



DEPARTMENT NOTES

DEPARTMENTAL NOTES AND HEADLINES

John Stufken

Professor and Department Head

Dear Alumni,

As we welcome students back to campus this year, I'd like to take this time to reflect on the 2010-11 academic year, which was very busy and an interesting time for the department.

We welcomed a few new faculty at the beginning of the year. Kim Love-Myers is the new Associate Director for the Statistical Consulting Center. Kim received her Ph.D. from Virginia Tech in 2007, had been working in postdoctoral positions at UGA since that time, and started her new position with us in July of 2010. Mark Werner, who holds a 2003 Ph.D. from the University of Colorado Denver, joined us in August of 2010 as Lecturer after spending six years as Assistant Professor at American University of Cairo (some might say that Mark timed his departure from Cairo superbly). We are absolutely delighted with the addition of these faculty.

On the staff side, we are also delighted with the return of Julie Davis as Administrative Associate. Julie had left the department in 2008 for greener pastures that, perhaps, were not quite as green as they had appeared to be from afar. She rejoined the Department in November of 2010. If you have any updates on your professional or personal life that you would like to share with us, you need to be in contact with Julie (an email to stat@uga.edu will do the trick).

Other faculty and staff saw an upgrade in the titles of their positions, including Kim Gilbert (from Temporary Lecturer to Lecturer), Jack Morse (from Temporary Instructor to Instructor), and Daphney Smith (from Administrative Assistant to Student Affairs Professional). Congratulations to all!

In terms of teaching, the Department significantly increased the number of credit hours that it produces. The major change is that, beginning in the Fall of 2010, we are now in charge of teaching introductory statistics for business students. We had done some of this in the past, through STAT 3000, but we are now in charge of teaching the entire MSIT 3000 offering, which used to be taught through the Department of Banking and Finance in the Terry College of Business.

DEPARTMENTAL NOTES AND HEADLINES

[World Statistics Day](#)

[Annual Bradley Event](#)

[Statistical Consulting Center](#)

[Colloquium Series](#)

[Building Under Construction](#)

[Staff Profile: Julie Davis](#)

[Alumni Profile](#)

We also went through an extensive review of our graduate program, and made a number of changes. These include a new structure for the M.S. and Ph.D. exams, the introduction of several new courses (especially aimed at exposing students earlier to research), and the introduction of different tracks at the M.S. level.

On the research front, faculty continue to publish in some of the very best journals of the profession, are members of editorial boards for some of these journals, and were also in the past year invited to serve on multiple proposal review panels at the National Science Foundation. In addition, we have a new recipient of the M.G. Michael Research Award among our midst: Jeongyoun Ahn, a 2011 recipient, is the fifth winner in the department's history of this Franklin College award. Please join me in congratulating Jeongyoun with this wonderful recognition.

Have you visited our website recently? If not, you should give it a try at <http://www.stat.uga.edu/>. The page has been redesigned with help of staff in the Franklin College, and we believe that it is much improved. Let us know what you think about the new site, provide us with suggestions for further improvements, and continue to send us updates that we can post under Alumni News.

I want to leave you with one request. Any alumni may respond, but it will be especially valuable if we can hear from those who have graduated in the recent past. For assessment of our undergraduate and graduate programs, we are very interested to hear from those who are out in the workforce how useful (or useless) you find the courses that you took from our department in your current employment. Also, are there any statistical topics that you didn't take, either by choice or because we didn't offer a course in it, but that would have been very helpful in your current employment? In an effort to assess the effectiveness of our courses, and the gaps in our curriculum, such information could really help us to make improvements. The higher the response rate, the better a picture we will get. I am counting on your help!

In closing, I very much hope that you will find this Newsletter informative and worth reading. If there are topics that you would like to see addressed in a future Newsletter, give us your feedback and we will see what we can do. I hope to see many of you in the coming year.

John Stufken



Chris Franklin was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Pictured (l-r): Dennis Duncan (President of the UGA PKP chapter), Carol Cotton (the other faculty member inducted from Health

Promotion and Behavior), Chris Franklin, and Maurice Daniels (Dean of School of Social Work and keynote speaker).

