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A Message from the Department Head

I am extremely happy to welcome this year, our two new faculties, Dr. Sangwook Kang and Dr. Alejandro Villagran 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 before they moved to UConn. I am extremely happy to mention that Dr. Zhiyi Chi has been promoted to the rank of Professor. I am extremely happy to inform you that Professor Joseph Glaz has been elected to Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences in March 2011. I am also happy to inform you that Ofer Harel received the 2010 AAUP Research Promise Excellence Award and Ming-Hui Chen has become a new member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Bayesian Analysis (ISBA). After serving our department as a Head for 14 years, I have decided to step down from my position. I will be joining as an Associate Dean of research and for physical science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Joseph Glaz has been appointed Department Head for a period of five years, effective July 1, 2011.

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.

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 Binghamton, University of Chicago, Harvard Medical School, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Princeton University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Nebraska Medical Center,
At the international level, we are collaborating with faculty members from the Federal University of Rio di Janeiro, Federal University of Campinas, Federal University of Minas Gerias, Brazil, Haifa University, Israel, 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 (SCS). Professor Ming-Hui Chen is continuing as the Director of the Statistical Consulting Services. Currently quite a few students are being supported through the SCS. One of our major clients is CHIP. The list of clients is quite impressive and continues to grow.

We are continuing as an 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. Various undergraduate students also participated at the summer programs of SAMSI.

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 worked at Pfizer 10 hours each week in fall 2010 semester, 10 hours each week during the spring 2011 semester, and 20 hours each week in the summer. The contract is just renewed for another year with a new student.

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.

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.

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.

We jointly, with the Department of Mathematics, hosted the second McCabe Lecture on April 13, 2011. Dr. Cleve Moler, Chairman and Chief Scientist of the Mathworks Company, which produces the MATLAB products, presented a fascinating lecture on “The Evolution of Matlab”.

The Joint UConn-UMass colloquia have been held every semester for a number of years. In fall 2010, our own Jun Yan presented a seminar at UMass. During the spring 2011 semester, we hosted the seminar and our invited colloquium speaker was Krista Gile from UMass.

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

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

From the Directors of the Graduate Program

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 24 students were admitted to our graduate program, 6 of them being supported by the department from variety of sources. A total of 72 graduate students were enrolled in our MS and Ph.D. programs, out of which 35 were supported by teaching or research assistantships.

This year over 304 students applied for admission to our graduate programs. Both Zhiyi and I would like to thank the members of the graduate admission committee: Professors Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Vladimir Pozdnyakov, 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 2011 semester, our incoming class will include 39 new students, 31 in the MS program and 8 in the Ph.D. program, 6 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 16 students received an MS degree and 8 students a Ph. D degree. The prestigious positions our Ph. D. students have accepted in the last few years include: Abbott Laboratories, National Institute of Health, National Institute of Statistical Sciences, IBM, SAMSI, Travelers Insurance, U.S. Census Bureau, Cornel Medical School, University of Massachusetts, Duke University 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

From the Director of Undergraduate Program

The Undergraduate Program has been seeing unprecedented growth, with nearly 60 majors in Statistics and Mathematics-Statistics. While this has enormously increased my advising burden as the Undergraduate Program Director, it is also gratifying to see a growing interest amongst students in studying our discipline. Perhaps in sync with a national trend, students at UConn seem to be showing a desire to incorporate statistics into their major or minor plan of study, or in their coursework. This of course creates a very high demand for almost all our undergraduate courses. Also, a growing number of our majors are honors students, and we are now exploring more options for facilitating honors coursework in the department.

Our majors continue to explore and benefit from the courses such as Field Study Internship and Undergraduate Research. This year, two students, Junghi Kim and Julie Silva presented their research as posters at the FURASH 2011. Junghi Kim graduated this June as a University Scholar. To quote from a UConn writeup – “Graduation as a University Scholar is considered the highest academic honor the University bestows on undergraduate students. No more than thirty University Scholars are selected each year.” Junghi was a Mathematics-Statistics major; she wrote a thesis on statistical analysis of recurrent survival times (Gine, Ravishanker (chair), Yan), and will join the graduate program at University of Minnesota Biostatistics in Fall 2011. Junghi also received a department award commending her for outstanding undergraduate level performance.

We congratulate all our majors graduating in 2011 – and we wish them success in all their future endeavors.
We are happy to report that the Early College Experience (ECE) program, which provides an interaction between UConn and CT high schools, also shows healthy growth and activity. I continue to serve as the Statistics Faculty Coordinator for the program, and currently coordinate about 25 high schools, 50 teachers, and the STAT1100 course was offered at their high schools for about 530 students last year.

The Undergraduate Brochure, providing information for our majors and minors, and forms useful for various things, are all available on the department website: www.stat.uconn.edu

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

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Selected Faculty Activities

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Ming-Hui Chen is Editor of *Bayesian Analysis*, Associate Editor of *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Associate Editor of *Lifetime Data Analysis*, Co-Editor of *Sankhya*, Associate Editor of *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, and Associate Editor of *Statistics and Its Interface*. He was 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 an Invited Guest Editor for the special issue on Spatial Statistics with Sudipto Banerjee for the journal *Statistical Methodology*. He is also an Associate Editor of *Communications in Statistics, Statistical Methodology* and the *Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin*. He is the Chair for 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.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay is the Editor of *Sequential Analysis* (2004) and an Invited Guest Editor for the *Sri Lankan Journal of Applied Statistics* (SLJAS). He is an Associate Editor of the *Communications in Statistics, Statistical Methodology* and the *Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin*. He is also the Co-Guest Editor (2009-2010) of *Lifetime Data Analysis* for a special issue on Bayesian Methods for Survival Data.

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

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 Biopharm Topic Contributed Session on “Evidence Synthesis in Drug Development” at the 2010 JSM, Vancouver, BC, Canada, August 2010, an Invited Session on “Bayesian Theory and Method” at the 8th ICSA International Conference, Guangzhou University, Guangzhou, China, December 2010, and an invited session on “Bayesian Clinical Trials in Practice: When Rubber Meets the Road” at The 2011 Spring Meeting of the International Biometric Society, Eastern North American Region (ENAR), Miami, FL, March 2011. He also delivered an invited talk on “Properties, Implementation, and Application of Jeffreys's Prior in Binomial Regression Models” at Department of Mathematics, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, December 2010 and an invited talk on “Bayesian Meta-Experimental Design: Evaluating Cardiovascular Risk in New Antidiabetic Therapies to Treat Type 2 Diabetes” at Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Boston University, MA, March 2011.

