From the Chair

On my first-year anniversary as chair, I’m pleased to report that the department continues to thrive. Our department remains at 13 full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty and three full-time instructors. We conducted two searches competitively funded through the Provost’s Faculty Replenishment Hiring Initiative, but both positions are still open at this point. We have had great support from the Dean and the Provost and I’m looking to turn things around next year.

Our fulltime graduate program continues to grow. We have 46 MS or PhD students, with 35 supported, and 27 admitted to candidacy—all these are the highest totals we have seen. Georgie Baker remarked that the redesigned web page for our Distributed Learning degrees (the new phrase for “distance learning”) had her answering more inquiries than she ever has in the past. She reports over 80 students either pursuing a Masters in Applied Statistics or a Certificate in Applied Statistics. The baccalaureate program continues to generate strong interest from students, especially those interested in an actuarial minor (Risk Management and Insurance). In graduate news, PhD student Li Li received a College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Fellowship to support the last year of work on her doctoral thesis. With some prodding from Prof. Tim Hanson, we instituted a dual doctoral degree program with Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (PUC). Students from USC or PUC have the opportunity to conduct coursework and study at both schools and may earn a PhD provided they meet both schools’ requirements. This is an innovative arrangement that moves well beyond the typical dual degree program.

The department continues to produce approximately 4 PhDs per year, an average certain to increase with the 7 PhD students who graduated over the course of the year. About half our doctoral students place in tenure-track positions at
universities or soon move into tenure-track positions. As USC enrolls ever-larger undergraduate classes, our enrollments continue to climb—we taught 2,750 students in both the Spring and Fall. With a rumored record-breaking first-year class enrolling this year, enrollment growth won't slacken for at least another couple of years. This could be helpful news for our graduate program, since so many of our students are supported by teaching assistantships. As my first year winds down, I'd like to thank previous Chair Don Edwards for his impeccable set of electronic records, which simplified so many of my tasks this year, and for his hands-off style. I surely deserved to have some of my actions second-guessed this year, but Don was a model of forbearance.

-John Grego

Don Edwards stepped down as chair in June 2012, having served since 2005—the second longest tenure in our department (Joe Padgett served 13 years).


Don worked tirelessly to raise our department’s research profile in a variety of ways. He organized the department’s 25th anniversary conference as well as co-organized two other conferences: Current and Future Trends in Nonparametric Statistics in 2007 with Edsel Pena and SRCOS in 2011. He also wrote several successful grants to fund the conferences and used grant and departmental funds to provide much-needed travel awards for graduate students for these conferences and others.

Don identified additional funds for our colloquium series, allowing us to bring in prestigious slates of outside speakers each year. He also initiated the Palmetto Lecture series in 2008, introducing Odd Aalen, Jim Ramsay, Ed George and now Frank Samaniego to our department for week-long visits. His previous work on distributed learning culminated in the development of the MAS degree supported entirely by distance delivery of the coursework.

Don was a staunch defender of the department’s teaching mission as well. He led efforts to modify STAT 205 in response to external threats to develop a similar course for a similar audience and was active in the development of the Carolina Core to ensure that Statistics maintained a prominent place in the General Education curriculum.

Don was a prolific writer of award nominations, successfully nominating Edsel Pena for university teaching and research awards, Tina Ormenisan for a college staff award, and Georgie Baker for a college teaching award. He also nominated Brian Habing and Josh Tebbs for university teaching awards.

He also improved the infrastructure of Leconte (as much as one can) with renovations to the main office, Leconte 219 and our fresh air delivery system. That’s right, thanks to Don, we no longer need to worry about students dozing off from carbon dioxide buildup in our classrooms.

All in all, a very successful seven years for both Don and the department.
Palmetto Lecturer IV: Frank Samaniego

The Palmetto Lecturer program, initiated by Don Edwards, continued into its fourth year with internationally known scholar Prof. Francisco (Frank) Samaniego visiting the department the week of March 25-29 to interact with department members, meet graduate students and deliver two lectures. As part of the International Year of Statistics, the event was publicized as the Statistics2013 Palmetto Lectures in Statistics.

