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A Message from the Department Head

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

I am extremely happy to mention that Joseph Glaz received the Research Excellence Award from the American Association of the University Professor at UConn and I became the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor.

I would like to thank Professor Lynn Kuo for serving as the Director of our Graduate Program for many years.

I am also happy to inform you that we recruited Jun Yan from the University of Iowa as an Assistant Professor. Jun received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Yazhen Wang has completed his first year, of his two year assignment, as a Program Director of the National Science Foundation, the Division of Mathematical Sciences.

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 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 hosted the International Indian Statistical Association Conference.

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, Natural Resources Management, Nutrition, Pathobiology, Pharmacy and Psychiatry. We are committed to strengthening our interdisciplinary research component. Faculty members and graduate students from Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Computer Science 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 the Center for Public Health and Health Policy, the Center for Health Communication and Marketing, the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering and the Center for Health/HIV Intervention and Prevention. Outside UConn, we collaborate with research groups at the American University, Florida State University, SAMSI, University of Binghampton, University of Chicago, Harvard Medical School, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Princeton University, 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 de Janeiro, Brazil, Haifa University, Israel, London School of Economics, U.K., Myongji University, South Korea, National University of 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 Dr. 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). Professor Ming-Hui Chen has just become the new Director of the CAS. Currently we are running our internship program through the CAS. The list of clients is quite impressive.

We are continuing our scholarship program with St. Paul’s Travelers Insurance to support two of our graduate students. I thank Keith Holler, our former Ph.D. student, who is a liaison from St. Paul’s Travelers to initiate the program. Recently we developed a student fellowship program through Pfizer Global Research and a consulting program through Otis Elevator Company.

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.

Dr. Barbara Bailor who retired as the Senior Vice President for Survey Research in the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago was the 21st Pfizer Colloquium presenter in the Department. The Pfizer Colloquium titled “The Evolving American Census”, was professionally videotaped under the auspices of Filming of Distinguished Statisticians for the Archive of the American Statistical Association.

The Joint UConn-UMass colloquia have been held every semester for a number of years. In Fall 2007, our own Ofer Harel presented a seminar at UMass. During the Spring 2008 semester, we hosted the seminar and our invited colloquium speaker was Michael Lavine from UMass.

On May 22-24, we arranged the International Indian Statistical Association Conference at UConn. This conference attracted participants from twelve countries. The conference was a great success with the plenary speakers and forty-six invited sessions.

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)
The graduate program continues to flourish. Through a creative mix of funding sources, this year we supported 31 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 very good. We graduated 6 Ph.D.’s. At least half of them are working in academia. We have also graduated 10 masters. Some of them are continuing their education either in statistics or in related business and engineering fields. The others have accepted positions in industry.

This year we have processed a total of 215 applications for admissions, many more than each of previous years. We have recruited nine new students with financial support; one of them came in the spring semester. Six of them have Master of Science degrees: two of them are from our own graduate programs in mathematics; the others are from State University of New York at Binghamton (Systems Sciences), University of Arizona (Applied Math), University of Texas at San Antonio (Statistics), and Calcutta University (Statistics). The remaining three students have bachelor degrees in math including one with a double major in math and statistics, where two of them are from our own undergraduate programs and the other one is from Shanghai Jiao Tong University. We are very proud of their accomplishments. Among the students admitted without support, at least eight of them have indicated they will join us in the fall. The graduate students form a truly international group with a wide range of research interests.

I have received a grant from our graduate school with a matching fund from our Dean on innovative initiatives for recruiting U.S. graduate students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professors Ofer Harel and Richard Vitale for assistance in the proposal writing. With this grant, we plan to host a two-days workshop in the coming fall to showcase our department for master students and seniors in math/stat and related fields in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. We plan to provide: (1) presentations of our program with a special focus on interdisciplinary studies in bioinformatics, biostatistics, environmental statistics, and financial statistics, (2) short talks by alumni of our program on how they have used statistics in their careers, (3) poster presentations by current students on their research, and (4) ample opportunity for all participants, including local employers, to socialize and network.

Effectively, July 1, 2008, Professor Joseph Glaz will be our new graduate director. We congratulate and welcome him.

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)
From the Director of Undergraduate Program

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 Its Interface.

