

Department of Statistics

Statistics News

University of Georgia
Franklin College of
Arts and Sciences

Spring 2013

Departmental Notes and Headlines

John Stufken,
Department Head

Dear alumni and friends:

The past academic year has, once again, been extremely busy. We filled several positions, were successful with promotions and awards, went through a seven-year university mandated program review, had a great year in terms of research and teaching, hosted a successful international conference on design and analysis of experiments, and are in the midst of renovating our building.

Our newest Assistant Professor is Pengsheng Ji. Pengsheng received his PhD in 2012 from Cornell University, and joined UGA in the Fall of 2012. He has had an excellent start, is a talented teacher and researcher, and features research interests in high dimensional inference and nonparametric and multiple testing.

August 2012 also saw the retirement of Chandler Pike, who was named Senior Academic Professional Emeritus. Chandler worked tirelessly since 2001 as instructor and coordinator for our main introductory undergraduate statistics course, STAT 2000, which draws around 3,000 students per year. After a national search, we settled on our own Jack Morse to replace Chandler. Jack is now in his first year as coordinator for STAT 2000, and the hole that his new assignment left in our teaching line-up was filled by the hiring of Paul Holmes as a Lecturer.

We welcome Pengsheng and Paul to the Department, and congratulate Jack with his new position. We are grateful to Chandler for twelve years of

dedicated work, and wish her the best in retirement.

In 2012, both Jeongyoun Ahn and Yehua Li were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. We congratulate both of them with this milestone. Unfortunately, Yehua took a position at Iowa State University, and we wish him the best of luck. Abhyuday Mandal finished his 2011/12 Sarah Moss Fellowship award from the Center for Teaching and Learning at UGA for collaboration with researchers at the

tions for faculty can be found inside this Newsletter.

Awards and recognitions not only went to faculty; Business Manager Tim Cheek was selected for a 2012 Franklin College Staff Excellence Award, many of our graduate students received travel awards from conference organizers, and 4 undergraduate and 8 graduate students were inducted in the national statistics honor society Mu Sigma Rho in 2012.



Celebrating Chandler Pike's Retirement

University of Illinois at Chicago, and Lily Wang was named a 2013 recipient of the M.G. Michael Award for research from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. Lily was also invited by Steve Pearson, the ASA Director of Science Policy, to present her work on Capitol Hill at a meeting of the Coalition of National Science Funding. An article about her presentation appeared in the July 2012 issue of Amstat News. Additional awards and recogni-

Also as a point of pride, two former PhD students, Susmita Datta, University of Louisville, and Sanjay Shete, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, became Elected Fellows of the American Statistical Association in 2012. Congratulations to Susmita and Sanjay! To everyone, we would love to hear about your accomplishments, job changes, and other news.

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Departmental Notes and Headlines (continued)

John Stufken,
Department Head

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The external program review in 2012 provided an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments over the past years. Wow! We have lots to be proud of in terms of research and teaching. For example, in calendar year 2012, we produced a total of 20,767 teaching credit hours. This compares to 16,688 credit hours in 2009, 18,397 in 2010, and 19,875 in 2011. Is anyone ready to make

a prediction for 2013? As another example, the 18 tenured and tenure track faculty combined for 53 refereed articles that appeared in professional outlets in 2012. Moreover, 13 of these faculty served on one or more editorial boards for professional journals in 2012.

Conferences and workshops provide excellent opportunities for graduate students and faculty to present and discuss their work, especially when being held in Athens! In 2012, Abhyuday Mandal and John Stufken organized the NSF and NSA funded

international conference Design and Analysis of Experiments (DAE 2012; see elsewhere in this Newsletter for more information). We also received support from multiple units at UGA, including funding from the Graduate School to cover the registration for 10 of our own graduate students. Also in 2012, Nicole Lazar and Cheolwoo Park organized the 3rd NOGGINS Workshop, a regional meeting on data analysis for functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Another major international meeting, this one a Workshop in Sequential Methodologies with

TN Sriram as one of the organizers, will be held at UGA from July 18-21, 2013. Information about past and upcoming events is easily available on our website at www.stat.uga.edu/.

We continue to try to make the best use of the building that we have, in spite of its deficiencies. At the time of writing, we are going through a major renovation of the Cohen room, partially funded by donations to the Cohen fund. If all works out as planned, the renovated Cohen room will become an even more important gathering place, including for faculty meetings and student presentations. If you are in a position to do so, consider making a donation to one of our funds. Private donations are absolutely critical for the Department and University, which has started its Archway to Excellence Capital Campaign. You can see our existing funds, all with a different purpose, by clicking on the link "Support the Department" on our website. If none of these funds fit the type of donation that you would like to make, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As you probably know, the year 2013 is the International Year of Statistics (see www.statistics2013.org/). We wish all of you a wonderful year, and hope to see you either here in Athens or at meetings and other opportunities around the globe.

