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Welcome to the eighteenth issue of our Department Newsletter. This has been a successful year for the department on many fronts. We have launched a Professional MS Program in Biostatistics, approved by Provost Office and Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut, with an incoming class of 20 talented graduate students. 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.

Congratulations to our colleagues, Professors Ofer Harel and Jun Yan, on the occasion of their promotion to the rank of full Professor.

I am happy to let you know that Professor Ofer Harel has been elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association. Professor Nalini Ravishanker is the President-Elect of the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics for 2015-17. The term of her presidency of ISBIS will be 2017-19. Professor Nitis Mukhopadhyay received the 2015 Don Owen Award for excellence in research, statistical consultation, and service to the statistical community, presented at the 2015 Conference of Texas Statisticians. Professor Jun Yan received the 2015 Research Excellence Program award from the Office of Vice President for Research for his research proposal: Statistical Methods and Computing for Detection and Attribution of Changes in Climate Extremes. Congratulations to all recipients of these prestigious awards and honors!

In Spring 2015 semester the department hosted the following two important events. Professor Jeremy M. G. Taylor, Department of Biostatistics, University of Michigan, presented the 3rd Annual Makuch Distinguished Lecture in Biostatistics, entitled: Surrogacy Assessment in Clinical Trials Using Principal Stratification. On April 23-24, 2015 our department hosted the 29th New England Statistics Symposium (NESS). Over 200 participants from academic institutions, industry and government agencies from all across New England and the US have participated at this meeting. Keynote lectures were delivered by UConn Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and Marianne E. Klewin Professor of Engineering, Professor Yaakov Bar-Shalom, University of Connecticut, and Professor Adrian Raftery, University of Washington, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and member of the United States National Academy of Sciences. My sincere thanks go to the leadership of Professors Ming-Hui Chen (Chair), Ofer Harel and Jun Yan for organizing this symposium. I further thank Ms. Megan Petsa, Ms. Tracy Burke and the many graduate students who helped at each stage of the planning of this symposium.

I am happy to announce that the recipient of 2015 Department of Statistics Distinguished Alumnus Award is Professor Bradley P. Carlin (Ph. D. 1989), Mayo Professor of Public Health and Head of Division of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota. The title of his talk scheduled for November 11, 2015, is: Bayesian Adaptive Clinical Trial Methods for
Incorporating Auxiliary Data and Identifying Interesting Subgroups, with Applications to Orphan Diseases. More details on this exciting event will appear in the next Newsletter.

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 eight of our faculty members are Fellows of the ASA, four of our faculty are Fellows of the IMS, two of our faculty are Fellows of AAAS and four of our faculty are elected members of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences or Sciences and Engineering. Our faculty members continue to be appointed to prestigious editorial 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 rankings from NRC as well as US News and World News.

I am glad to report that our graduate programs have been ranked recently as 21st in the US by a nationwide poll of graduate students. The following link presents the full survey:


In the last 8 years the department has graduated about five Ph.D. students per year. This has placed the department at nearly 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 have also signed MOU’s, with three 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 new faculty positions that have been allocated to our department in the last four 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 appointments of our faculty members 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, Dean’s Offices of College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources.

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 about 130 graduate students enrolled in our graduate programs and about 150 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)

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From the Director of the Graduate Program

The graduate programs of our department provide excellent learning and research experiences to prepare students for a successful career in statistics. We offer a broad spectrum of modern courses in statistics and probability, including statistical computing and consulting. In the advanced seminar courses, students are exposed to exciting areas of current research. Through our statistical consulting services, 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.

I am glad to announce that our Professional M.S. program in Biostatistics started its first class in Fall 2015. This program, established in Fall 2014, focuses on practical skills that are sought after in health related fields. Like our M.S. program in Statistics and Ph.D. program, it provides exciting opportunities to students.

During the 2014-15 academic year, 49 new students were enrolled in our graduate programs, 8 of them with support in the form of teaching or research assistantship from the department or a variety of other sources. A total of 112 graduate students were enrolled, out of which 43 were supported. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support from Dean's Office of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), Dean's Office of the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources (CANR), Office of the Vice President for Research, and Pfizer, Inc.

Our graduate programs are highly competitive and visible around the world. This year over 540 students all over the world applied for admission to the programs. I would like to thank the members of the graduate admission committee, Professors Pozdnyakov (Director of Graduate Admissions), Chen, Kuo, Ravishanker, Vitale, and Yan, 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 2015 semester, we welcomed 90 new students, 26 in the M.S. program in Statistics, 20 in the Professional M.S. program in Biostatistics, and 6 in the Ph.D. program, with 2 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](http://www.stat.uconn.edu).

Zhiyi Chi (e-mail: zhiyi.chi@uconn.edu)

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From the Director of the Undergraduate Program

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](http://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 2014 and May and August 2015, and we wish them success in all their future endeavors.

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

Kun Chen is a Committee Member and Associate Editor of the 2015 ICSA Symposium Proceeding Book.

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 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 has been the Editor-in-Chief of Sequential Analysis journal since 2004. He was the Guest Editor of a special issue, “Modern Statistical Methodologies in the Cutting Edge of Science,” on behalf of the Sri Lankan Journal of Applied Statistics (SLJAS), December 2014. He is a member of the Advisory Board for SLJAS and also Associate Editors for the Communications in Statistics (both series), 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) until December 2015, and as an Associate Editor of the Journal of Forecasting. She will be Co-Editor-in-Chief of the International Statistical Review effective January 2016.

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

Jun Yan is an Associate Editor of Environmental and Ecological Statistics.

Yuping Zhang is a member of the editorial board of Frontiers in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology.

Selected Invited Faculty Talks

Haim Bar presented an invited talk at the Modern Modeling Methods conference in May 2015. He was also invited to speak at the 3rd annual International Conference & Exhibition on Biometrics and Biostatistics in Baltimore, Maryland in October 2014.
Kun Chen attended the 16th Meeting of New Researchers in Statistics and Probability at Harvard University, Boston, MA in August 2014, and gave a talk titled “Sparse and orthogonal factor regression”. He gave an invited talk titled “On some low-rank models in multivariate time series analysis” at the International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics held at Greensboro, NC, in October 2014. He was invited to give colloquium talks at the Department of Statistics at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS in October 2014, and at the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA, in November 2014. In April 2015, at the 29th New England Statistical Symposium, Kun Chen offered a short course together with Dr. Jun Yan on modern multivariate statistical learning, which was well attended and received. In June 2015, Kun Chen gave an invited talk titled “Linking lung airway structure to pulmonary function via hierarchical feature selection” at the ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium and 13th Graybill Conference, Fort Collins, CO; he also organized an invited session and served on the Proceeding Book Committee of the conference. Kun was also invited to give a talk at the 60th World Statistics Congress held at Brazil in July 2015.

