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

I am extremely happy to mention that Professor Ofer Harel and Jun Yan have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. Professor Ofer Harel also received the NIMH mentored research scientist award for his proposal entitled, “Dealing with missing data in HIV prevention” for the next five years. This year, I welcome our two new faculties. Dr. Sangwook Kang and Dr. Alejandro Villagran will be joining us as Assistant Professor. Sangwook was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics at University of Georgia and Alejandro was a Post Doctoral Fellow at Rice University.

I am sorry to inform you that Yazhen Wang after completing his final year as a Program Director of the National Science Foundation has decided to join University of Wisconsin, Madison. I wish him all the best.

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, 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.

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 Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Electrical Engineering, 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, 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, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Princeton University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Nebraska Medical Center, 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, Federal University of Minas Gerias, 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 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 our Statistical Consulting Services (CSC). Professor Ming-Hui Chen is continuing as the Director of the Statistical Consulting Services. Currently quite a few students are being supported through the CSC. One of our major clients is CHIP. The list of clients is quite impressive and continues to grow.

We are active University affiliates of the NISS and SAMSI. Some of our faculties and graduate students are actively participating in the NISS and SAMSI programs. Three of our recent graduates are working there as post doctoral fellows.

The Pfizer Global Research & Development Student Fellowship Program has been extended to another year. Our Department and the Global Research & Development of Pfizer Inc. signed a joint agreement of the continuation of this Fellowship program. Under this agreement, one of our graduate students works at Pfizer 10 hours each week during the spring 2010 semester, and 20 hours each week in the summer, and 10 hours each week in fall 2010 semester.

On the instructional side, the enrolment 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.

Last year we developed a “Sandwich Ph.D.” program with universiteits from Brazil. Under this program, two Ph.D. students, Fabio Demarque and Rafael Ferias, spent part of their Ph.D. program in our department for advancement of their dissertation work. Fabio recently obtained his Ph.D. from the Federal University of Minas Gerias.

We hosted the 22nd Pfizer Colloquium by Distinguished Statisticians in Honor of Dr. David S. Salsburg on October 29, 2009. Dr. Stephen E. Fienberg, who is the Maurice Falk University Professor of Statistics and Social Science in the Department of Statistics, the Machine Learning
Department and Cylab at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was the 22nd Pfizer Colloquium guest of honor and feature speaker. Dr. Judith M. Tanur, a Distinguished Teaching Professor Emerita from the Department of Sociology at SUNY-Stony Brook, and Dr. Miron L. Straf, the Deputy Director, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., were two distinguished Pfizer Colloquium discussants. On October 30, 2009, the Pfizer Colloquium titled "Statistics in Service to the Nation" and "A Conversation with Stephen E. Fienberg" were professionally videotaped under the auspices of Filming of Distinguished Statisticians for the Archive of the American Statistical Association.

On March 2, 2010 we hosted the 8th Annual ASA CT Chapter Mini-Conference entitled “The Analysis of Incomplete Data - From Past to Future”. The speakers were Drs. Rod Little, Andrea Rotnitzky, Joe Schafer, Ming-Hui Chen and Alan Zaslavsky. The conference was sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter of ASA, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention, the Economics Department, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer, Inc.

We jointly, with the Department of Mathematics, hosted the McCabe Lecture on March 24th. Dr. Harold Schwenk, Jr. Founder of BGS Systems, Inc. presented a fascinating lecture on “Queueing Theory Applied to Business”.

On April 17, 2010, Harvard University hosted the 24th New England Statistics Symposium. About one hundred and fifty researchers in probability and statistics from academic institutions and industry in New England attended this event. Plenary lectures were presented by Professors Iain Johnstone of Stanford University and Jennifer Tour Chayes of Microsoft Research New England. Three of our faculty members presented lectures at an invited session and four of our Ph.D. students presented contributed papers.

On April 14th, 2010, Christos P. Tsokos received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Christos received his Ph.D. from the Department in 1968. He is now a Distinguished Professor and Director of the Statistics Graduate Program in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of South Florida, Tampa.

The Joint UConn-UMass colloquia have been held every semester for a number of years. In Fall 2009, our own Nitis Mukhopadhyay presented a seminar at UMass. During the Spring 2010 semester, we hosted the seminar and our invited colloquium speaker was John Staudenmayer 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 -5-
From the Director of Graduate Studies

The graduate programs offered by our department continue to be of high quality. We offer a broad spectrum of modern courses in statistics and probability, including statistical computing and consulting. In the advanced seminar courses the students are exposed to exciting current areas of research. Through the Statistical Consulting Services the students are engaged in research in many areas of science and technology and provide support to the research community of the university. We have an extensive collaboration with faculty members in medical, health and environmental sciences. Our graduate students have the opportunity to be employed as research assistants on many of their funded research projects.

