FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

STATISTICS

A Holiday Message from the Chairman

Myles Hollander

Dear alumni and friends,

This holiday season marks a transitional year for our program. In the summer of 2003, Fred Leysieffer and Pi-Erh Lin retired after 39 and 35 years, respectively, of dedicated service to the Department. In January, 2004 Jayaram Sethuraman will retire after 35 years of dedicated service to the Department. Fred, Pi-Erh, and Sethu will be greatly missed.

Our program is bolstered by the addition of three new faculty members, viz. Marten Wegkamp, an Associate Professor who came from the Department of Statistics at Yale University and earned his Ph.D. in 1996 from the University of Leiden, Netherlands; John Dixon, an Assistant Professor, who earned his Ph.D. in 2003 from the Department of Biostatistics, University of Wisconsin, Madison; and Radha Bose, an Assistant in Statistics, who earned her M.S. from our department in 2003.

We have started some new programs. Dan McGee and Somesh Chattopadhyay are leading the development of an initiative in biostatistics. We are also creating a 3+2 program to enable bright junior and senior undergraduates in statistics to complete a B.S. and M.S. degree in 5 years.

In January 2003, we hosted an international conference in Nonparametric Statistics led by Florentina Bunea. We had 40 invited speakers, including presentations by many of our graduates and friends, and the talks were excellent.

The Department graduated six Ph.D. students in the year and they obtained successful placements: Feming Chen, Spectra Marketing Systems, Chicago; Sandra Hall, Kansas University Medical City; Panagiota Kitsanta, University of East Carolina, Greenville; Dacheng Liu, University of Rochester; Wenji Pu, Medtronic, Minneapolis; and Michael Smith, US Military Academy, West Point. We are proud of our graduates and their achievements. Please write to us to keep us posted on your accomplishments, advancements, and successes.

To learn more details about the Department, please read this newsletter and visit our website at http://stat.fsu.edu.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season and a joyous new year.

Myles Hollander

John Dixon
Assistant Professor

Marten Wegkamp
Associate Professor

Radha Bose
Assistant in Statistics

John Dixon

Dr. John Dixon joined our department this Fall after receiving his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2003. Dixon's primary research interests focus on empirical processes and semiparametric inference. His dissertation introduced a computationally quick alternative to the weighted bootstrap in a general class of semiparametric models. Applications of the method include frailty regression models arising in survival analysis and biased sampling models with application to vaccine efficacy trials. He is currently working on other problems in survival analysis and related semiparametric models.

Marten Wegkamp

Dr. Marten Wegkamp joined our department this August. Wegkamp, a native from the Netherlands, graduated in 1996 at the University of Leiden. After his graduation he held a position as Visting Lecturer at the Department of Statistics, Yale University. Subsequently, he served as Assistant Professor (1997-2002) and Associate Professor (2002-2003) at Yale. His research interests include classification, empirical process theory, nonparametric function estimation, and model selection.

Radha Bose

Radha Bose received her M.S. in Statistics from our department in 2002. After leaving FSU she worked at Tallahassee Community College as an instructor in the Division of Science and Mathematics. In August 2003, she rejoined our department to accept a position as an Assistant in Statistics (AIS). As an Assistant in Statistics, Radha, along with fellow AIS Steve Ramsier, is responsible for coordinating the teaching of our large lecture undergraduate statistics courses: STA 1013 "Statistics Through Example", STA 2023 "Fundamental Business Statistics", and STA 2122 "Introduction to Applied Statistics".

On September 27th, the Department held a banquet to celebrate the retirements of Fred Leysieffer and Pi-Erh Lin. Family, friends, and colleagues were invited to help honor these two statisticians.

Fred Leysieffer

Fred Leysieffer came to FSU in 1964 with a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the of Michigan. His major fields of interest were probability theory, stochastic processes, and sample surveys. In his 39 years of service to FSU he earned an excellent reputation as a teacher and was, and still is, greatly admired as a colleague.

Dr. Leysieffer served as Chairman of the Statistics Department from 1981-1987 and again from 1990-1993. He was very involved with service to the department and to the university. He served as President of the Faculty Senate (1992-1994), Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1994-1995), Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (1994-1997), Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs (1997-1998), and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (1998-2003). Each promotion came with an increase in duties that reflected how important Dr. Leysieffer's role to the university had become. As Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, for example, one of Dr. Leysieffer's main responsibilities included planning university budgets which included oversight of a 250 million dollar budget.

