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A Message from the Department Head

Welcome to the tenth issue of our “Newsletter”. There have been many exciting developments during the past year.

It is a great pleasure to mention that Professors Ming-Hui Chen and Rick Vitale have become Fellows of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

I am also extremely happy to mention that Zhiyi Chi and Vladimir Pozdnyakov have received their tenure this year and Vladimir has been promoted to an Associate Professor.

I am happy to inform you that Joseph Glaz and Vladimir Pozdnyakov have received the Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis. I am also extremely pleased to inform you that we have two new faculty members joining in Fall 2007. Jun Yan is joining us as an Assistant Professor and Jiafeng Sun is joining as an Assistant Professor in Residence. Jun is coming here from Iowa where he spent four years. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and Jiafeng will be receiving her Ph.D. in Actuarial Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. I will also mention that Professor Yazhen Wang will be visiting NSF as a Program Director in Statistics for the next two years. During the Fall 2007 semester, I will be visiting NISS/SAMSI as a program leader on Risk Analysis, Extreme Events and Decision Theory. Joseph Glaz will be the Acting Head of the department during my absence. I am sorry to inform you that after three years of service, Enrique Alvarez decided to go back to his native country, Argentina, to pursue a teaching career there.

The research initiatives and the quality of output of the department continue to soar. We enjoy research funding from a variety of sources including NSF, NIH, AOFSR, ONR and private companies. Several research proposals are currently under review for extramural funding. International and national visibility of the department also continues to grow with our faculty’s participation and visits at conferences and other universities all over the world. This year we have also become University affiliates of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences.

The faculty members continue to develop and maintain significant collaborative research programs with colleagues from other departments, universities, and organizations. Within UConn, we maintain strong ties with Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Finance, Geography, Mathematics, Molecular and Cell Biology, Nutrition, Pathobiology, Pharmacy, Psychiatry and Natural Resources Management. We are committed to strengthening our interdisciplinary research component. Faculty members and graduate students from Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and from Statistics meet regularly to further collaborative research on Statistical Genetics. Faculty from Genetics and Developmental Biology at UCHC, Computer Science, and Statistics meet periodically for collaborative research in Bioinformatics. Some faculty
members are also involved with various interdisciplinary programs within the university, including Teachers for New Era, Center for Public Health and Health Policy, Center for Health Communication and Marketing, Center for Internet Data and Research Intelligence Services, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering and Center for Health/HIV Intervention and Prevention. Outside UConn, we collaborate with research groups at the American University, University of Binghamton, University of Chicago, Harvard Medical School, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Princeton University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Pennsylvania, Medical University of South Carolina, University of New Orleans, M.D. Anderson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington and various intramural groups within NIH. At the international level, we are collaborating with faculty members from the Federal University of Rio di Janeiro, Brazil, Haifa University, Israel, London School of Econometrics, U.K., Myongji University, South Korea, National University of Singapore, Singapore and RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. The internship programs with the UConn Health Center is flourishing and our students continue to enjoy the practical experience we offer them. The UConn Health Center has continued to support our students both from joint research grants as well as from internship programs. We thank Drs. Nick Warren and Martin Cherniack at the Health Center and Rob Aseltine from the Institute of Public Health Research for their continued support during the past year. We are developing more projects through the Center for Applied Statistics (CAS). Currently we are running our internship program through the CAS. The list of clients is quite impressive.

Recently we have developed a scholarship program with St. Paul’s Travelers Insurance to support two of our graduate students. I thank Keith Holler, our former Ph.D., who is a liaison from St. Paul’s Traveler to initiate the program.

On the instructional side, the enrollment in our service courses continues to climb, reflecting substantially increased demand for statistical expertise in a multitude of disciplines. The graduate level seminar courses in survival analysis, statistical consulting, Bioinformatics, longitudinal data analysis and clinical trials were also well received. The number and quality of majors in Statistics and Mathematics/Statistics continue to grow. We are working with ACES and other groups towards strengthening our undergraduate major. The Field Study Internship and Undergraduate Research initiatives will aid in our effort. We have established a Minor in Statistics which attracts students from other disciplines, and we continue to foster our High School Coop program to attract students into majors and minors in Statistics.

This year we hosted a mini symposium on Bayesian Nonparametrics on October 7th. This mini symposium was dedicated in honor of Professor J.K. Ghosh from Purdue University and the Indian Statistical Institute.

Professor Emanuel Parzen from Texas A&M University was the 20th Pfizer Colloquium presenter in the Department. The Pfizer Colloquium titled “Objective Bayesian/Frequentist Statistics: My Way with Quantiles”, was professionally videotaped under the auspices of Filming of Distinguished Statisticians for the Archive of the American Statistical Association.