Prof. Samaniego, a long-time faculty member in Statistics at UC-Davis, is well-known for his contributions to reliability theory, sampling theory and the study of the performance of Bayesian methods. In his first lecture, “A (Very) Short Course on Comparative Statistical Inference”, Prof. Samaniego reasoned that the question “Should I be a Bayesian?” should instead be replaced with the question “When should I be a Bayesian?” He then explored scenarios that would assist in that choice. His Thursday lecture, “Network Reliability: A Fresh Look at Some Basic Questions,” was actually part of the Statistics 2013 SCASA Annual Symposium. The talk introduced both concepts and some new tools to compare network performance. You can view slides for these lectures on the department website (http://www.stat.sc.edu/Palmetto1_2013.pdf and http://www.stat.sc.edu/Palmetto2_2013.pdf).

The second lecture at the Symposium was preceded by two sets of invited student lecturers. Participating students included Meredith Ray and Chao Cai (USC Epidemiology and Biostatistics), Fazlur Rahman and Nicole Lewis (USC Statistics), Sybil Leslie Prince Nelson and Delia Voronca (MUSC Biostatistics and Epidemiology), and Dewei Wang (Clemson Mathematics). The two sets of student presentations were judged and awards presented to Fazlur Rahman and Dewei Wang.

Edsel and Marge Pena graciously hosted a reception for Frank Friday evening at their home. This turned out to be an excellent opportunity for grad students to meet Prof. Samaniego in an informal setting; he peeled himself away from faculty at the party to socialize with the students for much of the event. A final special thanks to our colloquium coordinator, Prof. Xian Huang, for arranging and supervising Frank Samaniego’s visit.

Frank Samaniego speaking with Professor Edsel Pena
Georgie’s Retirement Recognition

We recognized Georgie Baker’s contributions to the department with a special colloquium and reception on April 25, 2013. Georgie steps down as Senior Instructor and Assistant to the Chair on June 30 of this year, having served in the department since 2002. At the ceremony, we noted Georgie’s early career in finance, serving as VP of Systems Development at Chase Manhattan, and later as VP of Systems Development and Maintenance at Goldman Sachs. Some of us knew of Georgie’s early career, but many didn’t and it serves as a fascinating backdrop to her later career as an educator.

Georgie first came to USC from Radford, where she both served as instructor and earned her BS in Math and Statistics. After earning a MS in 1996 with John Spurrier as her advisor, she worked at BC Components for six years as a quality manager. Jim Lynch, our Department Chair at the time, approached Georgie about returning to academia and created the position of Assistant to the Chair with Georgie in mind.

Since that time, Georgie has put her remarkable skills to work in both the classroom and the workplace. As instructor, she was always available to teach a course or take on an overload at a moment’s notice and was duly recognized with the College of Arts and Sciences Non-tenure Track Faculty Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2011. As Assistant to the Chair and Graduate Coordinator, she handled class scheduling, room requests, temporary faculty hiring, room problems, annual reporting, outside surveys, student complaints, grad student orientation, discipline problems, recruiting visits, … the list goes on and on. She really excelled at administrative tasks, with her uncanny ability to “work the system” to the department’s benefit.

Georgie will remain close at hand in Columbia with her husband Bill. We’ll conclude with the same wrap-up we used at the colloquium—Thanks, Georgie!