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 Probability and Applied Statistics, University of Roma I “La Sapienza” and Department of Mathematics, University of Napoli, Napoli, Italy, June 2010. He also presented an invited lecture at International Workshop in Applied Probability, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain, July 2010.

Ofer Harel presented invited talks at the 5th Annual International Conference on Mathematics & Statistics, Athens, Greece June 2011; Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel May 2011; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel May 2011; the Modern Modeling Methods (M3) Conference, Storrs, CT May 2011; the Statistical Center for HIV/AIDS Research and Prevention (SCHARP), Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA April 2011; the 10th Conference on Health Survey Research Methods, Atlanta, GA April, 2011; the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society, Miami, FL March, 2011; the Biostatistics seminar UCLA, Los Angeles, CA January, 2011; the Statistics in AIDS seminar UCLA, Los Angeles, CA January, 2011; and the Missing data approaches in the health and social sciences: a modern survey meeting, McGill University
Sangwook Kang has given invited talks on “Additive Hazards Models for Case-cohort Studies with Multiple Disease Outcomes” at the Center for Statistical Sciences, Brown University in February 2011, and on “Marginal Hazards Regression for Retrospective Studies within Cohort with Possibly Correlated Failure Time Data” at the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Texas Tech University in April 2009. He also has presented an invited talk on “Marginal Hazards Model for Case-cohort Studies with Multiple Disease Outcomes” at the ICSA 2009 Applied Statistics Symposium, San Francisco, CA, June 2009.


David Kenny presented a paper entitled “Do we know how much others like us?” at the Department of Psychology, St. John’s University, New York, December 2011 and presented an invited address entitled “DataToText: A Consumer Oriented Approach to Data Analysis,” at the 22nd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Society, June 2010, Boston MA.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay presented a series of specially invited lectures at Dortmund University, Germany (June 27-July 3, 2010). Was a Program Committee Member for the International Workshop in Applied Probability (IWAP) held in Madrid, Spain, organizer of two invited paper sessions on the interface of sequential methodologies and applied probability, and presented an invited paper (July 4-8, 2010). Gave a major invited address at the German Statistical Society’s conference held in Nuremberg (September 2010). Presented invited statistics colloquia at the Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis (October 2010), University of Georgia-Athens (November 2010), University of Calcutta, India (January 2011), and two invited colloquia at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, India (January, 2011). Gave the invited keynote address at the Annual General Meeting for the Applied Statistical Association of Sri Lanka held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (January 2011). Also presented another specially organized statistics colloquium invited by the President, Applied Statistical Association of Sri Lanka held in Colombo, Sri Lanka (January 2011). Chaired a special colloquia series in probability and statistics held at the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta (January 2011). Chaired an invited paper session during the 25th New England Statistics Symposium held at the University of Connecticut-Storrs (April 16, 2011). Has organized a large number of invited paper sessions including “Graduate Students’ Window with Views: Sequential Estimation” where three Ph.D. students (Debanjan Bhattacharjee, Bhargab Chattopadhyay, and Sankha Perera) from UConn-Storrs have presented invited papers (prepared jointly with Mukhopadhyay) at the Third International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM 2011) which was held at Stanford University, California (June 14-16, 2011).

Nalini Ravishanker has presented invited talks at the Indian Council of Medical Research, Indian Institute of Technology, University of Madras, National Management School, and MOP Vaishnav College for Women, all in Chennai, India, between October and November 2010; in Pune University, Pune, Bharatidasan Institute of Management, Trichy, and the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, all in November 2010; and at YIRCoBL conference in Istanbul, Turkey in June 2011.

In January 2011, preceding his sabbatical semester, Richard Vitale gave a short course entitled "On the Interplay of Geometry and Probability" in the Department of Decision Sciences at Bocconi University in Milan. This was at the invitation of Marco Bonetti, who received his PhD from our department in 1996 with Rick as his advisor. For the remainder of his sabbatical semester, Rick was in residence as a Visiting Fellow in the Department of Statistics, Yale University. He team-taught a course entitled "Probabilistic Convex Geometry" with Mokshay Madiman of the Yale Department.

Alejandro Villagran gave an invited talk in the SACNAS national conference, Anaheim, CA, October 2010. He chaired a session at the New England Statistics Symposium, CT, April 2011. He also gave a presentation at the ECE statistics workshop, CT, May 2011.

Jun Yan presented "Nonparametric rank-based tests of bivariate extreme-value dependence" at the Joint UMass-UConn Colloquium on October 2010 at UMass. He also presented "Augmented estimating equations for semiparametric panel count regression with informative censoring" in March 2011 at the ENAR Spring Meeting in Miami. He co-taught a short course "Introduction to Theory and Practice of Copulas" with Ivan Kojadinovic at the 25th New England Statistical Symposium during April 2001, at Storrs. The short course had over 20 participants with various background, from seasoned statisticians to undergraduate students. It was taught with his R package on copulas. Many participants liked it.

**GRANTS**

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 2006-2012. He is also a statistical analyst working with Joseph G. Ibrahim (PI) for Merck’s projects on meta analysis, Amgen’s projects on survival models with semi-competing risks and the Bayesian trial designs using meta-analytic survival models, and Novartis’s project on missing data models for informative treatment switching or dropout.

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 is Co-PI with M. Lynes on a NIH grant entitled, “Protein Microarray System for Rheumatoid Arthritis”, from 2010-2012. He has also received a Faculty Research Grant, from the Center for
Environmental Science and Engineering, University of Connecticut.

Joseph Glaz is a Co-PI on a major grant form NIH. He received a Faculty Large Grant for a proposal entitled *Variable Window Scan Statistics for the Mean of Normal Distribution for One and Two Dimensional Data*.

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 subcontracts from UCHC to fund number of students.

Sangwook Kang is the P.I. on the subcontract of an NIH R01 grant for 2010-2014.

Lynn Kuo is a co-investigator of the grant Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need: Materials Science and Engineering supported by the Department of Education (PI: Mei Wei). She is also a co-PI of the Intermediate Research Equipment Competition Award: Cluster Machine for Multi-Disciplinary Biomedical Computing supported by University of Connecticut Research Foundation (PI: Dong-Guk Shin).

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 travel grants from UCRF-AAUP and Taylor & Francis to partially fund participations at the International Workshop in Applied Probability held in Madrid, Spain (July 2010), the Joint Statistical Meetings held in Vancouver, Canada (August 2010), the meetings and colloquia trips to India and Sri Lanka (January 2011). The invited trips to Dortmund University, Germany (July 2010) and to the German Statistical Society’s conference held in Nuremberg (September 2010) were respectively funded by the host institutions and the associations.