On April 21, 2007 the department hosted the 21st New England Statistics Symposium. About one hundred researchers in probability and statistics from academic institutions and industry in New
England attended this event. Plenary lectures were presented by Professors Nitis Mukhopadhyay, University of Connecticut and Paul Dupuis, Brown University. We received major funding for the symposium from Boehringer Ingelheim, CT and IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, N.Y., CLAS Dean’s Office, our Graduate School and Department of Statistics.

The Joint UConn-UMass colloquia have been held every semester for a number of years. In Fall 2006, our own Vladimir Pozdnyakov presented a seminar at UMass. During the Spring 2007 semester, we hosted the seminar and our invited colloquium speaker was John Buonaccorsi from UMass.

I am very proud of our accomplishments and would like to thank our faculty, staff, alumni and professional friends for their commitment to the department.

- Dipak K. Dey (Phone: (860) 486-4196, e-mail: dipak.dey@uconn.edu)

From the Director of Graduate Studies

The graduate program continues to flourish. Through a creative mix of funding sources, this year we supported 30 students. We continue to offer a very vibrant and modern set of courses exposing our students to the most exciting and active research areas in the field. The job market in statistics remains excellent. We graduated 8 Ph.D.’s and 7 Masters this year. They are working in academia, pharmaceutical industry, and financial institutes. Some of our current MS students find jobs in the industry several months before graduating.

We recruited eight new students with support. Three of them have MS degrees in mathematics or statistics. They are from University of Calcutta, University of Kentucky at Lexington, Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The remaining five students are from Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, Macquarie University in Australia, Tsinghua University in China, Moravian College, and our own department’s MS program. We have also admitted an international scholar supported by the Egyptian government. We are very proud of their accomplishments. Among the students admitted without support, at least five of them have indicated they will join us in the fall. The graduate students form a truly international group. A majority of them are interested in the biostatistics concentration program. Some of the remaining ones are mostly interested in financial statistics.

An updated Graduate Brochure, providing information about the Department and the Graduate Program, and containing application material is available upon request.

- Lynn Kuo (Phone: (860) 486-2951, e-mail: lynn@stat.uconn.edu)
We continue to attract a good cohort of able and motivated Statistics and Mathematics-Statistics majors in our undergraduate program, as well as minors. It is interesting that many of our majors are joining us even as Freshmen. Our majors continue to take advantage of offerings such as Field Study Internship, Undergraduate Research, and Undergraduate Seminar I and II to serve the Writing in the Major component.

Many of our undergraduate majors continue to go to graduate school, either at UConn or elsewhere. Since UConn will adopt a new course numbering system effective next year, our department actively worked on a sensible system. In addition, we also worked on a draft for an Undergraduate Assessment plan for our department. Our department continues to be active in the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) Program involving high schools in CT.

- Nalini Ravishanker (Phone: (860)486-4760; e-mail: nalini.ravishanker@uconn.edu)

Selected Faculty Activities

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Ming-Hui Chen is Associate Editor of Lifetime Data Analysis, Co-Editor of Sankhya, Associate Editor of Bayesian Analysis, Associate Editor of Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics and Associate Editor of Statistics and It's Interface.

Joseph Glaz is the Editor-in-Chief of Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability. He is also an Associate Editor of the Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications, and Sequential Analysis.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay is the Editor of Sequential Analysis (2004). He is also an Associate Editor of the Communications in Statistics, Statistical Methodology and the Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin.

Nalini Ravishanker is an Associate Editor of The American Statistician, the Journal of Forecasting and the International Journal of Statistics and Systems.

Rick Vitale completed his Editorship of the Lecture Notes and Monograph Series of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. He is serving on the Editorial Boards of Advances

**Yazhen Wang** is an Associate Editor of Statistica Sinica and Journal of the American Statistical Association.

**SELECTED INVITED FACULTY TALKS**


**Zhiyi Chi** was invited to give lectures at Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He also organized and chaired sessions in IWAP 06 and ICSA 06 Conference.


**Joseph Glaz** presented an invited lecture at Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, August 2006. He also presented an invited lecture at an international conference in honor of Esther Samuel-Cahn, University of Jerusalem, December 2006. He received jointly, with Vladimir Pozdnyakov, Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis, presented by Taylor

**Ofer Harel** presented invited talks at the 13th Tel-Aviv University Alzheimer’s Disease Conference, Tel-Aviv, Israel, June 2006; Boston University November 2006; NIH/NICHD Rockville, MD March 2007; the 21st New England Statistics Symposium, Storrs, CT April 2007; and Haifa University, Haifa, Israel May 2007. He also presented a Keynote talk at the 5th annual ASA Connecticut Chapter Mini-Conference, New Haven, CT, March 2007.