John Stufken

Alumni Profile

Jamaal Parker earned a B.S. in Statistics and a Certificate in Leadership and Service at the University of Georgia in 2010. While at the University of Georgia, Jamaal lettered 3 years as a member of the Bulldogs track and field team as a triple jumper. He is currently ranked 5th in school history in the event. He was also a finalist for the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award and a two time Academic All-American. Besides athletics, Jamaal provided data analysis for a study titled, Palm Pilots to Help People Quit Smoking with the College of Public Health. Recently, Jamaal graduated with a Masters of Public Health with a concentration in Biostatistics from Saint Louis University (SLU). While at SLU, Jamaal was a Billiken Ignatian Scholarship recipient for the School of Public Health. At Saint Louis University, as a research assistant he worked on several projects from health literacy to smokeless tobacco prevention with the School of Public Health's Behavioral Science and Epidemiology Departments. The most recent study was titled, Is There an Association between Air Pollution and Increased Blood Pressure and Hypertension? Currently, he is working with the Department of Veteran Affairs at John Cochran Veteran's Medical Center of St. Louis as a Program Sup-



port Assistant (intern) in the Health Administration Services Department. His future plans include pursuing a PhD in Biostatistics and becoming a statistics professor or principal statistician for a federal government agency.

Undergraduate Program Update

Christine Franklin,
Undergraduate Coordinator

Since the last newsletter where we listed our graduates from Summer and Fall 2011, we proudly graduated the following students with a BS degree in Statistics: Spring 2012 – Daniel Braswell, Haley Crowder, Patrick Durland, Dylan Friedmann, Alexa Fuquay, Alexandria Iosue, Maureen Letostak, and Brian Smith; Summer 2012 – Ashley Bullard and Hyojin Lee; Fall 2012 – Danielle Ledon.

Several of our students continue to be inducted into honor societies such as the National Statistical Honor Society Mu Sigma

Rho, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa. Some of the students will continue with graduate school and others are planning on joining the workforce using the skill set they gained as a statistics major. Our students are sought out future employees in this data centric world. Congratulations to all our graduates!

Our undergraduate program continues to thrive with UGA students recognizing the importance of a background in statistics – this is seen in the increasing number of both majors and minors. We have several students taking advantage of internship opportunities. We welcome any leads on internship possibilities for our students.

Course Profile: Applied Honors Statistics, 4110H

Christine Franklin,
Senior Lecturer

This is the second Statistics course offered by our department for students enrolled in the honors program. I am fortunate to work with motivated students who use investigative learning to explore statistical concepts as they relate to case studies and everyday decision making. This

course is writing intensive and includes team projects throughout the semester. Communication skills are emphasized not only through the writing component but with oral presentations. Team building is promoted through the group interaction.

One popular investigation is an experimental design activity - constructing and flying two different types of paper airplanes.



Students take turns flying the airplanes which they constructed

Graduate Program Update

Lynne Seymour,
Graduate Coordinator

In 2012, eight of our graduate students landed summer internships:

Yi Chen at Merck in Pennsylvania; Wenting Fan and Linwei Hu at Liberty Mutual in Boston; Haileab Hilafu at Vistakon in Florida; Xinyu Liu and Wenbo Wu at Kelly Services in Indianapolis; Li-Yu Wang at Zurich Insurance Company in Illinois; and Guannan Wang at SAS in North Carolina.

This was the largest collection of summer interns we have placed in a long time, and we hope to

duplicate that success in the coming year.

We are currently in the process of creating a new M.S. degree in Statistics Education. The goal of this degree is to prepare high quality future instructors of statistics, and is specifically aimed at certified high school mathematics teachers who wish to specialize in teaching statistics, undergraduate mathematics or statistics majors who wish to teach statistics at 2- and 4-year undergraduate institutions, and Ph.D. students in statistics who want a strong teaching credential underlying the doctorate degree.



Chris Franklin's Applied Honors Statistics Class

The students formulate several statistical questions they would like to answer regarding the paper airplanes and design how to conduct the experiment. Then the planes are flown and data is collected. The students, working together in small groups, analyze the data and prepare a written report.