WORLD STATISTICS DAY

***Chris O'Neal, Graduate Teaching Assistant
let's & Statistics Club President***

Along with hundreds of institutions worldwide, the Department of Statistics recognized World Statistics Day on 20 October 2010 (20-10-2010). This was a special day proposed by the United Nations in order to honor and bring to public attention the many accomplishments of statistics and statisticians over the years.

The Statistics Club hosted a Tate Center event by displaying presentation boards outlining the wide range of disciplines where statistics shows up. Such topics included medicine, sports analysis, politics, stock markets, weather, cryptography, and genetics, as well as examples of probability paradoxes. The club also featured several probability games that passing students could play for prizes. These included playing cards and roulette, as well as an adaptation of the fabled Monty Hall Problem. The latter was a poster featuring three lift-up doors, and behind each was a photo of either a car or a goat! 20-10-2010 Chris O'Neal, Graduate Teaching Assistant & Statistics Club President The Department of Statistics recognized World Statistics Day on the 20th of October, 2010.

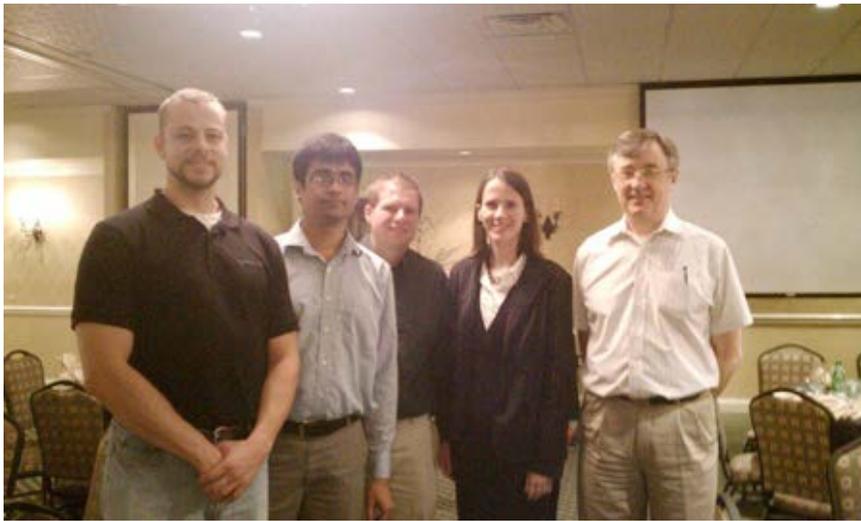


Pictured above (l-r): Chris O'Neal, Yijie Xue, and Andy Bartlett

ANNUAL BRADLEY EVENT

***Chris O'Neal, Graduate Teaching Assistant
& Statistics Club President***

The Department of Statistics hosted the 19th annual Bradley Lecture on 15 April 2011. This year the guest speaker was distinguished professor Dr. Peter McCullagh of the University of Chicago. His talk focused on the statistical modeling of distance matrices, with applications such as genealogical trees. The faculty and graduate students had dinner with Dr. McCullagh at the Georgia Center afterwards, during which he presented his after dinner talk on statistical analysis of fruit fly sexual behavior. In addition, the department hosted its traditional gathering at the Chris O'Neal, Graduate Teaching Assistant & Statistics Club President annual picnic at Memorial Park the following afternoon. This was a fun gathering in which the grad students were able to interact with the guest speaker in an informal setting, as well as show off their grilling skills!



This year's distinguished speaker was Dr. Peter McCullagh from the University of Chicago. Pictured (l-r): Andrew Brown, Adrijo Chakraborty, Chris O'Neal, Ashley Askew, and Peter McCullagh.

STATISTICAL CONSULTING CENTER

Kim Love-Myers, Associate Director

In the 2010-2011 academic year, the Statistical Consulting Center (SCC) has continued to grow and thrive. Currently under the direction of Dr. Jaxk Reeves and Dr. Kim Love-Myers (following previous Associate Director Dr. Jien Chen's departure in July of 2010), the SCC has worked with a variety of clients from within the university, as well as off-campus educational and corporate clients. On-campus clients have come to the SCC from many areas around the University, including the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, the College of Education, the Odum School of Ecology, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the Graduate School. This year, off-campus clients have accounted for roughly 30% of projects involving the SCC, and have accounted for over 50% of client-based income.

