffman. The third display of modern technology, organized by Alicia Carriquiry, featured staff from the Iowa State Crime Laboratory who demonstrated how statistical methods are used to match bullets and guns. The biggest hit of course, especially among the young visitors, were the “games of statistics,” organized by Dan Nettleton and Jessica Chapman. Those organizing the displays were assisted all day long by a large cast of faculty, staff and graduate students who collectively gave their guests a great show.
A NOTE FROM STATERS PRESIDENT KYLE HEWITT

The fall semester started well for STATers. We began the school year with an informal question and answer session for all new and old TAs. Standing in front of a classroom of 40 to 100 students can be very nerve wracking, especially for a TA with a new job. Hopefully, talking with some of the more experienced TAs helped everyone who may have been a little anxious, not knowing what to expect, get a better idea of what they were really getting into and boosted everyone’s confidence a little bit.

The first annual STATers poker tournament was another tremendous success. Emily, as the surprise winner, may think it was a little more successful than many of the other participants, but I think everyone felt that this was an event we should host again. A big thanks needs to go out to Nick Beyler for putting the whole thing together.

The Halloween party might have been our most attended event of the year as scores of statisticians raided the thrift stores and fabric shops of Ames to put together their best entries for the annual STATers costume contest. Nick had a lot of help with this event and I would like to thank everyone who had a hand in putting this party together, especially Tim Bancroft for hosting not only this party but also our big beginning of the year barbecue.

Tim wasn’t the only person who had his home invaded by a large number of STATers this year; Nick Larsen was kind enough to invite us all over to his place in early February so we could watch a big, annual sporting event on his massive TV.

Like the Halloween and Superbowl parties, the International Dinner and STATers’ Talent Show are longstanding STATers traditions. After missing out on these events last year Nick Beyler (yep, that guy again) took it upon himself to make sure that we didn’t miss another year of tasty treats and terrific talents. Nick combined the events into a dinner of delicacies from around the world followed by diverse bill of exceptional musical acts and magic shows. Thanks to all who brought such great food to eat, those brave enough to share their immense talents and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames for hosting the event.

The STATers Pub Crawl was another event that we revived this year. The 30+ statisticians were quite the sight on Welch Ave. in our beautiful green and yellow T-shirts (designed by Mark McKelvey, with colors by Ivan Ramler). We even got drink specials at Club Element because the owner/manager, Steve, an ISU stat grad noticed us in our bright shirts.

The STATers event I’m most proud of this year has to be our participation in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life fundraiser. The event itself was fantastic—it had games, music and even bull riding, but I’m happiest knowing that our two teams managed to raise almost $2,500 for cancer research (see next page for more information).

There are many other people who need to be thanked for their hard work this year. Maria Joseph, our vice-president who has successfully organized a wide variety of STATers seminars. Jon Hobbs, who as treasurer has not only kept us in the black, but also done all the tedious work that goes into making sure the university continues to recognize us as a student organization. Emily for putting together our newsletter and keeping us all organized and informed. Nick as social chair and Tim as intramural coordinator for making sure we have something to do outside of Snedecor. Ivan Ramler and Will Baumann for saving the earth and adding money to our treasury one recycled pop can at a time. Hadley Wickham for keeping the website up to date. Jessica Chapman for remembering all of our birthdays. Ivan for
organizing a seminar to learn about our investment options and starting a STATer investment club. A special thanks to Kim Mueller for her many, many hours representing all grad students on the Snedecor Renovation Committee. Kim has done an excellent job of listening to all of our many opinions and presenting them to the committee and architects. Also, a thank you and apology to the many people who have helped with STATers events this year that I do not have room to mention by name. All of your hard work is appreciated.

Thank you all for making this a very successful year for STATers and a rewarding one for me and good luck to the new officers next year.