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”.

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OUTREACH

Ming-Hui Chen is a member of the Board of Directors, Zhejiang University Alumni Association (elected in 2011) and a member of the Board of Directors, International Society for Bayesian Analysis, (elected in 2010 and serving for 2011-2013) and the Scientific Committee of the ISBA 2012 World Meeting, which will be held in Kyoto, Japan, June 25-29, 2012. He is a member of the Section on Bayesian Statistical Sciences (SBSS) Committee on Nominations (2009-2011). He was the Executive Director of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) for 2007-2010. He is also the Chair of the ICSA Publication Committee (2011). He was the coordinator of the scientific program committee for the 2010 ICSA International Conference. Currently, he serves as a member of the executive committee of the 2012 ICSA Annual Applied Statistics Symposium. He was the Publications Officer, Section on Bayesian Statistical Sciences (SBSS), American Statistical Association, Elected in 2007, Serving for 2008-2009. He was a member of the Board of Directors, International Chinese Statistical Association (elected in 2003 and serving for 2004-2006). He is an Adjunct Faculty in the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University (2007 --- Present, http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu/Faculty.php#AFDir). He is an active Biostatistics reviewer for the Journal of Clinical Oncology. He is also serving on the NIH Special Emphasis Panels in 2011.

Dipak K. Dey is a Member, Accreditation Implementation Committee of the American Statistical Association, 2010-, COPSS Presidents’ Award Committee, 2010-2012, SBSS constitution committee, 2010. He is the chair of the International advisory board of the ISBA meeting in Varanasi, India. At Uconn, he is a Member, Core Research Group of the Center for Health Communication and Marketing. He is also a member, Advisory Committee of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Fellow, Institute for Public Health Research and a Member, Selection committee for the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, 2010-2012. Recently, he became a honorary professor of Benares Hindu University at Varanasi, India. He also obtained professional statistician certificate (P. Stat.) from American Statistical Association in 2010.

Joseph Glaz served as a reviewer for Mathematical Reviews and National Security Agency. He served as co-chair at the International Workshop of Applied Probability IWAP 2010, University of Carlos III of Madrid, Spain, July 2010. He is a member of: Scientific Program Committee of ASMDA, XIV International Symposium on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis, Rome, Italy, June 2011, Scientific Program Committee of Markov and semi-Markov Processes and Related Fields, MSMPRF 2011, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, September, 2011, International Advisory Board, 7th International Conference on Stereology, Spatial Statistics and Stochastic Geometry, S4G 2010, Prague, Czech Republic, June 2012. He is a co-chair of the International Workshop of Applied Probability IWAP 2012, Tel Aviv, Israel, June 2012. He organized invited sessions at the International Workshop in Applied Probability, IWAP 2010, University of Carlos III of Madrid, Spain, July 2010, and 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
Ofer Harel is President - CT chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA); 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 Donagheue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy (TRIPP Center), University of Connecticut; member Statistics Head search committee, 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); judge at the Statistical Poster Competition of the Connecticut chapter of the American Statistical Association; and a session chair at the Eastern North American Region (ENAR) of the International Biometric Society (IBS) meeting.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay is the Vice-President of the Calcutta Statistical Association, Calcutta, India. Has organized an invited paper session at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Miami, Florida under the Statistics and Environment Section of the American Statistical Association (August 2011). He is one of three Co-Chairs and Organizers for the Third International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM 2011) that will be held at Stanford University, California (June 14-16, 2011). Also, one of the main organizers for “Statistical Concepts and Methods for the Modern World: An International Conference” hosted by the Applied Statistical Association of Sri Lanka to be held at the Water Edge, Colombo, Sri Lanka and will present a pre-conference workshop on sequential methodologies (December 28-30, 2011). Has been the Editor-in-Chief: Durga Puja Souvenir Magazine on behalf of the Bengalee Association of Greater Hartford (BAGH, Inc.: Registered, Tax-deductible, and Not-for-profit), 2008-2010. Has published extensively on literary and musical matters in these magazines as well as other leading magazines in the USA and India.

Nalini Ravishanker will serve as the Chair of the Publications Committee of the International Statistics Institute (ISI) effective August 2011. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), serves in the 2011-2013 ASA B&ES Section Student Award Committee, and continues to serve as Advisory Member of the Committee on Student ProBono Statistics of ASA. She continues to serve as faculty coordinator for Statistics in the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) program, and ran the annual workshop for participating high school teachers in May 2011. She also serves on the grant applications for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research Centers: Special Interest Project Competitive Supplements.
Advisory Committees to the UConn ECE program and the UConn Q Center.

Alejandro Villagran served as a reviewer for undergraduate and graduate abstracts at the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Sciences (SACNAS), May 2011.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS


(With X.H. Zhou) 2007. Multiple imputation review of theory implementation and software. Statistics in Medicine, 26 (16), 3057-3077. DOI: 10.1002/sim.2787


(With A. Snook, E.M. Boucher and J. Hancock) 2010. Interpersonal sensitivity and stereotype accuracy: was Snodgrass right after all? Psychological Science, 21, 1735-1739.


(With W. Xie, P.O. Lewis, Y. Fan and M-H Chen) 2011. Improving marginal likelihood
estimation for Bayesian phylogenetic model selection. Systematic Biology, V. 60(2), 150-160.

**Suman Majumdar** 2007. Uniform $L_1$ posterior consistency in compact Gaussian shift experiments. Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference, 137, 2102-2114.


**Nitis Mukhopadhyay** 2010. On a new sharper lower bound for a percentile of a Student’s $t$ distribution with an application. Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability, 12, 609-622.


(With H. Zhou, J. N. Ivan and A. W. Sadek) 2010. Safety effects of exclusive left-turn lanes at unsignalized intersections and


**PUBLISHED BOOKS**


Ofer Har'el 2009. Strategies for Data Analysis with Two Types of Missing Values: From Theory to Application. Lambert Academic Publishing.


Department Awards

Farewell to Dipak K. Dey. Promoted to Associate Dean and 25 years of service.
Joseph Glaz and Cathy Brown with 30 years of service.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay with 25 years of service.

From the Director of the Statistical Consulting Services (SCS)

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 2010 to spring 2011, the SCS has received applications and provided statistical consulting services to over 23 projects. The clients of these projects are from Department
of Plant Science, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, Department of Kinesiology, Department of Communication Sciences, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Department of Psychology, Department of Family Studies, Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science, School of Social Work, Department of Psychology, Department of Allied Health Sciences, CHIP affiliates, and Grubb & Ellis Property Management Services. 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 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 fall 2010, 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 2011 and 20 hours each week in summer.