At present, six Statistics graduate students are supported on consulting assistantships: Sandra Addo, Yi Chen, Xinyu Liu, Andrea Moncayo, Wenhui Sheng, and Jin Tang. Five other students are volunteering with the SCC in various capacities. All of the SCC's consulting assistants have done an excellent job supporting the work of the center.

Recently the SCC achieved an important milestone in securing Jaxk Reeves, Director Kim Love-Myers, Associate Director tantships in the coming academic year. The SCC is pleased that OVPR and the Graduate School support its mission at the University, and we are looking forward to continuing to serve the community and our graduate students.



Jaxk Reeves and Kim Love-Myers with clients in the Consulting Center.

COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Daniel Hall, Associate Professor & Associate Department Head

These research talks were delivered by an exciting group of candidates who are all doing cutting edge research in their respective fields of specialization. In addition, the “regular” spring series included an all-star lineup of statisticians, including Vijay Nair of U. of Michigan, Jeffrey S. Morris of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Samuel Kou of Harvard, Peter Hall of U.C.-Davis and U. of Melbourne, and our joint UGA-Clemson colloquium speaker, Dennis Lin of Penn State University. Finally, the 2011 Bradley Lecture featured Peter McCullagh of the University of Chicago as our distinguished guest speaker. Although this Newsletter will reach you after Dr. McCullagh’s visit to UGA in April, 2011, the Bradley Lecture is a great time to come back to In 2010-11, the UGA Department of Statistics’ Colloquium Series continued its long history of distinguished speakers and fascinating talks on topics from all areas of the statistical sciences. In recent years additional indirect cost returns from grants obtained by our faculty as well as increased funding from the Franklin College has allowed the series to feature out-of-town speakers almost exclusively, which has afforded great opportunities for interaction with eminent statisticians visiting our campus. During 2010-11 several talks have been jointly sponsored by the Department of Statistics and Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics. In addition, we continue our long traditions of holding a joint UGA-Clemson statistics colloquium and hosting the Bradley Lecture, an event held each spring in honor of the late Professor Ralph A. Bradley featuring a distinguished speaker and co-sponsored by the graduate student Stat Club.

The fall colloquium series was highlighted by research talks by several well-known senior statisticians and biostatisticians including Thomas A. Louis from Johns Hopkins, Dennis D. Boos of North Carolina State, Douglas P. Wiens of U. of Alberta, Nitis Mukhopadhyay of U. of Connecticut, and Richard Samworth of Cambridge. Talks in the fall ranged from the theoretical to the applied, with subjects in probability theory, experimental design, statistical education, variable selection, and several other areas.

The department was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to recruit new faculty this year, so the spring colloquium series was augmented by several job talks in the areas of statistical education and bioinformatics. Daniel Hall, Associate Professor & Associate Department Head visit the department. Please consider attending next year when the Bradley Lecture will be given by R. Dennis Cook of the University of Minnesota.

We encourage you to visit <http://www.stat.uga.edu/research/colloquia> to keep up with our Colloquium Series. There you will find full details for all the talks in the series including their scheduling, talk titles and abstracts, and links to the speakers' webpages at their home institutions. And please support the Department of Statistics at UGA. Your support will help the Colloquium Series continue to enhance the educational experience of our students, provide research opportunities for our faculty, and enrich the academic environment of the department.

