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A Message from the Department Head

Welcome to the seventeenth issue of our Department Newsletter. This has been a successful year for the department on many fronts. Our proposal to launch a Professional MS Program in Biostatistics was approved by the Provost Office and the Board of Trustees of the University. This new program offers a great opportunity for the department, College of Liberal Arts and Science, and the university at large, as it will play a major role in the economic development program of the State of Connecticut. Graduates from this program will be well prepared for employment in insurance and pharmaceutical companies, Jackson Labs for Genomic Medicine and the University of Connecticut Health Center. We will start accepting students to this program for the Fall 2015 semester.

I would like to welcome Dr. Yuping Zhang as Assistant Professor in our department. Yuping has been an Associate Research Scientist at Yale University School of Public Health and Jackson Labs for Genomic Medicine, and a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University, after completing her Ph. D. degree in statistics at Peking University, Beijing, China, in 2008. I also would like to welcome Professor Lixing Zhu, our distinguished visitor during Fall 2014 semester. Professor Zhu is Head and Chair Professor of Statistics, Department of Mathematics, Hong Kong Baptist University.

Congratulations to our colleagues, Professor Alexander Tartakovsky, who has been awarded tenure, and to Professor Vladimir Pozdnyakov, who has been promoted to the rank of full Professor.

I am happy to let you know that Professor Dipak Dey, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean of CLAS, received two prestigious awards. He has been Elected Fellow of the International Society of Bayesian Analysis, in the inaugural year of election of fellows to the society. He also received the Outstanding Statistician Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association. Professor Ming-Hui Chen received the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Faculty Excellence in Research and Creativity (Sciences) award. Professor Nitis Mukhopadhyay has been elected to the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences. Professors Zhiyi Chi, Lynn Kuo and Jun Yan have become Elected Members of the International Statistical Institute. Congratulations to all recipients of these prestigious awards and honors!

Our faculty research encompasses all major areas of statistics, including: Applied Probability, Bayesian Analysis, Bioinformatics and Genomics, Biostatistics, Financial statistics, Time Series Analysis and various aspects of Mathematical Statistics and Probability Theory. I am proud to mention that seven of our current faculty, one emeritus professor, are fellows of the ASA, seven of our current faculty and one emeritus faculty are fellows of the IMS, two of our faculty are fellows of AAAS and four of our current faculty are elected members of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences or Sciences and Engineering. Our faculty members continue to hold prestigious editorial and editorial board positions in major journals in probability and statistics.
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. 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. We have also developed a strong interdisciplinary research program within UConn. Recently we have received high ranks in NRC as well as US News and World News.

I am glad to report that our graduate programs have been ranked recently as 18th in the US by a nationwide poll of graduate students. The following link presents the full survey: http://www.graduateprograms.com/best-statistics-programs/

In the last 7 years the department has graduated about five Ph.D. students per year. This has placed the department at about 25th in the national ranking of the number of granted Statistics Doctorate Degrees in a period of 3 years (16 Ph.D.’s and ranked 22nd in 2007-2009, 15 Ph.D.’s and ranked 27th in 2008-2010).

The department has a great interest in global initiatives promoted by UConn. The department has co-signed an MOU, jointly with CLAS, the Graduate School and the Provost’s Office, with the Department of Mathematics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, PRC, to collaborate on research projects and establish educational and research exchange programs for faculty and graduate students. We are currently in the process of developing several additional MOU’s, with major Universities in China, to develop joint educational programs for senior undergraduate students and graduate students.

We have been fortunate to continually to receive generous support from our alumni. These generous gifts to the department, from all our alumni, will strengthen our department’s research and graduate programs in Statistics and Biostatistics. I am grateful to Becky McEnery, Linda Mullarkey and Maria Quiray Lawrence from CLAS Development Office for their support and guidance.

I am grateful for the support our department has been receiving from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University. The six new faculty positions that have been allocated to our department in the last three years will continue to strengthen research, undergraduate and graduate programs and enhance our department’s national and international standing.

I am confident that the new Research Center for Jackson Labs, the Bioscience initiative at UCHC, and the Next Generation STEM initiatives, will serve as an attraction for top applicants in statistics and biostatistics for our future faculty positions and graduate programs. The establishment of a Technology Park will also serve as an attraction for top applicants in Applied Statistics, as the new faculty members will have the opportunity to interact on research project with scientists at this new research facility.

The faculty members in our department continue vigorously to develop and maintain collaborative research programs with colleagues from other departments and research centers within the university and scientists at other universities and research institutes in the US and abroad. Within the university, 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 departments. 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 UConn Health Center has continued to support our students both from joint research grants as well as from internship programs. We thank Professor Robert Aseltine, Interim Chair, Division of Behavioral Science and Community Health and Deputy Director, Center for Public Health and Health Policy, for sponsoring research collaborations with our faculty and graduate students. We also thank Professor James Grady, Director of Biostatistics, Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science, for providing financial support and research opportunities for our graduate students. I am looking forward to continue working with Professors Aseltine and Grady to develop additional joint research initiatives for faculty and graduate students. We are also enjoying close research collaboration with the Center of Health and Information Policy (CHIP). With the hire of Elizabeth Schifano and her appointment at CHIP, we have strengthened our research collaborations with one of the most active research centers at the university. I am looking forward to continue working jointly with Professor Jeff Fisher, Director of CHIP, to develop additional joint research initiatives.

We are developing numerous research projects through our Statistical Consulting Services (SCS). Professor Ming-Hui Chen is continuing with great success as the Director of the Statistical Consulting Services. Currently several graduate 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 grateful for the financial support we receive for our SCS from the Office of Vice President for Research, and Professor Jeremy Teitelbaum, Dean of CLAS.

We are continuing to be active University affiliates of NISS and SAMSI. Our faculty, graduate and undergraduate students are actively participating in programs at NISS and 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. We are grateful to Pfizer for their continual support and are looking forward to further collaborations.

Our graduate and undergraduate programs continue to expand. Currently we have over 100 graduate students and about 100 undergraduate students majoring in statistics.

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

Joseph Glaz (Phone: (860)486-4196; e-mail: joseph.glaz@uconn.edu)
From the Director 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 areas of current 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 of Connecticut. We have an extensive collaboration with faculty members in medical, health and environmental sciences, and our graduate students have the opportunity to be employed as research assistants on many of their funded research projects.

Starting Fall 2014, the department has a new professional MS program in biostatistics. It will focus on practical skills that are sought after in health related fields. Like our regular MS program and Ph.D. program, it will provide exciting opportunities to the students.

Last academic year, 39 new students were enrolled in our graduate program, 9 of them supported by the department or a variety of other sources. A total of 101 graduate students were enrolled in our MS and Ph.D. programs, out of which 37 were supported by teaching or research assistantships. We gratefully acknowledge the support from Cigna Corporation and Pfizer, Inc. They have been providing financial support for three and one of the graduate students who received assistantships, respectively.

Our graduate programs are becoming highly competitive and visible around the world. This year over 460 students all over the world applied for admission to our graduate programs. I would like to thank the members of the graduate admission committee: Professors Pozdnyakov (Director of Graduate Admissions), Chen, Kuo, Ravishanker, and Vitale for their hard work in reviewing the applications. Thanks are also due to our administrative staff: Megan Petsa and Tracy Burke, for their hard work throughout the application and admission processes. This Fall 2014 semester, our incoming class will include 49 new students, 37 in the MS program and 12 in the Ph.D. program, with 8 of the new Ph.D. students being supported by the department.