-- Excelsior!
Kyle Hewitt, STATers President

STATers Raise Donations Running ‘Relay for Life 2007’ for American Cancer Society

The STATers organization put together two teams to participate in the 2007 Relay for Life® of Iowa State University, held April 13-14. The teams consisted of Jessica Chapman (Captain), Ben Jones (Captain), Jennifer Huckett, Reka Howard, Amy Hoeksema, Kari Kraemer, Athena Vasile, Kyle Hewitt, Ken Koehler, Fred Lorenz, Ted Peterson, Ivan Ramler, Wenyu Su, Stuart Gardner, Lucas Beverlin, Bridget Lavelle, Ranjan Maitra, Tim Bancroft, Megan Klingbeil, Tracy Briscoe, and Will and Mary Baumann. At the event, team members were joined by Ulrike Genschel, Nilam Parek, and Genevieve Baumann.

Team members raised money by asking friends and family for donations, and holding three, very successful, fundraisers. They held two bake sales in Snedecor Hall, one featuring the handmade earrings of graduate student Anna Peterson. In addition to the team members, baked goods were also provided by Jeanette LaGrange, Edith Landin, Mark McKelvey, Matt Paul, Anna Peterson, and Man Yu Yum. They also held a charity poker tournament in which 25 graduate students participated. The two teams raised a total of $2,423.10 for the American Cancer Society.

The Relay for Life® event was held at Lied Recreation Center. The turf was filled with tents, sleeping bags, and blankets as the participants camped out for the overnight event, symbolizing that “cancer never sleeps.” The event is an emotional time for all to “celebrate those who have battled cancer, remember those lost and get inspired to fight back”.

The event was kicked off by the honorary family, the Pollard’s. ISU Athletic Director Jamie Pollard’s youngest son, James, was born, prematurely, with cancer. The Pollard’s led the other survivors in attendance in the opening Survivor lap. Later in the evening, the lights were turned off and the luminaries lit while the names of those honored and remembered were read.

More than 1200 people participated in this year’s event and more than $95,000 was raised. The money raised by Relay for Life® helps the American Cancer Society to fund research to find better ways to prevent, detect and treat cancer. For more information about the American Cancer Society, or Relay for Life®, visit:

http://www.cancer.org/docroot/home/index.asp

or

http://www.relayforlife.org/relay/
NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS – FALL 2006

On Friday, August 18th, 2006, Professors Dean Isaacson and Alicia Carriquiry welcomed 33 new MS and PhD graduate students to the Statistics Department. Of the 33 new graduate students, 22 students plan to pursue a PhD in statistics. Four of the 22 PhD students are RTG fellows, five are AGEP fellows, one is an IGERT fellow and one is a VIGRE fellow.

The NSF VIGRE (Vertical Integration of Research and Education) Grant is in its final year so only one new student was added as a VIGRE fellow. VIGRE has contributed significantly to our PhD program and currently there are 21 VIGRE fellows in the department.

The RTG (Research Training Group) Grant has just begun. This NSF grant supports PhD students who have an interest in the application of statistics to the physical sciences. Under this grant the department has partnerships with Los Alamos National Labs, Lucent Technologies, National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. The four RTG fellows are expected to spend some of their research time at one of these agencies or with a research center on campus.

The IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education & Research Traineeship) fellow is supported by an NSF grant held by bioinformatics and computational biology. This grant supports PhD students doing interdisciplinary work in bioinformatics.

The AGEP (Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professorate) fellows are supported by an NSF grant which supports PhD students who come from under-represented groups. For the fall of 2006 we have five African American students starting their PhD program as AGEP fellows.

ALLIANCE PROGRAM, JULY 25-26, 2006

The Statistics Department (administered by Co-DOGE’s Dean Isaacson and Alicia Carriquiry [not pictured]) mentored four interns as part of the Alliance Program here at ISU this summer. The four statistics interns representing the Alliance for the Production of African American PhD’s in the Mathematical Sciences are:

Above photo (l-r) Jeremy Craft (graduate student mentor), intern Nathaniel Clay (Grinnell College), intern Angelitta Britt (Norfolk State University), Dean Isaacson (faculty mentor), intern Kylah Porter (Florida A&M), and intern Dominique Morgan (Paine College).

Angelitta Britt’s work with Dr. Derrick Rollins was on ‘Framing Dynamic Modeling of Type 2 Diabetes’.

Nathaniel Clay’s work with Dr. Frederick Lorenz related to ‘Are Young Adult Children a Source of Support for Midlife Parents?’

