From the Chair

We are catching our breath and un-crossing our fingers after a highly successful hiring season this spring. We continued our two searches under the Provost’s competitive Faculty Replenishment Hiring Initiative and concluded both successfully, hiring Prof. Yanyuan Ma from Texas A&M University as a Full Professor and Prof. Dewei Wang from Clemson University as an Assistant Professor (see inside for more details).

Even with our new faculty, our number of full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty remains at 13. Hao Wang is on leave this year to be with his wife at Michigan State University, and Ou Zhao is no longer with the department.

With Georgie Baker’s departure, we hired Gail Ward-Besser as Instructor, and Senior Instructor Maureen Petke-wich was named Assistant Chair, Georgie’s former position. And that’s not all. Long-time business manager Tina Ormenisan accepted a position in the Office of Economic Engagement, and Student Services Coordinator Rachel Hansford accepted a position in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, so we are starting the summer with an all-new office staff. Connie Schroyer is our new Business Manager, and Lesley Kennedy is now our Student Services Coordinator. You really needed a score card to keep track of changes here this year.

As USC continues to grow, our graduate program has grown right along with it. We have over 50 MS or PhD students, with 36 supported students. The growth in unsupported students has been a newly-emerging trend that has contributed to the growth of our department. The department continues to produce approximately 4 PhDs per year, and our doctoral student productivity is the second highest in the College of Arts and Sciences over the past five years. About half of our doctoral students placed in tenure-track positions at universities or soon move into tenure-track positions.

Don Edwards, our Distributed Learning coordinator, reports over 80 students either pursuing a Masters in Applied Statistics or a Certificate in Applied Statistics. The baccalaurate program continues to generate strong interest from students, especially those interested in an
We renovated the lounge last year, and our students carried the day. We now have four new faculty members whose strong credentials and love for teaching will be recognized as ASA Fellows in our department. We renovated the lounge last year, and it’s been great to see it adopted as a study area by students along and it’s been an important part of our department’s success in recent years.

New Faculty Profiles

Prof. Vanyuan Ma will be joining our faculty as a Full Professor in August 2014. She earned her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from MIT in 1999 after a stint as a graduate student at Stanford. She worked in the private sector until accepting for a Post Doc position at SAS/IM in 2002. Though initially working in Applied Mathematics, she changed her focus to Statistics and accepted a position at Texas A&M University in 2004. She worked for two years as a professor at University of Neuchatel in Switzerland, then returned to Texas A&M and was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2008 and promoted to Full Professor in 2011.

Prof. Ma has had an admirable record of grants success despite her relatively short career in statistics. Since 2009, she has been awarded three grants from NSF Division of Mathematical Sciences in three different areas within semiparametric methods, measurement error models, spatiotemporal modeling, and dimension reduction in high-dimensional data. She regularly publishes in the top journals in our fields, with multiple publications appearing in JASA, Annals of Statistics, JRSS B, and Biometrika.

She is a widely-sought-after invited speaker, giving talks on a monthly basis throughout the world, and was honored in 2009 as an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. Prof. Ma currently serves as Associate Editor for JRSS B, Annals of the Institute of Applied Mathematics and Stat.

We are pleased to report that Prof. Joshua Gallagher, now focusing on a Bayesian lasso method, has already had three papers in press or in print as first author in the prestigious journal Biometrika. His Friday lecture, “A Bayesian Feature Allocation Model for Tumor Heterogeneity,” was part of the 2014 SCASA Annual Symposium. The talk discussed reconstruction of cell subpopulations from a sample of observed proportions of cell mutational events (SNVs) for cell subpopulations. You can view slides for these lectures on the department website (http://www.stat.sc.edu/ PalmettoLectures_2014.pdf) and (http://www.stat.sc.edu/Palmetto1_2014.pdf).

The second lecture was preceded by two sets of invited student lectures. Participating students included Jamie Lynn Speiser (MUSC Public Health Sciences); Jiera Zhou (USC Biostatistics); Shiyi Yu and Dongmei Wang; Haiming Zhou, Bin Yao, and Jean-Marie Hendrickson (USC Statistics). The two sets of student presentations were judged and awards presented to Jamie Lynn Speiser and Haiming Zhou.