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

Zhiyi Chi (e-mail: zhiyi.chi@uconn.edu)
The Undergraduate Program continues to grow steadily, and we now have nearly 100 majors in Statistics and Mathematics-Statistics. An increasing number of them are Honors students. Our courses are in very high demand, as many students at UConn wish to incorporate statistics into their major or minor plan of study or coursework. We revived the Statistical Computing course STAT 3675, and plan to offer it annually. We have a new course Biostatistics for Health Professions, offered jointly with Allied Health. Our majors continue to explore and benefit from courses such as Field Study Internship and Undergraduate Research, and continue to be accepted to leading graduate programs in the country, attending Yale Biostatistics and NC State this year. The Department’s summer offering of STAT 2215 (online) and STAT 3025 continue to be well received by students. We continue to be active participants of the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) program, which provides an interaction between UConn and CT high schools. In the summer of 2014, a Statistics module was one of the few that were successfully piloted in the UConn Pre-College Summer Program for selected high school students in the country. We keep busy!

Please see the department website: www.stat.uconn.edu for the undergraduate brochure, information about our undergraduate program, and information for our majors and minors.

We congratulate all our majors graduating between December 2013 and August 2014, and we wish them success in all their future endeavors.

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

Editorial Boards

Ming-Hui Chen is Editor of Bayesian Analysis, Editor of Statistics and Its Interface, Associate Editor of Journal of the American Statistical Association, Associate Editor of Lifetime Data Analysis, and Associate Editor of Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics. He is a Co-Guest Editor of Statistica Sinica for a Special Issue on Spatial and Temporal Data Analysis, and a Guest Editor of Statistics and Its Interface for a Special Issue on Modern Bayesian Statistics and a Co-Guest Editor of Statistics and Its Interface for a Special Issue on Statistical and Computational Theory and Methodology for Big Data. He also serves on the Guest Editorial Board of Technometrics for a Special Issue on Statistical Analysis of Big Data.

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

Joseph Glaz is Editor-in-Chief of Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability. He is also Associate Editor of Sequential Analysis. He has signed a contract to edit, jointly with Professor Markos Koutras, University of Piraeus, Greece, a two volume Handbook on Scan Statistics, to be published by Springer.

Ofer Harel is an Associate Editor for Statistics in Medicine and on the Editorial Board of The Open Medical Informatics Journal and AIDS and Behavior.

Lynn Kuo is an Editor for Advances in Statistics.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay is the Editor-in-Chief of Sequential Analysis (since 2004). He is the Guest Editor of a special issue, “Modern Statistical Methodologies in the Cutting Edge of Science,” for the Sri Lankan Journal of Applied Statistics (SLJAS, December 2014). He is a member of the Advisory Board for SLJAS and Associate Editors of the Communications in Statistics, Statistical Methodology, and Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin.

Vladimir Pozdnyakov is an Associate Editor of Journal of Mathematical Analysis and Applications.

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.

Alexander Tartakovsky is the Associate Editor of the Sequential Analysis Journal and Sequential Methodology.

Rick Vitale continues to serve on the editorial board of Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability.

Selected Invited Faculty Talks

Haim Bar presented an invited talk at the Modern Modeling Methods conference in May 2014. He also presented a contributed paper at the University of Maryland, Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys and Big Data, May 2014.

Kun Chen was invited to attend BIRS Workshop on Statistical and Computational Theory and Methodology for Big Data Analysis at Banff, Alberta, Canada in February 2014 and gave a talk titled “Sparse and low-rank regression in high dimensions.” Kun organized two invited sessions and also gave an invited talk.
titled “Sparse orthogonal factor regression” at the Sixth International Statistics Forum at Renmin University, Beijing, China, in May 2014. He presented invited talks at the Department of Statistics and Finance, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui, China, in May 2014. He also gave an invited talk at the WNAR Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii in June 2014. In July 2014, he was selected to participate in the 16th New Researchers Conference in Statistics and Probability held at Harvard University, Boston, MA.

Zhiyi Chi presented an invited plenary talk at the Computational Methods for Jump Processes workshop at University of Warwick, United Kingdom, July 7-9, 2014.

Ming-Hui Chen was an invited speaker on “Bayesian Inference for Multivariate Meta-Analysis Box-Cox Transformation Models for Individual Patient Data with Applications to Evaluation of Cholesterol Lowering Drugs” in The ICSA-Canada Chapter 2013 Symposium, Toronto, Canada, August 2-3, 2013; an invited speaker in a SBSS Topic Contributed Session on “Bayesian Statistics with Biomedical Applications” at the 2013 JSM, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, August 5-8, 2013; an invited speaker in an invited session on “Recent Development in Bayesian Inference for Censored Data” at the Ninth ICSA International Conference, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, December 20-23, 2013; an invited speaker in an Invited Session on “Recent Developments in Survival Analysis” at the 2014 ICSA-KISS Applied Statistics Symposium, Portland, Oregon, June 15-18, 2014; and an invited speaker on “Bayesian Probability of Success for Clinical Trials Using Historical Data” at the 2014 ICSA China Statistics Conference, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, July 4-5, 2014. He also delivered invited talks or lectures on “Assessing Model Fit in Joint Models of Longitudinal and Survival Data with Applications to Cancer Clinical Trials”, the Novartis China Biostatistics Workshop, Novartis Campus, Shanghai, China, December 26-27, 2013; “Bayesian Model Fit Assessment in Joint Models of Longitudinal and Survival data with Applications to Cancer Clinical Trials”, the Workshop on Frontier Problems in Modern Statistics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China, December 28, 2013; “Bayesian Design of Medical Device Trials via Conditional Borrowing of Historical Data”, The 7th Annual FDA/MTLI Medical Device and IVD Statistical Issues Workshop on “Learning from the Past: The Practice of Bayesian Statistics in Medical Device Trials”, Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington, DC, April 30, 2014; “Bayesian Model Assessment in Joint Modeling of Longitudinal and Survival Data with Applications to Cancer Clinical Trials”, Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys and Big Data: A Conference Honoring Professor Malay Ghosh, College Park, Maryland, May 29-31, 2014; and “Statistical Methodological Developments in Joint Modeling of Longitudinal and Survival Data”, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, July 29, 2014. He further delivered a short course (3 full days) on “Bayesian Statistics” at the Statistics Graduate Summer School, School of Mathematics and Statistics, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China, July 10-July 12, 2014.

Dipak K. Dey presented plenary talks at the First Latin American Symposium in Bayesian Statistics, sponsored by ISBA, at the University of Costa Rica, July 2013; at the 12th Brazilian Conference on Bayesian Statistics, Atibaia City, Sao Paulo, March 2014; and at the Sixth International Statistics Forum, Renmin University, Beijing, China, May 2015. He presented invited talks at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Montreal, Canada, August 2013. He also presented invited talks at the Stat 2013: Socio-Economic Challenges and Sustainable Solutions, C R Rao AIMCS, Hyderabad, India, December 2013; Calcutta University, Indian Statistical Institute, and Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, India, during January 2014. He also presented invited talks in the School of Statistics at Renmin University and at the Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys and Big Data at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 2014 and at the International Chinese Statistical Association Meeting in Portland, OR.
in June 2014. He was also an invited panelist at a session on leadership by Statisticians at the International Chinese Statistical Association Meeting in Portland, OR, June 2014.