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 2011, 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. As Miaomiao Ge will graduate in August 2011, the CNR hires Ms. Danjie Zhang as Miaomiao Ge’s replacement to work at the CNR 10 hours each week as a half-time graduate assistant in fall 2011.

CT Chapter of ASA

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association was established in 1933. In its core, the Connecticut Chapter of the ASA has sought opportunities for chapter members to increase their involvement in professional activities at the local level.

Each year the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association sponsors an annual mini-conference for professionals from academia, industry and other research areas to discuss the emerging statistical challenges. This year the Program Committee chair of the 9th annual Mini-Conference (March 8th 2011) was Wei Zhang. It was a very successful and important event in our community and was attended by over 100 participants. This year the following recognized experts in “Analysis of Time-to-Event Data” shared knowledge and expertise:

Dr. Donald Berry, from M.D. Anderson, on Bayesian Adaptive Designs for Clinical Trials with Time to Event Endpoints;
Dr. Cyrus Mehta, from Cytel, on Adaptive Sample Size Re-estimation in Time-to-Event Clinical Trials;
Dr. Tianxi Cai, from Harvard School of Public Health, on Personalized Prediction of Time to Event with Empirical Models;

Dr. Rajeshwari Sridhara, from the FDA, on Regulatory Considerations in the Choice of Endpoints from Drug Evaluation.

A panel discussion was led by the following three speakers from the pharmaceutical industry to illustrate case studies and introduce challenges that were encountered in practice:

Dr. Pralay Mukhopadhyay from Bristol-Myers Squibb
Dr. Julie Cong from Boehringer Ingelheim
Dr. Xin Huang from Pfizer.

An extended discussion followed among all the invited speakers and audience afterwards. To view the slides from the presentations, go to http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/MiniConference/miniconf_index.htm

Another yearly event sponsored by the CT chapter is the annual poster competition (Chairperson for 2011 Poster Competition was Marianne Messina). This year’s poster competition judging was held on a blustery Saturday; nine individuals volunteered to judge 241 posters sent in from students across the state in Grades K through 12. These judges were from academia & industry and included many first-timers! They were: Tethys Bioscience: Robert Gerwien*; University of Connecticut: Jennifer Boyko*, Ofer Harel*, Greg Matthews* & Valerie Pare*; Yale University: Jay Emerson; Fairfield University: Laura McSweeney; Bayer: Joann Shapiro; Pfizer: Neal Thomas; Bristol-Myers Squibb: Tong Guo, Sterling Hardy, Antara Majumdar* & Marianne Messina. Where * stands for first time judge.

As in past years, students in Grades 4-6 had 119 posters, the most in any category. The next largest group was the Kindergarten - Grade 3, with 77 posters. Grades 7-9 and 10-12 had 18 and 27 posters, respectively, for a grand total of 241 posters!

The entire task of judging was completed in less than 3 hours. From all the student participants, 17 posters were picked as winners. These posters will be forwarded to the ASA in Washington DC for the National Competition.

Students, parents and teachers of the winning posters were invited to UConn for the award ceremony which took place during NESS. The winning posters were displayed and a ceremony took place and participants had the opportunity to mingle with NESS participants.
The fourth International Workshop in Applied Probability, IWAP 2010, was held at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Colmenarejo Campus, Madrid, Spain, on July 5-8, 2010. Over 350 participants from all over the world have attended IWAP 2010. The aim of this workshop was to bring together and to foster exchanges among scientists working in the applications of probability to any field. Participants at this conference were encouraged to submit their contributions to the journal of Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability, published by Springer. A book of abstracts of presented articles at the workshop has been published as well.

The plenary speakers at IWAP 2010 were: Paul Embrechts (ETH Zurich), Ricardo Fraiman (Universidad de San Andrés & Universidad de la República), Montse Fuentes (North Carolina State University), Robin Pemantle (University of Pennsylvania), Víctor de la Peña (Columbia University), Michael Steele (University of Pennsylvania) and Mihail Zervos (London School of Economics). The Scientific Program Committee included leading scientists in diverse areas of research in probability from all over the world, which ensured a strong and a broad program and participation from scientists from all over the world. The workshop chairs encouraged the participation of young scientists, women and minorities.

This workshop was built on the success of the IWAP 2002 that took place at the University of Simon Bolivar, Caracas, Venezuela, on January 14-17, 2002, IWAP 2004 that was held at the University of Piraeus, Greece on March 22-25, 2004, IWAP 2006 that was held at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA, and IWAP 2008 that was held at Université Technologie de Compiègne, Compiègne, France on July 8-11, 2008.

IWAP 2010, as well as all previous workshops, had been co-sponsored by the Bernoulli Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. The local organizing committee that included faculty members from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid has done a superb job in hosting this conference. It was a particular exciting time to attend a conference in Spain, as its national soccer team was making advances towards winning the world cup.

Prepared by:
Joseph Glaz, Co-Chair IWAP 2010
The International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM) is organized every two years which covers all aspects of sequential methodologies including statistical inference, information theory, optimal stopping, change detection, multiple comparisons, selection and ranking, and surveillance. Areas of applications include mathematical finance, quality control, reliability, clinical trials, and signal and image processing. The goal of the Workshop is to bring together researchers and practitioners from varied areas within sequential methodologies including teaching.

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The first Workshop, IWSM 2007, was held at Auburn University in Alabama, USA. The second Workshop, IWSM 2009, took place at the University of Technology in Troyes, France.

The third and present Workshop, IWSM 2011, was held at Stanford University, June 14-16. It was Co-Chaired by Tze L. Lai (Stanford University, California, USA), Nitis Mukhopadhyay (University of Connecticut-Storrs, Connecticut, USA), and Alexander Tartakovsky (University of Southern California-Los Angeles, California, USA).

This IWSM included three plenary presentations by the distinguished colleagues, David Siegmund (Stanford University, California, USA), Gary Lorden (California Institute of Technology, California, USA), and T. N. Sriram (University of Georgia-Athens, Georgia, USA). Additionally, this IWSM highlighted three main themes:

- sequential and adaptive design of clinical trials and other sequential methods in biostatistics;
- sequential change-point detection, quality control and surveillance, sequential methods in signal processing and sensor networks;
sequential estimation, testing, ranking and selection, optimal stopping and stochastic control, applications to finance and economics, and related topics in statistics and probability.