In March, we said good-bye to Student Services Program Coordinator Suzanne Rizzo. Suzanne was with our department only since 2010, but made a lasting impression on all of us with her hard work, friendliness, and the high level of professionalism and excellence she brought to all her tasks. It was a real pleasure to work with Suzanne. Upon becoming Chair in July—I gained a much greater appreciation for her capabilities and skills. Suzanne and her fiance Marco Furman moved to Richmond, Virginia, where Suzanne quickly found work as a student coordinator for the School of Education at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Rachel Hansford joined us as Student Services Program Coordinator in March of this year. Rachel earned her BS in Health Science in 2012 from South University and joins us after working at Sainsbury Eye Center. She’s off to a quick start with budgeting tasks, colloquium work, enrollment tracking, student evaluations and much more. In fact, she designed the formatting and layout of this newsletter for us.
**Individual News**

**Georgie Baker:** I have retired. My husband, Bill, and I will be staying in Columbia, but doing some traveling. First is a trip up North, then Alaska, then who knows? I really have enjoyed working in the Department for the past 11 years. Best thing I ever did was to come to USC for my Masters. My best to everyone.

**Paramita Chakraborty** taught STAT 205 last year and is teaching the course this coming fall. She is concentrating on building her specialization in applied probability research areas. Recently she finished a paper on Markov chain modeling of HPV transmission data. She is currently working on a project with Dr. Hrishikesh Chakraborty (Department of Biostatistics) on modeling HIV progression data in South Carolina.

She is also collaborating with Dr. Saurav Banerjee from Mechanical Engineering on multiple projects involving stochastic modeling of sound wave propagation and ultrasound microscopy used in various fields of biology and engineering. Parmamita plans to submit multiple proposals jointly with Dr. Anindya Chanda (Environmental Health Sciences) and Dr. Banerjee that will promote stochastic models to understand and analyze cellular and mechanical property changes in microbes, specifically toxic fungi. Since moving to a new home she’s finding out facts about “how not to do gardening”. But about 50% of her plants are alive, and she takes it as a triumph for a beginner.

**Don Edwards** is in his 32nd year as a faculty member in the department. He finished a second term as Department Chair on June 30, 2012 and went on “TERI” (the state’s pre-retirement program) the next day. The department had a memorable gathering to help celebrate. A couple weeks later Don and Sharon headed west by car (the two dogs in the back seat) for a wonderful fall semester sabbatical in UC-San Francisco’s Biostatistics program, stopping to visit family and attend JSM in San Diego along the way. Don got to see what biostatistics is like at a first-rate research medical school – a UCSF faculty member, Shinya Yamanaka, shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine last year for devising a way to convert ordinary skin cells into stem cells. Don gave the first biostatistics seminar at UCSF that fall and also a statistics seminar at UC-Davis and the Neyman seminar at UC-Berkeley. After three revisions, Don was proud to see an American Statistician paper appear, co-authored with 2007 PhD alums Ilana Ignatova and Roland Deutsch. Also, very proud to see PhD students Hua Chen and Jie Gao and MAS student Holly Groover complete their theses and project.

He is thrilled that the new Stat 201 lab manual (Petkewich and Edwards, “Statistics: Play-by-Play”) will be published this year by Kendall-Hunt; much of that work was done during sabbatical. Don is in his second and final year as President of the Southern Regional Council on Statistics and also continues as a friend of the court expert statistician battling healthcare fraud.

**Don Edwards** finished his first year as Department Chair. In the absence of a Stat Lab faculty director, he still teaches the consulting sequence (STAT 790 and STAT 791) and supports contracts for the Stat Lab, including the SC safety belt study, which required a major re-design this year. John continued to work with David Hitchcock on capture-recapture methods, and has just about finished up work as a corresponding author for a paper on failure models for composite fibers with Jim Lynch, Shuang Li, and Jayaram Sethuraman. John has added a couple collaborators to his work with researchers from Jones Ecological Research Center and University of Florida on fire behavior. Prof. David Hitchcock and doctoral student Yanlei Peng are working with him on spatiotemporal models of wildfire behavior. Yanlei will be supported by JERC this summer. He will start work with doctoral student Kaiwen Mai this summer on his collaborative research work with Prof. Phil Yates (St. Michael’s College) on hydrology models.

Prof. Grego was happy to work with two masters students this year: Alice Hill (MAS) and Nate Spagnola (MS); the work with Nate, who was interested in models for ranking hockey players, included a rare foray into sports-related statistics.