We congratulate Fred Leysieffer on his retirement this year and thank him for all that he did for us and for FSU.

Fred Leysieffer

Pi-Erh Lin

Pi-Erh Lin came to FSU in 1968 with a Ph.D. in Statistics from Columbia University. In our Department, he served as Director of the Undergraduate Program (1977-2003), Statistics Representative of the Undergraduate Honor's Program (1977-2003), Director of the Graduate Program (1998-2003), Faculty Senator (2001-2003), and Associate Chair (2001-2003).

As a teacher, Dr. Lin was highly regarded by both students and peers. He was nominated for College Teaching Awards in 1991 and 1997. As our Undergraduate Advisor, he was extremely knowledgeable about academic rules and regulations and was always available to help students. He received an award in 1991 for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising and the compassion and encouragement he showed countless numbers of FSU students has led many to regard him as "the" instructor/advisor who made the difference in their education at FSU. In 2002 one of Dr. Lin's former advisees, Michael Sill, created the Lin Fellowship program in honor of Dr. Lin's devotion to undergraduate teaching and mentoring at FSU.

Dr. Lin pioneered distance learning in our department by creating the department's first distance learning course, STA 3032 "Statistics and Probability for Sciences and Engineering". He is a member of the International Statistical Institute and a lifetime member of the International Chinese Statistical Association which awarded him a Distinguished Service Award in 1991. He will always be a valuable member of our department . We offer him our congratulations and a wish for a happy retirement.

Pi-Erh Lin

Selected Presentations...

Myles Hollander gave an invited lecture at the International Conference on Nonparametric Statistics, Florida State University, January 2003; was an Invited Plenary Speaker at the International Conference on Reliability and Survival Analysis, Columbia, South Carolina, May 2003; and was the invited senior speaker at the Noether Award, Fourth Invited Lecture, 163rd Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association, San Francisco, August, 2003.

Xufeng Niu attended the 2003 NBER/NSF Time Series Conference held in Chicago from Sept.18 to Sept. 21. The conference was in honor of George Tiao's retirement. Dr. Niu presented an invited talk tilted "Space-Time Models for Count Processes with Application to Hurricane Activity Analysis."

and Publications

Hollander, M., "Nonparametric Inference For Repair Models", *Sankhya*, 64, 693-706, 2002 (with J. Sethuraman).

Hollander, M., "Nonparametric Inference For The Proportionality Function In The Random Censorship Model", *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics*, 15, 151-169, 2003 (with G. Laird and K. Song).

Hollander, M., "Models For Recurrent Phenomena In Survival Analysis And Reliability, *Mathematical Reliability: An Expository Perspective*", (edited by T. Mazzuchi, N. Singpurwalla and R. Soyer) 105-123, Kluwer, 2004 (with E. Peña).

Cotton PB; Connor P ; **McGee D**; Jowell P ; Nickl N; Schutz S; Leung J; Lee J, Libby E : "Colonoscopy: practice variation among 69 hospital-based endoscopists". Gastrointest Endosc 2003; 57: 352 –7

Natarajan S, Liao Y, Cao G, Lipsitz S, **McGee D**: "Sex Differences in Risk for Coronary Heart Disease Mortality Associated With Diabetes and Established Coronary Heart Disease". Arch Intern Med 2003; 163:1735-1740

Liao J, **McGee D**: "Two new adjusted R-squares for logistic regression. The American Statistician . 2003; 57:161 -165.

McGee D Jr., Lackland D, Liao Y, **McGee D Sr**.: Trends in Blood Pressure Treatment: Some observations based on the Framingham Study. Cardiovascular Reviews and Reports". 2003; 24:301- 305.

Chang, H., "Smoking, Body Weight, and CHD Mortality in Diverse Populations" submitted to Preventive Medicine, April 2003.

Gahrs, G.E., Applequist, S., Pfeffer, Richard L., and **Niu, X-F.** (2003), "Improved Results for Probabilistic Quantitative Precipitation Forecasting," *Weather and Forecasting*, Vol. 18, No. 5, 879-890.

Ray, P., Bieringer, P., **Niu, X-F.** and Whissel, B. (2003), "An Improved Estimate of Tornado Occurrence in the Central Plains of the United States," *Monthly Weather Review*, Vol. 131, 1026-1031. (This paper utilizes the spatial kriging techniques to obtain a better estimate of tornado density, or number of tornadoes that affect a given area in a Midwest region of the United States.)