At the IWSM, we announced and awarded the next Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis for the best paper from the premier journal, Sequential Analysis, published in 2010 in a special ceremony. We also celebrated the 70th birthdays of both Gary Lorden and David Siegmund.

An additional attraction of IWSM 2011 was the Conference in Genetics, Probability, and Statistics at Stanford University on June 17-18, immediately followed by the IMS-WNAR Western Regional Meeting which took place in the scenic city of San Luis Obispo on the central coast of California, midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Please follow the link http://iwsm2011.stanford.edu to learn more about the IWSM activities, its plenary speakers, and other satellite conferences. Then complete your registration for everything online! Local contact: Tze L. Lai (lait@stanford.edu).

How Were My Japanese Colleagues after the 9.0 Quake and Tsunami of March 22, 2011?

On March 11, 2011, Japan experienced one of the world's strongest earthquakes which was followed by the Pacific tsunami of historic proportions. Japan will probably never be the same from the point of view of how helpless and numb we individuals felt up against the nature.

I have many colleagues, collaborators, and friends in Japan, and some of them are very close to my heart. As soon as I heard of this disaster, I felt very distraught. This was the case especially because I saw first-hand the effect of tsunami that devastated Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and other countries and islands in that region in December 2004.

Those horrific images of 2004 tsunami came back to me and engulfed me all over again. As one of the main organizers of an international conference in Sri Lanka, I arrived there with my family just two days before that 2004 tsunami hit Sri Lanka. Those horrific images of 2004 tsunami rushed back and engulfed me all over again with raw emotions.

Hence, I immediately started visiting the websites of a number of universities in Japan. Many sites were down but I eventually connected with the official site for the University of Tsukuba. I felt miserable knowing that this university was shut down completely and that it was also badly damaged. My heart sank as I saw many official warnings and announcements posted on that site.

I personally know many friends from the Institute of Mathematics at the University of Tsukuba including Professors Masafumi Akahira (Vice-President of the university), Makoto Aoshima, and
Kazuyoshi Yata. I also know Professor Aoshima's Ph.D. student, Miss Yuko Kobayashi. It was already March 13th morning and I did not hear anything about the whereabouts and well-being of these friends, colleagues, and collaborators. I decided to send out the following E-mail to a number of my Japanese colleagues:

"Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 7:20 AM
Subject: How Are You? Please Drop Me a Line!

My Dearest Colleagues:

I realize that you live in different places in Japan, but you also may have families, other loved ones, colleagues, students, and friends in some of those devastated areas. In this time of utter misery and total despair, my earnest hope and prayer is that you and yours are all safe and everyone is doing as well as can be expected ... In 2004, I was in Sri Lanka with my wife and 2 sons; landed there for the International Sri Lankan Conference just 2 days before that Tsunami hit. Those unimaginable and horrific images are coming back … When you get a chance, just let me please know that you are all doing alright. A reply from you will help ease some of the distress and pain that I feel for my super friends and colleagues in Japan … All the best and God bless."

Professor Eiichi Isogai (Niigata University) wrote back "... I would like to appreciate your kindness. My family and I are safe and my house was not damaged. Thank you again …" on March 12 at 6:11:16 PM. Professor Akimichi Takemura (University of Tokyo) wrote "…Thank you very much for your mail. Tokyo area is OK. However the north-east coastal area of the main island of Japan is devastated …" March 12, 2011 at 8:56:49 PM. Professor Yoshikazu Takada (University of Kumamoto) wrote "… Thank you very much for your concern of the earthquake occurred in Japan last week. The place is very far away from my town. So I am all right …" on March 14 at 4:46:28 AM. I heard from some of the other colleagues too from Tokyo and other places.

I felt relief knowing that these colleagues and their families were safe. But, thus far, I did not hear from anyone at the University of Tsukuba. My worries steadily increased expecting the worst while hoping for the best. Eventually, I received a note from Professor Yata who wrote "...Since the e-mail has returned, I am now able to read emails from you. Thank you for your great concerns. My living city has broken a little by the earthquakes. However, I am O.K. and Prof. Aoshima is also O.K. Thank you very much for worrying. We are fine …" on March 15, 2011 at 11:49:25 PM. I started feeling a bit relaxed.
Photos sent by Professor Makoto Aoshima show how the Institute of Mathematics library at the University of Tsukuba looked immediately after the quake.

Then, I heard from Professor Akahira, “…Thank you very much for your e-mail. Fortunately, my family and I are fine. But, the lifeline of our university is still incomplete. So, I am very busy for returning to normal as a vice president of our university. I would like to do my best to make a good recovery from it. I appreciate your kindness …” on March 19 at 3:52:14 AM.

On March 17 at 12:25:37 PM, finally I heard from Professor Aoshima. He wrote from his heart and with great passion: “… I saw your email just today because the university’s mail server had been down after the earthquake (Magnitude 9.0) hit my place. I could escape from the disaster. My office is on the 8th floor that is the top of the building. The tall-large bookshelf behind my desk fell down and pieces of broken glass scattered here and there even on my chair. The desk & chair & computers & printers & phone & copy machine and the others were covered and crushed by the fallen bookshelf. At that time, I was in the seminar room. I ordered my graduate students to keep themselves under the desks. I tried to open the door, however I was very difficult to even stand myself in such heavy shakes. The terrible shakes had continued and grown for a few minutes. The seminar room's heavy bookshelves moved 1 meter right and left in front of my eyes like a monster spitting out lots of books here and there. During a short rest, I ordered students and colleagues to get out of the building from fire stairs. I was the last person to escape from the building. My past students, Yata and Yuko, are safe & no damage since they are on the 5th floor even in the same building. My family and my house are safe since my house is on the first floor. It takes a while to revive. However, I learn from this very special experience. I get my life luckily. We are all safe. Thank you very much for your great consideration. … All the best …”

Since Professor Aoshima was so expressive, I first thought of requesting him to prepare a news piece from Japan. But, he had his plate full and I did not want to impose. Hence, I decided to ask him a few specific questions and requested if he could jot down his thoughts. Professor Aoshima kindly answered a number of my questions first briefly on March 20. Based on that brief “conversation” and a follow-up from April 4, one may get a glimpse of the human-story in an affected University campus in Japan. In what follows, I include an unedited conversation piece received through E-mails in the same order that they were received:
Mukhopadhyay: Where were you and what were you doing when the earthquake hit Japan? I know some of it now from your E-mail on March 19. But, you may explain more, if you wish.