During the Fall, he taught a service course on Congaree National Park to SC Honors College students that covered topics from advocacy to cultural history to natural history. He hopes to teach it every other year; though it’s an overload, it’s a nice source of funding.
for the department. John continues in his tenth year as president of Friends of Congaree Swamp.

**Brian Habing** continues his research in item response theory. He again served as undergraduate director for the department and began serving as chair of the university committee on curricula and courses last Fall (and is signed up for another year of both). In April 2013 he joined five former and one current Ph.D. advisee in San Francisco at the annual meetings of the American Educational Research Association and National Council on Measurement in Education. The various presentations made by the group included a training course on using R for teaching quantitative methods with alumni Jessalyn Smith, and current student Yin Fu's graduate student multimedia presentation on her research in multidimensional IRT. The highlight of his academic year was the spring 2013 Ph.D. hooding of Dr. Yuling Feng and Dr. Na Yang. Meanwhile, Kevin (now 3 1/2) is attempting to run and bike his dad back into shape.

**Rachel Hansford** is our new Student Services Coordinator. She states, “I am enjoying being involved in the Department, everyone is very welcoming. I’m looking forward to working with everyone and making sure things are done effectively and efficiently”. On a personal note she enjoys reading a good book and running, and is a mother to three year old Emma Grace who just started playing on a soccer team at school.

**Tim Hanson** continues research in spatial survival analysis, generalized mixed models, and ordinal regression with Ph.D. students Li Li, Haiming Zhou, and Junshu Bao. Li has one paper tentatively accepted at Technometrics and another submitted. Tim was proud to see Dr. Yuhui Chen graduate in December 2012. Yuhui has submitted three papers from her dissertation, one is in press at Computational Statistics and Data Analysis and two others are being revised; Yuhui secured a position at a leading agricultural products firm. Tim published three papers in 2012 in Bayesian Analysis (with former student Luping Zhao), Magnetic Resonance in Medicine (with former MRI researchers at U. Minnesota), and the Journal of Data Science (with collaborator Garnett McMillan); he has six more in press for 2013. Starting in January 2013, Tim took over as Graduate Director; in May 2013 he was honored to be elected as Fellow of the ASA and is looking forward to celebrating at JSM in Montreal! In family news: after three years and six drummers, Tim’s cover band Gas Money is finally saddling up to play out. Charlotte (age 5) enjoys dancing and had her first recital May 2013, Ben (age 7) loves swimming on the Kershaw County swim team, and Aubree is finally starting her clinicals in the Midlands Tech nursing program in August 2013!

**David Hitchcock** has worked on a variety of methodological and collaborative research projects. His PhD student (jointly advised with Ian Dryden) Nicole Lewis graduated in May 2013, after defending her dissertation, “Protein Identification Using Bayesian Stochastic Search,” and a manuscript on this topic will be submitted soon. In addition, he continues to work with PhD student JeanMarie Hendrickson on methods for clustering mixed data, and, along with John Grego, is working with PhD student Yanlei Peng on spatio-temporal models for fire temperature data. In other research, he is revising a manuscript with John Grego on Bayesian modeling of loggerhead turtle population size. He traveled to Ohio State in November 2012 for a workshop on the registration of functional data and presented joint work with Ian Dryden, USC PhD student Wen Cheng, and Huiling Le of Nottingham. This year, he gave research talks at East Carolina and N.C. State. He has continued collaborations with USC researchers on studies of nutrition, dietetics and physical activity of school children. As for teaching, he enjoyed teaching “Statistical Literacy” to large groups of mainly freshmen and still learning as she delivers the distributed learning section of STAT 110. She is an active member of the provost’s Student Retention Workforce and the university’s financial aid committee. Leslie continues to work with the South Carolina Course Alignment Project (SCCAP), a program that is attempting to better align high school and first year college courses for better student success. She spends her free time watching sports, dancing, and boating on Lake Murray with her husband, Mark, and children Hunter (17), Colton, (16), and Laney (10).
course (originally developed by Lianming Wang) on Advanced Statistical Models this spring, the first time (the first of many, we hope) this course has been offered at USC. Outside of work, David enjoys spending time with his wife and kids and playing tennis.