Prof. Tim Hanson has collaborated with Prof. Peter Müller in the past on both research papers and software, and worked on their book project, a text on nonparametric and semiparametric Bayes methods, clinical trial design, Bayesian graphical models, and bioinformatics. In his first lecture, “A Nonparametric Bayesian Approach to Subgroup Analysis”, Prof. Müller discussed the use of utility functions in an unconventional decision problem—i.e., selecting a patient subpopulation that would respond most favorably to a treatment in a clinical trial. His Friday lecture, “A Bayesian Feature Allocation Model for Tumor Heterogeneity,” was part of the 2014 Palmetto Lecturer V: Peter Müller

The Palmetto Lecturer program, initiated by Don Edwards, continued into its fifth year with scholar Peter Müller, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Texas Austin, visiting the department the week of March 24-28 to interact with department members, meet graduate students and deliver two lectures. Prof. Müller’s visit was funded in part by an Institute for Visiting Scholars grant sponsored by the Office of the Provost. Prof. Müller received his doctorate from Purdue University. He was a faculty member at Duke University for 11 years, then worked at University of Texas’ MD Anderson Cancer Center before moving to the Department of Mathematics at University of Texas at Austin in 2012. Prof. Müller served as President of the International Society for Bayesian Statistics in 2010. In 2007-2011, he was appointed Robert R. Herring Distinguished Professor in Clinical Research in University of Texas’ MD Anderson Cancer Center. He has served as Associate Editor for Journal of the American Statistical Association, Statistical Science, Biometrics, and Sankhya. Dr. Müller is an elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association and Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.
Tina Ormenisan, our Business Manager since June 2006, left the department in April to accept another position at USC. Her new position is with the Office of Economic Engagement, and provides her with the opportunity to work with an entrepreneurial arm of the university; it’s exactly the sort of position to which she has often expressed interest in returning. We held a farewell reception for her, with some wonderful and heartfelt comments shared by Tina herself, Maureen Petkewich, Don Edwards and John Grego. We had some surprise visitors for the reception including former department colleagues Suzanne Rizzo and Georgie Baker, and Tina’s husband Florin.

Tina received the College of Arts and Sciences Classified Staff Excellence Award in 2012, recognizing her outstanding work as business manager. We all appreciated Tina’s creativity in resolving budget and student-hiring issues, and her ability to stand back from her work with a critical eye. And much of her best work went way beyond her job responsibilities—she was a reliable source of counsel on many aspects of departmental issues and was particularly invaluable during Maureen Petkewich’s transition to Assistant Chair. More recently, we especially appreciated the time and effort she put into easing her transition—we still check in with her weekly on one topic or the other.

Though Rachel Hansford was only with us for a year, we greatly enjoyed working with her during that time. She was a quick study and some of her efforts in the department had real impact, particularly the professionally-looking departmental postcards, newsletters, and Wall-of-Fame posters she and Tina produced using Adobe InDesign. And her tenure in the department must have been time well-spent—they out-competed other more experienced applicants for an excellent position as Assistant Vice President for Marketing, Communications, and Engagement at the University of Vermont.

Connie Schroyer replaced Tina Ormenisan as the department’s Business Manager in April. Connie was raised in California’s Central Valley, and acquired academic work experience as Assistant to the Dean at Porterville College. She moved to South Carolina in 2006, and has served as Assistant to the County Administrator for Hampton County from 2007 to 2014, which placed her in constant contact with a variety of stakeholders, including county residents, council members, regulatory interests, and a variety of organizations and interest groups. Connie has had to jump in with both feet her first couple months here, and we have been happy to see the equanimity with which she has approached this challenging new task.