Most students enroll in this course in preparation for either further coursework in statistics or to prepare for post under-

graduate studies (graduate school, medical school, law school, or pharmacy school). Students often contact me a few years after this course to tell me how this was one of the most beneficial courses in their studies. Often students decide to become statistics minors or double major in statistics after taking this course. Over the years, several of these students have gone on to pursue graduate degrees in statistics.

Stat Club Update

Wenbo Wu,
Stat Club President

In the past academic year, the Statistics Club hosted several activities including an ice cream welcome party, a bowling night, international potluck dinners, and the Bradley Lecture.

As this was the first time we had an ice cream party to welcome new students, most faculty and graduate students attended. The new students introduced themselves and chatted with faculty members and other graduate students. "I like this activity and I feel extremely welcomed by the crowd" was said by Yuanwen Wang, who was a new PhD student to the department. According to its success, we plan to continue this event for the future.

In September, a number of graduate students attended a bowling night at Showtime Bowling. Nan won the championship after defeating his rivals.

In November, a traditional international potluck dinner was held in the Cohen Room. Faculty and graduate students brought their own hometown-cooking dishes. We had various dishes from

different countries including USA, China, Korea, India, and Bangladesh. People shared their culture and experiences after the dinner. As many graduate students are international, this potluck established some multi-cultural communications in the department.

The most important annual event that is hosted by the Department of Statistics and the Statistics Club is the Bradley Lecture. The event honors former faculty member Dr. Ralph A. Bradley. It also provides an opportunity for UGA graduate students to interact with the speaker, who is normally an eminent statistician of their choice. This year is the 21st anniversary of this event. It will take place on Friday, April 12th, 2013 at the University of Georgia Conference Center. Professor Peter Hall of the University of Melbourne and the University of California at Davis is the guest speaker this year. He will present his most recent research topic on "Nonparametric Methods for Estimating Periodic Functions, With Applications in Astronomy". He will also give a talk on "The excitement of statistical science today" after having dinner with faculty and graduate students at the University of



Graduate students enjoy ice cream at the Welcome Party in the Fall.

Georgia Conference Center. On the next day, a traditional annual picnic at Athens Memorial Park will be hosted. This gives an opportunity for graduate students to interact with the guest speaker in an informal setting. Family members of faculty and graduate students will also be welcomed. By the time you read this newsletter, this year's event will have already taken place. If you missed this year's Bradley

Lecture, we encourage you to mark the calendar for next year's event and plan on visiting us here in Athens.

We also planned a hiking event during the spring semester. But due to the unexpected chilly weather, we haven't made it happen. As the weather gets warmer, we are planning on a trip soon.



Graduate Students, Faculty, and Staff mingle at the Ice Cream Social at the beginning of the Fall Semester.

Staff Profile

Wilson King was born in Atlanta, GA and moved to Athens, GA in 2000 to attend the University of Georgia. He first began working for UGA in 2007 with Campus Information Technology Partnerships. While with CITP, Wilson worked with a wide variety of departments including the School of Nursing, Performing Arts Center, Georgia Museum of Art, Center for Applied Genetic Technologies, Crop and Soil Science, Plant Sciences, and the Graduate School Dean's Office. Currently, he works with Franklin College of Arts and Sciences as an IT Professional and is responsible for providing technical support for faculty



and staff in the Department of Statistics and the Museum of Natural History.

Outside of the IT world, Wilson enjoys snow skiing, boating, hiking, traveling, music, concerts, and cooking on his Big Green Egg at Lake Rabun.

DAE Conference

John Stufken, Professor

Abhyuday Mandal, Associate Professor

Abhyuday Mandal and John Stufken co-organized the meeting Design and Analysis of Experiments (DAE 2012). The DAE conference series grew out of a conference that was held in 2000 at The Ohio State University. While this initial conference concentrated on the Midwest, subsequent conferences became truly international in terms of participants and have been held throughout North America. Locations have included Vancouver, BC (2002), Chicago, IL (2003), Santa Fe, NM (2005), Memphis, TN (2007) and Columbia, MO (2009). The purpose of the DAE conference series is to provide support and encouragement to junior researchers in the field of design and analysis of

experiments and to stimulate interest in topics of practical relevance to science and industry.

Funded by NSF, NSA, several companies, and several units of UGA, about 125 participants from all over the world attended this meeting during October 17 - 20, 2012. Based on anonymous surveys, the meeting was a great success. Topics of the sessions, each consisting of 3 invited talks, included computer experiments, design in marketing and business, design in the pharmaceutical industry, algorithms for finding efficient designs, fractional factorial designs, designs for generalized linear models, designs for nonlinear models, designs for correlated data, and design robustness.