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.


Ofer Harel Presented invited talks at the Modern Modeling Methods Conference, Storrs, CT, May, 2015; CHIPTS Methods Seminar - UCLA-Semel Institute Center for Community Health, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, April, 2015; the division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, March, 2015; the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA, March, 2015; the Clinical Division, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA, February, 2015; the College of Public Health, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, January 2015; Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, Natanya, Israel, January, 2015; Department of Statistics, University of Haifa, Haifa, Israel, December, 2014; and at the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP), University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, September, 2014.

Lynn Kuo has given invited talks on “Posterior Predictive Bayesian Phylogenetic Model Selection” at the Department of Biostatistics at Columbia University and Mathematics Science Department at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, both in 2014. She has given a talk, “Nonparametric Bayesian Functional Clustering for Time-Course Microarray Data,” at the Statistics and Its Interface Special Invited Session on Modern Bayesian Statistics, at the ICSA/Graybill Applied Statistical Conference 2015. She also delivered a talk, “A New Monte Carlo Method for Computing Marginal Likelihoods,” at the invited session on Monte Carlo Methods Facing New Challenges in Statistics and Sciences, sponsored by the Section on Statistical Computing at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, 2015.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay delivered invited colloquia at the University of Binghamton, New York (October 16, 2014) and University of Akron, Ohio (November 13, 2014). He gave a plenary lecture in a conference on “Applied Mathematics, Simulation, Modeling” held during November 22-24, 2014 in Florence, Italy. He delivered an invited colloquium at the University of Roma Sapienza, Rome, Italy on November 27, 2014. He gave another plenary lecture at the Sri Lankan International Conference in Statistics that was held in Colombo, December 28-31, 2014. He gave yet another plenary lecture and an invited after-dinner presentation at the Conference of Texas Statisticians (COTS) hosted by the University of Texas, Austin, Texas (April 9-11, 2015). He also delivered an invited colloquium at the
Oldest Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia (April 23, 2015).

Vladimir Pozdnyakov presented on Asymptotics of a Clustering Criterion for Smooth Distributions at the International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS 2013), July 2013, Saint Petersburg, Russia. He also presented on Repeated Significance Tests under Budget Constraints at The Fifth International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies, June 2015, Columbia University, NY.

Nalini Ravishanker presented invited talks at Boston University (October 2014), M.O.P. Vaishnav College for Women (Jan. 2015), University of Nevada at Las Vegas (March 2015), George Washington University (April 2015), IISER Pune (May 2015 for an IISER/SAMSI Workshop), and PUCP-Lima (July 2015). She also presented invited talks at these conferences: International Society of Business and Industrial Statistics, ISBIS (July 2015), and the International Statistical Institute, ISI (July 2015).

Elizabeth Schifano presented invited talks at the New England Statistics Symposium, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, April 2015 and the Modern Modeling Methods Conference, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, May 2015. She was also an invited speaker at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA, October 2014.

Xiaojing Wang presented invited talks at the 2015 IMS-China International Conference on Statistics and Probability, Kunming, China, 07/2015; at the Joint 24th ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium & 13th Graybill Conference, Fort Collins, CO, USA, 06/2015; at the 29th New England Statistics Symposium, Storrs, CT, USA, 04/2015; at the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA, USA, 03/2015; at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA, 10/2014; at the Department of Biostatistics, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA, 09/2014. Xiaojing Wang is also an invited presenter for a workshop during the Symposium on “Plant Diversity in the GCFR: From Genomes to Biomes,” Cape Town, South Africa, 07/2015.


Yuping Zhang presented “Integrating diverse genomics data to infer regulations” at the Joint 24th ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium and 13th Graybill Conference, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA in 2015. She also presented “Statistical learning for data integration with applications in omics studies” at the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center, The Institute of Living, Hartford, Connecticut, USA; and “Integrating diverse genomics data to infer heterogeneity in cancer,” at Tsinghua University, and Peking University, Beijing, China in 2014.

Grants

Kun Chen is the PI on a Faculty Large Grant, “Integrative multivariate analysis with multiple sets of


Dipak K. Dey National Institute of Health, Biosensor Arrays, Protein Biosensor Arrays based on Nanomaterials, 2011-2015. (Co-PI with James Rusling, Chemistry). Published a major paper in ‘Analytical Chemistry’ through this grant. Cigna Health Care, 2013-2014, Cigna Analytics Center at UCONN, $130,000. (With J. Teitelbaum). He received multiple travel grants from Brazil and Peru to deliver plenary lectures.

Ofer Harel is a PI on “Dealing with missing data in HIV prevention trials” grant supported by the National Institute of Health, a Co-PI on “Multilevel Alcohol-HIV/AIDS Prevention in South Africa” grant supported by the National Institute of Health, a sub-contract PI on “Enhancing the Capacity of School Nurses to Reduce Excessive Anxiety in Children” supported by Department of Education (IES), and a co-PI on “Single Cell Lineage Map (SCLM)” supported by the University of Connecticut. Ofer Harel also has several sub-contracts from UCHC to fund number of students.


Nitis Mukhopadhyay received travel grants from UCRF-AAUP, University of Binghamton, University of Akron, University of Roma Sapienza, Old Dominion University, and Taylor & Francis Group (publisher of Sequential Analysis) to partially fund in connection his invited trips both nationally and internationally and to participate in the Joint Statistical Meetings (August 2014).
Nalini Ravishanker  Nalini is co-P.I. with John Ivan (Civil and Environmental Engineering), and Rebecca Townsend, (Manchester Community College) on a Year 25 New England University Transportation Center Grant, Social Network Effects on Attitudes about Pedestrian Street Crossing Behavior, 2015 -2017.

Elizabeth Schifano was the PI on a subcontract from the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center through the Connecticut Department of Public Health to study the effect of environmental tobacco smoke on asthma severity in children (2014-2015). 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) 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 recipient of a NSF Travel Grant (07/2015) from the Division of Mathematical Sciences, National Sciences Foundation. She previously was also awarded Faculty Large Grants, 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.


Yuping Zhang was awarded a CHIP Faculty/Researcher Affiliate Seed Grant, Principal Investigator May 15, 2015 - May 14, 2017; a CHIP Grant Development Summer Stipends for Jr. Faculty FY15, Principal Investigator June 1, 2015 - July 31, 2015; and travel grants from the National Institute on Aging. National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis, Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute.