**Lynn Kuo** was invited to give a presentation on Bayesian dynamic frailty model for recurrent events in the topic contributed session at the Joint Statistical Meetings, Seattle, 2006. She was also invited to give a lecture on Bayesian analysis of EST data at the Mini Symposium on Bayesian Nonparametrics in honor of Professor J. K. Ghosh.

**Nitis Mukhopadhyay** gave an invited lecture at the University of Nevada Las Vegas in November 2006. Was an invited paper presenter at the Joint Statistical Meetings of the International Indian Statistical Association that was held in Cochin, India, during January 2-6, 2007. Delivered a keynote presentation (*Sequential Methodologies: Twenty First Century*) at the 21st New England Statistics Symposium held at the University of Connecticut-Storrs on April 21, 2007.

**Vladimir Pozdnyakov** presented a talk at the First International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM2007) in July 2007 at Auburn University, Auburn, AL, on robust nonparametric repeated significance tests for heavy-tailed distribution. He also presented a talk at the joint UConn-UMass Colloquium in October 2007 at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA on a Markov switching model. He received jointly, with Joseph Glaz, the Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis, presented by Taylor and Francis Publishers at the JSM in Seattle, August 2006.

**Nalini Ravishanker** will present a talk at the International Symposium of Business and Industrial Statistics at Azores in August 2007.

**Rick Vitale** presented an invited lecture at the Vardi Memorial Conference, Rutgers, October 2005 and the AMS Section Meeting, University of New Hampshire, April 2006.

**Yazhen Wang** presented invited talks at Oberwolfach Workshop on Nonparametric and Semiparametric methods for Econometrics, Oberwolfach, Germany, March 18-24, 2007; The 2007 Taipei International Statistical Symposium and ICSA International Conference, Taiwan, June 25-28, 2007; Joint Statistical Meetings, Salt Lake city, July 29-August 2, 2007. He also gave talks at the departmental colloquia in Yale University, University of Michigan and University of Central Florida.

**GRANTS**

**Ming-Hui Chen** is the P.I. on the subcontract of an NIH R01 grant for 2006-2009, an NIH R01 grant for 2005-2008 and another NIH R01 grant for 2002-2005. He is the P.I. on a grant from the Brigham and Women's Hospital on “Statistical Research for Prostate Cancer Study”. He receives a UConn Faculty Large Research Grant on “Bayesian Structural Equations Modeling with Applications to VHA Survey Data”, for 2007. He serves as a Statistics Consultant on an NIH SBIR grant with the Cytel Software Corporation for 2003-2007. He also serves as a statistical consultant in the field of trial design/data analysis using Bayesian Approach related to drug-eluting stents for Boston Scientific Corporation, Marlborough, MA, for 2006-2008.
Zhiyi Chi is the co-P.I. on an NIH R01 grant for 2001-2006. He is also a co-PI of another NIH R01 grant for 2005-2010. Under both grants, he will develop statistical methods for neuroscience. He has just received a NSF grant for three years.

Dipak K. Dey is continuing his National Institute of Health grant (with Medical University of South Carolina), on “Semiparametric Bayesian Survival Analysis”, National Institute of Health (with D. Grant, School of Pharmacy, UConn), U.S. Department of Defense, entitled, “Storage Efficient Data Mining for High-Speed Data Streams”, 2003-2007, National Institute of Health (with K. Holsinger, Department of EEB) on "Bayesian Approaches for Analyzing Genetic Diversity" and Provosts grant on CIDRIS (with P. Goes, OPIM, School of Business).

Joseph Glaz has been a principal investigator on a grant from Office of Naval Research and is a co-principal investigator on a major grant form NIH.

Ofer Harel received the Faculty Large Grant from UCONN Office of the Vice Provost for Research and graduate Education. He is also a biostatistician on the “Detection of intimate partner violence: Implications for interventions” grant from the Health Services Research and Development, Department of Veteran Affairs.

Lynn Kuo was a co-investigator of the U24 research grant for the center of regenerative medicine and skeletal biology. Her two students were supported on this grant to provide statistics teaching material and expertise in the design and analysis of microarray experiments, and morphological studies. She is also a co-investigator of the grant Directing HES Derived Progenitors Cells into Musculoskeletal Lineages, 2007-2010 (David Rowe-Principal Investigator, supported by Connecticut Innovation Inc.) She received a travel grant from SAMSI to attend the conference on system biology.