Abhyuday Mandal (UGA), Bradley Jones (JMP), Pritam Ranjan (Acadia University), and Li Gu (Georgia Tech)



The conference offered not just food for thought

Statistical Consulting Center

Kim Love-Myers, Associate Director
of the Statistical Consulting Center

The SCC has continued to grow over the past year under the direction of Dr. Jaxk Reeves and Dr. Kim Love-Myers. At present, the SCC provides nine Statistics graduate students with consulting assistantships: Yi Chen, Rick Hoover, Hejiao Hu, Lina Liao, Ling Liu, Xinyu Liu, Emmanuel Tuglo, Guannan Wang, and Nan Zhang. This record support is possible through the SCC's ongoing relationships with the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, the Graduate School, and the Office for the Vice President of Research, in addition to another projected increase in income this year through SCC projects. These students, along with multiple volunteer consultants, have made strong contributions to research efforts at UGA and beyond.

Of particular note are continued collaborations with several long-term commercial clients, a major contract with Environment Canada, and a consistent client base from the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the Odum School of Ecology, and the College of Veterinary Medicine. The SCC once again anticipates additional growth in the coming year in all three areas of its mission, including making statistical support available to UGA researchers, increasing the quality of quantitative research at the University, and providing valuable educational experience and training to graduate students in the Department of Statistics.

Fourth International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies

July 18-21, 2013

Georgia Center for Continuing Education
Athens, Georgia

Hosted by the
UGA Department of Statistics, organized by
T.N. Sriram (UGA) and Nitis Mukhopadhyay
(University of Connecticut)

For more information, please see
<http://www.stat.uga.edu/IWSM2013>

Colloquium Series

Jeongyoun Ahn, Associate Professor
Lynne Seymour, Associate Professor

This year's Colloquium Series was filled with outstanding and prominent speakers. A few highlights from the Fall semester of 2012 include the seminar on the new RNA sequencing data by Rebecca Doerge from Purdue University, the statistical education seminar by Robert Gould from UCLA, the astrostatistics seminar by Eric Feigelson from Penn State University, and the consulting presentation on a geology project by a department alumnus Jack Schuenemeyer from Southwest Statistical Consulting. The Spring 2013 colloquium series is in progress, and the tradition of excellence has continued. We have heard talks from distinguished speakers such as past ASA presidents Richard

Scheaffer and Marie Davidian (Clemson-UGA joint seminar).

In April, the department and the graduate student Stat Club will co-sponsor the annual Bradley Lecture in honor of the late Professor Ralph A. Bradley. This year, one of the most prolific and highly-cited statisticians, Peter Hall from the University of Melbourne and University of California at Davis will give research and dinner talks and will meet with our faculty and graduate students. The Stat Club will also continue our tradition of hosting a picnic on the day following the Bradley Lecture with the speaker.

At the same time, the department has also invited many passionate researchers in their still young academic career, such as Sungkyu Jung, James Livsey, Andreas Artemiou, Brian Reich, Zhigen Zhao, April Galyardt, and

Xingye Qiao. Also a great variety of topics have been covered, including high dimensional data analysis, spatial statistics, educational statistics, genetics, finance, and survey statistics.

We encourage you to visit <http://www.stat.uga.edu/research/colloquia> to keep up with our Colloquium Series. There, you will find full details for all the talks in the series including their

scheduling, talk titles and abstracts, and links to the speakers' webpages at their home institutions. Please support the Department of Statistics at UGA. Your support will help the Colloquium Series continue to enhance the educational experience of our students, provide research opportunities for our faculty, and enrich the academic environment of the department.



Students and Faculty enjoy a talk titled, "A Coverage Approach to Evaluating Mean Square Error" by Alan Dorfman of the Bureau of Labor Statistics

2012-2013 Colloquium Speakers:

Fall Semester, 2012

Sungkyu Jung, University of Pittsburgh
Rebecca Doerge, Purdue University
Robert Gould, University of California at Los Angeles
Martin Klein, US Census Bureau
James Livsey, Clemson University
Andreas Artemiou, Michigan Technological University
Chuanshu Ji, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Jack Schuenemeyer, Southwest Statistical Consulting, LLC
Eric Feigelson, Penn State Uni-

versity
Eric Chicken, Florida State University
Ling Lan, Georgia Health Sciences University
Donald Richards, Penn State University
Brian Reich, North Carolina State University