**Ofer Harel** presented invited talks at the 27th International Biometric conference, Florence, Italy, July, 2014; WNAR/IMS conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, June, 2014; Modern Modeling Methods Conference, Storrs, CT, May, 2014; the Statistics seminar Boston University, Boston, MA, April, 2014; at the CHIPTS Methods Seminar - UCLA-Semel Institute Center for Community Health, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April, 2014; The Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, Department of Statistics, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, January 2014; NICHD, Bethesda, MD, December 2013; and two invited presentations at the Israeli Biostatistics Forum (IBF), Tel Aviv, November 2013.


**Vladimir Pozdnyakov** presented “Asymptotics of a Clustering Criterion for Smooth Distributions” at the International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS 2013) in Saint Petersburg, Russia, July 2013.

**Nalini Ravishanker** presented invited talks at Connecticut College (October 2013), Baylor University (Nov. 2013), NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering (Nov. 2013), and U. Malaysia (June 2014). She also presented invited talks at these conferences: Ordered Data Analysis, Models and Health Research Methods (March 2014), ISBA (July 2014) and JSM (August 2014).

**Elizabeth Schifano** presented invited talks at the Joint Research Conference for Quality and Productivity Research Conference and Spring Research Conference, Seattle, WA, June 2014; the Modern Modeling Methods Conference, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, May 2014; and the Banff International Research Station, Banff, AB, Canada, February 2014. She was also an invited speaker at the Department of Biostatistics, Yale School of Public Health, New Haven, CT, March 2014.

**Alexander Tartakovsky** was a plenary speaker at the 4th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies in Athens, Georgia in July 2013 and an invited speaker at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, January 2014; the 7th International Workshop on Applied Probability
in Antayla, Turkey, June 2014; and the Department of Management Science and Information Systems at Rutgers University, NJ, December 2013.

Rick Vitale presented invited talks at the Fall Central Sectional Meeting of the American Mathematical Society, Washington University, October 2013 and in the Department of Statistics, Columbia University, April 2014.

Xiaojing Wang presented invited talks at the Department of Statistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, 07/2014; the Department of Mathematics and Computational Science, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China, 07/2014; the International Workshop on Controlling Multiplicity in Statistical Analysis, Shanghai, China, 06/2014; the Sixth International Statistics Forum at Renmin University, Beijing, China, 03/2013; the 76th Annual Meeting of National Council on Measurement in Education, Philadelphia, PA, USA, 04/2014; the Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights, NY, USA, 03/2014; and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA, 10/2013.

Jun Yan presented “Incorporating spatial dependence in regional frequency analysis” on May 25, 2014 at the International Statistics Forum at Renmin University of China, Beijing, China; and “A partial review of software for big data statistics” on February 12, 2014 at the Statistical and Computational Theory and Methodology for Big Data Analysis at the Banff International Research Station in Banff, Alberta, Canada.

Yuping Zhang presented “Integrating diverse genomics data to infer heterogeneity in cancer” at the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston, Massachusetts and “Principal trend analysis with application to time-course genomic Data” at the Statistics Seminar Series, Department of Mathematical Sciences and Center for Applied Mathematics and Statistics, New Jersey Institute of Technology, in 2013.

Grants

Kun Chen is the PI on a Faculty Large Grant, “Integrative multivariate analysis with multiple sets of variables of high dimensionality” for 2014. Kun Chen is the PI on the subcontract of an NIH U01 grant, “An integrative statistics-guided image-based multi-scale lung model” for 2013-2018.

Ming-Hui Chen is the PI on the subcontract of an NIH R01 grant on “Bayesian Approaches to Model Selection for Survival Data” for 2011-2015. He is a Co-PI on an NSF Grant on “Estimating the Bayesian Phylogenetic Information Content of Systematic Data” for 2014-2017. He is a Co-PI on an NIH R01 grant on “Metabolomics Tools for Biomedicine” for 2010-2014. He serves as a Biostatistician in an NIH grant on “Does Dietary Antioxidant Predict Aggressiveness of Prostate Cancer?” for 2012-2014. He is a Co-PI of the Diet and Health Initiative (DHI) grant on “Quercetin Nanoemulsions for Enhancing its Oral Bioavailability and Chemoprotective Effects” for 2012-2014 and a Co-PI of the CHIP Seed Grant for Obesity Research on “A Firefighter Physical Test & Training Program for Cardiovascular Health” for 2014-2016. He is a PI of the Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. grant on “Analysis of Quality of Life data and Survival Data with Treatment Switch” for 9/12/2014-8/15/2015. He serves as a Biostatistician in the Brigham and Women’s Hospital grant on “Statistical Research for Prostate Cancer Study”, 1/1/2013-12/31/2013. He is also a statistical analyst working with Joseph G. Ibrahim (PI) for Eli Lilly’s project on joint modeling of longitudinal and survival data for 2011-2014.
Dipak K. Dey is Co-PI with M. Lynes from MCB on a NIH grant entitled, “Protein Microarray System for Rheumatoid Arthritis”, from 2010-2014. He is also Co-PI with James Rusling from Chemistry on a NIH SBIR grant entitled, “Protein Biosensor Arrays based on Nanomaterials”, 2011-2015. He received the training grant with Jeremy Teitelbaum from Cigna Healthcare to form an analytics center to support graduate students from Statistics, Mathematics and Psychology.

Ofer Harel is a PI on “Dealing with missing data in HIV prevention trials,” a grant supported by the National Institute of Health, and Co-PI on “Multilevel Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa,” supported by the National Institute of Health. Ofer Harel also has several sub-contracts from the University of Connecticut Health Center to fund a number of students.

Lynn Kuo is a Co-PI of an NSF grant, “Estimating the Bayesian Phylogenetic Information Content of Systematic Data” (Paul Lewis, PI), 2014-2017. She is Co-PI of the grant, “Characterization of Novel Pathways Involved in Mediating Plant-Derived Molecule Inhibition of Staphylococcus Arueus Infection of Bovine Mammary Gland” (Kristen Govoni, PI), supported by USDA/NIFA. She is also an investigator of an NSF grant, “CC-NIE Network Infrastructure: Enabling Data-Intensive Research at the University of Connecticut Through Science DMZ” (Bing Wang, PI), 2013-2015.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay received travel grants from UCRF-AAUP and Taylor & Francis Group (publisher of Sequential Analysis) to partially fund in connection with his invited trips to Joint Statistical Meetings (August 2013), Calcutta University (November 2013), and IWAP2014 in Antalya, Turkey (June 15-20, 2014).

Malini Ravishanker was Co-PI with John Ivan (Civil and Environmental Engineering) on two grants, UConn Faculty Large Grant, “Statistical Modeling of Highway Crash Severity: a Multi-stage Hierarchical Bayesian Multiple-Response Framework,” Fall 2013—Spring 2014; and Center for Transportation and Livable Systems, “Effectiveness of Interventions at Midblock Crossings for Improving Senior and Other Pedestrian Safety,” August 2013-December 2014.