**Joseph Glaz** is Editor-in-chief of *Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability*. He is also an Associate Editor of *Sequential Analysis*. He has been invited to serve as Editor-in-chief of a *Concise Encyclopedia in Applied Probability*, to be published by Springer.

**Ofer Harel** is on the Editorial Board of *The Open Medical Informatics Journal*.

**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*. He is Chair of the national committee for filming of distinguished statisticians for the archive of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and directs the project funded jointly by Pfizer Global Research-ASA-UConn.
Nalini Ravishanker is an Associate Editor of *The American Statistician*, the *Journal of Forecasting* and the *International Journal of Statistics and Systems*.

Rick Vitale serves on the Editorial Board of *Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability*.

Yazhen Wang serves as associate editors for *JASA*, *Statistica Sinica*, *Journal of Korean Statistical Society*, and *The Econometrics Journal*. He also serves in the IMS Committee to Select Administrative Officers, and is an elected board member of ICSA.

**SELECTED INVITED FACULTY TALKS**

Ming-Hui Chen was the invited speakers at The Workshop on “Null, Alternative and Informative Hypotheses”, Department of Methods and Statistics/FSS, Utrecht, The Netherlands, July 2007; a SBSS Topic Contributed Session on “The Current Trend of Bayesian Model Comparison and Variable Selection” at the 2007 JSM, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 2007; Division of Biostatistics, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Yale School of Medicine, Yale University, September 2007; Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Massachusetts, October 2007; Tenth Annual Winter Workshop on Bayesian Model Selection and Objective Methods, Department of Statistics, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, January 2008; an invited session on “Regularization and Hierarchical Modeling: Two Philosophies for Variable Selection” at The 2008 Spring Meeting of the International Biometric Society, Eastern North American Region (ENAR), Arlington, VA, March 2008; Department of Statistics, Penn State University, State College, PA, April 2008; the International Indian Statistical Association Conference on “Frontiers of Probability and Statistical Science”, Storrs, Connecticut, May 2008; an invited session on “Bayes and Empirical Bayes Approaches” at the ICSA 2008 Applied Statistics Symposium, Embassy Suite Hotel, Piscataway, New Jersey, June 2008; Conference on “Recent Developments in Statistics and Their Applications: In Memory of Professor Yao-Ting Zhang”, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, June 2008; Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China, June 2008 (two talks); and School of Information, Renmin University, Beijing, China, June 2008.

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.


Ofer Harel presented invited talks at NIH/NICHD March 2007; The 21st New England Statistical Symposium April 2007; Haifa University May 2007; Pfizer June 2007; The Cancer Prevention Research Center, University of Rhode Island September 2007; the joint UCONN-UMASS Statistics Colloquium October 2007; and invited Symposia at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Society of Epidemiologic Research, Chicago, IL June 2008.

Lynn Kuo gave an invited talk at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China in 2007. She has given invited talks at the topic contributed sessions at the JSM 2007 and an invited lecture at the ICSA 2008 Applied Statistics Symposium. Moreover, she has given an invited lecture for the UCONN Department of Pharmacy Practice Retreat.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay chaired an invited paper session and gave an invited lecture at the First International Workshop in Sequential Methods held at Auburn University in Alabama during July 2007. He also chaired an invited paper session and gave an invited lecture at the International Statistical Institute’s Biennial Conference held in Lisboa, Portugal in August 2007. He was an invited visitor in the Department of Statistics, Oklahoma State University-Stillwater in November 2007. He was an invited visitor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, in March 2008 and presented an invited colloquium there. He presented an invited paper at the International Indian Statistical Association’s conference held at the University of Connecticut-Storrs during May 2008.


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 IWAP-2008 and a seminar at the Institute for Algebra and Geometry at Karlsruhe, Germany.

Yazhen Wang presented eight invited talks at Conferences and Workshops and seven talks at departmental colloquia.