Spring Semester, 2013

Zhigen Zhao, Temple University
Andrew Lawson, Medical University of South Carolina
April Galyardt, University of Georgia
Lan Wang, University of Minnesota
Richard Scheaffer, University of Florida
Xingye Qiao, State University of New York at Binghamton
Dongseok Choi, Oregon Health Science University

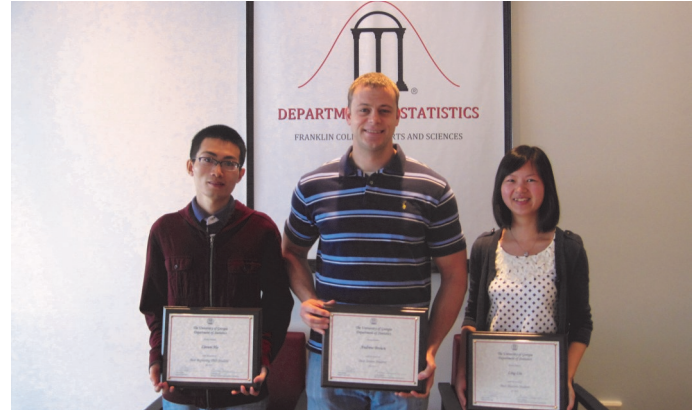
Zaid Abdo., United States Department of Agriculture
Marie Davidian, North Carolina State University
Alan Dorfman, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Peter Hall, University of Melbourne, University of California at Davis
Jian Huang, University of Iowa

A Brief History of Statistics Department Graduate Student Awards

Jaxk Reeves, Associate Professor

The Statistics Department has been presenting graduate student awards for 27 consecutive years, since the first awards were presented in October 1987 for work done during the 1986-1987 academic year. The awards were originally called 'Best Beginning Applied Student', 'Best Beginning Theoretical Student', and 'Best Senior Student', and the inaugural winners were Shorng Lee, Youngwon Kim, and Min-Jue Wen, respectively. For many years, the two 'Best Beginning' awards were presented

during the Fall of each year to the 2nd-year student who had performed 'best' during the previous year in his/her 1st-year MS or PhD courses and qualifying exams, respectively. This was usually determined from looking at grades and exam scores, with little input from faculty. The Senior Award was typically selected by a vote of the graduate faculty from among 4th-year or 5th-year PhD students, and was based on a student's overall performance in the department, particularly the perceived quality of his/her dissertation research. The Beginning Awards have typically been more clear-cut,



Award Winners: Linwei Hu, Andrew Brown, and Ling Liu

Student Awards

The Department's annual student awards went to:

Best Senior Student: Andrew Brown	Best Master's Student: Ling Liu
Best Beginning PhD Student: Linwei Hu	Best Student Consultant: Nan Zhang

The Department also wishes to congratulate the following award winners and honorees:

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Winners: Adrijo Chakraborty Jacob Martin Greg Jansen	Mu Sigma Rho Inductees: Undergraduate Students: Ashley Jean Bullard Dylan James Friedmann Ralph William Maddox Brian Augur Smith
Phi Beta Kappa Inductees: Glenn Ryan Branscomb Dongdi Gu Matthew David Passarello Hao Peng	Graduate Students: Lina Liao Shen Liu Jacob Martin Xijue Tan Wenbo Wu Xuedong Wu Yuhang Xu Nan Zhang

while there have been numerous ties (shared awards) at the Senior level. During the early years of the award, the prize consisted simply of a certificate and a 1-year subscription to a Statistics journal, with the winners' names engraved in a plaque displayed in the Cohen Room. By 2000, a cash prize began to be attached to the award, with current values being \$100 for the two Beginning awards and \$250 for the Senior Award.

Nine students have won both a Beginning and Senior Award: MoMiao Xiong (1987-1991), YinPu Chen (1988-1992), Sanjay Shete (1993-1997), Wendy Dean Smith (1996-2001), LiHua Wang (1999-2003), Mi-Ja Woo (2000-2004), Jing Shen (2001-2006), & Qin Wang (2004-2008), and one, Takeshi Fukasawa (1995-2001), incredibly, won all three awards during his time in the department. American students have tended to dominate the Best Beginning Applied Award and international students the Senior Award, although that pattern is reversed in the most recently announced awards.