Xianzheng (Xian) Huang started to experiment on teaching several new graduate-level courses after teaching the math-stat series for four years in a row and finally passing it to another colleague. She enjoyed collaborating with students in her research-oriented special-topic course on various research projects. As her three-year research funding comes to an end this year, she has been wrapping up several ongoing research projects and setting off on a couple of new ones in order to assemble solid application materials for her next proposal. Finally, being the seminar chair in the past academic year had been a little stretch for her introvert-in-nature personality. But she views it a healthy stretch overall.

Xiaoyan (Iris) Lin is in her fifth year (third year under the tenure track) in the department. She feels more mature in her academic life. She continues her research in Bayesian modeling and its application to different areas. Besides these, she also feels more comfortable using frequentist methods to conduct her research. She has been involved in grant applications with Dr. Lianming Wang. She has gained some experiences advising PhD students. In 2013, she will continue to balance her family life and work and contribute her best efforts in research and teaching.

Joe Padgett is staying very busy in retirement, living in Pickens, SC. He continues as an adjunct professor in Mathematical Sciences at Clemson, only teaching a statistics class as the notion strikes him! He and Faye enjoy spending time with family, especially the grandchildren, and he regularly plays golf and music. In addition to volunteer work at church and community activities, he serves 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 and is on the Board of the Pickens Presbyterian Child Development Center.

Edsel Peña--My students, Fazlur Rahman, Lillian Wanda, Bereket Kindo, and Piaomu Liu, continued with their regular two-hour Friday research seminars, where one of the four students is in charge on any given Friday. Fazlur has submitted his first research paper for possible publication, and he won one of the awards at the recent SCASA meet-
John teaches in a continuing education program for senior citizens and comes to the department once a week for a noontime bridge game. He also won a red ribbon at the South Carolina State Fair for pottery.

Joshua Tebbs finished his 2.5 year tenure as Graduate Director, handing off the reins to Tim Hanson. He continues to do research in group testing and is starting to work with two new PhD students in this area. He was recently elected to the University Committee on Tenure and Promotion and is halfway through a two-year term. On the teaching front, he continues to badger his undergraduate and graduate students with excruciatingly long and difficult homework assignments.

Hao Wang has been working on several research projects. He has contributed to the literature with several methods for more efficiently and more accurately learning graphs and estimating covariance matrices. He also started working on new research topics together with collaborators. Alongside Ian Dryden, he is working with PhD student Blake Hill on comparing covariance matrices for shape analysis. Prof. Wang and Edsel Pena are working with PhD student Bereket Kindo on nonparametric Bayesian methods for multi-class classification problems.

Maureen Petkewich just can’t get enough of STAT 201! She is completing her 8th year as the STAT 201 coordinator. Under the support of a CAS Instructor Development Award, she co-authored a new STAT 201 laboratory manual with Don Edwards. Also with the help of Prof. Edwards and Hao Wang, she developed a new course for the Carolina Core, Statistics and the Media, which will be offered for the first time this Fall. She participated in the AP Statistics Reading in June and a MyStatLab Development Summit with Pearson Education in January. She enjoyed seeing several former USC graduate teaching assistants and faculty recently at USCOTS 2013 in Raleigh, NC. She is ‘ABD’ in the Education Research and Measurement graduate program with hopes to finish the program before Madeline (12) and Elizabeth (7) graduate from high school.

Wilma Sims is in her fifth year as Stat Lab manager and still enjoying every minute!
Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, and San Diego and had a lot of fun with the very different cultures and interesting people there.