Lesley Kennedy joined us as Student Services Coordinator in April. Lesley earned her B.A. in Criminal Justice at Curry College in Massachusetts, and is currently working on a M.Ed. Lesley comes to us with a lot of experience in working directly with students, having served as a residence hall coordinator at four different colleges, most recently at Benedict College, where she also worked as Community Life Coordinator. She is looking forward to putting her experience working with students to practice while working with our graduate and undergraduate directors.

Departing department members Tina Ormenisan (second from right) and Rachel Hansford (far right) at a lunch recognizing Tina for her eight years with our department. Tina’s husband Florin is shown, along with Assistant Chair Maureen Petkewich (second from left). Former student service coordinator Suzanne Rizzo (left) made a special trip all the way from Richmond to surprise Tina.

Tina has been invited to present her work at Beijing and Hangzhou, China in 2015. She has also been invited to IASSL international conference, 2014 at Sri Lanka.

Paramita Chakraborty is continuing her work on fractional diffusion. She has started collaborative work on fractional diffusion with Dr. Hong Wang from the department of Mathematics. In 2014-15, she will attend several conferences and hopes to enrich her research network and build collaborations. She was invited to talks at the Department of Mathematics at University of South Carolina, Clemson University and at the International Conference of Fractional Differentiation and its Application (ICFDA) at Catania, Italy. During the ICFDA conference she has been invited to present her work at Beijing and Hangzhou, China in 2015. She has also been invited to IASSL International conference, 2014 at Sri Lanka.

John Grego finished his second year as Department Chair. He continues to teach the advanced consulting sequence (STAT 790 and STAT 791) and supports contracts for the Stat Lab, though this year he finally handed off coordination of the SC safety belt study to Stat Lab Manager Wilma Sims. He taught STAT 540 and STAT 541 to more students than ever, and put together a short course on R for SC DNR Freshwater Fisheries staff.

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## Individual News

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He wrapped up a second term as Faculty Senator and an enjoyable two-year term on the Faculty Welfare Committee, which oversaw the development of a university bullying policy. He also developed the first comprehensive faculty climate survey in over 10 years (the last one was developed by the Stat Lab too); Wilma Sims and John analyzed the survey and presented results to the Faculty Senate.

John’s oldest daughter Caroline started her doctoral program in environmental history at UC Boulder, and his youngest daughter Emily graduated from Tyler School of Art; she will start her MFA program in Jewelry/Metals and CAD/CAM at Rhode Island School of Design this fall. His wife Rhonda continues as English Department Chair at Midlands Technical College. John continues in his eleventh year as president of Friends of Congaree Swamp.
advisees in Philadelphia at the annual meetings of the American Education-
al Research Association and National Council on Measurement in Educa-
tion. The various presentations included graduate student posters by Yin Fu on multidimensional IRT and the use of the SIMEX algorithm by Han Lee. In
other news, Kevin (now 4 1/2) is enjoy-
ing swimming and getting ready for kin-
dergarten this Fall.

Tim Hanson has decided not to write
about himself in the third person this
year. I am very proud to see Li Li gradu-
ate May 2014 and accept a tenure-track
position at the University of New Mex-
ico! My current Ph.D. students Junshu
Bao and Haiming Zhou continue to
make excellent progress; both have their
first paper submitted and are mostly
done with their second. Mid-May 2014
I spent a week in Chile working with
Alejandro Jara and Maria Garcia-Zattera
on Bayesian marginal survival models for
interval-censored data with misclassifica-
tion. I published 5 papers in 2013, 6 so
far in 2014, and have 4 more in press. Of
these 15, I am proud to say that 11 are
from student dissertations that I helped
advise; I hope it was mostly good advice!
As of June 2014, I’ve put in 17 months
as Graduate Advisor; 12 more to go... not
that I’m counting. My daughter
Charlotte finished a successful kinder-
garten year and continues to dance (this
year was clogging and hip hop), and my
son Ben had a great year in second grade
and has joined the YMCA swim team.
My wife Aubree is in her final year of
nursing school! In her non-existent free
time, she continues knitting up a storm
and working in the garden. Gas Money,
the band I play bass in, rocked Zorbas in
Chapin a whopping 6 times over the last
year; all in attendance were sufficiently
awed. Minimally sufficiently.