In recent years, the department has decided that the Beginning Awards should, like the Senior Award, be voted on by the graduate faculty, and should be based

on more than simply classroom and exam performance, particularly since the latter criteria tended to eliminate from consideration students who opted to write a thesis rather than take a qualifying exam. The awards are now made in the Spring of each year, and are called 'Best Master's Student' (based typically on an MS student's overall performance during his/her first 1.5 years in the department), 'Best Beginning PhD Student' (based typically on a PhD student's overall performance in his/her first 2.5 years in the department), and 'Best Senior Student' (based on a PhD student's overall career performance in the department). In addition, starting in Spring 2013, the department introduced a 'Best Student Consultant' Award, with a \$250 cash prize, for the student who performed best during the current academic year in working for the Statistical Consulting Center. The department is proud to announce the four Spring 2013 winners: Best Master's Student – Ling Liu, Best Beginning PhD Student – LinWei Hu, Best Senior Student – Andrew Brown, and Best Student Consultant – Nan Zhang.

Externally Funded Grant Projects in the Department of Statistics

In calendar year 2012, 12 of the 18 tenured and tenure track faculty were PI or co-PI on grants or contracts for extramural research funding during all or part of the year.

Below is a listing of all new externally funded grant projects since May, 2012

Liang Liu, Assistant Professor, PI

Agency/Project: NSF, “Developing a probabilistic model for gene family evolution ”

Accurately estimating the timing and mode of gene duplications along the evolutionary history of species can provide invaluable information about the underlying mechanisms by which the genomes of organisms evolved and the genes with novel functions arose. The major challenge is the lack of an appropriate modeling framework for gene family evolution. To address this challenge, we develop a probabilistic model for gene family evolution that is able to describe the relationship between the history of a gene family and the history of species

by taking into account the effects of different evolutionary mechanisms of gene retention (neofunctionalization, subfunctionalization, dosage balance). The probabilistic model provides a systematic way of handling the estimation error of gene family trees when analyzing gene family data and is thus able to more accurately estimate the gene duplication and loss events along the phylogeny of species.

John Stufken, Professor, PI Abhyuday Mandal, Associate Professor, Co-PI

Agency/Project: NSA, “Design and Analysis of Experiments Conference 2012”

This award provides participant support costs for the conference Design and Analysis of Experiments 2012 (DAE 2012) at the University of Georgia from October 17, 2012 to October 20, 2012. The conference featured leading researchers of international repute, promising new researchers, and graduate students actively pursuing research in the area of design and analysis of experiments. Participants represented academia, industry and government, and the confer-

ence offered a forum for interaction, discussion, and exchange of ideas on novel research in this area. Special sessions and activities to facilitate mentoring of junior researchers were an important focus of the conference. The award provided partial support for approximately 50 participants.

Xiangrong Yin, Professor, PI

Agency/Project: NSF, “A complete sufficient dimension folding theory with novel methods ”

Recently, high throughput technologies that produce massive amount of complex and high-dimensional data are increasingly prevalent in such diverse areas as business, and bioinformatics. They provide considerable momentum in the Statistics community to develop new theories and methodologies. This proposal is aimed at developing a general formulation and the related methods for sufficient dimension folding where predictors are matrix-/array- valued, and where a specific functional (or parameter) of the conditional distribu-

tion is of interest. The investigator proposes a new paradigm for sufficient dimension folding, and this new paradigm not only synthesizes, broadens, and deepens the recent advances in sufficient dimension folding, but brings the understanding of sufficient dimension folding on a par with classical statistical inference theory, by following the tradition of sufficiency, efficiency, parameter of interests, and nuisance parameters, which are the key ideas that had helped to propel classical inference to its maturity.

Faculty and Staff Awards and Honors

The Department wishes to congratulate the following award winners and honorees:

Lily Wang was invited to present at a meeting on Capitol Hill on NSF Research Funding.

Lily Wang received the M.G. Michael Award.

Kim Gilbert was selected for the Online Learning Fellows Program.

T.N. Sriram received a Innovative Instruction Faculty Grant from OVPI.

Lily Wang ended her one year selection as a Teaching Academy Fellow.

Jeongyoun Ahn was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Business Manager, Tim Cheek, was selected for a 2012 Franklin College Staff Excellence Award.

Alumni Updates

Michael Allen

PhD 1997

Michael received a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering while continuing to teach in 2011. He became the Director of Technology Institute at Tennessee Technological University in 2010.

Jeff Anderson

BS 2011

Jeff is currently a JD/MBA student at Georgia State University College of Law.

Finto Antony

MS 2010

Finto received his PhD in Forest Biometrics in May of 2010 and is currently working as an Assistant Research Scientist at UGA.