Cyr M'lan received a Large Faculty Grant from Uconn Research Foundation for his project on "Estimating Global and Gene-Specific Parameters in an Unbalanced Multifactorial ANOVA model for Microarray Data".

Nitis Mukhopadhyay received UCRF Travel Grants to partially fund participations at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle (August 2006), Joint Statistical Meetings of the International Indian Statistical Association Cochin, India (January 2-6, 2007)

Vladimir Pozdnyakov received an IMS travel award to attend the IMS New Researchers Conference 2003.

Nalini Ravishanker is co-P.I. (with John Ivan, Civil and Environmental Engineering) on a grant funded by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, effective Spring 2008 for a study on the effect of wet pavement friction in traffic safety.

Yazhen Wang has been continuously supported as PI by NSF and NSA since 1994. Currently, he is supported by a standard NSF grant on a project “Multiscale Analysis of High-Frequency Data” from 2005 to 2008.

OUTREACH

Ming-Hui Chen is the Executive Director of the International Chinese Statistical Association for 2007-2009. He was a member of the Board of Directors, International Chinese Statistical Association (elected in 2003, serving for 2004-2006). He is also an active Biostatistics reviewer for the Journal of Clinical Oncology. He has been elected to
Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 2007. He was elected to Fellow of American Statistical Association in 2005. He is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute and a member of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, American Statistical Association, the International Biometric Society (ENAR), the International Society for Bayesian Analysis, Section on Bayesian Statistics, International Chinese Statisticians Association and the Society of the Sigma Xi.

**Dipak K. Dey** organized a conference with faculty from the School of Business at UConn on, “Statistical Challenges in e-commerce Research”, at the GE Edgelab, University of Connecticut, Stamford, May 2007. He also organized a miniconference in the department on “Bayesian methods in nonparametrics”, which was funded by the graduate school. He is a member of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics’ Fellow selection committee, the American Statistical Associations’ Archival and Historical committee and Chair of the Section of the Bayesian Statistical Sciences, American Statistical Association. He is also an International Review Committee member for the Research Grant Council of Hong Kong and the Kuwait Research Foundation.


**Ofer Harel** is a member of the Planning/Advisory Committee: Pre-doctoral (T32) training program in clinical and translational research, University of Connecticut. Organizing committee for the Mini Symposium on Bayesian Nonparametrics.

**Lynn Kuo** is the Treasurer of the International Statistical Association (ICSA) Applied Statistics Symposium; 2006 to 2009. She organized a topic contributed session in for the joint statistical meetings in August 2006 in Seattle. She is a core member of the bioinformatics group who meet weekly to develop software for microarray data analysis, genetic pathway, and understanding musculoskeletal lineage.

**Nitis Mukhopadhyay** is the chair of the Committee of Filming Distinguished Statisticians of the American Statistical Association. Under his project direction, Professor Emanuel Parzen from Texas A&M University was videotaped on December 1, 2006 at the University of Connecticut under this program sponsored by Pfizer Global Research, American Statistical Association, and the University of Connecticut. He was a Vice Chairperson for the Sixth Calcutta Triennial Statistics Symposium that was held in Calcutta during December 28-30, 2006. In this conference, he also organized and chaired an invited paper session on the interface of sequential methods and applied probability (dedicated to the memory of Professor Adhir K. Basu). He is one of two Co-Chairs, the First International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM2007) to be held at Auburn University, Alabama during July 22-25, 2007. He is also one of two Co-Organizers of a special session on Sequential Methodologies at the 56th ISI Conference (ISI2007) in Lisboa to be held during August 22-29, 2007. He has been elected an Ordinary Member of the International Statistical Institute.

**Nalini Ravishanker** continues to serve as faculty coordinator for Statistics in the UConn Early College Experience (previously called
the UConn High School Coop Program. This is a UConn outreach program and now includes several high schools in CT offering STAT110. She ran the annual workshop for participating high school teachers on May 11, 2007.

Rick Vitale is an advisor for the UConn Wrestling Club.

Yazhen Wang is a guest professor at Shanghai University of Economics and Finance. He is a fellow of IMS and ASA and a permanent member of IMS and ICSA.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


**Vladimir Pozdnyakov** (with J. Glaz) 2005. A Repeated Significance Test for


(With J. Glaz) 2007. A Nonparametric Repeated Significance Test with Adaptive Target Sample Size, *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, 137, 869-878


PUBLISHED BOOKS


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**UConn Early College Experience**

The UConn Early College Experience (previously called the UConn High School Coop Program) is a UConn outreach program and now includes several high schools in CT offering STAT110. An annual workshop for high school teachers participating in the UConn ECE Program in Statistics was conducted by the faculty coordinator Nalini Ravishanker on May 11, 2007.