Dominique Morgan’s work with Dr. Ken Koehler involved ‘Avian Pneumovirus Serology: Verification of Results Among Testing Laboratories at Iowa State University, University of Minnesota, and Willmar, Minnesota.’

Kylah Porter worked with Dr. Mack Shelley on the “Effect of Learning Communities at Iowa State University”.

spring2007 9
The Research Training Group in Statistics for the Engineering and Physical Sciences is now in its second year. The Group, funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation is composed of ten faculty (Alicia Carriquiry, Song Chen, Arka Ghosh, Heike Hofmann, Ranjan Maitra, Bill Meeker, Max Morris, Derrick Rollins, Steve Vardeman and Huaiqing Wu) and fifteen graduate students at various stages in their studies. The students currently in the program (in alphabetical order) are:

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A cornerstone of the RTG project is an experiential research component. Thanks to the funding we received from NSF, students in the program who are beginning to think about their research can spend significant amount of time at a partner organization working side-by-side with scientists and “problem owners”. The idea is that the student, with mentoring from a scientist at the partner organization and from her/his advisor in the Department will identify a challenging statistical problem rooted in a real-world complex problem that can serve as the basis for the student’s dissertation. Several of the RTG students are in the process of acquiring their doctoral research problem or have already begun working with a partner scientist and an advisor on a problem. For example, Jon Hobbs is right now at the National Center for Atmospheric Research and Jessica Chapman and Brian Weaver are at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Kim Mueller and Melissa Bingham are working with on-campus partner organizations. Later this summer, some of the first-year RTG fellows will briefly visit one or two partner organizations to learn about the research conducted at each of those labs and be in a better position when choosing where to spend longer periods when the time comes.

Faculty and students from the Group (as well as other faculty, staff and students) actively participated in the Netflix Challenge group during 2006-2007. Netflix (the largest by-mail movie rental company) offered a $1,000,000 prize to any team who could improve the way they make movie recommendations to their customers. To make this possible, Netflix released a massive dataset with approximately 100 million records consisting of a movie id, a customer id and the rating that the customer gave the movie. The ISU Statistics team was about 160th among over 17,000 teams in the contest in March, but has since moved down to about the 330th position as other things (like classes!) have gotten in the way (which is still a rather dignified place to be!). Now that summer is upon us and there is a bit more time for other activities, we hope to improve our standing in the challenge. While playing this game, we have all learned quite a bit about organizing, exploring, summarizing and analyzing a massive dataset.

Finally, several of the faculty from the RTG were active in organizing the 2007 Spring Research Conference (SRC) in Ames. The RTG invited and supported various speakers to broaden both our and the general profession’s exposure to emerging applications in the engineering and physical sciences. Speakers included Prof. Susie Bayarri from the University of Valencia and Duke University who gave a talk on validation of computer models with functional output and Dr. Frank Palcat, from Measurement Canada who spoke about legal metrology, a topic in which we hope to develop expertise in the Department. A mini-symposium on statistical challenges in nano-biophysics, biochemistry and cheminformatics was also organized by the RTG group and took place during the SRC. Three guests: Sam Kou from Harvard University, John Fricks from Penn State and Scott Schmidler from Duke were invited by the RTG to tell us about exciting research opportunities in those very challenging areas.

We look forward to another productive year and to our continued collaboration with partners both in and off campus. If you know of outstanding students in the mathematical, engineering or physical sciences who might be interested in the program, please direct them to our web site at www.stat.iastate.edu/grants/RTG.


Fellow, ASA .................................................................................................................................................. Mark S. Kaiser

Fellow, ASA .................................................................................................................................................. Jean D. Opsomer

Gertrude M. Cox Scholarship Award – Honorable Mention ........................................................................ Emily J. Berg

Outstanding Presentation Award – Honorable Mentions, Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences ............................................................... Ulrike Genschel & William Meeker

Student Paper Competition, ASA, Survey Research Section .............................................................. Courtney Kies-Bokenkroger, Xiaoxi Li, Cheng Yong Tang & Yu Wu

Student Travel Awards for JSM 2005................................................................................................. Cheng Yong Tang

John M. Chambers Statistical Software Award.......................................................................................... Hadley A. Wickham

IMS

Fellow, IMS.................................................................................................................................................. Alicia Carriquiry

PROMOTIONS

Professor (Already Tenured) ...................................................................................................................... Song Chen

Professor, Director, Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (CSSM).................................................. Jean Opsomer

ISU FALL 2006 University Convocation & Awards Ceremony

Faculty and Staff were honored by the university community during Iowa State's fall convocation, “Pursuing Excellence,” Monday, September 11th. The program was held at the Memorial Union Sun Room and the public was invited. President Gregory Geoffroy spoke on the upcoming academic year, followed by the award presentations and refreshments.