Jun Yan taught a short course on “Introduction to Copula-Based Multivariate Statistical Modeling” from May 21 to June 6, 2008, in the School of Statistics, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China. He also presented a talk in June 2008, at the
GRANTS

Ming-Hui Chen is the P.I. on the subcontract of an NIH R01 grant for 2006-2009, and an NIH R01 grant for 2005-2008. He is the Co-P.I. on an NSF grant on “Scientific Computing Research Environments for the Mathematical Sciences (SCREMS)” for 2007-2009. 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 Statistical 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 K. Holsinger on “Bayesian Approaches for Analyzing Genetic Diversity”. Recently he has received a Faculty Research Large Grant from Center for Environmental Science and Engineering, University of Connecticut, and another grant from National Cancer Institute on “Cure Rate Modeling for Multiple Cancers with Spatial Frailty”. He is the Co-P.I. on an NSF grant on “Scientific Computing Research Environments for the Mathematical Sciences (SCREMS)” for 2007-2009.

Joseph Glaz has received an award from Taylor & Francis publishers to support invited speakers at the International Workshop in Applied Probability 2008, Compiegne, France. He is a co-principal investigator on a major grant form NIH.

Ofer Harel won the CHIP/CHCM Grant Development Stipend Competition, and received a stipend from the Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut. He is a Co-PI on “Multilevel Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa” grant supported by the National Institute of Health, and Co-PI on “Scientific Computing Research Environments for the Mathematical Sciences (SCREMS)”, supported by the National Science Foundation. He is also a Biostatistician on “Detection of intimate partner violence: Implications for interventions” grant from the Health Services Research and Development, Department of Veteran Affairs; “Effectiveness of an IMB-based intervention for Reducing Sweetened Beverage Consumption in Preschool Children” grant from the United States Department of Agriculture; and “Characteristics of Effective Job Health and Safety Committees” grant from the National Institute of Health.

Lynn Kuo was a co-investigator of the U24 research grant from NIH 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, supported by Connecticut Innovation Inc.).
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 his participation at the First International Workshop in Sequential Methods (Auburn University in Alabama), Joint Statistical Meetings (Salt Lake City, Utah), and the International Statistical Institute’s Biennial Conference (Lisboa, Portugal). He also raised funds from Taylor&Francis Publishing (Philadelphia), Pfizer Global Research (Connecticut) and Boehringer-Ingleheim (Connecticut) to support the First International Workshop in Sequential Methods (Auburn University, Alabama). He also raised funds from Taylor&Francis Group of Publishers (Philadelphia), Boehringer-Ingleheim (Connecticut), and Elsevier (New York) to support the International Indian Statistical Association’s conference (University of Connecticut-Storrs). He directs the project funded jointly by Pfizer Global Research-ASA-UConn for filming of distinguished statisticians for the archive of ASA.

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 works at NSF as Statistics Program Director.

Jun Yan was awarded by NSF a 3-year project (07/2008 - 06/2011), $150,000, on “Unified Dynamic Modeling of Event Time Data with Semiparametric Profile Estimating Functions: Theory, Computing, and Applications”.

OUTREACH


Dipak K. Dey is a member of the Lindley Prize Committee under the International Society for Bayesian Analysis and student travel award committee member of the SBSS, ASA. He was a program coordinator, SAMS program on “Risk Analysis, Extreme Events and Decision Theory” during 2007. He is continuing as a Member, Fellow Selection Committee, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 2007-2009, Member, Synergy Committee for the School of Public Health between UConn and UConn Health Science Center, 2003 onwards, Member, Biostatistics Task Force Committee, Center for Public Health and Health Policy. Recently he has become the Associate Director of Design, Biostatistics, and Clinical Research Ethics of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. Recently he has become a life member of the International Chinese Statistical Association.

Joseph Glaz served as a reviewer for Mathematical Reviews. He is also a co-chair of the International Workshop in Applied Probability, IWAP 2008, Technological University of Compiègne, Compiègne, France, July 7-10, 2008. He organized several invited sessions at IISA 2008 and IWAP 2008 international conferences. He also serves on

**Ofer Harel** is a member of the Center of Applied Statistics, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut; Biostatistics program development committee, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut; Planning/Advisory Committee: Design, Biostatistics, & Clinical Research Ethics in clinical and translational research (CTSA), University of Connecticut.

**Lynn Kuo** is the Treasurer of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) Applied Statistics Symposium, 2006 to 2009. She served as a panel reviewer for Statistics at NSF. She organized a topic contributed session in for the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2008 in Denver. 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. She is also a member of the University of Connecticut Stem Cell Institute.