Ravija Badarinathi

PhD 1983

"I am happily married for last 11 years with two grown up stepsons."

Lee Bennett

MS 1999

"After 10 years of pharmaceutical industry consulting as a senior statistician at RTI, I recently moved to the Education Division at SAS to work

as an Analytical Training Consultant. In this position, I'll be teaching an introductory statistical course on ANOVA and regression analysis as well as an advanced course on mixed models, and will eventually become involved in the development of new SAS courses."

Jien Chen and Qin Wang

PhD 2008 and PhD 2009

Jien and Qin welcomed a baby boy to their family in November of 2012. Congratulations!

Yun Chen

MS 2008

After graduating from the Department of Statistics in 2009, Yun worked as a biostatistician in the Center of Biostatistics in AIDS Research (CBAR) at Harvard University for 3 years. This past July, however, she and her family moved to Shanghai, China. She is now working as a statistician supporting Health Outcomes in the Eli Lilly & Company's Shanghai office. Yun's husband (2009 PhD in Plant Biology from UGA) is working as a research scientist in DuPont's Shanghai office. Their daughter is 4 and enjoys her new life in the preschool. Yun states, "It was a hard decision and brought huge changes in my life. Fortunately, the transition is smoother than expected. My hometown is close to Shanghai (1-hour by train) and my parents could visit my family anytime if they would like. Both my husband and I missed Athens very well. The years we spent in UGA are really unforgettable. We much appreciate the great support and help from our teachers of UGA. " Best of luck to Yun and her family!

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Statistics News Spring 2013 Volume 6

Department Head: John Stufken
Business Manager: Timothy Cheek
Newsletter Editor: Julie Davis

Contributors: Jeongyoun Ahn, Christine Franklin, Wilson King, Liang Liu, Kim Love-Myers, Abhyuday Mandal, Jaxk Reeves, Lynne Seymour, John Stufken, Wenbo Wu, and Xiangrong Yin

This newsletter is also available online at www.stat.uga.edu

Alumni Updates Continued

(Continued from page 9)

Brian Claggett

MS 2007

Brian will begin an appointment in July 2013 as an Instructor of Medicine (Biostatistics) at Harvard Medical School, based in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Susmita Datta

PhD 1995

Susmita was elected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2012.

Hicham Elhassani

MS 2001

Hicham works for LexisNexis Risk Solutions as a Senior Director and manages the Personal and Commercial Lines Analytics and Modeling teams.

Bree Ettinger

MS 2009

"This summer I am finishing a two year post-doc in the MOX Laboratory for Modeling and Scientific Computing in the Dipartimento di Matematica at the Politecnico di Milano where I have been developing new models for spatial functional data. Next Fall, I will be a Lecturer of Mathematics in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Emory University in Atlanta."

Roy Fleischer

AB 1987

"I have been working for Truven Health Analytics, formerly the Healthcare Business of Thomson Reuters since January 2011. I oversee analytic teams performing and implementing fraud/abuse detection algorithms, data mining, provider profiling and modeling, and risk assessments for State Medicaid and federal clients. I also oversee large-scale data analyses and system modification, implementation, and operations for several State Medicaid agencies."

"I keep abreast of latest fraud and abuse trends and schemes effecting Medicaid, federal, and commercial payers; developing new algorithms

If you would like your update included in our next newsletter, please send your information to stat@uga.edu with "alumni updates" in the subject line.

If you would prefer to not receive a paper copy of this newsletter, or to update your address, email, or phone number in our database, please send that information to: records@uga.edu.

and methodologies to identify the potential fraud, abuse, overpayments, and cost avoidance opportunities, assisting in audit and recovery efforts."

Mark J Garey

MS 1995

"Since graduating from UGA in 1995, I have been working in the Telecommunications industry for both AT&T Mobility and Verizon Wireless. Currently I'm the director of a contract engineering and operations team designing and deploying Carrier-Grade Ethernet and equipment for both AT&T Mobility and Verizon Wireless. We make surfing the web possible on your LTE mobile device!"

"In addition, I married Lisa (Handojo) Garey in 1996 and have been happily married since!"

Amanda Holloway Hand

MS 2008

Amanda got married in May 2012, and is living in Atlanta, GA. She is currently the Analytics Manager at FivexFive, and has been with the company over three years now. She manages FivexFive's team of 4-6 data analysts, oversees most consulting engagements, and helps develop the project plans and analytical approaches. She uses her degree in Statistics heavily every day!