**Lianming Wang** continued his methodological development for analyzing complicated survival data, such as multivariate and clustered interval-censored data. He published a book chapter and submitted 4 articles for peer review in 2012. He continued to guide two PhD students Naichen Wang and Haifeng Wu, and both of them have nearly completed two research projects. He gave a research talk at Clemson University and two other invited presentations at national statistical conferences. His proposal on “Statistical methodological development for sexually transmitted infections” is funded by USC’s social science program. He resubmitted his NIH R21 proposal this year. On a personal side, he has been enjoying playing bridge with colleagues and friends on campus and working out in the gym regularly. He also enjoys playing with his two cute boys.

**Ou Zhou** continues research in probability theory and stochastic processes, with occasional collaborations in biostatistics. He is making significant efforts in reading journals and searching for suitable problems; and he remains optimistic in finding further collaborations.

**The Stat Lab**

We are still operating without a Stat Lab Director and will likely continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Stay tuned. In the interim, Stat Lab Manager Wilma Sims oversees some of our contracts, and all the gratis consulting with help from experienced grad students. John Grego continues to handle the long-term contracts he has usually managed and teaches STAT 790 and STAT 791.

We finally received approval for our SC safety belt study re-design, and are trying it out for the first time this Spring. It required major changes not just for the Stat Lab, but for our safety belt counters, several of whom have been with us for years, but are proving to be accommodating to the changes. We also continued contract work with Jones Ecological Research Center, and arranged an internship through the center for a graduate student, Yanlei Peng, to study advanced models for controlled wild fires. SC Department of Education asked us once again to coordinate a parent satisfaction survey for its programs for students with learning disabilities and we provided statistical support to SC Department of Mental Health on a contingency basis. We worked extensively with individuals from USC’s School of Pharmacy, assisting with student research and several faculty projects. As a result, we have been asked to participate in the School of Pharmacy Faculty Development Series.

Special thanks to our assistants and other students who helped with Stat Lab projects: George Richardson, Shun Yu, Haifeng Wu, Li Li, Zhe Zhao.

Prof. Tim Hanson has been selected as an ASA Fellow, one of the highest honors in our profession! Here, in his role as graduate director he gives the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award to Nicole Lewis.
Graduate Program

Finally, after a successful recruiting season, the USC Department of Statistics has a bumper crop of 13 excellent new masters and Ph.D. students 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. In early 2012 Lianming Wang’s committee on STAT 512 and 513 finished revising those course syllabi and bulletin descriptions. Lianming also spearheaded the development of a new elective in advanced statistical modeling that was taught for the first time last year by David Hitchcock as an experimental course. Brian Habing also worked with the Math and Finance departments on revising the emphasis in Actuarial Science. Projects for the coming year include revising the way we assess our undergraduate program and on producing a new booklet about the program to help in recruiting and advising.

2012-13 Undergraduate Awards
The Mu Sigma Rho award was earned by Danielle Rily Sword, while the College of Arts and Sciences Rising Senior Award went to Samantha Mayes. The Stephen D. Durham Award went to Pasha Matthew Maher.

2012-13 Graduate Student Awards
Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards went to Nicole Lewis, Ryan Orr and Nicholas Yell. The Outstanding Graduate Student in Academics was Shun Yu and the Outstanding First Year Student was Beidi Qiang. Piaomu Liu and Haifeng Wu won the Citizenship Award and the James D Lynch Award for Graduate Research went to Li Li.
Graduates 5/12 - 5/13

Bachelor of Science
Steven William Byrn
Zachary Fant
Rebecca Galloway
Rachel Singleton
Aaron Kronz
Pasha Matthew Maher
Truc Anh Nguyen
Danielle Sword
Megan Tarter

Master of Science
Ragan McDonald
Nathan Spagnola
Jianhong Wang
Cai (Iris) Wu
Yilin Zhang
Zhe (Emilyn) Zhao

MAS
Niharika Bandhakavi
Holly Groover
Alice Hill
Daniel Livingston
Mohammed Quasem