David Hitchcock has enjoyed a busy
year teaching, advising, and working on
a variety of research projects. He PhD
student Jean-Marie Hendrickson gradu-
ated in May 2014, after defending her
dissertation, “Methods for Clustering
Multidimensional Data,” and a manuscript on
this topic is currently being prepared. In
addition, he is working with: PhD student
Zizhen Wu on simultaneous registration
and clustering of functional data; PhD
student Yanlei Peng (co-advisor with
John Grego) on spatio-temporal models
for fire temperature data; and MS student
Seann Hartnett. He published an article
with John Grego on Bayesian modeling
of loggerhead turtle population size.
He has worked with Ian Dryden, recent
USC PhD graduate Wen Cheng, and
Hui Li of Hong Kong on a series of
papers on the analysis of functional and
shape data. He has continued collabora-
tions with USC researchers on studies of
nutrition, dietetics and physical activ-
ity of school children. As for teaching,
he enjoyed teaching the undergraduate
probability and mathematical statistics
sequence this year, among other courses.
On a personal note, David and his wife
Sandi welcomed another son into their
family: Evan, born in September 2013.

Xianzheng Huang has wrapped up two
collaborative projects in the past year or
so with her UK colleague, Ian Dryden,
and former co-advisers Wen Cheng
and Jiejun Du, producing one paper to
appear in JASA and one under revi-
sion in response to reviews from Bayes-
ian Analyst. She continues to hone her
skills in advising students while working
on four projects with four students, who
have very different research topics, career
goals, ways of learning, and styles of
doing research. Despite all the differences,
she enjoys working with all four hard-
working students (Peijie Hou, Songqiao
Huang, Shun Yu, and Haiming Zhou)
and witnessing their growth. With two
new colleagues joining the department in
the coming Fall, she is hopeful that
she can branch out more in her research
via collaborations with her new col-
leagues. Branching out is also her theme
in teaching. She taught Nonlinear Statis-
tical Models for the first time this past
spring semester and hopes to give it a try
next year; teaching other graduate-level theoreti-
cal courses in the near future. With
the aforementioned plans for branching-out,
it may be doable to stay at her seminar-
chair position for a third year, knowing
that all her colleagues would help her
along the way with whatever she needs
(from them) to keep things running
smoothly.

Lesley Kennedy joined us as Student
Services Program Coordinator in April
of this year. She is originally from Bos-
ton, MA and has been working in High-
er Education as a professional for several
years. Though only being here for a short
time, she has enjoyed assisting the De-
partment with budget tasks, travel docu-
ments, student evaluations, and much
more. Lesley feels her stay at USC has
been very rewarding and she looks
forward to growing within the Depart-
ment and University.

Xiaoyan (Iris) Lin is in her fourth year
in the tenure track in the Department
of Statistics. She continues her research in Bayesian
modeling and its application to differ-
ent areas. Last year, she had two papers
published in Statistics and Probability
Letters and Computational Statistics
and Data Analysis, one revision submitted
to Lifetime Data Analysis, and one new
paper submitted to Communications in
Statistics. She has been supervising two Ph.D.
students, Yong Shan and Ji-
anhong Wang. Yong’s topic is Bayesian
nonparametric random effect selection.
Jiahong’s topic is Bayesian multivari-
ate recurrent event and panel count data.
She enjoyed teaching advanced courses
last year and would like to try more chal-
lenge next year. After gaining some
experience from an internal grant appli-
cation, she plans to take a shot at an NSF
grant this year. Right now, she is prepar-
ing to welcome her new baby girl to be
born in July.

Joe Padgett is still living in Pickens, SC,
and continuing as an adjunct professor
in the Mathematical Sciences Depart-
ment at Clemson. He and Fay now have
three grandchildren and enjoy spending
time with family. In addition to golf,volunteer work at church, and commu-
nity activities, he is still serving on the
Board of Directors of the Preserving Our
Southern Appalachian Music non-profit
which supports the Young Appalachian
Musicians (YAM) after-school program
for 3rd-8th graders in Pickens County as
well as on the Board of the Pickens Pres-
sbyterian Church Child Development
Center.