Paul Hofmann

BS 1995

"I am a senior statistical programmer at Duke Clinical Research Institute. I primarily work on Phase 3 clinical trials, for various pharmaceutical companies."

Donn Kearns

MS 1974

Donn is a Retired Air Force Colonel (active duty from 1974-2001). He is a military contractor (2002-present) currently working at MacDill AFB, FL for The MITRE Corporation.

Danielle Ledon

BS 2012

"I am working as a financial representative at Fidelity Investments & working to get my Series 7 & 66."

Li Li

MS 2012

Li began working for UPS in December of 2011 as an intern, and became a full time employee as a SAP specialist in May of 2012. "I appreciate the education from UGA, from my MPA program, and of course from Statistics Department, which prepared me for my job. I believe the students who are in the Statistics Department will find their position in the career with the knowledge, encouragement/friendship from others, and last but not the least the hope for the future.... :)"

Chris O'Neal

PhD 2012

"I am a model validation analyst, working for Synovus since June 2012. When I am not doing statistical analyses, I am outside birdwatching all

over Georgia. I am currently on a quest to find as many species of birds in Georgia as I can in 2013, known as a Big Year!"

Rebecca (Barrett) Phillips

MS 2007

Rebecca (Barrett) Phillips and her husband Matt had their first child! Barrett William Phillips was born March 1, 2013 at 1:28 am, and he weighed 8 lb 8 oz.

Jack Schuenemeyer

PhD 1975

Jack was appointed chair of the Awards Committee of the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences by the association president. The Awards Committee is responsible for four awards presented bi-annually to leading geoscientists. Specific information on the awards can be found at www.iamg.org.

Sanjay Shete

Phd 1998

Sanjay was elected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2012.

Mi Yeon Shim

MS 2010

Mi Yeon will begin working at Aviagen Group on April 1, 2013.

Michael W. Smith

BS 1983

Michael just started a job as a Program Director at the National Human Genome Research Institute at the NIH.

Weimin Sun

MS 1989

Weimin moved to New York City in 1999 to work for Morgan Stanley initially in data mining. "Most recently I work for CitiGroup at the Risk Technology Department as a Senior Vice President leading teams managing programs in building risk data warehouse and risk reporting. I am in the transition to Bank of America Merrill Lynch and will work in a front office Risk Management technology group as a Director. I married to Tracy with a 7 years old son, Benjamin."

Jay M. Williams and Suzette Fosha Williams

BS 1988 and BS 1987

"We have been married for almost 24 years. Jay is a Consulting Technical Manager for Oracle and Suzette worked at Bellsouth as a Staff Analyst before leaving to be a stay-at-home mom. We have 2 children. Our oldest just graduated from high school and will be heading to Georgia Tech in the fall."

Leigh (Harrell) Williams

MS 2004

"In August 2012, I left my position as Undergraduate Coordinator/Advanced Instructor in the Statistics Department at Virginia Tech for an IES-supported Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in the Georgia Measurement and Assessment Training Program at Georgia State University in Atlanta."

JSM Gathering Montreal, Canada

Please join us for the:

University of Georgia Gathering of Alumni and Friends

Location and time TBD.

Please watch the website, www.stat.uga.edu for updates on this event.

William R. Woodrum

BS 1985

William is the Director of CareCleric Industries, a 501 C non-profit charitable organization. CareCleric Industries picks up donated appliances and refurbishes them to excellent condition and uses them to benefit local families in need (grossly bad condition units are disassembled and used for parts). All proceeds stay in the Athens five county area to help those in need. CareCleric is currently in planning stages in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity to build a new home for one selected needy family here locally. Contact carecleric@yahoo.com to donate used / broken appliances or to make a monetary donation.



Chris Franklin, Jennifer Kaplan, and Kim Love-Myers in their Commencement Regalia

Statistics News

Department of Statistics
The University of Georgia
101 Cedar Street
Athens, GA 30602

Phone: 706-542-5232
Fax: 706-542-3391
E-mail: stat@uga.edu

www.stat.uga.edu

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We wish to acknowledge gifts from and extend a very special thank you to the following individuals and organizations who made a gift to the Department of Statistics during the 2012 calendar year:

Aptiv Solutions

Dr. Mae Mulherin Carpenter

Catalina Marketing

Mr. Jay Reynolds Cromwell

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Cromwell

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Dr. Georgia Kim Gilbert

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy B. Goodwin

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Dr. Ellen Elizabeth McSorley, Ph.D. and

Mr. Paul A. McSorley

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Dr. Thomas Phillip Ryan

SAS Institute, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Scott

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