University Professor

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.

MACK SHELLEY, II, Professor of Statistics, Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and Professor of Political Science.

Shelley is known throughout the university, the state, and the nation for his collaborative, consultative work style and his extensive expertise in research design and data analysis, especially in the area of human development and education. He has served on more than 700 graduate student committees, including 75 that he has chaired or co-chaired. He is the author or co-author of nine books, 12 book chapters and nearly 200 journal articles and other publications, and he has made more than 225 presentations at scholarly and professional conferences. In addition, he has been involved in numerous grant-funded research projects, many as principal investigator or co-principal investigator.

Regents Award for Staff Excellence

This award recognizes a member of the professional and scientific staff or the supervisory and confidential staff who is an outstanding university citizen and has rendered significant service to the university and/or the state of Iowa. The Board of Regents, State of Iowa, hosts a dinner for recipients from all of the regents institutions.

DIANNE ANDERSON, Assistant Director and Proposal Development Coordinator, Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology

Anderson has provided high-quality support for survey research for 24 years. She has been instrumental in ensuring that the center's research surveys adhere to the highest standards of quality and ethics during a time of significant expansion of the center's services, and has directed more than 110 survey research collaborations and technical reports. She frequently contributes to survey and statistics classes at Iowa State and to professional conferences as a guest lecturer.
This year, twenty-two Faculty and staff members were recognized with awards for research, teaching and service. The awards ceremony was held during the LAS Fall Convocation on Wednesday, September 6th, in the Union’s Sun Room.

**Early Achievement in Research/Artistic Creativity**

HEIKE HOFMANN, Assistant Professor of Statistics. Hofmann conducts research that bridges traditional statistical modeling with new exploratory interactive statistical graphics. She has developed theoretical foundations for graphics and provided methods for exploring patterns of missing values.

**Merit Excellence Award**

JEANETTE LA GRANGE, Clerk Typist, Department of Statistics. La Grange's many and varied duties include the construction of schedules for visitors, both faculty and prospective students, to the Department of Statistics, making travel arrangements and overseeing the logistical elements of the department.

**Outstanding Teaching**

STEPHEN VARDEMAN, University Professor of Statistics. Vardeman has successfully taught statistics courses from the 100 level through the 600 level, including three courses he developed. He is the author of four textbooks for statistics and engineering.

**Making a Difference Award**

MACK SHELLEY, Professor of Statistics, received the ‘Making a Difference Award’ at the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, held February 2nd, 2007, in honor of his lifetime commitment to helping students achieve their academic goals, especially those disadvantaged by educational preparation, environmental circumstance, or economic station in life.

**JSM 2006 – Data Expo Prize**

The data expo was an event at this year's JSM, sponsored by the sections on statistical graphics, statistical computing and statistics and the environment.

Data were provided on climate over central part of the Americas, from the lower USA states to the top of Chile. The aim of the Data Expo is to provide a graphical summary of important features of the data set. This is intentionally vague in order to allow different entries to focus on different aspects of the data. For example, the focus can be on: the fact that the data are multivariate, or time-series, or spatial; or the fact that the data contain missing values; or the focus could even be on the process of exploring the data.

The entry from Hadley Wickham, Jon Hobbs, Heike Hofmann and Di Cook were awarded second prize of $500. The students received $250 each. The web site [http://had.co.nz/dataexpo](http://had.co.nz/dataexpo) has more information and videos.
FALL 2006 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.

Vera David

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 643 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.

Holly & Beth Fryer

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.