2010-2011 COLLOQUIUM SPEAKERS:

Fall Semester, 2010

Pritam Ranjan, Acadia University
Yongdai Kim, Seoul National University, South Korea
Hui Zou, University of Minnesota
Seong-Hee Kim, Georgia Institute of Technology
Dennis D. Boos, North Carolina State University
Greg Rempala, Medical College of Georgia
Ou Zhao, University of South Carolina
Myung Hee Lee, Colorado State University
Thomas A. Louis, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
Liping Tong, Loyola University Chicago
Jing Wang, University of Illinois at Chicago
Douglas P. Wiens, University of Alberta
Nitis Mukhopadhyay, University of Connecticut-Storrs
Richard Samworth, Cambridge University

Spring Semester, 2011

Jaejik Kim, Medical College of Georgia
Jeffrey S. Morris, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Julie Patterson, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Liang Liu, Delaware State University
Qunhua Li, UC Berkeley
Anna Bargagliotti, University of Memphis
Hanwen Huang, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Hui Jiang, Stanford University
Jennifer J. Kaplan, Michigan State University
Hao Wu, Emory University
Laine Bradshaw, University of Georgia
Samuel Kou, Harvard University
Bimal Sinha, University of Maryland at Baltimore County
Peter Hall, University of Melbourne & University of California at Davis
Yuhong Yang, University of Minnesota
Hemant Tiwari, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Peter McCullagh, University of Chicago
Dennis K.J. Lin, Pennsylvania State University
Vijay Nair, University of Michigan

BUILDING RENOVATIONS

The Statistics Building was constructed in the 1950s for use by the UGA Physical Plant, and was considered ready for being razed in the mid-80s. For the more than 25 years that the Department has occupied the building,

there has always been a dire need for renovations and improvements. While some of these have happened over the years, it wasn't until the arrival of Tim Cheek (the current business manager) in 2007 that a major effort was started to address the situation. Improvements that have been completed are: Renovation and upgrades of the classrooms, conference room, front lobby, kitchen area, and no less than ten faculty offices; creating a new mailroom; repainting hallways, restrooms, and lobbies; and a major construction effort to accommodate students with disabilities to safely enter the classroom areas. Efforts have also addressed the replacement of very old furniture and lighting fixtures. Much of the office lighting has been replaced with brighter and more energy efficient products. The next major effort will seek to improve conditions in the A. Clifford Cohen Reading Room, which is used primarily for individual studying, study groups, Statistics Club activities, tea time (which provides a venue for faculty and students to intermingle), and receptions for visiting speakers.



Remember this?



Look at it now!



The old kitchen area...



makes way for the new!

STAFF PROFILE: JULIE DAVIS

After being a stay-at-home mom for six years, Julie joined the department in 2007 as an Administrative Associate. Her primary duties are technical typing (Latex), creating the departmental newsletter, updating the website, alumni relations, and most demanding of her time, assisting the business manager with business-related tasks. In 2008, Julie transferred to the External Affairs Division to pursue an interest in IT-related duties, but after a brief time there, decided to re-join her former department in November 2010. We are very glad to have her back! Julie received her AB degree in Anthropology in 1998 from the University of Georgia, where her husband Russ (14 years married) also received his degrees in Sociology and Criminal Justice. Julie and Russ have three children: Megan is eleven years old, and the two twins, Colin and Ryan, are eight. In her



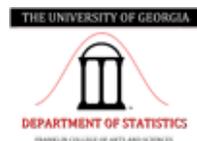
spare time, Julie most enjoys the thrill of riding the roller coasters at Six Flags over Georgia!

ALUMNI PROFILE

The Department's featured alumna is Terri Henderson. She has worked as a Senior Bio-statistician/Patient-Reported Outcomes Lead for the past 3 ½ years at Vistakon in Jacksonville, FL, which is the vision care division of Johnson & Johnson. During this time she has provided several internships for our students. When asked what she likes best about her job, she replied: "Every day is different. I like having a role that encompasses many roles like biostatistician, SAS programmer, legal consultant, educator, and starting to get into psychology and psychometrics." She also stated that the course she uses the most in her current position is the consulting class. She says that, "while knowing what to do is important, you have to know how to ask the questions to understand the data, where it came from and the limitations of the data." When asked what she does for fun, Terri responded, "I just started a patio garden with pole beans, tomatoes, cayenne peppers, a mix of sweet peppers and a mix of hot peppers. I enjoy spending time with two Michael's – and the 18-month old is very energetic, especially when chasing the dogs! Come this fall we will be watching Georgia football."



THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
**Franklin College
of Arts and Sciences**



Department of Statistics, The University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602 | 706-542-2652
www.stat.uga.edu