Zhang, S., **Niu, X-F.,** and Ang, J. S. (2003), "Building Tracking Portfolios Based on a Generalized Information Criterion," *Statistica Sinica*, Vol. 13, No. 4, 1075-1096.

Niu, X-F., McKeague, I. W., and Elsner, J. B. (2003), "Seasonal Space-Time Models for Climate Systems," *Statistical Inference for Stochastic Processes*, Vol. 6, 111-133. (This article introduces a class of seasonal space-time models for general lattice systems that are applied to monthly averaged 500 mb geopotential heights in the extra-tropical Northern Hemisphere.)

Zahn, D., "The Influence of the Six Sigma Movement on STA 5126: Applied Statistics," to appear in *Six Sigma Forum Magazine*. This is an article describing how I have created a graduate level introductory statistics course that is centered around a Six Sigma project. Students in this course are from a diverse set of disciplines ranging from engineering to biology to nutrition to English education to mathematics education.

Bunea, F., "A Note on Penalized Minimum Distance Estimation in Nonparametric Regression". The Canadian Journal of Statistics, Vol. 31, 2003. In press (joint with M. Wegkamp)

Bunea, F., "Covariate Selection for Semiparametric Hazard Function Regression Models". The Journal of Multivariate Analysis, 2003. In press (joint with I. McKeague).

Bunea, F., "Consistent Covariate Selection and Post-Model Selection Inference in Semiparametric Regression". The Annals of Statistics, Vol. 32, 2004 (to appear).

Bunea, F., "Two-stage Model Selection Procedures in Partially Linear Regression". The Canadian Journal of Statistics, Vol. 32, 2004. (to appear) (joint with M. Wegkamp).

Dan McGee and **Myles Hollander** are Co-PI's on two grants: "Multivariate Risk of CVD in Diverse Populations" (funded by NHLBI) and "BMI and Mortality in Diverse Populations" (funded by NIDDK). **Hong Chang**, Assistant in Research, is also involved with the BMI and Mortality research.

Myles Hollander is conducting joint research with Panagiota Kitsantas and Lei Li on classification trees with application to predicting low birth weight outcomes, with **Jayaram Sethuraman** on Bayesian methods for repair models, with Edsel Peña on nonparametric methods in reliability, with **Dan McGee** on assessment of risk using diverse populations.

Doug Zahn: Dan Boroto (Department of Psychology) and I have completed the Offerings 14 and 15 of our Consultancy Skills Course for the United Kingdom Office for National Statistics. We will be starting Offering 16 in December 2003. I (also) continue to be active with a group entitled Making Statistics More Effective in Schools and Business. At conferences of this group at the ASA Annual Meetings in San Francisco and at a regional meeting at Stetson University in Deland, Florida, I led workshops on the topic, "Engaging Students in Statistics Courses: A Conversation Whose Time Has Come." These workshops were targeted at the question of how to work effectively and efficiently with students in required, introductory statistics courses.

Florentina Bunea spent three weeks at the University of Paris VI, France in Summer 2003 as an invited professor. "During this visit I have become interested in aggregation methods for nonparameric models and got involved in a joint project with Alexander Tsybakov. I am currently working with **Anna Auguste** (Ph.D. candidate) on extending these methods to aggregation of curves arising from time series, with emphasis on EEG data. This is part of a larger project on functional data analysis, which also includes curve classification. This materialized into a joint project with Gerard Biau of University of Paris VI and **Martin Wegkamp.**

Xufeng Niu is currently working on the following grants:

a). Statistical Modeling and Prediction of Highway Railroad Grade Crossing Safety in Florida. Funded by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). (Project Period, June 2003 – Dec. 2004.) **Kevin Krieger** (M.S. candidate) and I are working on this project. We plan to develop an accident prediction algorithm based on new data concerning recent train/crash history for the purpose of improving railroad highway crossing safety in Florida. Specifically, we propose to 1) thoroughly examine the crossing crash data in recent years and carefully define potential influence factors for Rail-Highway crossing safety, 2) evaluate the validity of the current crash prediction algorithm and develop a new prediction algorithm based on the current crossing crash data, and 3) develop a systematic approach to spread the rail road funding out rationally. This proposed research is crucially important because it addresses the appropriate analysis and prediction of railroad highway crossing crashes reflecting issues of widespread railroad crossing safety concerns in Florida. The statistical methods and algorithm developed in this study are easily transferable to safety data analysis in other divisions of FDOT and in other states.