Outreach

Kun Chen taught at a short course at NESS 2015 on April 24 (with Jun Yan) on Modern Multivariate Statistical Learning: Methods and Applications.

Ming-Hui Chen is President-Elect (2012), President (2013), and President-Past (2014) of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), a member of the Board of Directors, Zhejiang University Alumni Association (elected in 2011). 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/adjunct). He was a reviewer of the grant proposals of the Research Grant Council (RGC) of Hong Kong, 2015. He served as Chair of the Planning Committee for the 29th New England Statistical Symposium, 2015. He serves as Co-Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, the 10th ICSA International Conference, Shanghai, China, December, 19-22, 2016. He is the President Elect Appointee to serve on the Committee on Nominations, American Statistical Association for 2016-2017. He served as a mentor in the ASA-NISS-IMS Technical Writing Workshop for New Researchers at JSM 2014 and JSM 2015.

Dipak K. Dey has been a Member, Accreditation Implementation Committee of the American Statistical Association, from 2010 onwards. He is a member of Research Grant Council of Hong Kong. He was an external evaluator of the Department of Statistics, Fox
School of Business, in Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. At UConn, he is a member of the Research Deans Council (RDC), Advisory Council for the University of Connecticut Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), School of Business, Marth Award for mentorship selection committee under Graduate School and a member of the Advisory Committee of the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering. He is a Fellow of the Institute for Public Health Research and Associate Director, Connecticut Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (CICATS). He is a member/ chair of various Search Committees, including Director of the Integrative Geo Science and Head of the Department of Mathematics. He represented CLAS in the Innovation Quest meetings. He developed various MoUs for exchange of faculty and Post- doctoral fellows with several Universities in Brazil and China. He is a representative of CLAS to the Office of the Global affairs for enhancement of Graduate educational exchange programs. He is an active member of the RDC and reviewed many intramural proposals. As a member of the University senate he served student welfare and faculty standard committees. Currently he is Mentoring many faculty from CLAS.

**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. IWAP 2016 is going to take place on June 20-23, 2016, in Toronto, Canada. He is a member of Scientific Program Committee of the International Symposia on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis, ASMDA. ASMDA 2015 was held at the University of Piraeus, Greece, in 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; On the scientific organizing committee The International Conference for Health Policy Statistics (ICHPS); Elected member of the Statistics Section Council of the American Public Health Association (APHA); Elected member of the Council of Sections, Health Policy Statistics Section, the American Statistical Association; Member, Special Emphasis Panel -Musculoskeletal Alterations, NASA HERO Musculoskeletal Panel; Member, Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for NIDA grant “Behavioral intervention to enhance HIV test/treat.”

**Lynn Kuo** served as an external advisor for a Ph.D. committee at WPI. She also served as an external assessor for an associate professor promotion. She organize an invited paper session on molecular evolution and statistical genetics at the New England Statistical Symposium (NESS). She further served as judges for the IBM and Google student awards at NESS. She also organized an invited paper session on recent advances in Genomics at the ICSA/Graybill Applied Statistical Conference. 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.

**Nitis Mukhopadhyay** was the Vice-President, Calcutta Statistical Association (2013 & 2014) and is a Member of the Council, Calcutta Statistical Association (2010-present). He served as a Co-Chair for the Sri Lankan International Conference in Statistics held in Colombo, December 28-31, 2014. He was Organizer and Chair for the 5th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM), June 21-225, 2015, held at Columbia University, New York. He put together a large variety of invited paper sessions and chaired many of them including the Abraham Wald Prize Ceremony during the IWSM. He is a continuing member of the Committee on Archives and Historical Materials of the American Statistical Association. He also published an article titled “Elementary Ideas and Interesting Stories Involving Numbers” in Durga Puja Souvenir Magazine
Nalini Ravishanker  Nalini Ravishanker is President-elect of the International Society of Business and Industrial Statistics (2015). In Jan. 2015, she co-organized the International Workshop on Statistical Methods for Business and Industry Applications, co-sponsored by ISBIS, the Indian Statistical Institute and supported by IISA and the University of Madras. In Jan. 2015, she also co-organized the International Workshop on Reliability and Time Series Methodology Relevant to Business and Industry, sponsored jointly by ISBIS, Cochin University of Science and Technology, and supported by IISA. In August 2014 and 2015, she ran a Pre College Summer @ UConn: Sorting through the deluge of data! She organized sessions at QPRC 2015, ISBIS 2015, ISI 2015.

Elizabeth Schifano is an elected member of Statistics Section Council of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

Xiaojing Wang is a Member of ICSA Membership Committee from 2013 to 2015. She will also be appointed to the Committee on Membership Retention and Recruitment for American Statistical Association from 2016 to 2018.

Jun Yan taught a short course at NESS 2015, April 24 (with Kun Chen) on Modern Multivariate Statistical Learning: Methods and Applications and a workshop at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, June 29 to July 3, 2015 on Advanced Statistical Computing. He is also the IT committee chair of the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA).


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.


**Ofer Harel** (with Chaurasia, A.) 2015. Partial F-tests with multiply imputed data in the linear regression


Suman Majumdar (With S. Kundu and A. Sengupta) 2014. On Weak Convergence in \( \mathcal{M}(H) \): Relaxation of a Sufficient Condition. Sankhya 76-A, 146-149.


(With Sankha Muthu Poruthotage) 2014. Multiple crossing sequential fixed-size confidence region methodologies for a multivariate normal mean vector. Statistical Methodology, 21, 135-155.


Multivariate Time Series of Counts. Statistics and Its Interface, 7(4), 559-570.


(With Zhang, Y., Mamun, S. A., & Ivan, J. N.) Safety Effects of Exclusive and Concurrent Signal Phasing for Pedestrian Crossing, Accident Analysis and Prevention, 2015 (accepted), 10.1016/j.aap.2015.06.010.