**Nitis Mukhopadhyay** was one of two Co-Chairs and Co-Organizers for the First International Workshop in Sequential Methods held at Auburn University in Alabama during July 22-25, 2007. Published two Poems, both in Bengali (1 page) and an article (3 pages) in English entitled “Tagore’s Universalism of Religion”in Bengalee Association in Greater Hartford Durga Puja Souvenir Magazine, October 2007. He directed and produced two films on Dr. Barbara A. Bailar on behalf of the project funded jointly by Pfizer Global Research-ASA-UConn for the archive of ASA in November 2007. He was an invited visitor at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, for a week in March 2008 for collaborative research with Professor Tim B. Swartz. He chaired the local organizing committee for the International Indian Statistical Association’s (IISA) conference held at the University of Connecticut-Storrs during May 22-25, 2008. Along with his family, he performed in a musical concert prior to the gala dinner at the IISA conference. During 2007-2008, along with his wife, he performed in musical concerts at Worcester, Oxford, Boston (Massachusetts) as well as in Storrs and Middletown (Connecticut). He serves in the Executive Committee for the Bengalee Association in Greater Hartford (BAGH).

**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 a life member of the American Mathematical Society.

**Yazhen Wang** is a fellow of IMS and ASA and a permanent member of IMS and ICSA.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**


(With X.H. Zhou) 2007. Multiple imputation review of theory implementation and


**PUBLISHED BOOKS**


on Bayesian Statistics, Varanasi, India.


**Nalini Ravishanker** (with D.K. Dey) 2002. *A First Course in Linear Model Theory*. Chapman Hall, CRC.

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**International Indian Statistical Association Conference**

**Frontiers of Probability and Statistical Science**

The recently concluded IISA conference was sponsored and hosted by the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut-Storrs, May 22-25, 2008. It was additionally sponsored and partly funded by the American Statistical Association as well as a number of partners from business and industry.

The conference was attended by nearly 180 registered participants from many parts of the world including Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain, and Sweden and it stands out as the most highly attended IISA conference held in North America. A very large contingent of delegates was on hand from representing the USA. The participants came from academia, various centers and institutes, government, and industries. There was a large group of student-participants from several countries.

The conference included a reception-registration-mixer on Thursday, May 22nd evening. The inauguration took place on Friday, May 23rd morning. Technical program included plenary lectures presented by Jayaram Sethuraman and Marvin Zelen. A special feature was a series of lectures named after R. R. Bahadur, D. Basu, V. S. Huzurbazar, P. R. Krishnaiah, and P. V. Sukhatme. These specially named lectures were presented by Evarist Gine, Glen Meeden, L. J. Wei, Barry Arnold, and Sanat Sarkar respectively.

Additionally, there were 45 invited paper sessions on numerous topics including adaptive sample size determination, advances in statistical genomics, applied probability, associations and approximations, Bayesian analysis, bioinformatics, biomedical research, competing risks, emerging issues in drug development, financial statistics, generalized linear and time series models, high

The IISA “life-time achievement award” went to S. R. S. Varadhan, the “young researcher” award went to Anindya Roy and Sujit K. Ghosh jointly (theory) and Sayan Mukherjee (applications). Student-paper competition winners were Arnab Maity (theory) and Tyler McCormick (applications). Congratulations to these awardees and heartfelt thanks go to the respective committees who selected them.

On Friday, May 23rd, a conference banquet was attended by more than 110 guests. Local statisticians with friends and families staged a pre-banquet cultural program (produced and directed by Nitis and Mahua Mukhopadhyay) with live Indian traditional music and poetry recitations. The evening’s program was emceed by graduate students, Rohini Sen and Vishal Thapar, and it was organized with the help from a committee consisting of graduate students, Balaji Raman, Rohini Sen, and Jeffrey Stratton.

The local organizing committee for this IISA conference was made up of Dipak K. Dey, Nitis Mukhopadhyay (Chair) and Nalini Ravishanker.