b). Statistical Analysis of Environmental data. Funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). (Project Period, June 2003 — June 2004.) This project consists of four parts: 1) statistical analysis and evaluation of the transparency data from the vicinity of the Fermandina Mill discharges, 2) estimate temporal and spatial trends in Florida's groundwater, including springs, 3) develop statistical methods for the evaluation of benthic macroinvertebrate data with respect to conductivity, and 4) analyze the total phosphorus Everglades Round Robin data.

c). Development of an Operational System for Probabilistic Quantitative Precipitation Forecasting over the United States. With Richard L. Pfeffer, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Institute. (Project Period, June 2001 — May 2004.) I continue working with Richard Pfeffer on developing and applying a suite of linear and non-linear statistical methods for improving probabilistic quantitative precipitation forecasting over the U.S. The methods include linear regression, logistic regression, discriminant analysis, neural networks, principal component analysis, classification and regression tree, and generalized linear and additive models. Two papers, "Comparison of Methodologies for Probabilistic Quantitative Precipitation Forecasting" and "Improved Results for Probabilistic Quantitative Precipitation Forecasting," have been published on "*Weather and Forecasting*."

Jayaram Sethuraman Set to Retire

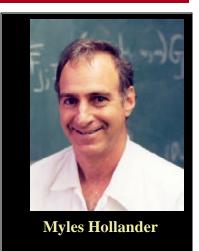**Jayaram Sethuraman** will retire from the Florida State University in January 2004 after 36 years at FSU. Dr. Sethuraman received his. B.S.c. and M.A. degrees in Statistics from Madras University in India (1957, 1958) and his Ph.D. from the Indian Statistical Institute in 1962. He has served as Associate Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute (1965-68), Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan (1974-75), Visiting Professor at the Indian Statistical Institute (Fall 1977), Visiting Professor and Acting Head, I.S.I Bangalore Centre (1979-80), Chairman of the Department of Statistics at FSU (1987-1990), ASA/NSF/NSIT Senior Research Fellow (1994), Fulbright Senior Research and Teaching Fellow (1995-96), and was awarded the title of Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor (FSU's highest faculty rank and honor) in 1993. In 2002 he was awarded the President's Continuing Education Award for his work for with the Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (REAP) in which he has mentored 65 local high school students in Probability and Statistics since 1981.

J. Sethuraman with 2003 REAP students Justin Sorrell, David Haldane, and Ali Hemmati

Myles Hollander Wins Noether Award

Myles Hollander received the Gottfried E. Noether Senior Scholar Award on August 5, 2003 at the 163rd Annual meeting of the American Statistical Association in San Francisco, CA. As part of the award proceedings, Hollander delivered the invited Noether Lecture entitled "Nonparametric Methods in Reliability and Survival Analysis".

The Noether Award is the highest honor the ASA bestows in the field of nonparametric statistics. The awards (Senior Scholar and Young Scholar) were established as a tribute to the late Professor Gottfried Emanual Noether who died in 1991 and are funded from an endowment from Professor Noether's wife Emiliana and daughter Monica.

Myles Hollander

Anuj Srivastava Promoted

Anuj Srivastava was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure effective Fall 2003. Dr. Srivasta received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Washington University, St. Louis in 1996 and is a prolific researcher who specializes in the fields of computer vision, image analysis and pattern recognition. He is the Director of the Department's Laboratory for Computational Vision (http://lcv.fsu.edu) and is an Associate Editor for the Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference.
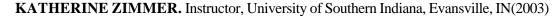
Anuj Srivastava

Ph.D.

PANAGIOTA KITSANTA. University of East Carolina. Assessing Adverse Birth Outcomes via Classification Trees (M. Hollander, 2003).

WENJI PU. Medtronic, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Selecting Mixed-effects Models Based on a Generalized Information Criterion (X. Niu, 2003).

DACHENG LIU. Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology, School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester, New York. Mixed-effects State Space Models for Longitudinal Data Analysis (X. Niu, 2003).