PhD
Hua Chen
Yuhui Chen
Jiejun Du
Yuling Feng
Jie Gao
Nicole Lewis
Na Yang

May 2012- May 2013 MS/PHD students not shown in other photos

Wen Cheng
Yin Fu
Ximeng Gong
JeanMarie Hendrickson
Lijun Ju
Yanlei Peng
Beidi Qiang
George Richardson
Yong Shan
Nathan Spagnola
Jianhong Wang
Naichen Wang
Sheng-Yang Wang
Tianming Zhang

Li Li has been awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Dissertation Fellowship for the 2013-2014 academic year. Here she is receiving the 2013 James D. Lynch Graduate Student Research Award.
Distance Education

Statistics continues to be the only graduate program in the College of Arts and Sciences that offers a master’s degree completely online. Interest in our Certificate and Masters Degree programs in Applied Statistics continues to grow. We currently have 52 students in the Masters program with 6 graduating this past May. There are an additional 33 students in the Certificate program. With Georgie Baker retiring, Don Edwards, who originally founded our distance programs, will be taking them over again. Don can be reached at edwards@stat.sc.edu. In addition to the two graduate programs, the department is also offering an online version of STAT 110 - Introduction to Statistical Reasoning, developed by Leslie Hendrix; and a new version of STAT 515 - Statistical Methods I originally developed by Geogie Baker and STAT 600 - Statistics for Applied Management, developed by Brian Habing.

The department used its own funds, with a modest assist from the Office of the Dean, to renovate the lounge in Leconte 213. Any renovation in Leconte faces a major obstacle--the added expense for removal or abatement of asbestos insulation and tiles. Once that hurdle was jumped in Leconte 213, old appliances, ceiling panels, counters, rugs, floor tile and mis-matched furniture were removed and replaced with modern updates. In addition to having an attractive meeting space for department faculty, staff, students and visitors, we are very pleased to see the lounge being used more often as a study space and recreational space.

Alums Meredith Tomlinson Williams (PhD 2003), Carl Miller (PhD 2002), Laura Taylor Baysden (PhD 2008), Melanie Autin (PhD 2007), and Phil Yates (PhD 2006) join Maureen Petkewich at the 2013 US Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS) in April at Raleigh, NC.
Roland Deutsch and Iliana Ignatova have moved to Austria. A little note from Roland on facebook ...
“Dear American friends and friends in America: today we are leaving the States and becoming Europeans again. We wish we could have met you all for one last time, but it was not really possible. Still, we want to use this opportunity to say thank you and wish you all the best. And of course, we hope to see you again some day”!

Melanie Autin earned tenure and promotion at the University of Western Kentucky.

Former faculty member Webster West has accepted a position as Professor of Statistics at North Carolina State University. Webster is looking forward to being closer to his friends and colleagues in our department. He hopes to visit often once he settles in Raleigh.

Ahmed Al-hadhrami is holding a position as assistant professor at Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.

Laura Taylor Laura Taylor has completed two publications: “Parametric Estimation in a Recurrent Competing Risks Model” in Journal of the Iranian Statistical Society with Edsel Pena; and “A Study of Faculty Views of Statistics and Student Preparation Beyond an Introductory Class,” an invited manuscript to a special issue on recurrent events in the Journal of Statistics Education with Kirsten Doehler and Jessalyn Smith. She also received a grant to send a statistics major to attend the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Summer Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF).

Phil Yates (PhD 2006) and Sarah Venuti Yates gave birth to their first child, Mabel, in September 2012. Phil continues to teach at St. Michael’s College in Vermont.

Rob Parody (PhD 2005) earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Akim Adekpedjou (PhD 2007) earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at University of Missouri, Rolla.

Bonnie Coggins Moore (MS 2009) married Tom Moore last year and lives in Falls Church, VA. She completed her 4th year working at the Census Bureau, where she continues to work on an alphabet soup of household surveys, including the Current Population Survey and National Health Interview Survey.

Jim Gleaton (PhD 2000) earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of North Florida.
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**

2012 was another great year for alumni support--alumni and friends gave over $9000 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 assistantship. 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.