The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) is a non-profit organization. Malay Ghosh and Subir Ghosh are respectively the President and the President-Elect for the association (http://www.stat.osu.edu/~hnn/IISA.html). We direct attention to Statistical Methodology, the IISA’s official journal (http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/15723127) published since 2004 (volume 1) by Elsevier. Anyone, not necessarily originating from India, who is interested in the association’s objectives is welcome to become a member of the IISA.

Submitted by:
Nitis Mukhopadhyay

Inauguration: From left to right, Dipak K. Dey, Suman Singha (Vice Provost, University of Connecticut), Malay Ghosh, Subir Ghosh, Nalini Ravishanker, and Nitis Mukhopadhyay.
Cultural program: From left to right, Debanjan Bhattacharjee accompanying Nitis, Ranjan, Mahua and Shankha Mukhopadhyay.

Professor S.R.S. Varadhan receiving the IISA “Life-time Achievement Award” from Professor Malay Ghosh.

Dr. Anindya Roy receiving the “Young Researcher Award” from Dr. Dipak Dey.
Films of Dr. Barbara A. Bailar for ASA Archive

The Pfizer Global Research and Development at New London, Connecticut, the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut-Storrs, and the American Statistical Association (ASA) 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.

Dr. Barbara A. Bailar, formerly from National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and the U.S. Bureau of Census, was chosen as the 21st Pfizer Colloquium presenter in the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut-Storrs. She presented a colloquium titled

“The Evolving American Census”

(Duration: Approximately 54 minutes)

in honor of Dr. David S. Salsburg. The presentation was professionally filmed on November 2, 2007, for safe-keeping in the archive of the American Statistical Association.

In this film, Dr. Bailar has eloquently explained how the American census has developed in depth and breadth since its inception. In the very beginning, the census was taken by the marshals when “only technology was pen and paper”. Modern census requires enormous administrative and computing infrastructures. “Computers became available after 1950 census,” she said.

Dr. Bailar spent most of her career at the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1958-1987). She fondly recalled her early tenure at the Census Bureau under the leadership of some of the pioneers including Hansen, Hurwitz, and Deming, often joined by Cochran and Hartley. She had to “learn the art of interrupting” from those ‘giants’ themselves in order to “stand one’s own ground” and “have one’s own opinion heard”. “That was never easy,” she said. Dr. Bailar was elected President of the ASA (1987) and a Vice President of the International Statistical Institute (1993-95). After leaving Census Bureau, she became the Executive Director for ASA in 1988.

In this film, one will discover vintage Barbara Bailar, someone who is soft-spoken, polite, and always convincing. She does not shy away from important and sticky issues. She openly addresses “undercount” and “confidentiality”, historically some of the most controversial issues associated with census.

From the opening shot to the end, this wonderful film on Dr. Barbara Bailar and the history of the American census will surely keep the viewers totally engaged.

During this memorable occasion, Dr. John C. Bailar III, Emeritus Professor of Health Studies from the University of Chicago and Dr. Elizabeth A. Martin, formerly from the U.S. Bureau of Census, were present as invited guests. Thus, another full segment titled
“A Conversation with Barbara A. Bailar”

(Duration: Approximately 64 minutes)

was arranged and this was dedicated to the memory of Late Professor Harry O. Posten. In this conversation piece, Drs. Barbara Bailar, John Bailar, and Betsy Martin discuss Dr. Barbara Bailar’s life and research, her passion to solve practical statistical problems and a career path that have made her a living legend in our profession. This film ought to be a ‘must see’ for all statisticians.

Both films open with a welcoming note from Professor Mukhopadhyay. Dr. John Bailar has introduced Dr. Barbara Bailar in both pieces.

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

These new films will be preserved in the archive of the American Statistical Association. Inquiries about the new additions and 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

Barbara Bailar, John Bailar and Betsy Martin

Zhiyi Chi, Barbara Bailar, Betsy Martin, Ming-Hui Chen,
John Bailar and Nitis Mukhopadhyay
Joe Glaz received the 2008 AAUP Excellence in Research Award, presented at the State Capitol, Hartford, CT, March 2008.

Fellow - American Academy Arts & Sciences

Psychology Professor David A. Kenny, an adjunct Professor of Statistics, has been elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a highly coveted spot in one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious honor societies.

According to the Academy, Kenny is one of 212 new scholars, scientists, artists, civic, corporate, and philanthropic leaders from 20 states and 15 countries to be elected this year.