Aoshima: I was in a seminar room of an 8-story building on campus. I was discussing with my graduate students about their research projects.

Mukhopadhyay: Where was your family at the time? Could you “connect” with them right away after the earthquake and get together?

Aoshima: They were in my house. I could not connect with them right away because mail server and telephone communication were down. However, I could get together after I was back to my house.

Mukhopadhyay: Did you hide or live in a shelter of some sort, and if so, for how long?

Aoshima: We, Japanese, do not have such a shelter of some sort.

Mukhopadhyay: I know that you were in campus at the time. In your campus, were many buildings damaged? How severely? Anybody got hurt? What was the general situation on day 1 and now?

Aoshima: There are many cracks in most buildings on campus, and the University Hall and the gymnasium were damaged. So, the graduation ceremony (usually held in the middle of March) was cancelled. Fortunately, I have not heard that anybody got hurt on campus.

Mukhopadhyay: From your university’s website, I find that many non-emergency operations are shut down or they are moving very slowly. Is that continuing?

Aoshima: Web server is still partly shut down. Stopping the supply of water is continuing. Since aftershocks are continuing, things are moving along slowly and very carefully.

Mukhopadhyay: When do you expect your university’s normal operations to begin again? How are the students? When are they coming back to campus?

Aoshima: We are preparing things to start our university’s normal operations in April which is the beginning of the Japanese school year. Now, the students are having their spring vacation. It was a good reason to reduce panic and damages in campus.

Mukhopadhyay: How far is your university from the center of the earthquake or those nuclear stations?

Aoshima: About 340km from the center of the earthquake and about 170km from nuclear stations.

Mukhopadhyay: Did tsunami affect you and your local people? If so, how?

Aoshima: It seems that people living within 5km from the ocean in Tohoku area were seriously affected by tsunami.

Mukhopadhyay: Which other universities in Japan are badly affected? Any news of major hardship or injuries or loss of lives among university students and faculty and their friends?

Aoshima: It seems that universities in Tohoku-North Kanto areas were mainly affected. Although our university is located in North Kanto area, there seems not to be badly affected. I have not heard there is any news of major hardship or injuries or loss of lives among university students and faculty and their friends. However, I have to mention that people hit by tsunami are still badly affected. Also, people living within 20km from nuclear stations received official advice to evacuate, while some foreign media reported the distance “80km”.

Mukhopadhyay: Right after the earthquake, what did you do? What did you have to do? How about your family and the children? What did they do to cope with this disaster?

Aoshima: Right after the earthquake, we were all in inconvenient situations. However, soon afterward, we started to gradually recover since we are not as badly affected compared with the people who got hit by tsunami and nuclear disaster.

Mukhopadhyay: Are you teaching now? Probably not. So, how are you spending your time?
Aoshima: Fortunately, Japanese universities have been welcoming spring vacation as usual in this season.

Mukhopadhyay: Do you have electricity and supply of food and other essential necessities?

Aoshima: Now, we are already starting to live as normally as possible. There seems to be no problem about essential items in this area.

Mukhopadhyay: How about the transportation to and from campus to your home?

Aoshima: There seems to be no problem about that in this area.

Mukhopadhyay: What is your impression of the magnitude of the nuclear disaster that followed tsunami? Do you feel that you and your family and friends are alright? Personally, do you expect a big fallout or is it just a media-hype? That is, do you feel concerned for your safety from a potential nuclear fallout? How far are you from that site?

Aoshima: I think that foreign Media has portrayed Japanese situations very exaggeratedly and dramatically. Especially, their reports about nuclear disaster sometimes seem to be excessively sensational. We, Japanese, are often perplexed with rumors spread from abroad.

Mukhopadhyay: Anything else you want to share?

Aoshima: Fortunately, there seems to be no problem in my immediate area. However, people hit by tsunami and nuclear mishap have still been living in very difficult situations. We feel deeply concerned about them and consider seriously about the kind of helping hands they need from the rest of us right now.

The two accompanying photos were kindly sent by my dear friend, Professor Aoshima. They show how the Institute of Mathematics library at the University of Tsukuba looked immediately after the quake. Thanks to Professor Aoshima and the rest of my colleagues from Japan for sharing with me various bits and pieces of news, emotions, and their sense of despair, relief as well as hope. I am delighted that they, as well as their friends and families, are safe. With the help pouring in from all over this globe, Japan has already begun a vigorous process of rebuilding the road to recovery which is expected to take its own uncharted course.

My friends from Japan, keep well.

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**2011 New England Statistics Symposium**

The Department of Statistics of the University of Connecticut hosted the New England Statistics Symposium (NESS) on Saturday, April 16, 2011. The purpose of NESS is to bring together statisticians from all over New England to a central location to share research, discuss emerging issues in the field and to network with colleagues.

This annual statistics symposium featured two keynote talks by Professors Brad Carlin of the University of Minnesota and Jun S. Liu of the Harvard University. Their talks on “Hierarchical Commensurate and Power Prior Models for Adaptive Incorporation of Historical Information in Clinical Trials” and “Dictionary, Topics, and Text Analysis” were well attended by the symposium participants. In this NESS, there were also two full day short courses entitled “Bayesian Adaptive Methods for Clinical Trials” presented by Professor Brad Carlin, University of Minnesota, and “Introduction to the Theory and
In addition, there were thirteen invited themed sessions including one invited panel discussion session on career development and four contributed sessions. The topics of these oral presentations include New Techniques for Modeling Spatial and Temporal Data, Statistical Genetics, Network Analysis, Bayesian Inference with Applications, Stochastic Processes and Nonparametric Inference, Multiple Testing and High Dimensional Data, MCMC Algorithms and Applications, Statistical Inference in Networks, Statistical Genomics, Risk Assessment and Prediction with High Dimensional Markers, Take a Walk on the Quant Side of Life..., and Survival Analysis and Mixed Models. Overall, there were over 200 participants attended this year’s NESS or short courses.

There were also four special invited IBM T.J. Watson Student Awards Sessions and the speakers of these invited sessions were the applicants of this year’s student awards. Based on the overall quality of the research, the winners of 2011 IBM T.J. Watson student awards were Alexander W Blocker of Harvard University, Jeffrey W. Miller of Brown University, Layla Parast of Harvard School of Public Health, and Hui Yao of University of Connecticut.