Last academic year our graduate program admitted 23 students, 2 of them being supported by the department from variety of sources. A total of 55 graduate students were enrolled in our MS and Ph.D. programs, out of which 28 were supported by teaching or research assistantships.

This year 212 students have applied for admission to our graduate programs. During Spring and Summer of 2010 semesters, I have been on Sabbatical leave at LUISS University and La Sapienza University of Rome, in Rome, Italy. Professor Zhiyi Chi has been Acting Director of Graduate Programs during this intense period of the graduate admission process. Both Zhiyi and I would like to thank the members of the graduate admission committee: Professors Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Nalini Ravishanker, Rick Vitale and Jun Yan, for their hard work in reviewing the applications. Thanks are also due to our administrative staff: Cathy Brown and Tracy Burke, for their hard work throughout the application and admission processes. This Fall 2010 semester, our incoming class will include 22 new students, 13 in the MS program and 9 in the Ph.D. program, 5 of them being supported by the department.

The employment prospects for graduating students with an MS or a Ph. D. degree in statistics remain strong, even during current hard economic times. Our graduate students have received offers for good positions in academia, industry and government institutions. In the last two academic years, 10 students received an MS degree and 9 students a Ph. D degree. The prestigious positions our Ph.D. students have accepted include: Abbott Laboratories, National Institute of Statistical Sciences, IBM, SAMSI, Travelers Insurance, U.S. Census Bureau, and Yale University.

Congratulations to all our graduates! We wish them success in their new positions.

An updated Graduate Brochure, providing information about the department, our graduate programs and application forms along with instructions, will be available on the department website: www.stat.uconn.edu

- Zhiyi Chi and Joseph Glaz

- e-mail addresses: zhiyi.chi@uconn.edu and joseph.glaz@uconn.edu
There are currently over 40 majors in Statistics and Mathematics-Statistics. 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 majors continue to go to graduate school, either at UConn or elsewhere. We adopted a new course numbering system effective Fall 2008. The assessment plan developed by the department for our majors has already been implemented for three semesters. Our department also continues to be active in the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) Program involving over 25 high schools in CT.

Our majors are pursuing interesting avenues for enhancing their educational experiences. Three students carried out undergraduate research with faculty supervision: Annette Green (Ravishanker), Chantal Larose (Harel) and Pauline Takos (Dey). Two majors attended SAMSI workshops: Chantal Larose and Junghi Kim. Chantal Larose will join our Ph.D. program in Fall 2010. Junghi Kim is a University Scholar, who will write her thesis under a faculty committee (Gine, Yan, and Ravishanker (chair)).

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

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. He is also the Co-Guest Editor (2009-2010) of Lifetime Data Analysis for a special issue on Bayesian Methods for Survival Data.

Zhiyi Chi is an Associate Editor of Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry.

Dipak K. Dey is a Co-Editor of the Statistical Methodology for a special issue on Spatial Statistics.

Joseph Glaz is Editor-in-chief of Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability. He is also Associate Editor of Sequential Analysis. He has been invited to serve as Editor-in-chief of an edited two
volume *Handbook on Scan Statistics*, to be published by Springer.

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

**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. He was a Co-Editor with M. Pal of *Proceedings of the Sixth Calcutta Triennial Statistics Symposium*, Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin (2009). He was also an Editor of *Special Issues of the Communications in Statistics, Theory & Methods* in honor of Shelley Zacks (2009).

**Nalini Ravishanker** continues to serve as Editor, *Theory and Methods for the Applied Stochastic Models in Business and Industry* (ASMBI) and as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Forecasting* and the *International Journal of Statistics and Systems*.

**Rick Vitale** completed his service on the editorial board of *Advances in Applied Probability* and continues to serve on the editorial board of *Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability*.

**SELECTED INVITED FACULTY TALKS**

**Ming-Hui Chen** was the invited speakers in a SBSS Topic Contributed Session on “Recent Development of Bayesian Model Comparison and Variable Selection” at the 2009 JSM, Washington, DC, August 2009 and an Invited Session on “Evidence Synthesis” at the 33rd Annual Midwest Biopharmaceutical Statistical Workshop, Ball State University Alumni Center, Muncie, IN, May 2010; He also delivered an invited talk on “Bayesian Design of Non-Inferiority Trials for Medical Devices Using Historical Data”, presented in an Invited Session on “Methodological and Software Development for Bayesian Clinical Trials Designs” at the ICSA 2010 Applied Statistics Symposium, Indianapolis, IN, June 2010.

**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 invited lectures at the Department of Economics of LUISS University, Rome, Italy, in May 2010, at the Department of Mathematics and at the Department of Statistics, Probability and Applied Statistics of the University of Roma I “La Sapienza” in June 2010. He also presented an invited lecture at University of Napoli, Napoli, Italy, in June 2010.