**Published Books**


From the Director of the Statistical Consulting Services (SCS)

By Ming-Hui Chen

The Statistical Consulting Services (SCS) had a very successful and productive year. In the fall of 2014, the SCS team consisted of Brain Bader, Ved Deshpande, Hee-Koung Joeng, and Dooti Roy. In Spring 2015, the SCS team was expanded substantially. In addition to Brain Bader, Ved Deshpande, Hee-Koung Joeng, and Dooti Roy, Yeong Jin Gwon, Paul McLaughlin, Hao Li, and Fan Zhang joined the SCS team. In Spring 2015, SCS launched the walk-in services in addition to the full consulting project services. All the SCS team members were actively participating in advertising the newly offered walk-in services in February 2015. Two new flyers were designed by Brian Bader and Dooti Roy. The flyers were sent out to the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), the CLAS Dean’s Office, various schools and departments at Storrs campus as well as UCHC on Friday, January 30, 2015. Hee-Koung Joeng and Hao Li
took the responsibility of posting the flyers at various university locations at Storrs campus. The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the CLAS Dean’s Office also helped circulate the flyers to students and faculty at UConn. Thanks to Megan Petsa for contacting the CLAS Dean Office and Tracy Burke for posting about SCS walk-in services in the UConn Daily Digest on February 2, 3 and 4. Dooti contacted Christine Buckley, Director of Communications, UConn and as she promised, the new SCS service was announced in the February “Inside CLAS” newsletter. Dooti designed the walk-in service form and set up drop box accounts for all the consultants where all the walk-in projects are stored and can be viewed/edited by the SCS group. Dooti also designed the SCS consultant checklist to guide the junior consultants through the initial process. Ved Deshpande and Ellis Shaffer worked together to improve the SCS webpage and include a new walk-in services section. Many SCS clients also helped circulate the SCS flyers in their departments or schools. All the SCS consultants, including the SCS Director, reached out to their friends and connections to publicize the service offering. The walk-in services were a great success. During a short period of 2/3/2015-5/15/2015, the SCS provided walk-in services to 76 clients. The walk-in services also increased the number of full consulting projects. In addition to 5 active full consulting projects from Fall 2014, a total of 24 new full consulting projects were received in Spring 2015.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the clients who received the full consulting project services within the University of Connecticut at Storrs were from Department of Chemistry, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Department of Geography, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Department of Kinesiology, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, Department of Nutritional Sciences, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Psychology, Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Department of Physiology & Neurobiology, Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science, Department of Sociology, and Institute for Teaching and Learning. Again, there were several projects from School of Dental Medicine and Department of Oral Health and Diagnostic Sciences at UCHC and School of Social Work. There were also several clients from the local community, who were from Airgas Specialty Gases R & D, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Stamford Hospital, and University of Illinois at Springfield.

In May 2015, the director was actively seeking financial support for the SCS. We would like to thank Professors Linda S. Pescatello of the Department of Kinesiology, Tammie J. Spaulding of the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, Christine Kirchhoff of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Amy R. Mobley of the Department of Nutritional Sciences for writing strong letters of support. We are glad to report that the SCS has secured financial support for the next three academic years (2015-2018). We would like to thank the Office of Vice President for Research for providing financial support over the last six years and for increasing the level of financial support for the next three years. We would also like to thank Associate Vice President Michelle K. Williams, CLAS Dean Jeremy Teitelbaum, CAHNRC Dean Gregory Weidemann, and Professor Xiuling Lu of the School of Pharmacy for their support to the SCS. And certainly, the SCS would not be running without the strong support from the head and the faculty of the Department of Statistics.
**Statistical Software**

In order to better serve our clients, the SCS has purchased several statistical software packages, which are installed in a designated computer in the department research computer lab. Currently, SAS, R, MATLAB, SPSS, AMOS, MPlus 6, Stata, and PASS 13 are available in the department research lab to our faculty and graduate students.

**Pfizer Global Research & Development Student Fellowship Program (December 2007 - August, 2015)**

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 of 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. From Fall 2011 to Fall 2014, Ouyang Guang was the third Pfizer Student Fellow. Jing Wu became the fourth Pfizer Student Fellow in spring 2015. Ms. Wu will continue to work as a student fellow at Pfizer in the next academic year as well as the summer of 2016.

**Collaboration with the Center for Nursing Research (CNR) (Fall 2007-Spring 2015)**

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 2014-2015 academic, Ms. Jing Wu worked at the CNR to replace Ms. Danjie Zhang. Ms. Wu will continue to work at the CNR in the 2015-2016 academic year.

**Faculty Awards**

**Kun Chen** became an elected member of the International Statistical Institute in 2015. In Spring of 2015, he was also recognized for Excellence in Teaching by the Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

**Dipak K. Dey** won the Outstanding Statistician Award, Connecticut chapter of the American Statistical Association in December 2014. He was also elected Fellow of the International Society of Bayesian Analysis, at the ISBA World Congress in Cancun, Mexico, July 2014 for detailed information, visit: bayesian.org/awards/isba-fellows
Ofer Harel was made a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2015. He also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from The Methodology Center at The Pennsylvania State University in 2015.

Lynn Kuo was elected as a member of the International Statistical Institute on July 9, 2014. In Spring of 2015, she was recognized for excellence in teaching by the Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay was honored by the San Antonio Chapter of the American Statistical Association by awarding him the Don Owen Prize, funded by the San Antonio Chapter and Taylor & Francis Group.

Xiaojing Wang was recognized for Excellence in Teaching by the Office of the Provost, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA, in January 2015. She also received a NISS/ASA/IMS Travel Award at the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings, Boston, MA, USA, August 2014.

The ICSA honored Dr. Jun Yan for his outstanding and important service to the International Chinese Statistical Association as the bulletin editor since 2011 and for his diligence and creativity that have made the ICSA bulletin fun and informative to read. For his contributions, Jun Yan was awarded the Outstanding Service Award, 2014.

Nitis Mukhopadhyay Wins Don Owen Award

By Professor David Han, University of Texas, San Antonio

On April 10th, 2015, the ASA San Antonio Chapter president Professor Jesus Cuellar Fuentes (right) presented the Don Owen Award to Dr. Nitis Mukhopadhyay (left) for his outstanding contributions to research, statistical consultation, and service to the statistical community.
The 2015 Don Owen Award given by the San Antonio Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA), was presented to Nitis Mukhopadhyay by the chapter president, Professor Jesus Cuellar Fuentes on April 10th at the Conference of Texas Statisticians. The conference was held at the University of Texas in Austin, TX and was organized by Dr. Tom Sager at the Department of Information, Risk & Operations Management. Dr. Mukhopadhyay was nominated by Dr. Tumulesh Solanky, Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University of New Orleans.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay is a professor at the Department of Statistics, the University of Connecticut in Storrs. He received his doctoral degree from the Indian Statistical Institute in 1975, and then he taught for six years at the Department of Statistics, the Oklahoma State University in Stillwater before joining the University of Connecticut in 1985.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay has authored six books, 14 book chapters, and published over 215 refereed research articles in statistical journals. His research includes several topics, in particular, sequential analysis and multistage sampling; path-breaking research in selection and ranking. His work in sequential methodologies and many other areas of statistics have been of fundamental nature and thought-provoking. Dr. Mukhopadhyay’s consulting collaborations are also exemplary. He has supported the ASA’s missions through his commitment and unparalleled dedication to preserve and celebrate statistical history. He has been a project director for the Films of Distinguished Statisticians, sponsored by Pfizer Global Research & Development and the ASA, for more than 20 years as well as the author of many top-notch interview pieces appearing in Statistical Science. He has been invited to deliver major talks at numerous professional meetings and seminars. He has taught courses in a variety of topics and guided numerous masters and Ph.D. students. He has also been serving as the editor-in-chief for Sequential Analysis journal, associate editor, and editorial advisory board member for several statistics journals. He has impacted many all over the world through his research, teaching, mentoring, advising, consulting, and editorships.