Each year the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association sponsors a Poster Competition for students across our state in Grades K through 12. The intent is for children to develop analytical reasoning through critical examination of data and then to convey this knowledge to the viewer through graphical representation of results and conclusions! The Connecticut chapter has conducted this annual event for more than 15 years! The judges were members from academia and industry, including a few first-timers, and brought a great breadth of experience to the event. The Awards ceremony for the 2011 winners was held in Chemistry A203 on April 16 from noon to 1 pm at the 2011 New England Statistical Symposium. The posters were exhibited for viewing on the main floor of the Chemistry Building from 11am till noon.

This year’s NESS was sponsored by IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, Smith Hanley Associates LLC, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association, the Office of Sponsored Programs, Dean’s Office of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the Department of Statistics of the University of Connecticut. With the financial support provided by IBM T.J. Watson Research Center and Smith Hanley Associates LLC, the organizing committee was able to waive the registration fees for attending both NESS and the short courses for all student participants who gave oral presentations at the symposium. At the evening of April 16, more than 60 participants attended this NESS dinner at Chang's Garden Restaurant. Professors Ming-Hui Chen (chair), Vladimir Pozdnyakov, and Jun Yan served on this year’s organizing committee.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the New England Statistics Symposium. To celebrate this special occasion, we hosted the first NESS mixer in the evening of April 15, 2011: 5:30pm-7:00pm, Room 7, the Bishop Center. The first New England Statistics Symposium was held at the University of Connecticut in 1987 and we continue the tradition of hosting the symposium on alternate years. On other years it rotates among Colleges and Universities throughout New England. The 26th New England Statistics Symposium will be hosted by the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Boston University in April 2012.
NESS Keynote Speakers, the IBM representative, Hongfei Li, the NESS organizing committee member, and IBM T.J. Watson Student Award Winner

NESS Short Course Presenters in the short course room

The 2011 NESS Mixer at the Bishop Center on April 15 (5:30pm-7:00pm)
Participants attending the 2011 NESS Keynote Session

NESS participants at the 2011 NESS dinner

Graduate Students at the 2011 NESS dinner
Colloquia

We continue to have a stream of excellent colloquia:

Jeongyoun Ahn, Department of Statistics, University of Georgia
Teyfik Aktekin, Department of Decision Sciences, University of New Hampshire
Srikesh Arunajadai, Department of Biostatistics, Columbia University
Y. Bar-Shalom, ECE Department, University of Connecticut
Vince Carey, Channing Lab, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School
Nilanjan Chatterjee, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute
Dai Feng, Biometrician, Merck
Krista J. Gile, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Massachusetts
Yulei He, Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School
Gabriel Huerta, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of New Mexico

Vishwanath (Mahesh) Iyer, Oncology Biometrics, Novartis Healthcare
Eunhee Kim, Center for Statistical Sciences, Brown University
Dong Jin Lee, Department of Economics, University of Connecticut
Yi Li, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University
Dan Meyer, Pfizer, Inc.
Marc A. Suchard, Department of Biomathematics, Biostatistics and Human Genetics, UCLA
Surya Tapas Tokdar, Department of Statistical Science, Duke University
Emiliano A. Valdez, Department of Mathematics, University of Connecticut
Cuiling Wang, Department of Epidemiology & Population Health, Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Jinde Wang, Department of Mathematics, Nanjing University
Michael R. Willig, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut
Faculty News

Joseph C Cappelleri, our Adjunct Faculty from Pfizer Global research has become a fellow of the American Statistical Association. He will receive his award at the JSM in Miami, Fl in August, 2011.

Ming-Hui Chen has been elected as a new member of the Board of Directors of the International Society of Bayesian Analysis (ISBA), November 2010.

Zhiyi Chi, Associate Professor has been promoted to the rank of Full Professor in the Statistics Department effective August 23, 2011. He has been appointed Associate Head and Director of Graduate programs.

Dipak K. Dey has become an honorary Professor in the Statistics Department under Department of Science and Technology, in Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India.

Joseph Glaz has been elected to the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, March 2011. He has been appointed Department Head for a period of five years.

Ofer Harel was nominated for office at the Statistics section of the American Public Health Association. Voted President of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

Sangwook Kang has received the Kupper Dissertation Publication Award, Department of Biostatistics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. (2010). This award is given in recognition of the best doctoral dissertation based paper appearing in a prestigious biostatistical journal completed during a calendar year.

David Kenny received the Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award, International Association of Relationship Research, July 2010.

Vladimir Pozdnyakov has been appointed Director of Graduate Admissions.

Michael R. Willig, our Adjunct Faculty and Professor, EEB, and Director of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, has become an elected member of the in the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering for 2011 and accepted his awards at the Academy’s annual
meeting recently in Norwalk.

*Jun Yan* and Jiafeng are proud to announce the arrival of our long-awaited son, Bohan Yan. Bohan was born on at 4:47pm on June 25, 2011. He weighted 8 pounds and 7.8 ounces (3850 kg), and was 20 inches (51cm) long/

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*Sudipto Banerjee* (Ph.D. 2000) just received the 2011 Mortimer Spiegelman Award from American Public Health Association (APHA). This award is given to the most outstanding researcher in Public Health, who is under the age of 40. He has also been promoted to the rank of Full Professor.

*I-Hsuan Chen* (M.S., 2009) is working as a researcher at Synovate, a market research company in Taiwan.

*Younshik Chung* (Ph.D. 1990) has been elected as the 19th President of the Pusan National University (http://english.pusan.ac.kr/html/00_main/), Busan, Korea.

*Sourish Das* (Ph. D., 2008). After completing his Visiting Assistant Professor job in the Department of Statistical Sciences, Duke University, Durham, NC., he has joined SAS research group at Pune, India.

*Yuchen Gu Fama* (Ph.D. 2010) has joined Travelers, Hartford.

*Bani Mallick* (Ph.D. 1994) has been promoted to the rank of Distinguished professor at Texas A&M university.

*Jaydip Mukhopadhyay* (Ph.D. 2007) joined as a manager in the “risk information services” area at Deloitte, Hyderabad.

*Balaji Raman* (Ph.D. 2009) has accepted an offer from Syntel Mumbui, Inc. in their analysis department.

*Xi Sun* (M.S., 2010) is working at Consumer and Market Insight Department at Unilever, New Jersey.

*Sylvie Tchumtchoua* (Ph.D. 2010) is continuing her Post Doctoral Fellowship at SAMSI and Duke University.

*Xia Wang* (Ph.D., 2009). After completing her Research Associate position at the National
Institute of Statistical Sciences, Research Triangle Park, NC has joined University of Cincinnati as an Assistant Professor.

Jian Zou (Ph.D. 2009) has joined Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis, Indiana as an Assistant Professor.