**The Department General Fund**

The Department of Statistics General Fund is critical to our operations and recruiting efforts. By law, certain expenditures such as the new James D. Lynch graduate research award, the Stephen D. Durham undergraduate award, and other students awards and reimbursements can only be paid with these contributed funds. Please consider a contribution to the Statistics Department General Fund (Account 1A3410). The following wonderful people made contributions in 2012; several have taken advantage of their company policy to match contributions.

**Golden Pocket Protectors: $1000**

Trevor Craney
Shell Oil Company Foundation Match Program

**Silver Pocket Protectors: [$300-1000]**

Mary Alice Barth
Martin Andrew Barthill
McGraw-Hill Match program
Litong Zhang

**Bronze Pocket Protectors: [$100-300]**

Georgie Baker
Prudential Foundation Match Program
John Spurrier
Bank of America Match Program
Madeline Boyle-Whitesel
John Grego
Chernghuir Lee

**Jim Lynch**
Edsel Pena
Letticia Ramlal
Kathleen Shutt
Lianming Wang
David Hitchcock
Meredith Tomlinson Williams

**Other Precious Metals (Thank you!)**

Martin Durkin
Faith Durkin
Emmy Smith
Jessalyn Smith
Jeffery Smolka
James Gleaton
Andrew Bowden
Kimberly Bowden
Janet Milton
Robert Stephenson
Craig Wheatley
Iris Lin
Tammiee Dickenson
GIFT FOR "John D. Spurrier Scholarship Fund"

Name ____________________________ SSN ____________
Address ___________________________ State ________ Zip ____________
City ________________________________ State ________ Zip ____________

My Total Gift Will Be: $_________ Matching Gift Company _________
(Please enclose the company's matching gift form.)

I will make this gift as follows:
___ to be paid □ monthly □ quarterly □ semi-annually □ annually
Reminders to begin __________________
___ I would like to give securities or other __________________

This gift is to be restricted for the use of the Department of Statistics for the "John D. Spurrier Scholarship Fund." (Account B11516)
□ Check payable to USC Educational Foundation is enclosed.
□ You may list my name in the Report of Private Giving; otherwise, treat this gift as anonymous.

RETURN TO: Gift Processing, USC Development Office, 1600 Hampton St, Suite 736, Columbia, SC 29208

---------------------------

GIFT FOR "W. J. Padgett Fellowship Fund"

Name ____________________________ SSN ____________
Address ___________________________ State ________ Zip ____________
City ________________________________ State ________ Zip ____________

My Total Gift Will Be: $_________ Matching Gift Company _________
(Please enclose the company's matching gift form.)

I will make this gift as follows:
___ to be paid □ monthly □ quarterly □ semi-annually □ annually
Reminders to begin __________________
___ I would like to give securities or other __________________

This gift is to be restricted for the use of the Department of Statistics for the "W. J. Padgett Fellowship Fund." (Account IB1593)
□ Check payable to USC Educational Foundation is enclosed.
□ You may list my name in the Report of Private Giving; otherwise, treat this gift as anonymous.

RETURN TO: Gift Processing, USC Development Office, 1600 Hampton St, Suite 736, Columbia, SC 29208

---------------------------

GIFT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS GENERAL FUND

Name ____________________________ SSN ____________
Address ___________________________ State ________ Zip ____________
City ________________________________ State ________ Zip ____________

My Total Gift Will Be: $_________ Matching Gift Company _________
(Please enclose the company's matching gift form.)

I will make this gift as follows:
___ to be paid □ monthly □ quarterly □ semi-annually □ annually
Reminders to begin __________________
___ I would like to give securities or other __________________

This gift is to be restricted for the use of the Department of Statistics (Account 1A3410).
□ Check payable to USC Educational Foundation is enclosed.
□ You may list my name in the Report of Private Giving; otherwise, treat this gift as anonymous.

RETURN TO: Gift Processing, USC Development Office, 1600 Hampton St, Suite 736, Columbia, SC 29208.
University of
SOUTH CAROLINA

Department of Statistics
Columbia, SC 29208