Elizabeth Schifano was the PI on a Large Faculty Grant entitled “Statistical Methods for High Dimensional Data,” (2013 - 2014). She was also the PI on a subcontract from the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center through the Connecticut Department of Public Health to study proper diagnosis of asthma severity in children (2013). She is currently a co-investigator on an R34 grant funded by NIH/NCCAM entitled “Preliminary Study of a Yoga Program to Catalyze Health Behavior Change” with PI Crystal Park (2013-2015); a grant funded by the UConn Health Center entitled “Cardiometabolic Signatures Associated with Obesity & Hypertension and Their Response to Exercise” with PI Linda Pescatello (2013-2014); and a grant funded by the UConn Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention entitled “Exercise, Bone and Cardiovascular Health in Breast Cancer Survivors” with PI Keith Bellizzi (2014-2016).


Xiaojing Wang is a PI on the Faculty Large Grants Award, with the research topic focusing on “A Bayesian Analysis of Dynamic Item Response Models with Application to Adaptive Measurement Testing,” 01/01/2013-12/31/2013.
Jun Yan was awarded by NSF DMS1209022, 07/01/2012—06/30/2015: Statistical Inferences, Computing, and Applications for Semiparametric Accelerated Failure Time Models. $130,000. PI: Jun Yan. Co-PI: Sangwook Kang. And from the University of Wisconsin (NIH RO1 subcontract, PI: Hui-Chuan Lai), 09/01/2011. 08/31/2016: Newborn Screening, Malnutrition and Lung Disease in Children with Cystiv Fibrosis. $37,284. PI: Jun Yan.

Outreach

Ming-Hui Chen is President-Elect (2012), President (2013), and President-Past (2014) of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA, elected in 2011), 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). 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/directory/adnct). He was a reviewer of the National Security Agency (NSA) grant proposal in 2014 and the grant proposals of the Research Grant Council (RGC) of Hong Kong, also in 2014. He served on the NIH/NCI Special Emphasis Panel to review UM1 applications submitted to RFA-CA-13-006, entitled, “NCI Experimental Therapeutics-Clinical Trials Network with Phase I Emphasis (CTN)(UM1)” (November 12, 2013). He was also a Co-Organizer of the Banff International Research Station Workshop on Statistical and Computational Theory and Methodology for Big Data Analysis (2013-2014). He is Co-Chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the 10th ICSA International Conference, Shanghai, China, December 19-22, 2016.

Dipak K. Dey is a Member, Accreditation Implementation Committee of the American Statistical Association, 2010. At UConn, he is a member of the Research Dean Council; Associate Director, Connecticut Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (CICATS); Executive committee of the Tech Park; Core Research Group of the Center for Health Communication and Marketing; and Advisory Committee of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering. He is a Fellow, Institute for Public Health Research. He is a member/chair of various search committees, including Director of the Integrative Geosciences and Heads of the Department of Marine Sciences, Physics and Geography. He organized various faculty development workshops and arranged mock panels to evaluate grant proposals at UConn. He is also a member of the Hong Kong Research Grant Council.

Joseph Glaz is a member of the Board of International Workshops in Applied Probability (IWAP). IWAP 2014 was held on June 9-12, 2014 in Antalya, Turkey. He is a member of Scientific Program Committee of the International Symposium on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis, ASMDA 2015, University of Piraeus, Greece, July 2015. 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 and with Booth Engineering Center for Advanced Technology (BECATS).

Ofer Harel is a Council of Chapters Representative, Connecticut Chapter, the American Statistical Association; Program Chair of the Health Policy Statistics Section (HPSS), the American Statistical Association. He is on the scientific organizing committee for The International Conference for Health Policy Statistics (ICHP); an elected member of the Statistics Section Council of the American Public Health Association (APHA); and an elected member of the Council of Sections, Health Policy Statistics Sections, the American Statistical Association.

Lynn Kuo served as an external adjudicator for a Ph.D. thesis of Calcutta University. She also served as an external reviewer for a tenure and promotion to
associate professorship consideration at the University of South Carolina. She is a member of the financial committee of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), and now she maintains the J. P. Hsu scholarship fund and serves as an advisor to the treasurer and symposium treasurer of ICSA.


Nalini Ravishanker serves as the VP for Scientific Programs for ISBIS (2013–2015). She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA). She continues to serve as faculty coordinator for Statistics in the UConn Early College Experience (ECE) program, and also serves on its Advisory Committee. She developed and co-presented (with Valerie Pare) the Statistics module at the UConn Pre-College Summer Program pilot in July-Aug. 2014. She arranged invited sessions at ISBIS 2014 and ISBA 2014.

Alexander Tartakovsky is a Member of the SIAM Activity Group on Uncertainty Quantification (2011–present). He has been a co-organizer of several conferences, in particular the Third International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, 2011; the Conference on

Markov and Semi-Markov Processes and Related Fields, Porto Carras, Greece, 2011; the International Workshop of Sequential Methods and Their Applications, Rouen, France, 2012. He has also been an organizer of invited sessions for many conferences, including IWSM, IWAP, and Fusion. He was also the Guest Editor of the Special Issues “Celebrating the Seventy-Fifth Birthday of Albert N. Shiryaev,” Sequential Analysis, vol. 29, 2010; “Selected Papers from IWSM 2011,” Sequential Analysis, vol. 31, 2012; and the Special Invited Discussion Paper by David Siegmund “Change-points: From Sequential Detection to Biology and Back,” (with six discussion pieces), Sequential Analysis, vol. 32, 2013.

Xiaojing Wang is a Member of ICSA Membership Committee, 2013-2015. She also served as an ad-hoc reviewer of the National Science Foundation for the Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program.

Selected Publications


(With Alexander, Elizabeth L.; Gardete, Susana; Wells, Martin T.; Tomasz, Alexander; Rhee, Kyu Y.) Intermediate-Type Vancomycin Resistance (VISA) in Genetically-Distinct Staphylococcus aureus Isolates is Linked to Specific, Reversible Metabolic Alterations. To Appear. PLOS ONE.


(With Athiphunamphai, Nongnuch; Cooley, Herbert J.; Padilla-Zakour, Olga I.) 2014. Heat treatment and turbo extractor rotational speed effects on rheological
and physic-chemical properties of varietal applesauce. 


(With Dong, H. and Chan, K.-S.) 2013. Reduced rank regression via adaptive nuclear norm penalization. *Biometrika*, 100 (4), 901-920.


**Published Books**


17


The Statistical Consulting Services (SCS) had another successful and productive year. During the period of May 2013 to August 2014, SCS had received a total of 36 statistical consulting applications. The SCS team consisting of Brain Bader, Hee-Koung Joeng, Dooti Roy, Jing Wu, and Danjie Zhang under the supervision of Professor Ming-Hui Chen had provided statistical consulting services to the 17 clients from Storrs campus, UCHC, and the local community just in the 2014 spring semester alone. In addition, the Director of SCS sponsored the 9 grant proposals with the PI's on the Storrs campus. During this period, the clients within the University of Connecticut at Storrs were from Department of Chemistry, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Department of Geography, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, Department of Nutritional Sciences, School of Business, Department of Management, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Department of Physiology & Neurobiology, and Department of Kinesiology. Again, there were several projects from the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology and Department of Orthodontics, School of Dentistry at UCHC. There were also several clients from the local community, who were from Airgas Specialty Gases R & D, Rutgers University, and Victory Productions at Worcester, MA.