The San Antonio Chapter is proud to honor Dr. Mukhopadhyay for his excellence in research, statistical consultation, and service to the statistical community. The Don Owen Award is presented annually by the ASA San Antonio Chapter, and sponsored by the Taylor and Francis Group, a leading international academic publisher.
Statistics Department Annual Picnic and Graduate Student Awards

By Elizabeth Schifano

Every year, the Department of Statistics hosts an annual Fall picnic to allow new students to get to know the current students, faculty, staff and their families. Continuing with recent tradition,
the 2015 picnic was held at Patriots Park Lodge which overlooks the lovely Coventry Lake. The Graduate Student Committee of John Labarga, Xiaochen Lin, M. Henry Linder, Shariq Mohammed, Qi Qi, and Anqi Zhou, together with Professors Elizabeth Schifano and Kun Chen, organized a wonderful afternoon with over 75 people in attendance. It was a beautiful day, made complete with delicious food, great conversation, wonderful music, and outdoor sports. This was also the first year in which Student Awards were distributed during the picnic. The picnic was once again a success, and we are already looking forward to next year’s event.
The 5th International Workshop in Sequential Analysis 2015

By Nitis Mukhopadhyay

The 5th International Workshop in Sequential Methodologies (IWSM) was organized at Columbia University, New York during June 22-24, 2015 under the leadership of Professor Zhiliang Ying. Professors Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Alexander G. Tartakovsky, and Zhiliang Ying served as Co-Chairs.

This IWSM gave its participants an opportunity to celebrate the 70th birthdays of Professor Tze L. Lai (Stanford University, California) and Professor Alex Novikov (University of Technology Sydney, Australia). The former PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and other colleagues of Professor Alex Tartakovsky and Professor George Moustakides had arranged special celebratory sessions honoring 60th birthdays of both Professors Tartakovsky and Moustakides.
Practically all conceivable areas within sequential analysis were covered in this conference including adaptive designs, boundary crossing, change-point problems, clinical trials, data analysis, estimation, financial mathematics, multiple comparisons, nonparametrics, selection and ranking, surveillance and tests. The invited plenary lectures were presented by Professor Hock Peng Chan (National University of Singapore, Singapore), Professor Edit Gombay (University of Alberta, Canada), and Professor Igor Nikiforov (University of Technology of Troyes, France).

Two recent alums of our department, Professor Debanjan Bhattacharjee (PhD 2011, Adv: Mukhopadhyay) from Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah and Professor Swarnali Banerjee (PhD 2014, Adv: Mukhopadhyay) from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia presented full-length invited papers.

**Abraham Wald Prize in Sequential Analysis**

This joint paper received the internationally acclaimed Abraham Wald Prize in SQA, which was awarded in a special ceremony held during the 5th IWSM. Dr. Sriram is a professor in the Department of Statistics, University of Georgia-Athens, Georgia, USA and Dr. Iaci is a professor in the Department of Mathematics, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. Professor Sriram accepted the award in person. Unfortunately, Professor Iaci could not be present in person.

The winning paper in SQA was chosen by an international selection committee consisting of Professors Makoto Aoshima (University of Tsukuba), Michael Baron (American University), Pinyuen Chen (Syracuse University), and T. K. S. Solanky (University of New Orleans, Chair) by taking into account the input from all editorial board members of the journal.

The aforementioned paper synthesized a large class of problems in the light of time series data modeling and analyses, which appeared in print with invited discussion pieces from world renowned scholars, for example, Sören Christensen (Germany), Leonid I. Galtchouk (France), Albrecht Irle (Germany), Masayuki Kumon, Akimichi Takemura & Kei Takeuchi (Japan), Tze Leung Lai (USA), Nitis Mukhopadhyay & Swarnali Banerjee (USA), A. Novikov & A. N. Shiryaev (Australia & Russia), and Tumulesh K. S. Solanky (USA). The main paper was followed by those discussion pieces which were then followed by responses from Professors Sriram and Iaci.
This year’s IWSM and Abraham Wald Prize ceremony were especially remarkable because Columbia University, New York was the birthplace where Abraham Wald (and his collaborators) came up with groundbreaking research in sequential analysis that had a direct link with the US defense during the WWII.

A Highlight of JSM 2015:
An Alumni Dinner

By Xiaojing Wang

This summer our department organized a reunion dinner in conjunction with the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, WA on Sunday, August 9th. This reunion dinner was held at Palomino Restaurant. We aim to make this a formal event for our department every year at JSM for alumni to reunite with former classmates and friends, reconnect with faculty, and share their wisdom and experience with current students. There were more than 20 alumni, faculty members and current students at this year’s event.

The party was full of joyful and happy moments. People were reluctant to say goodbye, “Let’s see each other next year in Chicago for JSM 2016!”
The Department hosted the New England Statistics Symposium (NESS) on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, 2015. The purpose of each NESS is to bring together statisticians from all over New England to share research, discuss emerging issues in the field and to network with colleagues. Overall, over 260 participants attended this year's NESS conference or took short courses.

Welcome and opening remarks were delivered by Joseph Glaz, Professor and the Head of the Department of Statistics, Jeremy Teitelbaum, Professor of Mathematics and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), and Kent Holsinger, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School.

Keynote talks were delivered by Professors Adrian E. Raftery of the University of Washington and Yaakov Bar-Shalom of the University of Connecticut. Their talks respectively on “Probabilistic Population Projections for All Countries” and “How to Get the Most out of Your Sensors (and make a living out of this)” were well attended by the symposium participants.

On the first day, three full day short courses were offered: “Bayesian Biostatistics: Design of Clinical Trials and Subgroup Analysis” presented by Professor Peter Müller of the University of Texas Austin, “Modern Multivariate Statistical Learning: Methods and Applications” presented by Professors Kun Chen and Jun Yan of the University of Connecticut, and “Boosting R Skills and Automating Statistical Reports” presented by Dr. Yihui Xie of the RStudio, Inc. More than 60 participants took the short courses.