Oscar Kempthorne

CORPORATE / INDUSTRIAL SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS
Undergraduate:
Procter & Gamble Undergraduate Scholarship – Kimberly Minnis

Graduate:
Eli Lilly Scholarship – Cherie Alf, Jennifer Fairchild, Nick Larson, Bridget Lavelle, Steven Lund
GlaxoSmithKline Industrial Scholarship – Brian Weaver
Procter & Gamble Graduate Scholarship – Reka Howard

ALUMNI / DEPARTMENT SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS
Undergraduate:
Herta & H. T. David Scholarship – Christopher Ryan
Scott Kongable Scholarship – Jessica Culhane
Charlie Sampson Legacy Fund for Excellence in Statistics – Mark McKevey, John Riddles, Karl Pazdernik
Schillmoeller Family Scholarship – Christopher Kielon, Krista Olson, Amy Shell
George W. Snedecor Statistics Award – Kimberly Minnis
Statistics Department Scholarship – Emma Segels

Graduate:
Miller Fellowship – Jennifer Fairchild
SPRING 2007 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Bancroft Award – Jonathan Hobbs
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 an MS in statistics or joint majors in statistics and another field. Candidates include co-majors who took the written exam the previous year and MS students completing a PhD in another department. 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 Excellence Award – Man-Yu Yum
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 in Statistics – Yili Hong
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 Statistical Computing Excellence Award – Hadley Wickham
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
The Teaching Excellence Award is given to the top 10% of teaching assistants at ISU. The award consists of a certificate, a letter from the President of ISU, a cord to be worn at graduation and a check for $300. Pictured below are the four award winners from our department.

(l-r) Garrit Page, Stuart Gardner, Andrew Halvorsen, Melissa Bingham
Statistician Receives Two Honors

Alicia Carriquiry, professor of statistics at Iowa State University, has recently been honored by two different organizations.

Carriquiry has been elected a Fellow of the Institute for Mathematical Statistics. Individuals are named a Fellow based on demonstrated distinction in research in statistics or probability, by publication of independent work of merit.

She has also been elected vice president of the American Statistical Association, the second oldest professional association in the United States. The ASA is a scientific and educational society founded in 1839 which seeks to promote excellence in the application of statistical science across the wealth of human endeavor.

Carriquiry is also a former associate provost at Iowa State. Her research interests are in Bayesian statistics and general methods. Her recent work focuses on nutrition and dietary assessment, as well as on problems in genomics, forensic sciences and traffic safety.

She is an elected Member of the International Statistical Institute and a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. She served on the Executive Committee of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences since 1997. A past president of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA) and a past member of the Board of the Plant Sciences Institute at Iowa State, Carriquiry is editor of Statistical Sciences, and of The Annals of Applied Statistics, and also serves on the editorial boards of several Latin American journals of statistics and mathematics.

(Article and photo courtesy of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, July 26, 2006.)

(continues from page 1) celebration this spring with a special VEISHEA celebration. Tents containing displays of past accomplishments and current activities covered the central campus. Statistics faculty, staff and graduate students created a very impressive display that included a history of the Statistical Laboratory, a history of computing machines, current CSSM research, innovations in interactive graphics, games for children, and a bullet forensics lab provided by the Des Moines Crime Lab.

The celebration of the Statistical Laboratory will continue by hosting the Spring Research Conference in May, the UseR Conference in August, and several distinguished speakers during the upcoming academic year.

I hope you enjoy reading about recent events in the Department and alumni news. You can keep up with developments throughout the year by visiting our department web page at http://www.stat.iastate.edu. Please visit us if you get a chance to come to Ames, but after December you will need to look for us in Wilson Hall.

Ken Koehler
Chair & Director
Divorce Increases Chronic Stress, Later Illness in Women According to ISU Study (10/27/06)

There’s a popular belief among spouses in bad marriages that divorce might relieve their stress and lead to a happier life. But divorce actually increased chronic stress and produced greater physical illness over a 10-year span, according to a study of 416 rural Iowa women by researchers from Iowa State University’s Institute for Social and Behavioral Research.

Fred Lorenz, K.A.S. Wickrama, Rand Conger and Glen Elder produced the latest paper on their research titled ‘The Short-Term and Decade-Long Effects of Divorce on Women’s Midlife Health,’ which was published last summer in the Journal of Health and Social Behavior, a professional journal.