“I could have never achieved this honor without the many excellent colleagues and students here at the University of Connecticut,” said Kenny, who joined UConn in 1978.

He is the author of six books and has written extensively in the areas of mediational analysis, interpersonal perception, and the analysis of social interaction data. His work is highly quoted, with one paper garnering roughly 10,000 citations. He has lectured and conducted workshops throughout the world, including in Hong Kong, Rome, Geneva, and Amsterdam. Kenny received his A.B. from the University of California at Davis and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1972.
In a news release, the Academy notes that other new fellows include Nobel laureates and recipients of Pulitzer and Pritzker prizes, Academy and Grammy awards, and Kennedy Center Honors.

**Distinguished Alumnus Award 2008**

On Wednesday, April 30, 2008, we had the pleasure and great honor to present Dr. David Salsburg the Distinguished Alumnus Award. David Salsburg, after receiving his Ph. D. in statistics from the University of Connecticut, became the first statistician at Pfizer Central Research in 1968. He is a pioneer in the area of pharmaceutical statistics. During his nearly 30 years of service at
Pfizer, he was involved in statistical problems of clinical research, toxicology, pharmacology, and operation research. He worked on many compounds, including 18 new drug applications. After continuing to work on projects across the organization, including Central Research, Manufacturing, Marketing and Marketing Research, Dr. Salsburg has retired as senior research fellow in 1994.

Currently David Salsburg is an independent consultant. He has received several prestigious awards, including: Fellow of the American Statistical Association and a lifetime achievement award from the Pharmaceutical and Manufacturing Association. He is the author of four books and over 50 scientific articles. Dr. Salsburg has taught at Connecticut College, Harvard University, Rhode Island College, Trinity College, University of Connecticut, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School and Yale University. His most recent book, The Lady Tasting Tea: How Statistics Revolutionized Science in the Twentieth Century, has garnered wide praise.

On the Distinguished Alumnus Award day Dr. Salsburg has presented an interesting lecture: Kyberg’s Paradox of the Lottery, Drosnin’s Bible Code, and Another Look at Hypothesis Testing. Following the lecture, at the award dinner, the distinguished alumnus award was presented to Dr. Salsburg by the Department Head, Dipak Dey.

The committee for Distinguished Alumnus Award included Joseph Glaz (chair), Nitis Mukhopadhyay and Richard Vitale.

Department Awards Day

Rick Vitale and Lynn Kuo received the University Appreciation Award for their 20 year of service at the University of Connecticut.
Anju Menon is one of our graduate students who won the award for the best T-shirt design.
This year's Stat bowl team winners hail from the University of Connecticut.

From Left to Right: Nalini Ravishanker, Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Balaji Raman (Winner, student), Sourish Das (Winner, student) and Dipak Dey. Balaji is also the individual Stat Bowl winner.

Spring Cultural Program, 2008

The Spring Cultural get together at the Department of Statistics took place a little later this year on 22nd March and though it was of a different flavor than the previous year's event- it retained the same zest, enthusiasm, variety of performances and of course- absolutely delectable ethnic food. The event was characterized by the presence of our faculty members as well as students who not only gave spirited cultural performances but also played the role of a perfect audience! Some of the show stealers were in the form of a song by Patrick Joyce, mathematical love poetry by Mrs. Sarah Glaz, a stellar musical ensemble put together by Professor Nitis Mukhopadhyay and his talented wife Mrs. Mahua Mukhopadhyay and a lovely inspiring slide show on India by Arijit Sinha. The food was the highlight of the evening with cuisine ranging from Middle Eastern, American, Italian, Chinese to Indian. Professor Pozdnyokov's cake was good enough to have disappeared within 5 minutes of its appearance in the Stats conference room! Another addition to this year's Spring Cultural Event was the "Statistics Department T-Shirt Competition" winner announcement. This competition was organized by the students to encourage new creative ideas for a department t-shirt. The entries were judged by members of the faculty and the winners were the occupants of "Office CLAS 314" - Sourish Das, Patrick Harrington, Anju Menon and Rohini Sen. The slogan of the t-shirt read "We
do it discretely and continuously" and now the t-shirts are worn with pride by the members of the
departments and by their friends and family as well. The Spring Cultural get together lasted the
entirely of the Saturday evening and was a great platform for everyone to come together in a lighter
avatar and share their talents and ethnic anecdotes. Going by the popularity of this event- there is a
high probability of this event continuing every year and inviting more performances and participation
from the members of this exciting and diverse statistics department.
Sandy's Retirement