On the second day, there were 16 invited sessions including one invited panel discussion session on career opportunities in statistics. The topics of these invited presentations include

- Frontiers in Sequential Analysis with Applications,
- Statistical Challenges in Modeling and Applications,
- Statistical Innovations in Biomedical Research,
- Recent Advances in Spatial Statistics,
- Statistical Inference in Time Series and Machine Learning,
- Recent Developments in Analyzing Survival Endpoint Methods after Taking Alternative Therapy/Treatment Switching in Oncology Trials,
- Statistical Methods and Computing with Big Data,
- Statistical Applications and Practice,
Recent Advances in Subgroup Analyses,
Pharmaceutical Applications,
Design and Analysis of Complex Experiments,
Association and Correlation Analysis for Big Data, Advances in Molecular Evolution and Statistics Genetics, and
Data Analytics at IBM Research.

In honor of our recently deceased colleague Evarist Giné, who was Head of the UConn Mathematics Department and holder of a joint appointment in Statistics, Rick Vitale organized a special session entitled “Probability and Related Topics – in memory of Evarist Giné.” Speakers were Dick Dudley (MIT; Evarist’s thesis advisor), Molly Hahn and Victor de la Pena, (Tufts and Columbia, respectively; collaborators of Evarist), Iddo ben Ari (colleague of Evarist in UConn Mathematics), and Lu Lu (Colby; Evarist’s most recent Ph.D. student).

The poster session in the NESS history started in 2013, thanks to the sponsorship of Cigna. This year, we established the first Google Student Poster Award facilitated by our alumnus Xiaojing Wang (PhD 2011) at Google. The Google Student Poster Award was in parallel to the long established IBM Student Paper award. All student posters automatically entered the competition. Past winners of the IBM Student Paper Award were not eligible for the IBM Student Paper Award, but were eligible for the Google Student Poster Award. The poster presentation at this NESS took a form similar to the SPEED presentation at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Each presenter had 3 minutes in an oral session (11:00am--12:45pm), named after two corporate sponsors Bohringer-Ingelheim and Travellers, to attract the audience to his/her poster in the poster session. To maximize the exposure of the posters, the posters were put on display at 8:30am as soon as the registration started. The dedicated poster session was held during 1:00pm--2:10pm, with no other parallel sessions scheduled. It was a great success and 58 posters were received and presented in this NESS. Based on the overall quality of poster design, organization, visual appeal, timing and clarity of oral presentation, and scientific merit, the winners of the Google Student Poster Award were

- Daven Amin of the University of Rhode Island on “Predictive Network Modeling of the 2014-2015 Ebola Epidemic in Sierra Leone”;
- Zhixuan Fe of the Yale University on “Penalized Variable Selection in Competing Risks Regression”;
- Edward Kao of the Harvard University on “Causal Inference with Social Interference”;
- Nathan Lally of the University of Connecticut on “On The Efficacy of Using Informed Priors in Binomial Regression Models for Predictive Problems with an Application in Hurricane Damage Prediction”; and
- Justin J. Yang of the Harvard University on “Optimal Shrinkage Estimation in Heteroscedastic Hierarchical Linear Models”.

Abidemi Adeniji (Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), Kun Chen, Ming-Hui Chen (Coordinator), Zhiyi Chi, Beatriz E Etchegaray Garcia (IBM T. J. Watson Research Center), Ofer Harel, Lynn Kuo, Peter Muller (University of Texas at Austin), Nalini Ravishanker, Elizabeth D. Schifano, Jeffrey Townsend (Yale University), Xiaojing Wang (University of Connecticut), and Jun Yan served on the NESS 2015 Google Student Poster Award Committee.
This year, 25 papers were submitted for the four IBM Student Awards. The double-blind versions of these papers were reviewed by the members of the IBM student paper award committee chaired by Ming-Hui Chen of University of Connecticut. Haim Bar, Kun Chen, Zhiyi Chi, Lynn Kuo, Elizabeth D. Schifano, Xiaojing Wang, and Jun Yan of University of Connecticut, and Beatriz E Etchegaray Garcia of IBM T.J. Watson Research Center served on the committee. Based on the overall quality of the research, the winners of 2015 IBM Student Paper Award were

- Yang Chen of the Department of Statistics at the Harvard University on “the Analyzing Single-Molecule Protein Transportation Experiments via Hierarchical Hidden Markov Models” (Advisor: Samuel Kou);
- Yu Lu of the Department of Statistics at the Yale University on “Rate Optimal Graphon Estimation” (Advisor: Harrison H. Zhou);
- Yu-Bo Wang of the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut on “A New Monte Carlo Method for Computing Marginal Likelihoods” (Advisors: Lynn Kuo and Ming-Hui Chen); and

Yasuo Amemiya of the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center, Xiaojing Wang of the Google Inc., and Dipak K. Dey, Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor and the Associate Dean of the CLAS, University of Connecticut, presented a plaque to each winner of the IBM Student Paper Award and the Google Student Poster Award in the Student Awards and Closing Reception.

This year’s NESS was sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Google Inc., IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association, National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), Pfizer Inc., The Hartford, Travelers, 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 financial support provided by Google Inc. and IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, the organizing committee was able to waive registration fees for all student participants who gave oral or poster presentations at the symposium. In the evening of April 25, 2015, more than 56 participants attended the NESS dinner at Sichuan Pepper restaurant. Professors Ming-Hui Chen (chair), Ofer Harel, and Jun Yan served on this year’s planning committee. The planning committee would also like to thank Megan Petsa, Tracy Burke, Dooti Roy (chair of the student committees), and all graduate student helpers for their tremendous help and assistance. Without their support, it would not have been possible to have such a successful NESS.

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 colleagues from academia & industry, including a few first-timers, and brought a great breadth of
experience to the event. The 2015 Awards Ceremony for the winners was held on April 25, 2015 at the University of Connecticut during the 29th NESS.