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**Pfizer Colloquia by Distinguished Statisticians: Films of Professor Emanuel Parzen for the Archive**

The Pfizer Global Research and Development, the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut, and the American Statistical Association have continued to jointly sponsor the prestigious series, Pfizer Colloquia by Distinguished Statisticians. Professor Nitis Mukhopadhyay from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, directs this project.

Professor Emanuel Parzen from Texas A&M University, College Station, was chosen as the 20th Pfizer Colloquium presenter in the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs. His colloquium titled

“Objective Bayesian/Frequentist Statistics: My Way with Quantiles”

(Duration: Approximately 54 minutes)

was presented in honor of Dr. David S. Salsburg. The presentation was professionally filmed on December 1, 2006, for the archive of the American Statistical Association.
In this film, Professor Parzen has passionately made the case for a “grand unified theory of statistics” by emphasizing the role of “quantiles” and by considering “analogies within analogies” within statistical principles. He speaks forcefully, “Compute frequentist, but interpret Bayesian. Statistics should enjoy both methods.” In his plea to move forward statistical education based on “united statistics”, Professor Parzen explains eloquently his view that “statisticians should be scientists.” He believes that everyone ought to pay attention to the history of probability and statistics and mentions some of the major influences that shaped his statistical thinking. One will discover the true vintage Manny Parzen captured in this film. From the opening shot to the end, the film will surely keep any viewer engaged.

Professor H. Joseph Newton from Texas A&M University, College Station, and Professor Grace Wahba from University of Wisconsin, Madison, were on hand as invited guests. During this memorable occasion, another full segment titled

“A Conversation with Emanuel Parzen”

(Duration: Approximately 56 minutes)

was arranged and this was dedicated to the memory of Late Professor Harry O. Posten. In this film of the conversation piece, Professors Newton, Wahba, and Parzen discuss many facets of Professor Parzen’s life, work, colleagues, and interests. This film ought to be a ‘must see’ for all statisticians.

Both films open with a welcoming note from Professor Mukhopadhyay. Professor Newton has introduced Professor Parzen in both pieces.

Heartfelt thanks go to the members of the national committee and the local organizing committee (Professors Ming-Hui Chen, Zhiyi Chi, Dipak K. Dey, and Nitis Mukhopadhyay - Chair).

These new films are safely preserved in the archive of the American Statistical Association. Inquiries about how to order the new additions or some of the earlier films in this series should be directed to: Mr. Rick Peterson, Education Programs Administrator, Center for Statistics Education, The American Statistical Association (Telephone # 703-684-1221, Fax # 703-684-3768, E-mail rick@amstat.org).

Prepared by:

Nitis Mukhopadhyay

University of Connecticut-Storrs

Manny Parzen
The Department of Statistics of the University of Connecticut hosted The New England Statistics Symposium (NESS) on Saturday, April 21, 2007. The purpose of NESS is to bring together statisticians from all over New England to a central location to share research, discuss emerging issues in the field and to network with colleagues. There were over 100 participants attended this year’s
NESS.

This annual statistics symposium featured two keynote talks by Professors Paul Dupuis of Brown University and Nitis Mukhopadhyay of the University of Connecticut. Their talks on “Reliable Methods for Rare Event Estimation” and “Sequential methodologies in the twenty first century” were well attended by the symposium participants. In addition, there were six invited themed sessions and three contributed sessions. The topics of these oral presentations include Methods and Applications for Incomplete Data, Bioinformatics, Monte Carlo Methods in Engineering and the Physical Sciences, Neural Data Analysis, Statistical Computing and Methods for Correlated or high dimensional data, Statistical Methods and Modeling.

There was also a special invited IBM T.J. Watson Student Awards Session and the speakers of this invited session were the winners of this year’s student awards. Based on the overall quality of the research, the NESS organizing committee selected four winners, including Jingchen Liu and Andrew Thomas of the Harvard University, Xiaohong Li of the University of Massachusetts, and Sourish Das of the University of Connecticut.

This year’s NESS was sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, the Office of Sponsored Programs at UConn, Dean’s Office of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the Department of Statistics of the University of Connecticut. With such a strong financial support, the organizing committee was able to waive the registration fees for all student participants who gave oral presentations at the symposium. Professors Ming-Hui Chen, Joseph Glaz (chair), Vladimir Pozdnyakov served on this year’s organizing committee.