**Ofer Harel** presented invited talks at University of Massachusetts-Amherst April 2010; NIH/NIAID February 2010; The 8th International Conference on Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS), Washington, DC January
2010; Hasselt University, Hasselt, Belgium November 2009; the 4th International ISKE Conference on Intelligent Systems and Knowledge Engineering, Hasselt, Belgium November 2009; UCLA October 2009; and Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel June 2009.

**Lynn Kuo** has given an invited talk on Bayesian phylogeny at the Statistics Department, Pennsylvania State University, and another invited talk on statistics analysis of recurrent events at the Frontiers in Applied and Computational Mathematics Conference at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

**Nitis Mukhopadhyay** was the Program Committee Member for the International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies in Troyes, France during July 2009. He was the organizer of three invited paper sessions on the Sequential Inference and Methodologies-I, II and III. He Chaired a number of plenary and invited paper sessions as well as other special events. He also presented an invited paper there. He Co-organized a mini conference in December 2009 in honor of Professor Shelly Zacks’s fifty years of monumental research contributions in statistical science. The conference was held at the Binghamton University, New York. He also presented an invited paper there. He was an International Program Committee Member for the Sri Lankan Statistical Conference organized by the Applied Statistical Association of Sri Lanka, December 2011, in Columbo, Sri Lanka.


**Rick Vitale** presented a paper entitled “Rotation Means” at the Workshop on Convex and Stochastic Geometry, Bad Herrenalb, Germany.

**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 on June 22, 2008, at the
Ming-Hui Chen is the P.I. on the subcontract of an NIH R01 grant for 2009-2011 and an NIH R01 grant for 2006-2010. He is the Co-P.I. on an NIH R01 grant on “Metabolomics Tools for Biomedicine” for 2010-2014. He 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 2006-2010. He also serves as a statistical consultant with Joseph G. Ibrahim (PI) in the field of meta analysis for Merck & Co., Inc., at One Merck Drive, Whitehouse Station, NJ for 2009-present and a statistical consultant with Joseph G. Ibrahim (PI) in the development of survival models with semi-competing risks and the Bayesian trial designs using meta-analytic survival models for Amgen, Inc. at Thousand Oaks, CA, August 2009 - present.

Zhiyi Chi is continuing to be a co-PI of an NIH R01 grant "Characterization of non-linear auditory receptive fields", the PI of an NSF grant "Controlling positive false discovery rate with power".

Dipak K. Dey has completed his National Institute of Health grant, (with K. Holsinger, Department of EEB) on “Bayesian Approaches for Analyzing Genetic Diversity”. Currently, he is co-PI on “Multiplexed plasmonic measurements of in vivo toxicant exposures with Ciencia, Inc. on a NIH STTR grant.

Joseph Glaz is a co-principal investigator on a major grant form NIH. He received a grant from LUISS University, Rome, Italy, to support his Sabbatical leave during Spring 2010 semester.

Ofer Harel is a PI on “Dealing with missing data in HIV prevention trials” grant supported by the National Institute of Health, Co-PI on “Multilevel Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa” grant supported by the National Institute of Health, and Co-I on “Proactive primary dementia care for patients and families” grant supported by the National Institute of Health. 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; “Characteristics of Effective Job Health and Safety Committees” and “Aging, Musculoskeletal Disorders and Work Capacity” grants from the National Institute of Health. Ofer Harel also has several sub-contracts from UCHC to fund number of students.

Lynn Kuo is a co-PI on project 3: Microarray and Genetic Networks of the grant Directing hES Derived Progenitors Cells into Musculoskeletal Lineages, 2007-2010 (David Rowe-Principal Investigator, supported by Connecticut Stem Cell Initiative). She is also a co-PI of a Faculty Large Grant: Phosphoflow and Bayesian Network Analysis of CTL Activation (Adam Zweifach-Principal Investigator).

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-AAUP travel grants to partially fund participations at the Second International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies held in Troyes, France, during July 13-15, 2009, the Joint Statistical Meetings, August 2009 held in Washington, D.C. His trips to Shelley Zacks festschrift conference (December 2-3, 2009) and the Seventh Calcutta Triennial International Statistics Symposium (December 28-31, 2009) were partly funded through the department by Taylor & Francis Group, the publisher of the journal Sequential Analysis. The same fund partially allowed two Ph.D. students, Debanjan Bhattacharjee and Bhargab Chattopadhyay) to present invited papers (joint with Nitis Mukhopadhyay) at the Seventh Calcutta Triennial International Statistics Symposium (December 28-31, 2009). He also directs the project funded by Pfizer Global Research, ASA, and the UConn for filming distinguished statisticians for the archive of the ASA.