This year marked the 29th anniversary of the New England Statistics Symposium. The first New England Statistics Symposium was held at the University of Connecticut in 1987. We continue the tradition of hosting the symposium on alternate years; on other years it rotates among Colleges and Universities throughout New England. The 30th New England Statistics Symposium will be hosted by the Department of Biostatistics at the Yale University on Saturday, April 23, 2016.
Ofer Harel, Ming-Hui Chen, Dipak K. Dey, Yasuo Amemiya (IBM), Jun Yan, and Beatriz E Etchegaray Garcia (IBM) with Yu-Bo Wang, the 2015 IBM Student Paper Award Winner

Dipak K. Dey, Xiaojing Wang (Google), and Georg Goerg (Google) with Nathan Lally, the 2015 NESS Google Student Poster Award Winner
Dan Liu at the 2015 NESS Registration on April 25

Sudip Bose, Vladimir Pozdnyakov, and Nitis Mukhopadhyay at the 2015 NESS
Chun Wang (Head, IT Committee), Jun Yan (Planning Committee), Brian Bader (Head, Parking Committee), Ved Deshpande (Head, Poster Committee), Dooti Roy (Chair of the Student Committees), M. Henry Linder (Symposium Website and IT), and Gregory Vaughan (Head, Registration Committee) at the closing reception

Jing Wu at her poster in the 2015 NESS
We continue to have a stream of excellent colloquia:

**Lixing Zhu**  
Department of Mathematics, Hong Kong Baptist University

**Dennis K.J. Lin**  
Department of Statistics, Pennsylvania State University

**Elizabeth Schifano**  
Joint UConn-UMass Statistics Colloquium, University of Connecticut

**Yanyuan Ma**  
Department of Statistics, Texas A&M University

**A. Ronald Gallant**  
Department of Economics, Pennsylvania State University

**Haiying Wang**  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of New Hampshire

**Jing Qian**  
School of Public Health and Sciences, University of Massachusetts

**Cici Bauer**  
Department of Biostatistics, Brown University

**Benjamin Kedem**  
Mathematics Department and Institute for Systems Research, University of Maryland, College Park

**Hongxia Wang**  
IBM Thomas J. Watson Research

**Corwin Zeigler**  
Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health

**Hongyu Zhao**  
Departments of Public Health, Genetics, and Statistics, Yale University

**Guojian Gan**  
Department of Mathematics, University of Connecticut

**Abidemi Adeniji**  
Boehringer-Ingelheim

**Michael N. Katehakis**  
Management Science and Information Systems, Rutgers University

**Jian Zou**  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**Ruoqing Zhu**  
Department of Biostatistics, Yale University

**David M. Blei**  
Departments of Computer Science and Statistics, Columbia University

**Edoardo Airoldi**  
Department of Statistics, Harvard University

**Jeremy Taylor**  
Makuch Distinguished Lecture in Biostatistics Guest, University of Michigan

**Yajuan Si**  
Department of Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Vijay Nair**  
Department of Statistics, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

**Andrew Bray**  
Joint UConn-UMass Statistics Colloquium, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Peter Müller**  
Department of Mathematics, University of Texas-Austin

**Ming Yuan**  
Department of Statistics, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Ofer Harel and Jun Yan have been promoted to Full Professor.

Elizabeth Schifano welcomed her daughter, Anabelle Rose, in January 2015.

Suman Majumdar was honored for 25 years at UConn.

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

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

Brien Aranov (Ph.D.) is a Senior Consultant of Personal Insurance Research & Development at Travelers Insurance.

Sudipto Banerjee (Ph.D 2000) Professor and Chair, Department of Biostatistics, University of California, Los Angeles, has been named Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS).

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

Jennifer Boyko (Ph.D. 2013) is a member of 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 and is still enjoying the job for the most part. He has just graduated his 17th PhD student, and continues 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 played 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) has accepted a faculty position with the University of Waterloo, School of Public Health and Health Systems, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Steven Chiou (Ph.D. May 2013) has joined Harvard University’s Biostatistics Department as a post-doc after two years as an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.
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.

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.

Rongwei Fu (Ph.D. 2003) has been promoted to the rank of Full Professor at the Oregon Science and Health University, Portland, OR.

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

Miaomiao Ge (Ph.D. 2011) was recently promoted to Principal Biostatistician at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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 Bownie Mentoring Faculty Award by Department of Statistics at NC State University.

Gyuhyeong Goh (Ph.D. 2015) has joined Kansas State University as an Assistant Professor.

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.

Patrick Harrington (Ph.D. 2015) is employed by Genomic Health Inc.

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.
Chantal Larose (Ph.D. May 2015) has joined the State University of New York at New Paltz as an Assistant Professor of Decision Science (Statistics).

Wenqing Li (Ph.D. 2012) is a Director of Biostatistics and Data Management at Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona.

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

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

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

Ran Liu (Ph.D. 2012) joined Abbvie Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Chicago, as a Senior Biostatistician.

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.”

Jaydip Mukhopadhyay is the director of Model Risk and Governance at American Express in Gurgaon, India.

Stephen O’Malley (MS 2005) is an Analytics Manager at Health Dialog.

Guang Ouyang (Ph.D.) is a Data Scientist at Id Analytics Inc.

Valerie Pare (Ph.D. 2013) is a Professor of Practice at Wesleyan University.

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 Orlando, Florida.

Dooti Roy (Ph.D. 2015, anticipated) has joined Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceutical Company in Ridgefield, Connecticut as a Senior Biostatistician.

Hongwei Shang (Ph.D. 2013) works at HP Analytic Labs.

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.

Elizabeth Tripp is joining the PhD program in the Math Dept. at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire. She is a recipient of the Outstanding Senior Woman Academic Achievement Award, and she was invited to become a member of the Epsilon of Connecticut Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa in recognition of her superlative academic achievements.

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

Xiaojing Wang (Ph.D. 2011) at Google, Inc. assisted in the fundraising efforts that led to the Google Poster Award at the 29th New England Statistics Symposium.

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.

Danjie Zhang (Ph.D. 2014) is a Biostatistician II at Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Bo Zhao (Ph.D. 2015) is a Senior Consultant at Travelers Insurance.
**Student News**

**Ved Deshpande** and **M. Henry Linder** won the Federal Trade Commission’s DetectaRobo analytic challenge, held as part of the National Day of Civic Hacking in June 2015. Ved and Henry used statistical/machine learning techniques to build a model that predicts whether a phone call originated from an automated calling system.

**Gyuhyeong Goh** received the student paper award from Section on Bayesian Statistical Science (SBSS) to present his paper entitled, "Bayesian Sparse Reduced Rank Multivariate Regression" at the 2015 JSM in Seattle, WA. He also received the Student Travel Award from SBSS of ASA.

**Hao Li** (Adv. M.-H. Chen) and **Fan Zhang** (Adv. M.-H. Chen) were jointly awarded the Hugh Fairfield Smith & Dolores S. Smith Award from the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2014.

**Fan Zhang** (Adv. M.-H. Chen) was awarded the Gottfried Noether Award from the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2014.

**Zhuo Wang** (Ph.D. 2015, Adv. Yan) and **Jing Wu** (Adv. M.-H. Chen) were jointly awarded the Department of Statistics Best Performance in Probability Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2014.

**Ved Deshpande** (Adv. Dey, Schifano) was awarded the Department of Statistics Best Performance in Inference Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2014.