“What we found was that the act of getting a divorce produced no immediate effects on health, but it did have effects on mental health,” said Lorenz. “Ten years later, those effects on mental health led to effects in physical health.”

The researchers have been studying romantic relationships and marriage in middle-aged adults through Iowa Youth and Family Project and Midlife Transition Projects--an ISU study of more than 500 young adults from an eight-county area northwest of Ames that began in 1989. The team just received a $2.5 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue the study of romantic relationships and marriage in young adults, and the link of relationship development to changes in physical and emotional health.

The methodology
In this study, they used data from rural Iowa women who were interviewed repeatedly in the early 1990s when they were mothers of adolescent children. Of the 416 women, 102 were recently divorced mothers. The women were interviewed again in 2001.

The researchers found that in the years immediately after their divorce (1991-94), divorced women reported seven percent higher levels of psychological distress than married women, but no differences in physical illness. The increased distress among the recently divorced women was found after controlling for other sources of stress, including income, which was only about half ($20,300) the amount reported by married women ($41,400). An important factor linking divorce to later psychological distress was the experience of stressful life events, according to Lorenz.

A decade later (2001), the divorced women reported 37 percent more illness when compared to their married counterparts—even after the researchers controlled for age, remarriage, education, income and prior health. Lorenz believes that other conditions associated with divorce—perhaps social isolation and relatively poor job opportunities—are important in explaining why divorced women report more illnesses a decade after their divorce.

“According to the data, it looks like they (divorced women) are trapped in this vicious circle of financial problems and other stressful life events—such as having their safety net destroyed in the form of housing, insurance, transportation, social support, sharing in the kids, etc.,” said Wickrama. “There are more than 100 events documented in the event history calendar, including such things as demotions, layoffs, accidents, critical illness, and parental problems.”

Types of illness
The researchers documented 46 illnesses for the women in this study to choose from—ranging from the common cold and sore throats, to heart conditions, diabetes and cancer. The severity of these illnesses appears to be linked to the quality of the marriage before the divorce.

“Among married couples, we predicted couples with good quality marriages did not experience early onset of hypertension, while those with bad marriages were more likely to have experienced onset of early hypertension,” said Wickrama. “In 1997, we wrote one article that related marriage qualities and physical illness. We showed change in marriage quality links to change in physical illness for both men and women.”

Forty of the divorced women in the sample either remarried or cohabitated with a partner. Remarriage was found to have a positive influence on family income, eventually improving health outcomes.
“We found that divorced individuals who remarried indirectly decreased the risk of health problems because they saw beneficial influences on their financial difficulties,” Wickrama said. “Consistently divorced people continued to experience higher level of economic and health problems.”

The researchers wrote in a related paper that women's self-reports of earlier deviant behavior—which included adolescent delinquency—rivaled divorce as a predictor of stressful events and depressive symptoms, suggesting that deviant behavior earlier in life may be influencing both the likelihood of future divorce and future physical and emotional health problems. They are planning future research that prospectively links childhood experiences to adult physical and mental health.

“Comprehensive panel studies that examine multiple health outcomes over time are still few in number, and more are needed if the health consequences of divorce are to be more completely understood,” they wrote.

Researchers Receive $2.5 Million NIH Grant to Continue Relationships and Health Study (10/05/06)

The phrase ‘love sick’ has been popular for years, but can love—particularly love gone bad—really make you sick?

That's what a team of four researchers from Iowa State University's Institute for Social and Behavioral Research will investigate after receiving a $2.5 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The ISU researchers will study the change in the development of romantic relationships and marriage in young adults, and the link of relationship development to changes in physical and emotional health.

Researchers Fred Lorenz, Kandauda Wickrama, Rand Conger and Rebecca Burzette are conducting the study, titled 'Relationship Development and Health in Young Adults.'

Continuing Family Transitions Project

The project will provide a rare inside view at romantic relationships and marriage in young adults through an extension of the Family Transitions Project—an ISU study of more than 500 young adults from an eight-county area of Iowa that began in 1989. The targeted area was selected because it mirrored demographics from across the Midwest. The study initially collected data from a sample of Iowa parents and children, who were in the seventh grade when it began. The children are now young adults who are nearly 30 years of age, with many of them married and with children of their own.