Nalini Ravishanker received the UConn Faculty Large Grant in Spring 2010: Stochastic Models for Multivariate Time Series of Counts, with Environmental and Marketing Applications.

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 Accreditation Implementation Committee of the American Statistical Association, 2010-. COPSS Presidents’ Award Committee, 2010 -. School of Public Health between UConn and UConn Health Science Center, 2003-, Member, Biostatistics Task Force Committee, Center for Public Health and Health Policy. Recently he has become the Director of Design, Biostatistics, and Clinical Research Ethics of the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. He was the Chair of the Executive committee for the conference, entitled “Frontiers of Statistical Decision Making and Bayesian Analysis”, in honor of James O. Berger at San Antonio,
Texas during March, 2010. He evaluated grant proposals from National Research Council of Canada, Research Foundation of Chile and Research Grant Council of Hongkong. He served as an external committee member of Ph.D. committees from Banaras Hindu University, India, University of British Columbia, Canada, and Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil. He evaluated the Statistics Program at the University of Vermont. He reviewed candidates for Promotion and Tenure from the University of Michigan, University of Missouri at Columbia, the Oregon Health and Science University, Baruch College, CUNY, Texas A&M University and Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. He was elected Member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences 2009.

**Joseph Glaz** served as a reviewer for Mathematical Reviews, Canada Research Council and Israel Research Foundations. He is a co-chair of the International Workshop of Applied Probability IWAP 2010, University of Carlos III of Madrid, Spain, July 2010. He served on Scientific Program Committee of ASMDA, XIII International Symposium on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis, Vilnius, Lithuania, July 2009, and on Scientific Committee of Stochastic Modeling and Data Analysis International Conference, SMTDA 2010, Technical University of Crete, Chania, Greece, June 2010. He organized invited sessions for the International Workshop in Applied Probability, IWAP 2010, University of Carlos III of Madrid, Spain, July 2010, and for the European Meeting of Statisticians, EMS 2010, Piraeus, Greece, August 2010. He is a member of the oversight committee for an undergraduate minor in bioinformatics. He is also an affiliated faculty with Applied Genomics Signature Program, Center for Applied Genetics and Technology, Professor Linda Strausbaugh, Director, and with Booth Engineering Center for Advanced Technology (BECATS), Professor Sanguthevar Rjasekaran, Director.

**Ofer Harel** is Vice President - CT Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA); Invited session organizer (Data Confidentiality: Do We Really Want to Disturb a Sleeping Bear?) at the International Conference for Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS); Session organizer and chair at the joint statistical meeting American Statistical Association (ASA); Organizer of The 8th annual ASA, CT chapter mini-conference “The analysis of incomplete data – from past to future,” Storrs, CT; On the scientific organizing committee The International Conference for Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS); Member, 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; Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) member of the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP Center), University of Connecticut; member Biostatistics and Statistics search committees, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut; co-chair of the Colloquium committee, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut; on the faculty oversight committee for the learning communities (Public Health House).

**Lynn Kuo** was the Treasurer of the International Statistical Association (ICSA) Applied Statistics Symposium, 2006 to 2009. She is the treasurer of the International Statistical Association (ICSA). 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. She also serves on the Committee of the Provost’s Commission on the Status of Women.

**Nitis Mukhopadhyay** was one of the four co-organizers and a Program Committee Member for the Second International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM) that was held in Troyes, France during July, 2009.

**Nalini Ravishanker** served on the Program Committee of the Quality and Productivity Research Conference 2009. She continues to serve as faculty coordinator for Statistics in the UConn Early College Experience program, interacting with over 25 high schools in CT offering STAT1100. She ran the annual workshop for participating high school teachers in May 2009. She also serves in the Advisory Committee to the ECE program. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. She serves as 2010 Advisory Member of the Committee on Student Pro Bono Statistics of the American Statistical Association (ASA). She received the Early College Experience Faculty Coordinator Award in May 2010.

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**


(With F. Yu, L. Kuo, P. Huang and W. Yang) 2010. Bayesian hierarchical modeling and selection of differentially expressed genes for the EST data. *Biometrics*. (In press.)


**Dipak K. Dey** (with V. Lachos and V. Cancho) 2009. Robust linear mixed models with skew-normal independent distributions from a Bayesian perspective. *Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference*, 139, 4098-4110.


(With P.J. Neafsey, E. Anderson, C.


2009. On px1 dependent random variables having each (p-1)x1 sub-vector made up of IID observations with examples. *Statistics and Probability Letters*, 79, 1585-1589.