Edsel Peña and his students, Fadzir Rah-
man, Lillian Wanda, Bereket Kindo,
and Piaomu Liu continued their Friday
research seminar meetings, though by
Spring, Bereket was gone having taken
a job with an insurance company in Min-
nesota where he could use his expertise
in machine-learning in furthering the
company’s goals. Prof Jim Lynch is a fre-
quent participant in these meetings, and
recently the group has been joined by
Beidi Qiang, Shiwen Shen, Seungho Baek,
and Jianxuan Liu. Fadzir has suc-
cessfully defended his dissertation and
will be joining Emory University as a
post-doc this August. He has published
his first paper in Journal of Nonparamet-
ric Statistics and was also awarded the
department’s Excellence in Research

The 2013-2014 academic year marks the
fifth year as instructor and STAT 110 co-
ordinator for Leslie Henders. She is en-
joying teaching “Statistical Literacy” too
large groups of mainly freshmen in a face
to face course offering, and to a very di-
verse audience in the distributed learning
section of the course. Leslie also teaches
STAT 205, the required statistics course
for biological science majors. She is an
active member of the provost’s Student
Retention Workforce and the university’s
financial aid committee. The summer of
2014 marks the second year she spent a
week grading AP Statistics exams for the
2014 marks the second year she spent a
week grading AP Statistics exams for the
United States. She is still teaching the
seventh day of school this year; all in
attendance were sufficiently
awed. Minimally sufficiently.

Jim Lynch is thoroughly enjoying his re-
tirement with Peggy spending a good bit
of time visiting their daughters and their
families. In addition, Jim continues an
active research program doing research
on complex systems, syndromic surveil-
ance and nonparametric Bayes methods,
Connie Schroyer joined the department as the new business manager at the end of April. Connie has a well-rounded background in retail, collegiate and government administration that will lend itself well to our business office. Born and raised in California, she has called South Carolina home for the last seven years. Her and husband, Jake, have six successful, adult children and the couple is currently relocating from Columbus to the Beaufort area. Connie enjoys anything outdoors, cooking, gardening and travel. "Thank you for welcoming me to the Statistics Department and I look forward to working with you all. My goal is to provide fast, efficient and friendly support to the faculty, staff and students who call Statistics home."

Wilma Sims is in her sixth year as Stat Lab manager and still enjoying every minute!

John Spurrier continues to enjoy retirement. He published the comedy book "Am I Too Old to Play? Comic Views of Sports and Aging". It is available on Amazon.com. He also won a blue ribbon for pottery at the South Carolina State Fair. John and his wife Pam continue to travel, play golf, and hike.

Joshua Tebbs was recently named a Fellow by the American Statistical Association. His paper, “Two-stage hierarchical group testing for multiple infections with applications to the Infertility Prevention Project,” with co-authors Christopher S. McMahan (Clemson University) and Christopher R. Bilder (University of Nebraska), won the 2014 American Statistical Association Outstanding Statistical Application Award. He is currently advising 5 Ph.D. students.

Lianming Wang continued his research on survival analysis. He published a paper at Statistics in Medicine and one paper in press at Computational Statistics and Data Analysis. He also submitted three research papers and a grant proposal on prostate cancer research to Department of Defense in 2013. He gave three invited talks at professional conferences. He is working on his tenure application this summer and is also expecting a baby girl this July.

The Stat Lab

We are still operating without a Stat Lab Director and will likely continue to do so for the foreseeable future. In the interim, Stat Lab Manager Wilma Sims oversees some contracts and all of the grants consulting. John Grego continues to handle most of the long-term contracts he has usually managed, though Wilma has now welcomed some of the Safety Belt project this year and will likely manage it next year with minimum interference from John. John continues to teach STAT 790 and STAT 791, though Wilma’s role in STAT 791 continues to increase, and she has brought some welcome improvements to the course, particularly in the timely management of consulting reports.