The initial purpose of the project was to study family adaptation to economic hardship, which was represented in Iowa by the financial ‘farm crisis’ of the late 1980s. They studied the reasons why there are more divorces and more adolescents with emotional and behavioral problems under conditions of economic hardship, but not problems among all families with these conditions.

The researchers have been videotaping family members interacting with each other over the duration of this study, since past studies have found that individuals are poor reporters of their own behaviors. As the adolescent children have grown into adults, the overall focus has shifted away from economic issues to the transmission of parenting practices from parents to their children, behavioral disorders, and relationship quality.

The previous findings

Their previous research has led to four books—the latest being 'Continuity and Change in Family Relations: Theory, Methods and Empirical Findings' (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2004)—and more than 100 research papers published in professional journals. Some of their past research included the following findings, among others:

• A combination of recent stressful events and more chronic adversities will combine to undermine adaptive interactions in romantic relationships.

• Children who were recipients of nurturing and involved parents when they were adolescents expressed more warmth and lower hostility toward their dating partners.

• A change in marital quality has long-term consequences for physical health.

“The distinctive strength of this study is that it contains multiple waves of data from now three generations within a family,” said Lorenz. “Some of the kids will soon be as old as their parents were when we first began this study.

“In this latest study, we are seeking health outcomes from marriage,” he said. “Do people who have supportive spouses and relationship partners have better health, or is it the health that determines the success of the relationship? When you have 20 years of data like this, you can examine that.”

Goals of the latest research

The researchers believe that adolescents’ experiences in their families of origin are important in shaping early adult romantic relationships, and that the success or failure of their romantic relationships are tied to changes in physical and emotional health. They are specifically focusing on the following topics in this study:

• Timing of marriage. The researchers are examining the effects of characteristics in the family of origin, personal attributes, and other life experiences on the timing of relationship initiation and the transitions to marriage and cohabitation.

• Intergenerational transmission of relationship quality and patterns of interaction. They are studying intergenerational pathways—such as personal attributes and diverse life experiences—that are expected to link characteristics of the family of origin to the quality and stability of adult romantic relationships.

• Relationship quality and health. They’re examining mutual influences between the successes or failures of relationship characteristics—such as patterns of interaction, relationship quality and stability—and their relationship with the physical and emotional health of romantic partners.

They plan to complete this latest round of research in 2011.

(Article courtesy of the Institute for Social and Behavioral Research (ISBR), October 5 & 27, 2006.)
The American Society for Quality (ASQ) and others honor Bill Meeker with a Triple Header

William Q. Meeker Jr., Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of Statistics at Iowa State University, has earned three honors: the Shewhart Medal, “Fellow” status in ASQ, and has been named the 2006 Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association ‘Statistician of the Year’.

The Shewhart Medal is awarded by ASQ for technical leadership to an individual “who is deemed to have demonstrated the most outstanding technical leadership in the field of modern quality control, especially through the development of its theory, principles and techniques.” When asked why the ASQ is honoring him, Bill replied “I’m a statistician who just happens to have an interest in reliability and quality. I’ve had exposure to these areas for a number of years. This is one of the important awards in the field of quality. I believe it’s an acknowledgment by my peers of the work I’ve done in this area.” Throughout his career, Meeker says he and his colleagues have continually developed new ideas and technology, often building on past work. He parlayed that into software that is used for planning and analyzing data from reliability studies. “My experience in industry was extremely valuable,” he said. “All the things I’ve done since wouldn’t have happened without that experience. It gave me exposure to real problems important to the areas that I worked in.”

Earning Fellowship status in the American Society for Quality requires the following criteria:

ASQ President Ron Atkinson says that the Fellows “are the true stewards of the quality movement and the embodiment of the quality profession.” Bill was chosen for his significant contributions in the field of reliability analysis; for making statistical analyses to practitioners; and for major editorial service to the Society.