The Statistical Consulting Services is also selling T-shirts at $10 each with the SCS logo in a variety of colors. T-shirts are available for sale in the main office.

Pfizer Global Research & Development Student Fellowship Program (December 2007 - August, 2014)

In December 2007, the Department of Statistics at University of Connecticut and the Global Research & Development of Pfizer Inc. signed a joint agreement to develop a Fellowship program. Wangang Xie was the first Student Fellow. Under the agreement, he worked at Pfizer 10 hours each week in spring 2008 and 20 hours each week in summer and fall 2008. In November 2008, the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut and the Global Research & Development of Pfizer Inc. signed a joint agreement for the extension of the Fellowship program. Miaomiao Ge became the second Student Fellow under this agreement. This agreement was extended several times. Ms. Ge was the Student Fellow until August 2011. In fall 2011, Ouyang Guang became the third Pfizer Student Fellow. Mr. Guang has been working as a student fellow at Pfizer since then.

Collaboration with the Center for Nursing Research (CNR) (Fall 2007-Spring 2014)

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. In August 2011, the CNR hired Ms. Danjie Zhang as Miaomiao Ge’s replacement. Ms. Zhang worked at the CNR 10 hours each week as a half-time graduate assistant in 2011-2012, 2012-2013, and 2013-2014 academic years. In the fall 2014, Ms. Jing Wu works at the CNR to replace Ms. Danjie Zhang.

Faculty Awards

By action of the Committee on Fellows of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis, Dipak K. Dey was elected Fellow in the year 2014, in recognition of outstanding contributions and application of Bayesian statistics throughout the world and excellence in teaching and service to the profession. In 2014, Dipak also received the Outstanding Statistician Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association and the Bose-Nandi Award for the Best Statistics Application Paper (“Baltic sea peracarids diurnal activity data: Issues on multiple imputation on over-dispersed Poisson regression model and model selection”) in the Calcutta Statistical Association Bulletin.

Ming-Hui Chen and Kate McLaughlin were recognized for excellence in teaching by the Provost.

Drs. Dipak Dey, Ofer Harel and J. Liu jointly won the Bose-Nandi Award for the paper “Baltic sea peracarids diurnal activity data: Issues on multiple imputation on over-dispersed Poisson regression model and model selection,” which was considered the best publication to appear in the “Application of Statistics” section of the Calcutta Statistical Associate Bulletin.

Lynn Kuo received a Distinguished Service Award from the International Chinese Statistical Association in August 2013. Lynn also became an Elected Member of ISI.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay was elected to the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Xiaojing Wang was awarded The Jeffrey’s Excellence Prize for Best Methodological Poster at Objective Bayes, Durham, NC, December 2013.

Ming-Hui Chen received UCONN Alumni Association’s University Award for Faculty Excellence in Research and Creativity (Sciences), University of Connecticut, 2014; Research Excellence Award, American Association of the University Professors, University of Connecticut, 2013; and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Excellence in Research Award in the Physical Sciences Division, University of Connecticut, 2013.
The 7th International Workshop in Applied Probability (IWAP) was held at the Kervansary Lara Hotel in Antalya, Turkey, June 16-19, 2014. As a member of the international program committee, I organized and chaired three technical sessions of invited papers. The particulars of the first two sessions follow:

**Interfacing Sequential Methods and Applied Probability – I**

Invited Speakers:
- Edit Gombay (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada): Change Detection for Binary Time Series
- Aleksey Polunchenko (Binghamton University, New York, USA): Efficient Performance Evaluation of the Generalized Shiryaev-Roberts Change-Point Detection Procedure
- Debanjan Bhattacharjee (Utah Valley University, Orem, USA): Confidence Interval Estimation Following SPRT in a N(0,0) Distribution
Figure 1. From left to right: Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Nikolaos Limnios, and T. N. Sriram. IWAP2014, Antalya, Turkey.

Interfacing Sequential Methods and Applied Probability – II

Invited Speakers:

- T. N. Sriram (University of Georgia, Athens, USA): Sequential Fixed-Width Confidence Interval Based on Hellinger Distance Estimator
- Bruno Buonaguidi (Bocconi University, Milan, Italy): A Collocation Method for the Sequential Testing of a Gaussian Process
- Swarnali Banerjee (University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA): Sequential Fixed-Accuracy Confidence Interval Estimation Methodologies in Statistical Ecology and Related Topics

In these two sessions, four invited speakers (Banerjee, Bhattacharjee, Buonaguidi, and Polunchenko) were young and budding researchers. They were accompanied by two very
established researchers (Sriram and Gombay). Both sessions were wonderful with six presentations, each having a great mix of theory, methodology, and applications. It is clear that future progress in sequential analysis is in very good, able, young, and energetic hands under crucial mentoring from senior colleagues.

The announcement and celebration of the Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis were both held in a special invited session, also organized during the 7th IWAP held in Antalya, Turkey. The particulars of this session follow:

**Interfacing Sequential Methods and Applied Probability – III: Sequential Analysis Journal Editor’s Session**

Invited Speakers:
- Nitis Mukhopadhyay (University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA): Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis Ceremony
- Sren Christensen (Mathematical Institute, Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel, Germany): SQA Editor’s Special Invited Paper – Optimal Stopping and Representation Results for Excessive Functions
- Alexander Tartakovsky (University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA): Discussant

The prestigious **Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis** is sponsored by the Wald Family, Taylor & Francis Group (publisher of SQA), the Editorial Board Members of SQA, and other friends and colleagues.

This year’s selection committee consisted of Professors Makoto Aoshima, Michael Baron, Pinyuen Chen, and Tumulesh K. S. Solanky (Chair). Thanks to the committee members for their continued hard work.

![Figure 3. David O. Siegmund](Courtesy: Dr. Siegmund’s website at Stanford University.)

With heartfelt acclamations and applause, the Abraham Wald Prize honoree’s name was announced during Session III of Interfacing Sequential Methods and Applied Probability – III at the IWAP2014. This year’s winner is Professor David O. Siegmund (Department of Statistics, Stanford University, California, USA) for his paper, *Change-Points: From Sequential Detection to Biology and Back*, published in *Sequential Analysis* 2013, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 2-14 (with discussions). Congratulations, Professor Siegmund.
During the same session, Professor Sören Christensen from Mathematical Institute, Christian-Albrechts-University, Kiel, Germany presented the SQA Editor’s Special Invited Paper, “Optimal Stopping and Representation Results for Excessive Functions.” Professor Christensen’s research interests include: Optimal Stopping, Mathematical Finance, Lévy Processes, and Pattern Recognition.

Professor Christensen’s thought provoking and flawless presentation was followed by Professor Alexander Tartakovsky’s passionate and thorough discussion as an invited piece. The session closed with lengthy, substantive, and energized discussions from the audience.
International Workshop in Applied Probability—IWAP 2014
Antalya, Turkey

By Joseph Glaz, Member of the International Board of IWAP

The International Workshop in Applied Probability – IWAP 2014 was held on June 16-19, 2014, at the Kervansary Lara Hotel & Convention Center, Antalya, Turkey. This was the seventh International Workshop in Applied Probability and it was a continuation of the previous six successful meetings which took place in Venezuela (2002), Greece (2004), USA (2006), France (2008), Spain (2010) and Israel (2012). The theme of IWAP 2014 had been designated as “Probability: The Measure of Tomorrow.”