(With J. Huang) 2009. Partly functional temporal process regression with semiparametric profile estimating functions. *Biometrics,*


**PUBLISHED BOOKS**


The **Statistical Consulting Services (SCS)** is primarily supported by the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut. It serves as a statistical consulting resource for external clients in business, government, and industry. It also provides statistical services to faculty and graduate student researchers throughout the university and generates collaborative research with them. It serves as a training facility to graduate students in applied statistics. It provides a center for discussion on research problems and methodological advances in statistics and probability.

From summer 2009 to spring 2010, the SCS has received applications and provided statistical consulting services to over 30 projects. The clients of these projects are from Department of Plant Science, Department of Kinesiology, Office of Early College Program, Department of Family Studies, Department of Public Health, Neag School of Education, Department of Nutritional Sciences, School of Social Work, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, School of Law, NEScientific, Inc., Department of Communication Sciences, Department of Psychology, School of Nursing, Department of Allied Health Sciences, and CHIP affiliates. In August 2009, the Center for Health, Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) and the Department of Statistics signed a statistical support contract. Under this contract, CHIP pays the services provided by the SCS to CHIP affiliates between August 29, 2009 and August 24, 2010. This contract has been extended to another year from August 25, 2010 to August 24, 2011. The extension of the statistical support contract was signed in summer 2010.

The **Pfizer Global Research & Development Student Fellowship Program** has been extended to another year. Miaomiao Ge becomes a Student Fellow supporting Clinical Statistics of the Infectious Disease Therapeutic Area (IDTA) for Pfizer Inc. In November 2009, the Department of Statistics at University of Connecticut and the Global Research & Development of Pfizer Inc. signed a joint agreement of the extension of this Fellowship program. Under this agreement, Miaomiao Ge works in Pfizer 10 hours each week in spring 2010, and 20 hours each week in summer, and 10 hours each week in fall 2010. This Fellowship program is effective for a one-year term during 2010 from January to December.

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. From fall 2007 to spring 2010, the CNR hired Ms. Miaomiao Ge, a Ph.D. student of the Department of Statistics, as a half-time student assistant under supervision of Professor Ming-Hui Chen. The CNR will continue to hire Ms. Miaomiao Ge as a half-time graduate assistant who works at the CNR 10 hours each week in the coming academic year (fall 2010 and spring 2011).
This project began more than 30 years ago at the University of Connecticut-Storrs under the leadership of the Late Professor Harry O. Posten (University of Connecticut-Storrs) and Dr. David S. Salsburg (Retired from Pfizer Global Research and Development-Groton, Connecticut).

In view of the historical importance of this project, this joint initiative has been continually supported by funding from Pfizer Global Research and Development-Groton, Connecticut, the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut-Storrs, and the American Statistical Association (ASA).

The 22nd colloquium in the long-running Pfizer Colloquia Series was hosted by the Department of Statistics at University of Connecticut-Storrs on Thursday, October 29, 2009. The National Committee (which I chair) identified Dr. Stephen E. Fienberg, the Maurice Falk University Professor of Statistics and Social Science in the Department of Statistics, the Machine Learning Department and CyLab at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Fienberg spoke in the series “Pfizer Colloquia by Distinguished Statisticians in Honor of Dr. David S. Salsburg”. Dr. Fienberg is a prolific researcher, author and co-author of numerous books, edited volumes and research publications. He has held top executive positions in many national and international scholarly organizations. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences. His other honors and awards include Thorsten Sellin Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science (2004), elected fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Statistical Association, and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

In addition to Dr. Fienberg’s Pfizer colloquium, a conversation was held between him and Dr. Judith M. Tanner (Distinguished Teaching Professor Emerita, Department of Sociology at SUNY - Stony Brook) and Dr. Miron L. Straf (Deputy Director, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C.)

Prepared by:
Nitis Mukhopadhyay

Dr. Stephen E. Fienberg
Guest of Honor and Featured Speaker
In honor of Dr. James O. Berger on his contributions to Statistical Decision Theory and Bayesian Statistics, a conference entitled "Frontiers of Statistical Decision Making and Bayesian Analysis" was held in the downtown campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio, from Wednesday, March 17, to noon of Saturday, March 20, in 2010.
The executive committee of this conference includes Dipak K. Dey (Chair), Ming-Hui Chen (Associate Chair), Peter Müller, Dongchu Sun, and Keying Ye. This conference was hosted by the Department of Management Science and Statistics and the College of Business at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Keying Ye was the chair of the local committee.

On Wednesday, March 17, a series of short courses were offered at the same location.

The Courses were taught by Drs. Sudipto Banerjee, Susie Bayarri, Brad Carlin, Andrew Finley, Peter Müller and Christian Robert.