**Paul McLaughlin** (Adv. Bar) was awarded the Department of Statistics Teaching Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2014.

**Ved Deshpande** (Adv. Dey, Schifano) and **Dooti Roy** (Adv. Dey) were jointly awarded the Department of Statistics Service Award, University of Connecticut, Storrs in December 2014.

Daniel Larose, entitled “Data Mining and Predictive Analytics,” published by John Wiley and Sons, New York, 2015. She also received a student travel award from APHA.

Jing Wu (Adv. M.-H. Chen) began working at Pfizer, Inc. in Groton, CT in Spring 2015 as an intern. She continued this position through the summer and has returned to it for AY 2015-2016.

Guang Ouyang (Adv. Dey) continued working at Pfizer, Inc. in Groton, CT in Fall 2014 as an intern.

Abhisek Saha (Adv. Dey, Wang) received the best student paper award from the International Meeting of the Psychometric Society (IMPS) to present his paper entitled, "Bayesian Analysis of Joint Modeling of Response Times with Dynamic Latent Ability" at an annual meeting in Beijing China. He also received a student travel award from International Psychometric Society.

Rajeshwari Majumdar (Adv. Ravishanker) is a SHARE awardee for Spring 2015. Her research topic on which she will present a poster in October 2015 is: Topics in Time Series Modeling of Inter-event durations.

Yaohua Zhang (Adv. Ravishanker) received travel awards to QPRC in June 2015 and to Nair’s conference in October 2015, to present a poster of his research titled: "Statistical Assessment of Pedestrian Safety"

Qianzhu Wu (Adv. Glaz) was a Summer 2015 intern at Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in Boston, MA.


A New Departmental Award:  
Mark of Excellence

By Nitis Mukhopadhyay

The Department of Statistics has recently instituted a highly prestigious graduate student's award. Last year, the Award Committee consisting of Professors Nitis Mukhopadhyay and Haim Bar, in full cooperation from the whole department, formulated this award. It is named the Mark of Excellence award.

The prize will be awarded for absolute stellar performance by a student clearing both AM and PM parts of the departmental PhD qualifying examination in his/her first attempt during the previous academic year, if warranted. That is, this prize may not be awarded every year.

The prize is substantial: It includes a certificate, a beautifully crafted medal, and a $500 cash prize (paid as fellowship). If more than one student qualifies in an academic year, they will share the glory equally.

Honoree Hao Li with Nitis Mukhopadhyay

Ms. Hao Li was honored with this Mark of Excellence award in celebration of her stellar performance in the departmental PhD qualifying examination during the academic year 2014-2015. Congratulations to Hao for her outstanding achievement.
Recent Ph.D.’s

Volodymyr Serhiyenko, Ph.D., 2015
Gyuhyeong Goh, Ph.D., 2015
Chantal Larose, Ph.D., 2015
Bo Zhao, Ph.D., 2015
Patrick Harrington, Ph.D., 2015
Zhuo Wang, Ph.D., 2015
Danjie Zhang, Ph.D., 2014

Recent Master’s

Seo-Jin Bang, Debrishi Bose, Guotao Shu, Anshita Dogra, Mary Elizabeth Fleischlier, Jichao He, Yibin He, Hongbing Jin, Arnold Edward Kuk, Tian Lan, Kai Lin, Dongdong Liu, Qian Meng, Nan Murong, Yuxin Nie, Mengze Wang, Xinhua Wu, Bing Xu, Mengnong Xu, Heng Yan, Shiyu Yao, Xin Yin, Chi Zhang, Gaofei Zhang, Yun Zhang, Yun Zhang, Zhe Zhang, Dahao Zheng, Xiaoyu Zheng, Yue Zheng

Recent Bachelor’s

Ayasha Anglin, Long Chen, Billy Cheng, Nicole Chin, Alexander Clancy, Jiayue Ding, Nicole Ehrler, Christopher Faust, Cameron Finnell, Stephen Foran, Yanyan Freitag, Michael Fritz, Ryan Gallagher, Kevin Gunn, Ciara Haines, Kelly Howard, Shayna Levin, Andrew Levine, Yifei Li, Ava Mcrae, Codi Mcneff, Christopher Medeiros, Mitesh Mistry, Jordan Parley, Renaldo Persaud, Noelle Pollard, Elizabeth Rawlinson, Matthew Sebastian, Jerry Sebree, Shail Shah, Michelle Shien, Joseph Taylor, Elizabeth Tripp, Alessandra Valcarcel, Nicholas Vecchitto, David Wright, Dyan Yaworski, Nina Zagaja, Helena Zhang, Ke Zhang
Faculty, Staff and Adjunct Faculty

Robert Apruzese, Adjunct Lecturer
Robert Aseltine, UCHC (joint appointment)
Haim Bar, Assistant Professor
Tracy Burke, Secretary
Joseph Cappelleri, Adjunct Professor (Pfizer)
Kun Chen, Assistant Professor
Ming-Hui Chen, Professor
Zhiyi Chi, Professor and Associate Head
Dipak K. Dey, Professor and Associate Dean
Joseph Glaz, Professor and Head
Ofer Harel, Professor
Brian Hartman, Assistant Professor (Math, joint appointment)
Kent Holsinger, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School (EEB, joint appointment)
Tania Huedo-Medina, Assistant Professor (Allied Health, joint appointment)
Lynn Kuo, Professor
Paul Lewis, Associate Professor (EEB, joint appointment)
Suman Majumdar, Associate Professor (Stamford)
Kate McLaughlin, Adjunct Lecturer
Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Professor
Megan Petsa, Program Assistant
Vladimir Pozdnyakov, Professor (Hartford)
Zhanna Pozdnyakova, Adjunct Lecturer
Nalini Ravishanker, Professor
Elizabeth Schifano, Assistant Professor
Naitee Ting, Adjunct Professor (Boehringer-Ingelheim)
Emiliano Valdez, Professor (Math, joint appointment)
Richard Vitale, Professor
Stephen Walsh, Associate Professor (School of Nursing, joint appointment)
Xiaojing Wang, Assistant Professor
Michael Willig, Professor (CESE, joint appointment)
Jun Yan, Professor
Yuping Zhang, Assistant Professor

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Alumni Reply Form

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 email it to megan.petsa@uconn.edu.

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Residence ____________________________ Home Phone ____________________________
City, State, Zip ____________________________
Position ________________________________________________________________
Business Address ________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________________________________________________
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Please include some information about yourself (unless you request otherwise, we would like to share this information in future newsletters).

The Department welcomes suggestions for future newsletters. Please feel free to e-mail us 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.