As you all know, Sandy retired last semester. She has been with us since the Fall 1998 semester. We had a retirement luncheon on her behalf at Angellino’s Restaurant located on Route 195 in Mansfield on May 9th. She was presented with a gift certificate to Home Depot. That will help out with all her upcoming renovations. She will be deeply missed by all.

News from the Center for Applied Statistics (CAS)

Pfizer Global Research & Development Student Fellowship Program (January - December 2008):

Wangang Xie is a Student Fellow supporting Clinical Statistics of the Infectious Disease Therapeutic Area (IDTA) for Pfizer Inc. He is currently a Ph.D. student under the joint supervision of Professors Ming-Hui Chen and Lynn Kuo at the Department of Statistics of University of Connecticut. Wangang was a Pfizer intern in the summer of 2007. In the 2007 summer, Wangang worked with Cunshan Wang, Helen Fan, and Kately Durham of Pfizer Global Research & Development in supporting their ID projects. In December 2007, the Department of Statistics at University of Connecticut and the Global Research & Development of Pfizer Inc. signed a joint agreement to develop a Fellowship program. Under this agreement, Wangang worked for Pfizer 10 hours per week in spring 2008 and 20 hours per week in summer, and he will work 20 hours per week in fall 2008. This Fellowship program is effective for a one-year term during 2008 from January to December.

Otis Elevator Company Consulting Program (February 2008 – January 2009):

In July 2008, the Department of Statistics at University of Connecticut and the Otis Elevator Company signed a joint agreement to develop a consulting program. This program is effective for a one-year term from February 2008 to January 2009. Under this agreement, the CAS will conduct various analyses of elevator data and the Otis Elevator Company will make an unrestricted donation to the CAS. Balaji Raman has been performing various data analyses under supervision of Professor
Ming-Hui Chen. Balaji Raman is currently a Ph.D. student under the supervision of Professor Vladimir Pozdnyakov at the Department of Statistics of University of Connecticut.

**Collaboration with the Center for Nursing Research (CNR):**

The Center for Nursing Research (CNR) was established in 1991 to support faculty, staff, students, and community health care professionals in developing research programs. The Director of CNR is Professor Deborah Shelton. In August, 2007, Professor Deborah Shelton met with Professor Ming-Hui Chen in an effort to establish an increased statistical support for School of Nursing researchers. Dr. Chen suggested all requests be routed to him through the CNR. Consultations through the Center for Applied Statistics are free of charge during the academic year. Since fall 2007, the CNR has hired Ms. Miaomiao Ge, a Ph.D. student of the Department of Statistics, as a half-time research assistant under the supervision of Dr. Ming-Hui Chen. Ms. Miaomiao Ge works at the CNR 10 hours each week.

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**Colloquia**

*We continue to have a stream of excellent colloquia:*

*Jose H. Blanchet*, Department of Statistics, Harvard University

*Scott Evans*, Harvard University

*Mekonnen Begremichael*, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Connecticut

*Yulia R. Gel*, University of Waterloo, Canada

*Mircea D. Grigoriu*, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University

*Yongtao Guan*, Department of Biostatistics, Yale School of Public Health

*Ofer Harel*, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut

*Keith Holler*, Vice President, The Travelers

*Rima Izem*, Department of Statistics, Harvard University

*Kostas Kardaras*, Department of Mathematics, Boston University

*David P. Landau*, Center for Simulational Physics, University of Georgia

*Michael Lavine*, Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the University of Massachusetts

*Charles E. Lawrence*, Division of Applied Mathematics, Brown University

*Hongzhe Li*, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

*Faming Liang*, Department of Statistics, Texas A&M University

*Ji Meng Loh*, Department of Statistics, Columbia University

*Mokshay Madiman*, Department of Statistics, Yale University

*Jurg Ott*, Laboratory of Statistical Genetics, Rockefeller University

*Jayanta Kumar Pal*, Duke University and SAMSI

*Enrique F. Schisterman*, Division of Epidemiology, Statistics & Prevention, NICHD, NIH

*Naitee Ting*, Pfizer, Inc.