This year marks the 21st anniversary of the New England Statistics Symposium. The first New England Statistics Symposium was held at the University of Connecticut in 1987 and we continue the tradition of hosting the symposium on alternate years. On other years it rotates among Colleges and Universities throughout New England.

The 22nd New England Statistics Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Law School of Suffolk University (near Boston Common). Dominique (Bentley) and Jonathan (Suffolk) Haughton will be the co-chairs of the next year’s NESS.
Co-chaired by Paul Goes, Gladstein Professor of IT and Innovation from UConn, Ravi Bapna, from the Indian School of Business, Dipak Dey, Head of Statistics Department at UConn, and P.K. Kannan from the University of Maryland, the symposium consisted of presentations, tutorials and panel discussions by over 50 renowned scholars from more than twenty universities around the world, including Carnegie-Mellon, MIT, NYU, Texas, Georgia Tech, Maryland, Cornell, Minnesota, Penn State, University of Toronto, Indian School of Business and Singapore School of Management, as well as the University of Connecticut.

“At the intersection of information systems, marketing, operations, strategy, statistics and computer science, the field of eCommerce continues to grow very rapidly,” said Dr. Goes. “The new Internet and web technologies that have been introduced in the past few years have unleashed tremendous opportunities and challenges to businesses. SCECR brings together researchers in several fields who are facing these fascinating problems related to how to deal with massive amounts of ecommerce data.”

The keynote speech was given by Yahoo! Research principal scientist David Pennock. Dr. Pennock heads the Microeconomics and ecommerce research group, and has been identified by MIT’s Technology Review magazine as one of the top 35 innovators under age 35 having the potential to profoundly impact the world. In his address he overviewed the rapidly growing application of web-based Information Markets and how the fields of machine learning and economic incentives are increasingly coupled together in the new web era. A tutorial on “Hierarchical Bayesian Models” was given by Peter Lenk of University of Michigan.

During the symposium, several interesting problems requiring advanced statistical analysis and data mining solutions were presented and discussed at length, including analyzing massive amounts of information from the growing space of social networks on the web, designing increasingly intelligent recommendation and personalization systems, analysis and design of advanced economic online auction mechanisms, strategic alignment of web operations by firms, etc.

Additional information on the symposium is available at www.citi.uconn.edu/scecr07.
The program consisted of invited talks given by Professors Malay Ghosh, University of Florida, Peter Mueller, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas, David Blei, Princeton University, Lynn Kuo, University of Connecticut, Jayanta Ghosh, Purdue University and Subhashis Ghosal, North Carolina State University. This symposium was dedicated in honor of Professor J.K. Ghosh for his 65th birthday.

This mini symposium was organized by Ming-Hui Chen, Dipak K. Dey (chair) and Ofer Harel and it was sponsored by the Graduate School and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Connecticut.

Malay Ghosh, Jayanta K. Ghosh and Dipak K. Dey at the Symposium

Spring Cultural Program, 2007

Spring 2007 saw a revival of one of the most fun and eclectic cultural events in the department: The Spring Cultural Program/Get-together! Organized solely by the students, and attended by most of the faculty, staff and student body, the cultural program turned out to be a major event that brought to the fore the cultural diversity and talent that is an integral part of the department of Statistics. The highlights of the Spring Cultural Program were mainly two: Performances and Food. Performances like singing, dancing, poetry/recitation, cultural presentations and stand-up comedy comprised a major part of the evening on the 10th of February. These performances covered a broad range of cultures like South Asian, East Asian, European and American. What was really noteworthy was the enthusiastic participation from the faculty as well. The "Colombian" dance workshop conducted by one of the first year students stole the show! With everyone's appetites reaching their peak after the nearly 2 hour long program of events, the evening gave way to a broad range of dishes from India, Israel, China, Taiwan, Colombia and of course, the States. There were exotic dishes prepared solely by the students and the faculty. Needless to say, there were very few leftovers! The Spring Cultural Program definitely made the start of spring semester 2007 an upbeat one and has become one of the most memorable events of the department that encourages the members of the department to come together in their different avatars of talent and fun!
Pictures at the Spring Cultural Program

Happy Birthday

A big landmark for our Administrative Assistant Cathy Brown.
Ming-Hui Chen and Rick Vitale have become fellows of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. This is very prestigious award for a Statistician. Their citations are as follows:

Ming-Hui Chen, University of Connecticut, For outstanding contributions to research in Bayesian methodology, Bayesian computation, categorical data analysis, and analysis of missing data; and for innovative interdisciplinary work within industry and medicine, especially in advancing the understanding of prostate cancer.