Six plenary Speakers covered cutting edge research on Statistical Decision making and Bayesian analysis. The plenary speakers were:

Donald A. Berry, Professor of Statistics and Frank T. McGraw Memorial Chair for Cancer Research Chairman, Department of Biostatistics, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Lawrence D. Brown, Miers Busch Professor and Professor of Statistics, Department of Statistics, University of Pennsylvania

Persi Diaconis, Mary V. Sunseri Professor of Statistics and Mathematics, Department of Statistics, Stanford University

Stephen Fienberg, Maurice Falk Professor of Statistics and Social Science, Department of Statistics, Department of the Machine Learning, Carnegie Mellon University

Alan E. Gelfand, J.B. Duke Professor of Statistics and Decision Sciences, Department of Statistical Science, Duke University

In addition, there were 80 invited talks by eminent Bayesians and poster session for the young researchers.
Conference Participants (III)


The conference was highlighted by a gala dinner to celebrate Jim’s 60th birthday.

An edited volume entitled, Frontiers of Statistical Decision Making and Bayesian Analysis, Co-Edited by Ming-Hui Chen, Dipak K. Dey, Peter Mueller, Dongchu Sun, and Keying Ye, was published in July, 2010 through Springer-Verlag.

Prepared by: Ming-Hui Chen and Dipak K. Dey

Faculty News

Ofer Harel has received the Career Award Grant (K-1) from National Institute of Health for the next five years. He has also received the AAUP Excellence Award (Research Promise) April 2010 and the State of Connecticut General Assembly Official Citation April 2010. The paper “Assessing privacy using AUC metric” by Matthews, G., Harel, O. and Aseltine, R. won the ASA Health Policy & Statistics Section’s (HPSS) student paper competition March 2010. He is also promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure effective Fall 2010. He is also a proud father of his new born baby girl Mayan.
Nalini Ravishanker has received the Faculty Coordinator Award for Excellence in Curriculum & Adjunct Faculty Development from UConn Early College Experience.

Jun Yan is promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure effective Fall 2010.

Colloquia

We continue to have a stream of excellent colloquia:

- **Edoardo M. Airoldi**, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University
- **K. Sham Bhat**, Department of Statistics, Pennsylvania State University
- **Joseph K. Blitzstein**, Department of Statistics, Harvard University
- **Baojiang Chen**, Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington
- **Ying Qing Chen**, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- **Bin Cheng**, Department of Biostatistics, Columbia University
- **Zhiyi Chi**, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut
- **Francesca Chiaromonte**, Department of Statistics and Center for Comparative Genomics and Bioinformatics, Pennsylvania State University
- **Yuehua Cui**, Department of Statistics and Probability, Michigan State University
- **Amrita Ghosh Dastidar**, Department of Economics, Utah State University
- **Adam Ding**, Northeastern University
- **Dorin Drignei**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Oakland University
- **Stuart Geman**, Department of Applied Mathematics, Brown University
- **Evarist Gine**, Department of Mathematics, University of Connecticut
- **Olympia Hadjiliadis**, Department of Mathematics, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York
- **Matthew Harrison**, Division of Mathematics, Brown University
- **Chiung-Yu Huang**, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- **Shu-Min Liao**, Amherst College
- **Nandita Mitra**, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania
- **Amitava Mukherjee**, Department of Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics, Umea University, Sweden
- **Margaret Short**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Alaska
- **John Staudenmayer**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Massachusetts
- **Christos P. Tsokos**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of South Florida
- **Alejandro Villagran**, Department of Statistics, Rice University
- **Richard A. Vitale**, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut
- **Zheyang Wu**, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- **Xuebin Zhang**, Climate Research Division, Environment Canada
- **Judy Zhong**, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Alumni News

Saibal Chattopadhyay (Ph.D. 1993) has completed his Dean’s position of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Calcutta. Recently he joined the governing board of IIM.

Sourish Das (Ph.D. 2008) completed his two year position at SAMSI and Duke University and has joined SAS Research and Development Group in Pune, India.

Ulysses Diva (Ph.D. 2006) now has 2 daughters: Danica (~4 yo) and Andrea (1 yo). He was also promoted to Principal Statistician in January 2010.

Samiran Ghosh (Ph.D. 2006) has joined the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Weill Cornell Medical College, New York.

Sujit Ghosh (Ph.D. 1996) has been promoted to Co-Director of the Graduate Program at the Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University effective July 1, 2010. He became a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in August, 2009 and Director of the NSF-CSUMS funded project "Computation for Undergraduates in Statistics Program".

Keith Holler (Ph.D. 2000) and his wife Kathy have had some big changes in their lives the last year or so. They adopted a baby girl from Vietnam about a year ago. Her name is Sophie. A little late to be new parents, but they are having fun. They have moved to Erie, PA, to be closer to family. Currently he is working at Erie Insurance now, running a modeling department.