The workshop was attended by about 180 participants from all over the globe. The aim of this workshop was to bring together and to foster exchanges among scientists working on the applications of probability in major areas of science and technology, including: actuarial science, biology, communication theory, computer science, economics, engineering, epidemiology, finance, geography, linguistics, medicine, meteorology, operations research, psychology, quality control, reliability theory, and statistics. Participants at this workshop were encouraged to submit their research presentations to Methodology and Computing in Applied Probability, a major scientific journal published by Springer and edited by Joseph Glaz, University of Connecticut. IWAP 2014 special issue of this journal, is co-edited by the Guest Editors: Markos Koutras, University of Piraeus, Greece, and Serkan Eryilmaz, Atilim University, Turkey.
IWAP 2014 was hosted and supported by Atilim University, Turkey. It was organized with advice from members of the International Board: Joseph Glaz, University of Connecticut, USA, Juerg Huesler, Bern University, Switzerland, Markos Koutras, University of Piraeus, Greece, Nikolaos Limnios, Technical University of Compiègne, France, and Jose Luis Palacios, University of Simon Bolivar, Venezuela. The Scientific Committee included leading scientists in diverse areas of research in probability from all over the world. Its members helped organizing 49 invited and 11 contributed sessions of lectures. The scientific program included seven plenary lectures delivered by leading researchers in applied probability: Ismihan Bayramoglu, Izmir University, Turkey, Antonis Economou, University of Athens, Greece, Jingchen Liu, Columbia University, USA, Jorge Navarro, University of Murcia, Spain, Nozer D. Singpurwalla, City University of Hong Kong, PRC, Sheldon Ross and Michael Waterman, University of Southern California, USA.

The local organizing committee had done a great job in organizing this international workshop. The participants at this conference praised both the strong scientific program and the interesting social events. This committee included: Serkan Eryilmaz, Atilim University, Turkey (chair), Fatih Tank, Ankara University, (co-chair), Turke, Konul Bayramoglu, METU, Turkey, Altan Tuncel, Kirikkale University, Turkey, and Femin Yalcin, Izmir University of Economics, Turkey.

IWAP 2014 was co-sponsored by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.
Renmin University of China
Memorandum of Understanding

By Jun Yan

On May 22, 2014, four faculty members (Kun Chen, Dipak Dey, Xiaojing Wang, and Jun Yan) met the administrators (Dean Yanyun Zhao, Associate Deans Xiaojun Wang and Bo Zhang) and some young faculty members of the School of Statistics, Renmin University of China (RUC) on research and education collaboration between the statistics programs at UConn and at RUC. Two preliminary documents were discussed and approved by the School of Statistics, RUC. The first was a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on faculty and graduate student exchange between the two parties. It was modeled after the MoU with Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), which facilitated one PhD student to study at SJTU and one PhD student at SJTU to study at UConn. We expect this program to be effective in 2015.

The second MoU was on a "3 + 1 + X" program for undergraduate students in Statistics at RUC. An undergraduate spends 3 years at RUC and at the beginning of their Spring semester of the 3rd year, gets selected into the program; he/she spends the senior year at UConn, applies for our graduate program (master or PhD), and returns to RUC and gets a bachelor’s degree there; and if admitted to our graduate program, he/she completes graduate study at UConn. This program will help the department to recruit talented students into our graduate program. The preliminary version based on a template from the Office of Global Affairs at UConn was discussed at the meeting with great interest from colleagues at RUC. A formal MoU with the
latest template from Office of Global Affairs is being developed by Jun Yan, and will be effective in 2015.
The 6th International Statistical Forum, Renmin University of China
May 24–25, 2014

By Jun Yan

The Department of Statistics at UConn co-sponsored the Sixth International Statistical Forum of Renmin University of China (RUC), which was held during May 24-25, 2014. Dipak Dey was one of the specially invited speakers. Ming-Hui Chen was in the scientific committee. Jun Yan was in the organization committee. Kun Chen and Xiaojing Wang organized invited sessions, and presented at the conference with Dipak Dey and Jun Yan.

The conference attracted over 400 attendees nationwide and overseas. The opening reception was hosted by Prof. Yanyun Zhao, Dean of the School of Statistics, RUC. Jiantang Ma, President of Chinese Statistical Society and Director of National Bureau of Statistics, Nuo Jin, Chair of the RUC Council, Wei Yuan, former Executive President of RUC, and others attended the opening. During the two-day forum, ten specially invited talks were delivered on the first day by Dey, Dipak (University of Connecticut), Hong, Yongmiao (Cornell University), Huang, Jian (University of Iowa), Huang, Zhimin (Adelphi University), Ma, Zhiming (Chinese Academy of Sciences), Tian, Maozai (RUC), Wang, Hansheng (Peking University), Xu, Xianchun (National Bureau of Statistics of China), Zhao, Hongyu, (Yale University), and Zhu, Lixing (Hong Kong Baptist University). On the second day, there were 19 invited and contributed sessions. Speakers from academia, government, and industry presented on a wide range topics in theory, methods and applications of statistics. The applications covered a wide range of fields such as finance, insurance, economics, social sciences, and transportation. The forum is expected to have an influential impact on the development of statistical science and practice in China.

A Highlight of JSM 2014: An Alumni Dinner

By Xiaojing Wang

This summer our department organized a reunion dinner in conjunction with the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston, MA on Sunday, August 3rd. This reunion dinner was held at Barlow’s restaurant. This event became a very special opportunity for gathering alumni to reunite with former classmates and friends, reconnect with faculty, and share their wisdom and experience with current students. There were more than 40 alumni, faculty members and current students showing up for this event. The dinner was attended by our senior alumni, Eleanor Jackie Dietz (Class of 1978), Department of Mathematics, Meredith College, Raleigh, NC along with her husband and Uwe Koehn, our former Department Head.
During the party, Professor Dipak Dey, on behalf of the department, presented the latest news and developments of our department and mentioned the strategic plans of our department in the future. He also introduced our new faculty members to alumni. Moreover, he also shared lots of exciting news from our alumni, such as the ASA fellowship of Dr. NaiTe Ting, Adjunct Professor of our Department and Dr. Deepak Agarwal, Senior Director of Engineering at LinkedIn and class of 2001. He also announced the new Headship appointment of Dr. Sudipto Banerjee in the Department of Biostatistics at UCLA.

The party was full of joyful and happy moments. People were reluctant to say goodbye, “Let’s see each other next year in Seattle for JSM 2015!”
At the end, we would like to thank our assistant professor, Xiaojing Wang, to coordinate this event with the CLAS Alumni Relations, our Alumni, faculty and students. Also, we thank the generous support from the CLAS Dean’s office, by providing partial funds for our event. In addition, we especially thank Tracy, our secretary and Caitlin, the Director of Alumni Relations, for helping us to select the restaurants and setting up the event’s webpage. Last but not least, we thank our alumni, Xia Wang, an assistant professor at University of Cincinnati, for sharing those wonderful pictures with us.