*Jun Yan*, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut

*Shelemyahu Zacks*, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Binghamton University
Faculty News

_Joseph Glaz_ received the AAUP Excellence in Research Award.

_Evarist Gine_, Department of Mathematics, who holds a joint appointment with Department of Statistics, received the prestigious 2008 Provost Excellence in Research Award.

_Dipak Dey_ has been named University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor.

_Richard Bass_ from Department of Mathematics, who also holds a joint appointment in Department of Statistics, has been also named University of Connecticut Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor.

Alumni News

_Sudipto Banerjee_ (Ph.D. 2000), Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Biostatistics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, has recently given a short course at the ISBA meeting in Hamilton Island, Queensland, Australia.

_Bradley P. Carlin_ (Ph.D. 1989) has become the Editor-in-Chief of Bayesian Analysis.

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

_Sujay Datta_ (Ph.D. 1995) has accepted a position at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Washington.

_Sujit Ghosh_ (Ph.D. 1996) received the International Indian Statistical Association Investigator Award.

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

_Bani Mallick_ (Ph.D. 1994) has received the University Distinguished Achievement Award in Research at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas.

_William Pepe_ (Ph.D. 2007) has joined AT&T Labs - Research in Florham Park, New Jersey.

_Hailin Sang_ (M.S. 2007) has completed his Ph.D. in Mathematics under the supervision of Professor Evarist Gine. He is joining the University of Cincinnati as a faculty member.

_Sujit Sahu_ (Ph.D. 1994), University of Southampton, recently completed his sabbatical at EPA and Duke University, North Carolina.
**Student News**

*Sourish Das* received a student travel award from the Section on Bayesian Statistical Science of the ASA to present a paper at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, Colorado. He was a visiting student at SAMSI, Research Triangle Park, NC in Fall 007. He completed his Ph.D. in June 2008 and joined Duke University as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

*Elijah Gaioni* attended SAMSI, Research Triangle Park, NC as a visiting student during Fall 2007.

*Yuchen (Gu) Fama* worked as a summer intern at St. Paul Travelers, Hartford, CT.


*Sy Han (Steven) Chiou* is a double major in Math and Stat who got second place overall in the Calculus Competition and he also did well in the Putnam Math Competition last year. He will be joining our Department in the Ph.D. program in Fall 2008.

*Balaji Raman* and *Sourish Das* became the Stat Bowl team winners.

*Wangang Xie* received the Pfizer Global Research & Development Student Fellowship again this year.

**Student Achievement Awards for 2007**

Gottfried Noether Award: *Miaomiao Ge*

H. Fairfield Smith Award: *Sandra Hurtado-Rua*

Certificate of Appreciation for the Best Performance in Statistical Inference: *Patrick Joyce*

Certificate of Appreciation for the Best Performance in Probability: *Xia Wang*

Appreciation for Outstanding Service: *Rohini Sen*
Recent Ph.D.’s and Their Current Affiliations

William Pepe, Ph.D., 2007, AT&T Labs - Research, Forham Park, New Jersey
Feng Guo, Ph.D., 2007, Assistant Professor, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia
Pengfei Li, Ph.D., 2007
Fang Yu, Ph.D., 2007, Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska
Yingmei Xi, Ph.D., 2008, Averion International Corporation, Southborough, Massachusetts
Sourish Das, Ph.D., 2008, Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Faculty, SAMSI/Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

Recent Masters

Huayan Gao, Amit Loewy, Jian Meng, Chengxia Zhou, Kishori Konwar, Hailin Sang, Yonghong Wang, Xinming Hao, Jaime L. Glanovsky, Christopher Raymond, Miguel Vivar, Jiali Tang, Baikang Pei, Yingge Qu, Tyler McCormick, Haimen Zhang and Fei Han.

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, Michael Zarrilli, Chang Soo Kim, Kenneth Seder, Heather Sullivan, Jennifer Goetschius, Christopher Ragali, Jennifer Slechta, Vicki Stuffle, Michael Zarrilli and Nina Steele.
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