In addition to the SC Safety Belt study, we continued contract work with Jones Ecological Research Center, while SC Department of Education asked us to continue coordinating a parent satisfaction survey for its programs for students with learning disabilities. And we were very gratified when SC Department of Natural Resources re-initiated our contract consulting arrangement, which culminated in the delivery of a shortcourse in R to almost 20 SC DNR employees. USC’s Faculty Welfare Committee developed the university’s first faculty climate survey since 2000, and the Provost provided funding for the Stat Lab to provide both quantitative analysis of the survey questions and qualitative analysis of the open-form responses on the survey. The last climate survey was designed and analyzed by the Stat Lab as well, so it was quite satisfying to again provide this important service to USC.

We maintained our affiliation with the USC Genetic Counseling Program. Each spring, we provide a one-hour seminar for those who have genetic counseling graduate students. During the summer, we work with the students individually, assisting in the preparation of their methodology sections of their thesis proposals. During the students’ second year, we provide consultation on conducting the proposed analysis. Over the last few three years, there has been a steady increase in the number of non-USC individual clients using Stat Lab services. The majority of the increase can be attributed to client referrals and doctoral students directed to the lab by their dissertation advisors. There has also been an increase in USC students requesting paid services, ranging from data entry to data analysis. Special thanks to our assistants and other students who helped with Stat Lab projects: Yanlei Peng, Wen Cheng, Jeff Thompson, and Songqiao Huang and Quanqian Wang at the annual welcome picnic.
Our graduate students continue to contribute to our department’s research success. Over the last few years our students’ dissertation and masters work has appeared in such prestigious journals as Biometrics, Computational Statistics and Data Analysis, Statistics and its Interface, Electronic Journal of Statistics, JASA, Technometrics, Biostatistics, Annals of Statistics, and Journal of Nonparametric Statistics.

Both the department and the Office of the Vice President for Research have sponsored student travel to attend professional conferences, with additional funding available when students present work under submission to professional journals. Students have given presentations and posters at SCASA, IBS, International Chinese Statistical Association, International Indian Statistical Association, several at ENAR, several at JSM, Psychometric Society, National Council on Measurement in Education/American Educational Research Association, and SRCOS. Finally, after a successful recruiting season, the USC Department of Statistics has another large recruiting class of 17 new masters and Ph.D. students, both supported and unsupported, coming this Fall.

### Undergraduate Program

Our undergraduate program in statistics continues to attract and graduate great students. The undergraduate committee also continues to update the curriculum and procedures for the degree. Over the winter Lianming Wang managed the formal proposal of STAT 517 – Advanced Statistical Models and Iris Lin lead the updating of STAT 518 – Nonparametric Statistical Methods. Projects for the coming year include continuing the work on how we assess our undergraduate program and on producing a new booklet about the program to help in recruiting and advising. Brian Habing will also be leading the effort to update our STAT 515 – Statistical Methods I course.

### 2013-14 Undergraduate Awards

The Mu Sigma Rho award was earned by Kellie Wiggins and the Stephen D. Durham award went to Marissa Brienza. Hannah Knowles was the winner of the College of Arts and Sciences Rising Senior Award.

### 2013-14 Graduate Student Awards

Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards went to Roy Bower, William Cipolli, and Peijie Hou. The Outstanding Graduate Student in Academics was Junshu Bao and the Outstanding First Year Student was Seungchul Baek. Shamim Sarker and Nicholas Yell won the Citizenship Award and the James D Lynch Award for Graduate Research went to Fazlur Rahman.

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Distributed Learning

The Department's online graduate programs are growing steadily, threatening to become our largest program by headcount with 54 current Master of Applied Statistics (MAS) or Master of Industrial Statistics (MIS) candidates and 24 more pursuing the Certificate of Graduate Study in Applied Statistics (CGS-AS). In calendar year 2013 USC graduated 10 MAS/MIS students, our highest total yet. Our programs are attracting national attention, earning praise for best learning support and for alumni engagement by OnlineCollege.org: http://www.onlinecollege.org/masters/applied-statistics/. This article mentions South Carolina hand-in-hand with Penn State, Colorado State, and R.I.T. whose programs have been national leaders in this arena for a number of years.