**Colloquia**

We continue to have a stream of excellent colloquia:

**Forrest W. Crawford**
Department of Public Health and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Yale School of Public Health

**Myung Hee Lee**
Department of Statistics, University of Colorado

**Chris Parks, Yuchen Fama, & Lei Zhang**
Travelers Insurance

**Recai Yucel**
Department of Biostatistics, University at Albany, SUNY

**Steven MacEachern**
Department of Statistics, The Ohio State University

**Xiaojing Wang**
Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut

**Priya Kohli**
Department of Mathematics, Connecticut College

**Sebastien Haneuse**
Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health

**George Moustakides**
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Patras, Greece

**Konstantinos Spiliopoulos**
Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Boston University

**Weixin Yao**
Department of Statistics, Kansas State University

**Zhiqiang Tan**
Department of Statistics, Rutgers University

**Sihai Dave Zhao**
Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania

**Yuping Zhang**
Department of Biostatistics, Yale University

**Yi-Hui Zhou**
Department of Biostatistics, University of North Carolina

**Georgios Fellouris**
Department of Statistics, University of Illinois

**Martin Kulldorff**
Makuch Distinguished Lecture in Biostatistics Guest, Harvard University

**Sungsu Kim**
Department of Mathematical Sciences, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Ian H. Stevenson**
Department of Psychology, University of Connecticut

**Cassandra Pattanayak**
Department of Statistics, Wellesley College

**John Staudenmayer**
Department of Mathematics & Statistics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Harrison Zhou**
Department of Statistics, Yale University

**Yiyuan She**
Department of Statistics, The Florida State University

**Jim Berger**
Department of Statistical Science, Duke University
Faculty News

Nalini Ravishanker was honored for 25 years at UConn.

Yuping Zhang is welcomed to the department as an Assistant Professor.

Vladimir Pozdnyakov has been promoted to Full Professor.

Ofer Harel is an accredited professional statistician by the American Statistical Association, May 2014.

Alumni News

Deepak Agarwal (Ph.D. 2001) became an ASA Fellow in 2014.

Pantea Alirezazadeh (MS 2012) is an Analyst for 1010 Data.

Sudipto Banerjee (Ph.D. 2000) has accepted the position of Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics at UCLA with a joint appointment in Statistics. He will be joining them in September 2014.

Swarnali Banerjee (Ph.D. 2014) is an Assistant Professor at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

Jennifer Boyko (Ph.D. 2013) has joined Boehringer-Ingelheim.

Wen Cao (MS 2012) is a student at the NYU Stern School of Business in New York City.

Brad Carlin (Ph.D. 1989) is starting his fifth year as chair of Biostatistics at the University of Minnesota; still enjoying the job for the most part. He has just graduated his 17th PhD student, and continued to focus primarily on methods for Bayesian adaptive clinical trials and network meta-analysis. He is also still leader of "the Bayesian band," which has a new name and website: www.imposteriors.com They will be playing one song as part of the Talent Show at the ASA 175th Celebration during JSM 2014 in Boston, and he has just recently learned that they will be playing the whole dance party at JSM 2015 in Seattle.
Bhargab Chattopadhyay (Ph.D. 2012) made full-length invited paper presentation during the IWAP held in Jerusalem, Israel in June 2012 and chaired an invited paper session during the 4th IWSM hosted by the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia-Athens in July 2013.

Saibal Chattopadhyay (Ph.D. 1993), Professor, was appointed to the highly prestigious position of The Director at the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta in Calcutta, India, effective April 2013.

Ashok Chaurasia (Ph.D. 2013) received a student travel award to 10th International Conference on Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS) held in Chicago, Illinois in October 2013 for his paper with Dr. Ofer Harel, “Model Selection with Incomplete Data Using Adjusted Variance.” He is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in Bethesda, Maryland.

Steven Chiou (Ph.D. May 2013) has joined the University of Minnesota in Duluth as an Assistant Professor.

Sourish Das (Ph.D. 2008) has become an Assistant Professor in the Mathematics Group at the Chennai Mathematical Institute, India. Currently his research interest focuses on solving problems of Financial Mathematics and Applied Statistics via Bayesian methodology.

Sujay Datta (Ph.D. 1995) presented a contributed paper at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Montreal, Canada in August 2013.

Ulysses Diva (Ph.D. 2006) is now working with AstraZeneca in Wilmington, DE as a Principal Statistician.

Gulsum Cinar Dolgun (MS 2013) is an Expert Assistant at TCMB.

Kishori Donwar (MS 2007) is working for KPMG Derivatives as a Valuation Specialist.

Rongwei Fu (Ph.D. 2003) Associate Professor, Oregon Science and Health University was the chair of the local organizing committee of the ICSA Applied Statistics meeting in Portland, OR.

Elijah Gaoioni (Ph.D. 2009) has joined New York Life Insurance Company as a Corporate Vice President, Data Science.

Sujit Ghosh (Ph.D. 1996) was selected to serve as one of the Program Directors in the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) within the National Science Foundation (NSF) beginning September 2013. Recently, he was offered the position of the Deputy Director of Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI) beginning September 2014. He was elected to serve as the President of the NC Chapter of American Statistical Association.
ASA) for year 2013. He was awarded the 2013 Thammasat University Honorary Plaque by the Government of Thailand. He has been given the 2013-2014 Cavell Bowgie Mentoring Faculty Award by Department of Statistics at NC State University.

Feng Guo (Ph.D. Statistics, 2007, Transportation. 2010) has received his tenure with promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.

Enida Halilovic (MS 2013) is an IT Project Analyst for United Health Care insurance company.

Shan Hu (Ph.D. 2012) has been promoted to Predictive Modeler II at Plymouth Rock Insurance in Boston, Massachusetts.

Xun Jiang (Ph.D. May 2013) has joined Amgen Biopharmaceutical Company, in Thousand Oaks, California, as a biostatistician.

Gong-Yi Liao (Ph.D. 2013) is employed by the Northern Trust Company.

Qi Liao (MS 2013) is a Statistician at Merkle.

Junfeng Lin (Ph.D. 2003) is a consultant to GCE Solutions, Inc. in Bloomington, Illinois.

Ran Liu (Ph.D. 2012) is still working at Merck in the Translational Medicine Statistics group. She had her first child—a baby boy—in September of 2014.

Xue Liu (MS 2013) has joined Towers Watson as an Actuarial Analyst.

Zhuping Liu (MS 2012) is pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Texas-Austin in Marketing.

Bani Mallick (Ph.D. 1994) was elected as an AAAS Fellow.

Madhuja Mallick (Ph.D. 2004) is an Associate Director at Forest Laboratories, Inc.

Gregory Matthews (Ph.D. 2012) is an Assistant Professor at Loyola University in Chicago, IL.

Athanasios Christou Micheas (Ph.D. 2001) has become an Associate Editor for the Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation and serves the Department of Statistics at the University of Missouri as the Director of Graduate Studies. He is currently writing a book titled "Theory and Modelling of Stochastic Objects - Point Processes to Random Sets."

Stephen O’Malley (MS 2005) is an Analytics Manager at Health Dialog.
Valerie Pare (Ph.D. 2013) is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Smith College, MA.

Sankha Muthu Poruthotage (Ph.D. 2013) has joined Plymouth Insurance, Boston, Massachusetts, effective September 1, 2013.

Sairam Rayaprolu (Ph.D. August 2013) has joined Disney as a Decision Science Consultant in Orland, Florida.

Tumulesh K. S. Solanky (Ph.D. 1990), Professor and Head, made a full-length invited paper presentation and chaired an invited paper session during the 4th IWSM hosted by the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia-Athens, July 2013.