Richard A. Vitale, University of Connecticut, For deep and influential contributions to probability inequalities, random sets and stochastic geometry, and symmetric statistics.

Dipak K. Dey Professor and Head, University of Connecticut, received the Purdue University Department of Statistics Outstanding Alumnus Award for 2007. He was honored at a banquet at Purdue on March 30 for outstanding achievement in the field of statistics. He earned his master's degrees from the Indian Statistical Institute, and his master's degree and doctorate in statistics from Purdue in 1977 and 1980, respectively. For further information visit http://www.stat.purdue.edu/people/alums/profiles/dipak_dey.html

Ofer Harel became a father for his first born, Raviv Harel-Sibelman, on March 2007.

Colloquia

We continue to have a stream of excellent colloquia:

Yacine Ait-Sahalia, Princeton University
Yoav Benjamini, Tel-Aviv University
David Blei, Princeton University
John Buonaccorsi, University of Massachusetts - Amherst
Uri Eden, Boston University
Jianqing Fan, Princeton University
Cheng-Der Fuh, National Central University and Academia Sinica
Subhashis Ghosal, North Carolina State University
Jayanta K. Ghosh, Purdue University
Malay Ghosh, University of Florida
Yongmiao Hong, Cornell University
Nicholas J. Horton, Smith College
Ron S. Kenett, KPA Ltd., Raanana, Israel and University of Torino, Italy
Steven (Shuangge) Ma, Yale University
Peter Mueller, University of Texas
Robb Muirhead, Pfizer Global Research and Development
Vijay Nair, University of Michigan
Richard Nickl, University of Connecticut
H. Jane Rogers, University of Connecticut
Xiaotong Shen, University of Minnesota
Leonard A. Stefanski, North Carolina State University
Hariharan Swaminathan, University of Connecticut
Sudipto Banerjee (Ph.D. 2000) has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Biostatistics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Sonali Das (Ph.D. 2006) has accepted a Senior Researcher position in CSIR Built Environment at Pretoria, South Africa.

Deborah Diamante (M.S. 2005) has become a proud mother of a baby boy.

Huayan Gao (M.S. 2006) is working in Millward Brown Company, Fairfield, CT.

Sujit Ghosh (Ph.D. 1996) has been promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University.

Kishori Konwar (M.S. 2007) has joined Goldman Sacks, NY as a financial analyst.

Daniel T. Larose (Ph.D. 1996) is the Director of Data Mining at the Central Connecticut State University. His third volume of a three-volume series on data mining entitled “Data Mining the Web: Uncovering Patterns in Web Content, Structure and Usage”, John Wiley & Sons, has just appeared.

Bani Mallick (Ph.D. 1994) has become the Director of Bayesian Bioinformatics Lab at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

Athanasios Micheas (Ph.D. 2001) has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Statistics, University of Missouri, Columbia.

Prashni Paliwal (Ph.D. 2004) has joined Bristol Meyers Squibb as a Senior Biostatistician.

Hailin Sang (M.S. 2007) has joined the Mathematics Department at UConn for the Ph.D. program.

Yonghong Wang (M.S. 2007) is working in Discover Card Services, Chicago, IL.
This year witnessed a revitalization of the student seminar series, which now offers participants one credit for giving a presentation on a selected topic in probability or statistics. The forum gives students exposure to, and cultivates interest in, different subfields within their discipline, and provides the opportunity to share knowledge and work experiences with one another. A wide variety of subjects were covered in this last round of presentations including bioinformatics, population genetics, pharmaceutical drug trials and spatial statistics among others. An electronic student journal, soon to be accessible from the department home page, has also been created and is being maintained by Sourish Das. Insightful comments from attending faculty members Zhiyi Chi, Dipak Dey and Cyr M’lan added to the value of the experience.

Sourish Das and Baliji Raman received an award from ASA to participate at the Statistics Bowl during the JSM in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Miaomiao Ge got married in May 2007. Her husband will be joining the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UConn.

Elijah Gaioni has become a proud parent of Torin this March 2007.

Yuchen Gu is working as a summer intern at St. Paul Travelers, Hartford, CT.

Feng Guo has received a travel award from the Section on Bayesian Statistical Science of the ASA to present a paper at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Utah. He will be joining Virginia Tech after completion of his Ph.D. during the summer.

Sy Han (Steven) Chiou is a double major in Math and Stat. He got second place overall in the Calculus Competition and he also did well in the Putnam Math Competition this year. He will be recognized at the Math Dept Awards ceremony on April 18.

Sandra Hurtado-Rao received travel award to attend the “Industrial Mathematical & Statistical Modeling Workshop for Graduate Students” through the Center for Research in Scientific Computation, North Carolina State University, Raleigh.