Reliability assurance processes in manufacturing industries require data-driven information for making product-development decisions. Life tests, accelerated life tests, and accelerated degradation tests are commonly used to collect reliability data. Data from products in the field provide another important source of useful reliability information. Due to complications like censoring, these reliability studies typically yield data that require special statistical methods. This presentation will describe graphical outputs of the analyses of five different applications in the area of product reliability. Methods used in the analyses include Weibull and lognormal analysis, analysis of data with multiple failure modes, and the analysis of accelerated test data.

The Chicago Chapter of the American Statistician Association’s ‘Statistician of the Year’ is selected by a vote of past honorees, all of whom are internationally renowned members of the statistical community. Selection as a Chicago Chapter Statistician of the Year is a very significant honor. Bill accepted the award and made a presentation to the Chapter on “Reliability Data Analysis Examples” at the Chapter dinner on November 14, 2006.

Congratulations, Bill! We are proud of your accomplishments, your humility, and your continual mentoring and collaboration with your students.

(Article courtesy of Kathy Shelley; photo courtesy of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, LAS article: http://www.las.iastate.edu/newnews/meeker0423.shtml, April 23 to May 6, 2007.)
Dan Nettleton, Associate Professor of Statistics at Iowa State University, has been named the Laurence H. Baker Endowed Chair in Biological Statistics. A national leader in statistical genomics, Nettleton has developed statistical methodologies for gene expression research used by plant and animal science researchers. He strives to understand the relevant scientific problems and then seeks to develop appropriate statistical methods before using those methods to solve problems.

“Much of my current statistical research is directly motivated by the scientific problems of plant and animal science researchers at Iowa State,” Nettleton said. “In many cases, existing statistical methods are sufficient for solving scientific problems, but in other cases, advances in data collection technology have created a need for new statistical methods. We try to develop something better than what currently exists for these problems.”

Through collaborative research, Nettleton has had a direct impact on the success of many plant and animal researchers at Iowa State. He currently participates in over $13 million of sponsored research. In the past three years, he has more than 35 refereed papers to his credit, including many in both the top statistics and plant science journals. In 2006 alone, he published over 20 papers.

The Laurence H. Baker Endowed Chair was established in 1999 as part of a $10 million endowment to the Department of Statistics and the Plant Sciences Institute. The endowment from Norma Baker, Los Angeles, honors her late husband, Laurence H. Baker, who was a 1954 graduate of Iowa State and a long-time employee of Pioneer Hi-Bred International.

The chair will lead collaborative research in the biological or agricultural sciences, including bioinformatics.

Iowa State's Department of Statistics and the Statistical Laboratory has a rich tradition of development and application of powerful statistical methodologies to help advance innovative research in numerous academic disciplines.

Endowed faculty positions allow Iowa State to recruit and retain world-class leaders by providing the highest level of faculty recognition. Endowed positions help support course development, graduate assistants, laboratory equipment, salary enhancements, professional development and research projects. These opportunities ultimately enhance course and curriculum development, which improves the educational experience for students.

(Article and photo courtesy of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, April 16, 2007.)
SUMMARY OF 5-YR VIGRE PROGRAM

Several recent Newsletters have had articles about our VIGRE grant. This grant terminated in March of 2007, so this report will summarize the significant changes that resulted from this grant. You have heard about the Work Groups that were formed as part of this grant and continue to meet regularly. The goals of the VIGRE grant included an increase in the size of the under graduate program, an increase in the percentage of students pursuing a PhD, an increase in the number of U.S. citizens pursuing a PhD and a reduction in time to the PhD through curriculum changes. The following tables show that we successfully met these goals. We plan to continue pursuing these goals and we will seek another VIGRE grant soon. It has made us better.

Statistics Undergraduate Students

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Statistics Graduate Students

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Old curriculum

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New Curriculum

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Many thanks to the following contributors to the ISU Foundation this academic year!

Judith M. Anderson
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John N. Colas (In memory of Ed Schillmoeller)
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John R. Cook
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Stephen V. Crowder
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Herbert A. David
Ruth David
William Der
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Zach Dietz
Ann R. Dyer
Walter & Edna Federer
Janice C. Franklin
E. Beth Fryer
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Wayne Fuller
J. Wayne Hamman
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Karen L. Hernon
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