Naitee Ting became an ASA Fellow in 2014.

Leo Wang (Ph.D. August 2013) has joined Barclay’s in New York City as an Assistant Vice President.

Yue Wang (MS 2013) is working for Aetna Insurance Company as an Analyst.

Ziwen Wei (Ph.D. 2012) is employed at Merck & Co., Inc.

Rui Wu (Ph.D. 2012) is employed at Novartis Oncology.

Hui Yao (MS 2012) is a Senior Predictive Modeler at Ernst & Young.

Jieyang Zang (MS 2012) is a Customer Data Analyst at Symphony EYC.
Paul McLaughlin (Adv. Glaz) was recognized by the Provost for excellence in teaching.

Gyuhyeong Goh (Adv. Dey) was awarded a Young Investigator Travel Grant to present a paper at the MCMSki IV meeting at Chamonix, France in January 2014. He gave a contributed presentation on “Bayesian Modeling for Sparse High-Dimensional Data using Divergence Measures” at the Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys and Big Data conference honoring Professor Malay Ghosh in College Park, Maryland in May 2014, and he published a paper with Dipak Dey in the *Journal of Multivariate Analysis* and one with D. Kim and Y. Kim in *Communications on Statistics*. He also worked as a Graduate Research Assistant from August 2013 to May 2014 at the Connecticut Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (CICATS) at the University of Connecticut Health Center under the supervision of Dr. James Grady. He received fellowships from the Ph.D. Summer Travel Awards in May 2014, the Elizabeth Macfarlane Fellowship, Spring 2014, a Graduate Student Travel Award in Spring 2014 from the Department of Statistics, and a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Spring 2014 from the University of Connecticut’s Graduate School.

Jing Wu (Adv. Schifano, Chen) received a Pre-doctoral Fellowship from the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs in 2014.

Ved Deshpande (Adv. Dey, Schifano) and Jing Wu (Adv. M.-H. Chen, Schifano) were jointly awarded the Gottfried Noether Award from the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2013.

Ved Deshpande (Adv. Dey, Schifano) was awarded the Hugh Fairfield Smith & Dolores S. Smith Award from the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2013. Ved also received a summer Pre-doctoral Fellowship from the Department of Statistics and summer support from CLAS in 2014.

Yujing Jiang (Adv. Chi) and Bo Zhao (Adv. Glaz) were jointly awarded the Department of Statistics Best Performance in Probability Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2013.

Volodymyr Serhiyenko (Adv. Ravishanker) was awarded the Department of Statistics Best Performance in Inference Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2013.

Swarnali Banerjee (Ph.D. Summer 2014, Adv. Mukhopadhyay) was awarded the Department of Statistics Teaching Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2013.
**Danjie Zhang** (Adv. M.-H. Chen) was awarded the Department of Statistics Service Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2013.

**Chantal Larose** (Adv. D. Dey, O. Harel) was a Graduate Student Technician supervised by Dipak Dey and a Graduate Student Technician for CIGNA, May-August 2014. She was also a Research Assistant at the UConn Health Center, Center for Public Health and Health Policy in East Hartford, CT, August 2013-May 2014. Chantal received a CLAS Graduate Fellowship (May 2014), Matthew Goldstein Fund for Graduate Education in Statistics Fellowship (May 2014), a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (May 2014) and was a finalist in APHA Student Research Competition (April 2014). She is a Webmaster of the ASA Connecticut Chapter and refereed a paper for Statistical Methods in Medical Research and Health Services and Outcomes Research Methodology. Chantal was also an instructor at the Storrs Campus of Statistical Methods with Calculus Level I in Fall 2013 and Introduction to Statistics II in Spring 2014.


**Dooti Roy** (Adv. D. Dey) published a paper entitled, “A Daily Diary Assessment of Female Weight Stigmatization”, with Seacat J., Dougal S and Roy D. in *Journal of Health Psychology*. She was supported by Cigna Analytics as a research assistant for the academic year. She received a Macfarlane Fellowship and Matthew Goldstein Fund for Graduate Education in Statistics award from the department during Summer 2014. She also received an award for Young Presenters at Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys and Big Data: A Conference Honoring Professor Malay Ghosh organized by JPSM at the University of Maryland, College Park. The title of her paper was, “Application of GEV in analysis of survival data.” Dooti was a Consultant for the Statistical Consulting Services under the supervision of Dr. Chen during the academic year and a Summer Student Worker at Pfizer, Inc. during Summer 2014.

**Guang Ouyang** (Adv. Dey) worked at Pfizer, Inc. in Groton, CT year round as an intern.
Abhisek Saha (Adv. D. Dey and X. Wang) was supported by CIGNA Analytics as a Research Assistant to work predictive modeling for prescription drugs.

Dr. Gladys Barriga, from Federal University of Sao Paulo, Sao Carlos, Brazil, completed her visiting research fellowship under the supervision of Professor Dey.


Eric Rose joined the Statistics Ph.D. program at NCSU in Fall 2014.

Victoria Chen (Adv. O. Harel) participated in Undergraduate Research during Fall 2013 and Spring 2014. She joined the Biostatistics Ph.D. program at Yale University in Fall 2014.

Zhe Li (Adv. Pozdnyakov) participated in Undergraduate Research during Fall 2013.

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**Summer Internship in Statistical Genetics**

By Kevin Gunn  
Statistics Major, Class of 2014:

During the summer I had the opportunity to work as an intern on a research project focusing on Genome Wide Association Studies in the Statistical Genetics department at Yale under the supervision of Dr. Hongyu Zhao and PhD student, Cong Li. Through this experience I was able to acquire knowledge of several unfamiliar statistical and computational techniques in R along with a breadth of information about genetics. I worked on genotype data of Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative colitis and focused on finding significant SNPs (Single-nucleotide polymorphisms) by utilizing a statistical framework developed by their lab to integrate functional annotations with pleiotropic enrichment methods named GPA analysis (GWAS Pleiotropic Annotation). Another focus of mine was Pathway Analysis by mapping these SNPs to genes and their respective pathways allowing me to incorporate pathway information to prioritize risk genetic variants. Finding significant Pathways aids researchers in medicine to develop better treatments. The internship gave me new perspective into statistical genetics and the impact this research makes in the medical community on a wide range of diseases. UConn courses that helped me during the summer include Introduction to Computer Science (CSE 1010), Computational Statistics (STAT 3675Q), the Mathematical Statistics sequence (STAT 3375 and 3445), and Biochemistry (MCB 2000) which proved to be invaluable while working on genotype data. Following this year, I plan to go on to graduate school in Biostatistics as my experience this summer showed me that my interests in statistics, computer science, and biology can be applied to the field of statistical genetics.
Recent Ph.D.’s

Swarnali Banerjee, Ph.D., 2014
Valerie Pare, Ph.D., 2014
Hongwei Shang, Ph.D., 2013
Ashok Chaurasia, Ph.D., 2013
Xiao (Leo) Wang, Ph.D., 2013

Recent Master’s

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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 Megan Petsa, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, 215 Glenbrook Road, U-4120, Storrs, CT 06269-4120 or fax it to (860) 486-4113.

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The Department welcomes suggestions for future newsletters. Please feel free to e-mail us at megan.petsa@uconn.edu. The University of Connecticut, Department of Statistics website address is http://www.stat.uconn.edu and phone number is (860) 486-3413.