MICHAEL SMITH. Dept of Mathematical Sciences, US Military Academy, West Point, New York. Bayesian Sensor Fusion: A Framework for Using Multi-Modal Sensors to Estimate Target Locations and Identities in a Battlefield Scene (A. Srivastava, 2003).

M.S.

KATHERINE ZIMMER. Instructor, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, IN(2003)

ANGELA ROBERSON. (2003)

NICOLE ISHILL. (2003)

ANYA SAVAGE. Instructional Assistant, Nassau Center, Florida Community College, Jacksonville, FL (2003)

BILLY FRANKS. Statistics Ph.D. program, FSU (2003).

MAHTAB MUNSHI. Statistics Ph.D. program, FSU (2003).

MIN TIAN. (2003)

TRACY POOLE. (2003).

The Department enrolled 11 new graduate students this Fall. They are: **Stella Gomez** (Columbia), **Jianghua "Wendy" He** (China), **Andrada Ivanesc**u (Romania), **Tanya Kunkel**, **Steven Krop**p, **Dileepa Kumarapperuma** (Sri Lanka), **Mahtab Marker** (India), **Helen Obzansky**, **Nicole Robichaux**, **Fei Tan** (China), and **Warren Thompson** (Jamaica). We are also expecting three new students in the Spring: **Dimitre Stefanov** (Bulgaria), **Annapoorna Sengupta** (India), and **Latrica Williams**.

| Andrada | Dileepa | Fei | Helen | Jianghua | Mahtab | Nicole | Warren |

Student Honors

Feiming Chen was awarded the 2002 Ralph A. Bradley Award for the best Ph.D. dissertation of the year.

Julie McFarland was named Best First Year Student in Applied Statistics for 2002-2003.

Zhiguo Li was named Best First Year Student in Theoretical Statistics for 2002-2003.

The Anna & Yongyuan Li 2002-2003 competition for the best student colloquium resulted in a tie between **Michael Smith** for his talk on "Bayesian Sensor Fusion in a Military Setting " and **Mahtab Munshi** for her talk on "Automated Classification of Cardiac ECG Images Using Generalized Laplacian Model".

Tracy Poole (M.S. 2003) was cited by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for her excellent teaching of STA 2023 "Fundamental Business Statistics" in Summer 2003. Tracy wa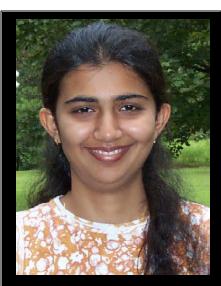s one of the very few non-faculty instructors who were rated "excellent" or "very good" by at least 90% of students in the category "overall assessment of instructor" in the student course evaluations.

Jianghua He (Ph.D. candidate) received a College Teaching Fellowship from the College of Arts and Sciences for 2002-2003.

Jeannette Simino (Ph.D. candidate) was awarded a Predoctoral Fellowship from the Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate Research Committee of the American Heart Association. Jeannette's fellowship amount is $19,000 per year and covers the periods from 7/1/03-6/30/04 and 07/1/04-06/30/05. Jeannette will be working withCo-PI Dan McGee on the grant"Framingham-Based Coronary Heart Disease Risk Assessment Models: Being Used or Being Abused".

Jeanette Simino

Student Profile -- Mahtab Munshi

Mahtab Munshi joined the Statistics graduate program in Fall Semester 2001 after earning an M.S. in Applied Statistics and Informatics at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. She was awarded a College Teaching Fellowship in 2002 at FSU and she was also co-winner of the Department of Statistics' Best First-Year Student in Applied Statistics Award.

Mahtab received her M.S. from our department in Spring 2003 and is now in our Ph.D. program. She has many statistical interests and has worked as a statistician in Pfizer, India (May 2000 to July 2001) where she was involved with the analysis of clinical trials. She is also interested in image analysis and has worked with Dr. Anuj Srivastava on a project involving retrieving medical images from a database and using statistical methods to analyze them.   She is currently working with Professor Dan McGee, who leads our biostatistics program. She is doing research with Dr. McGee on coronary heart disease, and is currently writing two papers, one on analyzing multiple measures of blood pressure and one on using the pulse-pressure coefficient for predicting death due to coronary heart disease.

Mahtab Munshi

Charlotte Abdul-Hakim

Charlotte Abdul-Hakim started this Fall as our new Senior Secretary.