Donald Kardos (M.S. 1994) has been at JP Morgan Chase for over 14 years. He has analyzed patterns in credit behavior in order to produce credit scores and improve marketing campaigns. Today, he is a VP in Credit Risk Management for JP Morgan Chase Home Finance. He appreciates the professional opportunities he has had as a result of his education at UConn's Department of Statistics.

Balaji Raman (Ph.D. 2009) is joining Fin IQ, Pune, India as a financial analyst.

Hailin Sang (M.S. 2007) has been appointed Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), Research Triangle Park, NC.

Student News

Karthik Bharath and Hui Yao are working as a summer intern at the Traveler’s Insurance, Hartford, CT, 2010.


Jennifer Boyko is working as a summer intern at Pfizer, Inc. in New London, CT, 2010.

Weimiao Guo has accepted a full time position at the Hartford Insurance.

Patrick Harrington and Arijit Sinha are working as a summer intern at the GE Edge Lab, Stamford, CT, 2010.

Sandra Hurtado-Rua received an award for attending the spatio-temporal workshop at SAMSI in September, 2009. She also presented a poster at the 7th Valencia meeting on Bayesian Statistics at Benidrom, Spain.

Junghi Kim, a MSTA major has been accepted as a University Scholar. Her committee consisted of Evarist Gine, Jun Yan and myself (chair). Her proposed thesis topic is Dependence Measures in Multivariate Survival Analysis.

Ran Liu received an award for attending the spatio-temporal workshop at SAMSI in September, 2009.

Sylvie Tchumtchoua received an award for attending the spatio-temporal workshop at SAMSI in September, 2009. She presented an invited talk at Vancouver, Canada and the Department of Computer Science, UMass, Amherst.

Rui Wu is working as a summer intern at FDA, Washington, D.C., 2010. She also received the Student Poster Award for an outstanding presentation of a poster on “The Harmonic Mean Method Encourages Over-Partitioning in Bayesian Phylogenetics (joint with Y. Fan, M.-H. Chen, L. Kuo and P.O. Lewis) at the Conference on “Frontiers of Statistical Decision Making and Bayesian Analysis - In Honor of James O. Berger” held March 17-20, 2010, Downtown Campus, UTSA, San Antonio, TX.

Yuanye Zhang is working as a summer intern at Boston Scientific Corporation, Marlborough, MA, 2010.

The following students have won in this year's Connecticut American Statistical Association Poster Competition from Norwich Free Academy with teacher ECE teacher Margaret Weaver.

(i) 3rd Place (10-12): Does the year a house was built affect its size? Trevor Rak.
(ii) Tied, Honorable Mention (10-12): Which Library Has the More Modern Books? Owen Killeen, Brittany Artale & Jeffrey Hessler
(iii) Tied, Honorable Mention (10-12): Horsecrab Size versus Sex. Christopher Livingston, Austin Thompson & Joshua Fish

Experiences at SAMSI

On October 30-31, 2009, I attended the SAMSI Two-Day Undergraduate Workshop on Space-Time Analysis for Environmental Mapping, Epidemiology and Climate Change. The program was an informative, hands-on introduction to space-time analysis. Lectures focused on developing models with applications to widely different areas of research, including climate change, paleoclimatology, and volcanic runout. The presenters kept their undergraduate audience in mind, and tailored their talks to
stress 'why' their techniques were being used, instead of focusing on the mathematically-intense 'how'. Immediately following these lectures, software demonstrations were presented that illustrated some of the techniques used in the research. Labs then reinforced these techniques while allowing students to work with the same data recently presented to them.

Outside the lecture hall, students were given ample time to ask questions and get advice from people at all levels of academia. Professors and presenters sat with the students during lunch and dinner, discussing various academic programs and job opportunities while fielding questions about graduate school and research opportunities.

Overall, I would say that the program accomplished its main goal - inspiring the next generation of statisticians, and emphasizing the wide range of research fields available. For me, a great benefit of attending the workshop was being able to put new knowledge and techniques to use soon after learning them. I would recommend more undergraduates in the department take this opportunity to learn from researchers and professors and examine the field firsthand.

by
Chantal Larose

For this summer, I had a chance to attend the workshop at SAMSI. SAMSI is located in North Carolina State, is a Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute. They select about twenty students from applicants, and fund what the attendants need during the workshop such as board, lodging and flight. But it is the most interesting that you can meet diverse students with different background. They were from all parts - west, south, north, central part of the nation, including international students; I met students majoring in pre med, applied math, economics, computer science and statistics. This was an extraordinary experience to work with people in different fields. Their learned knowledge was different and the ways of understanding a problem were different. Often, we could not understand the others’ ways of thinking.