**Student News**

Karthik Bharath received a NSF scholarship to attend and give a talk at the Stochastic Processes and Applications (SPA) 2011 at Oaxaca, Mexico from June 19-24, 2011 and a NSF travel award to attend and present poster at the 8th Workshop on Bayesian Nonparametrics at Veracruz, Mexico from June 26-30, 2011.

Jennifer Boyko has a summer internship with the Laboratory of Epidemiology, Demography and Biometry (LEDB), Intramural Research Program (IRP), National Institute on Aging (NIA) in Bethesda, MD.

Sandra Hurtado-Rua received the student travel award to present a paper at the 138th American Public Healthy Association Annual Meeting, November 6-10, 2010, in Denver, Colorado. Her paper is entitled “Semiparametric Bayesian Modeling of Spatio-Survival Data under Cure Fraction”.

Xun Jiang received the Graduate Awards of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE) to pursue his research on Environmental Statistics during Summer 2010.

Ran Liu is working at Merck as an intern during Summer 2011.

Hongwei Shang is working as a summer intern at the Travelers.

Julie Silva is a summer intern in the catastrophe modeling group at Liberty Mutual in Boston.

Leo Wang is a summer intern at Northern Trust in Chicago.

Xiaojing Wang is joining Google in New York City in the Business Analytics Group effective September 2011.

Rui Wu is working as a summer intern at the Travelers.

Ziwen Wei is working as a summer intern at the Boehringer-Ingelheim pharmaceutical company.
Experiences of Past and Current Undergraduate Majors

I had a great experience in the UConn Statistics department. The professors, teaching assistants and peers in the UConn Statistics department have welcomed me with a comforting atmosphere, small class sizes, where they can cater to each student’s needs, and to advise all students on a personal level, no matter if they are excelling or falling behind academically. Dr. Nalini Ravishanker’s leadership and advice led me to believe that I should never give up, nor settle for mediocrity. I eventually received my Bachelor of Science degree in Statistics in December 2008. Having a degree in Statistics tends to get people’s attention. For example, the marketing director at the Massachusetts Medical Society, where I work, once asked me about my education, and when I said I have a degree in Statistics, he was really impressed, and now he seeks my help in completing certain projects. In addition to my full-time job, I also spend some of my time as a freelance math and statistics tutor. It puts a smile on my face when one of my students follows up with me and says that they got a 100 on a recent quiz, because of my help.

The biggest aspect I got out of the stats program was to continue to have a love of learning. After UConn, I made it a priority to get into graduate school. After searching various programs that would best fit my schedule and my location, my parents (Father a physician, mother an occupational therapist) offered me a proposal, which involves me going to Harvard University Extension School as a non-degree student, in order to help bolster a grad school application. After taking required courses, I decided on staying at Harvard University Extension School, eventually where I applied to the Master of Liberal Arts program in General Management. I recently became an official candidate for the master’s program, and I plan to graduate in May 2012. By that time, I’m looking into becoming an analyst, whether it’s data, trending or business analysis, in addition to doing work with charitable organizations. I look up to my parents, and their great education and careers. Like most immigrant parents, they always want the best for their American-born children, and they always remind us to live a life better than theirs. The possibilities are endless!

Being in the UConn Statistics department was the right decision for me, and it helped me to get prepared for the real world, and it led me to believe that life’s possibilities are endless. It’s an experience I’ll never forget. I guess that’s why UConn’s recent slogan is “Always Part of U.”

by
Shawn Mayers
During my elementary and high school education, I always had a strong desire to learn about anything quantitative and was interested in classes such as algebra, calculus, and physics. Upon first entering UConn, I decided to pursue a degree in the mathematical sciences, due to my desire to both enhance my quantitative and problem solving skills, while simultaneously wanting to choose a major plan of study that would provide me with the tools I needed to be successful in a wide variety of fields. A course in the Introduction of Statistics was the first course in which I could utilize the skills that I've attained in mathematics courses to more real world applications. As a result, I decided to choose statistics as a major plan of study. At the UConn Statistics Department, I found my niche. The distinguished faculty members have been dedicated to helping us both inside and outside of the classroom with material related to coursework and beyond. The statistics graduate and undergraduate students have also been very helpful to make my statistics coursework much more understandable.

My experience with Undergraduate Research in Spring 2011 with Prof. Ravishanker was an exciting experience - I have been able to tackle a project, expand my thinking, and learn a lot about both the project and the way in which research is performed. Presenting at the Frontiers in Undergraduate Research (FURASH) was a great experience because not only did I get to present the research project that I was working on with my advisor, but I got to learn about projects that other undergraduate students were working on. Asking questions and having questions asked of me taught me that one can always improve upon any research project, which is what is at the essence of any research. FURASH was a great way to meet with other undergraduate students who were facing similar struggles as you were during the research process, and to learn how they overcame these problems. The undergraduate research experience, together with all of my statistics and mathematics coursework, will be of great value at my summer internship at Liberty Mutual on catastrophe modeling. Since I am also interested in finance, the internship will provide me with a great opportunity to study the construction of the catastrophe models which allow companies to manage financial risk associated with hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural occurrences. This experience will help me continue with my research project in Fall 2011 on pricing weather derivatives. I am excited to graduate with a bachelors degree in Statistics from UConn, because I know that I will have exciting future opportunities in many different fields.

by

Julie Silva

Student Achievement Awards for 2010

Best Student in Probability Sequence: Hongwei Shang and Xun Jiang
Best Student in Inference Sequence: Yuanye Zhang
Best TA Award: Marcos Prates and Jeffrey Stratton
Best Student for Outstanding Service: Jeffrey Stratton
Recent Ph.D.’s and Their Current Affiliations

Sandra Hurtado-Rua, Ph.D., 2011, Post Doctoral Fellow, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, New York City, New York.
Jeffrey Stratton, Ph.D., 2011, Post Doctoral Statistics Fellow, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.

Recent Masters


Recent Bachelors

Stephen Aloi, David Andrews, Patricia Apruzzese, Christina Bloking, Meghan Carabina, Scott D’Alessandr, 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 Lievense, Tiffany Chang, Annette Green, Chantal Larose, Michael Bostwick, Yonatan Demissie, Jennifer Fusci, Richard Celone, James Sabeau, Bing Xu, Meghan Qualey, Omar Makland, Pauling Takos, Jesse Liberatore, Zachary Lindamood, Kristen Sanderford, John Garcia, Junghi Kim, Hemali Lala, Kaitlyn McNamara and Prasant Venimadhaven.
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