I am from Brazzaville, Republic of Congo. I came to the US in 1997 to pursue my higher education. I lived in Southern Illinois for 2 years and attended college at Southern Illinois University, where I met my husband Ismail. In 1999 I moved to Tallahassee and got married and in 2000 I enrolled at Florida State University. I graduated in the Spring of 2001 in International Affairs/International Business. I have a baby girl, Queen, who is my biggest graduation gift because she decided to come out while I was marching at my graduation ceremony, but finally came two days after my graduation!

I am a strong advocate of equal opportunity between men and women in politics in Africa, and a more balanced relationship between Third World countries and developed countries. I would love to participate in panel discussions where subjects and information about Africa are shared in order to better educate the public about African realities. Africa is not only about wars and starvation, but also about a beautiful stress-free place to live with beautiful women!

Special Note: Thanks to FSU's new President T.K. Wetherell and FSU's Board of Trustees the staff will have 5 extra days off this winter and will now be off from December 25th through December 2nd. Thus, the office will be closed at that time. Thank you T.K.!

New Biostatistics Courses Added

We have recently added 6 new Biostatistics courses to our graduate program. They are:

STA 5172. Statistics in Epidemiology --introduces the statistical methods developed for and used in epidemiology.

STA 5179. Applied Survival Analysis--will offer a focused introduction to methods for describing, analyzing, and modeling survival data in medical studies.

STA 5224. Clinical Trials-- will introduce practical as well as statistical issues in the design and analysis of clinical trials. Topics to be covered include basic study design, methods of randomization and blinding, samples size, recruitment and compliance, data collection and quality control, and issues in the analysis and reporting the results of clinical trials.

STA 5238. Applied Logistic Regression--will offer a focused introduction to logistic regression for modeling a dichotomous response as a function of patient characteristics. Topics to be covered include methods of fitting the model, model interpretation, some topics in model building, assessing model fit, applications in cohort, case-control, and comlex surveys and use in matched case-control studies.

STA 5938. Topics in Medical Consulting-- Experience in consulting by actual consultation with researchers doing epidemiological and medical research. Two to four consulting problems will be identified. Investigators will present the problem to the class and will be available to answer questions after the initial meeting. Statistical topics covered will be those identified by the class as required to solve the problems presented.

STA 6174. Advanced Methods in Epidemiology--will offer advanced methods for describing, analyzing, and modeling data from observational studies. Topics will vary with each offering. Initial topics include bootstrap methodology, randomization tests, and meta-analytic methods. All of the methods presented will be illustrated with case studies and problem sets involving a database of 27 observational studies of cardiovascular disease.

Robert L. Taylor (Ph.D. 1971), Professor Emeritus (University of Georgia), was appointed Chair of the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Clemson University in January 2003.

Chanchal Singh (Ph.D. 1972) retired from St. Lawrence University after 31years of service.

Douglas H. Jones, (Ph.D. 1973) was promoted to Associate Dean of Academic Programs, Rutgers Business School, Newark and New Brunswick Campuses, on July 1, 2002. (http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~dhjones)

Kasra Afsarinejad (Ph.D. 1974) is a Professor and Principle Scientist for Astrazeneca, Clinical Science in Sweden.

Mohammad Meshkani (Ph.D. 1978) is a Professor of Statistics at the Shahid Beheshti University (The National University of Iran).

John Kitchin (Ph.D. 1980) is a Principal Engineer at the Massachusetts Microprocessor Design Center for Intel in Shrewsbury, MA.

Jean Roayaei (M.S. 1984) is at the Division of Biostatistics at the FDA working on microarray gene expression submissions.

Gillian Mimmack (Ph.D. 1985, M.S. 1981) has just started a three-year term as Head of the Department of Math and Statistics ad the University College of the Fraser Valley in Canada. "I'm very happy living in the Fraser Valley. The scenery is beautiful and the people are wonderful. Views from picture windows at work still catch my breath as I walk by."

Jim Norris (Ph.D. 1990) was promoted to full Professor in the Mathematics Department at Wake Forest University in 2002.

Shanti Gomatam (Ph.D. 1995, M.S. 1990) is now with the Division for Biostatistics in Center for Devices and Radiological Health at the US FDA (bringing the number of ex-FSU—statisticians at the FDA to 4. The others are Greg Campbell, Lakshmi Vishnuvajjala, and Jean Roayayei).