We had lectures regarding math and statistic basics required for the modeling in epidemiology. In each two-hour-lecture, we were given the information as much as what we learn in a 3-credit-class for one semester. I was familiar with some lectures like probability and math-stat; while I was busy to follow up lectures for MATLAB programming and lectures about network algorithm used in epidemiology were interesting for me. More than five teaching assistants helped us in lectures. Those were taught by staffs at SAMSI, or graduate students from NCSU, NCU, and Duke. Some staffs at SAMSI were a geologist or a climatologist who do not have math-stat background. They explained that we were supposed to cooperate with unfamiliar people having different knowledge like a geologist or a climatologist. Every lunch time, we had talks with the staffs and the grad students and could understand how statisticians work and research forward in real world. We also had a meeting with professionals engaging in SAS, Glaxosmithkline, FDA and WHO. The last part of the workshop was teamwork. Given raw data, we had to create any results. Each team was composed of attendants with different background. It was hard to integrate all ideas origin from different fields. I felt it might be real work of statisticians. The teamwork project was small and cute but realistic and hard.

At SAMSI, I could meet many friends who I shared my thinking with. And I realize that there are still a lot of things that I should understand and integrate beyond classwork. It was a great experience.

by
Junghi Kim
Student Achievement Awards for 2009

Gottfried Noether Award:  Hongwei Shang  
H. Fairfield Smith Award:  Hongwei Shang

Recent Ph.D.’s and Their Current Affiliations

William Pepe, Ph.D., 2007, AT&T. 
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., 2007, Averion International Corporation, Southborough, Massachusetts
Sourish Das, Ph.D., 2007, Postdoctoral Fellow/Visiting Faculty, SAMSI/Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.
Wangang Xie, Ph.D., 2009, Statistician, Abbott Laboratories, Illinois
Yifang Zhao, Ph.D., 2009
Xia Wang, Ph.D., 2009, Postdoctoral Fellow, National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), North Carolina
Jian Zou, Ph.D., 2009, Postdoctoral Fellow, National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), North Carolina
Elijah Gaioni, Ph.D., 2009, Postdoctoral Fellow, IBM, T.J. Watson, New York
Patrick Joyce, Ph.D., 2009, Mathematical Statistician, Bureau of Census, Washington, D.C.
Balaji Raman, Ph.D., 2009, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, Yale University
Xia Wang, Ph.D. 2009, Postdoctoral Fellow, NISS, North Carolina
Jian Zou, Ph.D., 2009, Postdoctoral Fellow, NISS, North Carolina
Balaji Raman, Ph.D. 2009, Lecturer, Yale University, Connecticut
Yuchen Fama, Ph.D., 2010.

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, Fei Han, Chen Zhang, Weimiao Guo, Xia Wang, Rohini Sen, Adam Ostrowski, I-Husan Chen, Sixing Chen, Daniel Gildengorin, Han Chen, Suman
Recent Bachelors

Stephen Aloi, David Andrews, Patricia Apruzzese, Christina Bloking, Meghan Carabina, Scott D'Alessandrino, 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, Nina Steele, Joseph DeMello, Wesley Paprzyca, Shawn Mayers, Erin Pryor, Taylor Stewart, Loren Thompson, Aaron Woomer, Jason Liu, Ross Yudowitch, Thomas Legere, Brian Lievens, Tiffany Chang, Annette Green, Chantal Larose, Michael Bostwick, Yonatan Demissie and Jennifer Fusci.

Faculty, Staff and Adjunct Faculty

Robert Apruzzese, Adjunct Lecturer
Cathy Brown, Administrative Assistant
Tracy Burke, Secretary
Joseph Cappelleri, Lecturer and Adjunct
Ming-Hui Chen, Professor
Zhiyi Chi, Associate Professor
William Congero, Adjunct Lecturer
Dipak K. Dey, Professor and Head
Evarist Gine, Adjunct Professor (Math)
Joseph Glaz, Professor and Associate Head
Ofer Harel, Assistant Professor
Kent Holsinger, Adjunct Professor (EEB)
Lynn Kuo, Professor
Cyr M’lan, Assistant Professor
Suman Majumdar, Associate Professor (Stamford)
Kate McLaughlin, Adjunct Lecturer
Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Professor
Vladimir Pozdnyakov, Associate Professor (Hartford)
Nalini Ravishanker, Professor
Bonnie Ray, Adjunct Associate Professor
Gautam Tripathi, Adjunct Associate Professor (Economics)
Richard Vitale, Professor
Stephen Walsh, Adjunct
Jun Yan, Assistant Professor

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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.

Name _______________________________ Degree(s) and year(s)_______________________

Residence__________________________________ Home Phone________________________

City, State, Zip_________________________________________________________________

Position ______________________________________________________________________

Business Address ______________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________________________________________

Business Phone ______________________________Fax Number________________________

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