Jennifer Slechta, a Math-Stat major was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Only 1% of college seniors nationwide are invited to join. The initiation will be held on Sunday April 22. I would like to recommend to our Dean for her nomination to the Outstanding Senior Woman Student Award (see attached Provost's announcement).

Congratulations to Taylor Stewart, who was accepted to the SAMSI/CRSC Undergraduate Workshop, May 21 - 25, 2007 at North Carolina State University. This is a one week undergraduate workshop intended for college juniors and seniors focused on SAMSI research activities related to the statistical and applied mathematical modeling and analysis of experimental data.
Michael Tosca (Bachelors in Mathematics-Statistics 2006) will join the Ph.D. program in Earth Systems Science at UC Irvine in Fall 2006.

Fang Yu will be joining the Department of Biostatistics, University of Nebraska, Omaha as an Assistant Professor.

### Student Achievement Awards for 2006

**Gottfried Noether Award:**
Yuchen Gu

**H. Fairfield Smith Award:**
Jeffrey Stratton

**Certificate of Appreciation for the Best Performance in Statistical Inference:**
Wangang Xie

### Recent PhDs and Their Current Affiliations

Samiran Ghosh, Ph.D., 2006, Assistant Professor, IUPUI, Indianapolis, Indiana.
Changhong Song, Ph.D., 2006, Statistician, EMMES Corporation, Rockville, Maryland.
Sonali Das, Ph.D., 2006, Senior Research, Logistics and Quantitative Methods, CSIR Built Environment, Pretoria, South Africa.
William Pepe, Ph.D., 2007
Fang Yu, Ph.D., 2007
Feng Guo, Ph.D., 2007
Yingmei Xi, Ph.D., 2007

### Recent Masters

Recent Bachelors

Stephen Aloi, David Andrews, Patricia Apruzzese, Christina Bloking, Meghan Carabina, Scott D'Alessandri, Jessica Feldman, Michael Grabowski, Robert Jordan, Katrina Lerman, Charles McCarthy, Wesley Mohn, Michael Muldoff, Rina Rahardjo, Ysanne Richards, Meredith Scarlata, Brian Trost, Melissa Woelfel, Todd Turton, Angelo LaBella, Serena Del Basso, Michael Tosca, Cheyenne Updegrave, Elizabeth Hoyt, Puneet Nanda, Marie Buemi, Nina Steele, Kenneth Seder, Heather Sullivan, Jennifer Goetsch, Christopher Ragali, Jennifer Slechta, Vicki Stuffle and Michael Zarrilli.

Faculty, Staff and Adjunct Faculty

Sandy Adelstein, Adjunct Lecturer sandyadelstein@yahoo.com
Cathy Brown, Administrative Assistant statadm@uconn.edu
Tracy Burke, Secretary statadm2@uconn.edu
Joseph Cappelleri, Lecturer and Adjunct joseph.c.cappelleri@pfizer.com
Ming-Hui Chen, Professor mhchen@stat.uconn.edu
Zhiyi Chi, Associate Professor zhiyi.chi@uconn.edu
Fred Dauser, Adjunct Lecturer f.dauser@worldnet.att.net
Dipak K. Dey, Professor and Head dipak.dey@uconn.edu
Anne Doyle, Adjunct Lecturer toughones@aol.com
Evarist Gine, Adjunct Professor (Math) gine@math.uconn.edu
Joseph Glaz, Professor joseph.glaz@uconn.edu
Ofer Harel, Assistant Professor oherel@statat.uconn.edu
Kent Holsinger, Adjunct Professor (EEB) kent.holsinger@uconn.edu
Lynn Kuo, Professor lynn@stat.uconn.edu
Cyr M’lan, Assistant Professor mlan@stat.uconn.edu
Suman Majumdar, Associate Professor (Stamford) suman@stat.uconn.edu
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Yazhen Wang, Professor yzwang@stat.uconn.edu
Please complete and return this form for our alumni files. Include news (professional and/or personal) of your current activities, or suggestions for the next issue of our newsletter. Mail it to Cathy Brown, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, 215 Glenbrook Road, U-4120, Storrs, CT 06269-4120 or fax it to (860) 486-4113.

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Please include some information about yourself: (unless you request otherwise, we would like to share this information in future Newsletters.)

The Department welcomes suggestions for future newsletters. Please feel free to e-mail us to statadm@uconnvm.uconn.edu. The University of Connecticut, Department of Statistics website address is http://www.stat.uconn.edu and phone number is (860) 486-3414.