Mark Lewis (M.S. 1995) is an Assistant Professor of Industrial and Operations Engineering at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. (http://www-personal.engin.umich.edu/~melewis/)

Sundar Subramanian (Ph.D. 1995) was recently promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Maine.
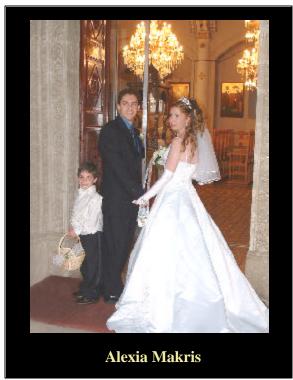
Tommy Minton (M.S. 1997) is now an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Palm Beach Community College and was named to "Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2002" last year by one of his former students.

Ivo Dinov (M.S. 1998) is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics at UCLA. (http://www.stat.ucla.edu/~dinov)

Thomas Jagger (Ph.D. 2000) is an independent contractor currently working with Climatek, a start up company owned by Dr. James Elsner of the FSU Geography department. "We are using MCMC techniques and Bayesian techniques to predict the risk posed by hurricane activity. My work is split between software development, statistical analysis and theoretical statistics. My current interests are in extreme value analysis, local kernel regression, and Bayesian statistics, with an emphasis on space-time processes and trans-dimensional Markov Chain sampling methods.

Blake Whitten (Ph.D. 2001) has accepted a position as visiting assistant professor at the University of Iowa Department of Statistics in Iowa City, Iowa.

Alexia Makris

Alexia Athienitis (M.S. 2001) was married to Ipermachos Makris in June 2003.

Katherine Zimmer (M.S. 2003) is an instructor at Southern Indiana University.

Contributions

You may show your support to the Dpartment by contributing to any of the following funds.

The **Statistics General Development Fund** was created to provide general support for our department in a variety of areas.

The **Ralph A. Bradley Student Award** is named for our department's founder, Dr. Ralph A. Bradley. The award is presented to a graduating Ph.D. student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, culminating in the presentation of the best doctoral dissertation of the year.

The Ronald and Carolyn Hobbs Endowed Fund in Statistics was established by Ron Hobbs (M.S. '67) and his wife Carolyn. This fund will enable the Department to fill the Ronald and Carolyn Hobbs Endowed Chair in the 2004-2005 academic year.

The Yongyuan and Anna Li Fund was established by Anna Li in memory of her husband Yongyuan Li who died from cancer on April 7, 1997. The award consists of a cash prize and certificate and is presented to the graduate student who presents the best student colloquium each year.

The Lin Fellowship starts in Summer 2003. It will be used to support a qualified non-statistics undergraduate student who wishes to do statistics research or a statistics internship with a Statistics professor as a mentor. The first Lin Fellowship awardee was Kelly White, a psychology major who focused on applied mutlivariate analysis and how it will help her in her studies. She was mentored by Dr. Eric Chicken.

The Department would like to thank the following alumni and corporations who made very generous donations to the Statistics General Development Fund this year: Nora F. Blair, Attorney at Law (M.S. 1975), Claudia S. Lever (M.S. 1964), Terry Katz (M.S. 1985), Doug Ransom (M.S. 1984), William D. Warde (M.S. 1967), the Boeing Corporation, and Mourad Tighiouart M.S. 1997, Ph.D. 1998).

As always, we appreciate your continued support and are proud of our alumni and their accomplishments.

Florida State University Department of Statistics Gift Form

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☐ For the Yongyuan & Anna Li Award Fund
☐ For the Lin Fellowship
☐ Other:_____

Form 99SDDM

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Deparatment of Statistics
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4330

Alumni Update Form

Please complete the form below to update your information. Include any news (professional and/or personal) of your current activities that you would like to share with us. Unless otherwise requested, we may use your information in a future newsletter. Return the form to Pam McGhee, Florida State University, Department of Statistics, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4330 (fax: 850-644-5271,   email: info@stat.fsu.edu).

Name:_____Degree(s) and year(s):_____

Street Address:_____City, State, Zip_____

Home Phone:_____Website/Email address:_____

Position:_____

Business Name:_____

Work Address:_____

Work Phone:_____Fax Number:_____

Other Information:

Comments? Suggestions? We look forward to hearing from you and to receiving your submissions for future news-letter items. You may reach us by mail, phone, fax, or email.