Don Edwards, who originated our online graduate program, has taken over coordination of these programs from Senior Instructor Emeritus Georgie Baker. Much of the success of the program owes to Georgie’s hard work, as well as to the work of so many of our faculty over the past decade who have willingly developed and taught distance delivery classes with little or no additional reward.

The department also continues to expand its distance learning classes at other levels, with STAT J110 now offered Fall, Spring and Summer (coordinated by Leslie Hendrix), STAT J515 (Brian Habing), STAT J600 (Brian Habing), and for the first time ever in May 2014, STAT J201. Developed by Maureen Petkewich this past year, J201 will be offered in a mixed-distance-delivery mode, with recorded lectures by Maureen delivered online with live laboratory sections taught by graduate students in LeConte 124.

Nicholas Pritchard (PhD 2008) earned tenure and was promoted at Coastal Carolina University.

Phil Yates (PhD 2006) was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in the Mathematics Department at St. Michael’s College in Burlington, VT.

Art Carter (MS 1989) received a new position as a statistician at Siemens Diagnostics.

Petko Kostadinov (MS 2002) finished in third place at the World Backgammon Championship in Monte Carlo last August. And he is ranked 6th internationally on one backgammon website.

Emmy Smith (MS 2005) formerly Emmy McKinney, moved to Pittsburgh, PA and works for PNC Bank as a Portfolio Strategy and Analytics Specialist.

Cody Chiuzan (MS 2009) completed her PhD in biostatistics at MUSC and will join the biostatistics faculty at Columbia University.

This year has been very good for Laura Taylor (PhD 2008). In addition to giving birth to twins, she earned tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor at Elon University.

James Surles (PhD 1999) was promoted to full professor at the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Texas Tech University.

Sherry Turner, you might remember her as Sherry Massow, our former Student Services Coordinator, works for the Horry County School District as a Home-Bound Coordinator. Her son just completed his freshman year here at USC.

If you ever wondered whether LeConte 127 could possibly look worse, here’s your answer. Wait till you see photos of the new and improved LeConte 127 in next year’s newsletter!

Alumni and USC Stat Family News

Joe Padgett (right), Michael Kutner, and Robert Taylor (left) at the 50th Anniversary Summer Research Conference of the SRCOS at Galveston, Texas in June 2014. Joe, Bob, and Michael participated in an invited session on the on the history of the SRCOS.
We Want To Hear From You!

We would like to share information about your accomplishments and activities. If you have changed jobs, received a promotion or award, earned a new degree, married, traveled, or anything new has happened to you, please let us know. Send information to John Grego: grego@stat.sc.edu along with any updates in your mailing and email addresses.

Thank You for Your Support!

USC Educational Foundation

2013 was another great year for alumni support—alumni and friends gave over $800,000 last year. Thank you so much! Contributions to the department can be made to any of three funds within the USC Educational Foundation. Your tax-deductible gifts can be distributed among the three funds in any way you specify.

Scholarships and fellowships are funded with interest from their respective funds. Contributions to these funds will continue to help in the development of young statisticians. Contribution forms for these funds are enclosed for your convenience at the end of this newsletter.

The John D. Spurrier Scholarship

On the event of his retirement in 2008, the Department established the John D. Spurrier Scholarship fund to provide scholarships for first-year undergraduate statistics majors. The fund was vested in 2010 and we now offer an annual scholarship whenever we have an eligible candidate. Please do consider helping with contributions to the Spurrier Scholarship Fund (Account B11516).

The W. J. Padgett Fellowship

This fund (Account 1B1593) was established in 1993 and helps us attract outstanding graduate students to the department by offering supplemental fellowship stipends to the regular assistantships. The Padgett fellowship has been offered to at least one new graduate student each year in recent years and can really make the difference when competing for students against other outstanding statistics programs.

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