

USC STAT NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

(<http://www.stat.sc.edu/>)

January 2005

(803)-777-7800

James D. Lynch, Chairman

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From the Chair

As we look back on 2004, year nineteen of the Department of Statistics, much change and progress has taken place. Administratively, we have a new Provost, Mark Becker who is also a member of the Department. By the time you get this we will be officially part of a new college, the College of Arts and Sciences, with a new Dean, Mary Anne Fitzgerald, who hails from the University of Wisconsin. The new college is a consolidation of the former Colleges of Liberal Arts and of Science and Mathematics. We expect that this consolidation will be very beneficial to the Department in terms of its mission and strengths.

The Department hired one new tenure-track faculty, David Hitchcock, from the University of Florida, and hopes to fill several more positions including some instructorships. This increase in faculty positions is justified in part by enrollments that have increased by over 63% since Fall 2000.

The number of undergraduate majors has stayed relatively constant at around twenty-five, but this year there was another substantial increase in graduate students to over seventy. More than thirty of these are supported on assistantships of various types. In spite of the economy, our graduates are in demand, with all our masters and Ph.D. students having obtained jobs. This is indicative of the value of a statistics degree.

The Department still occupies most of the second floor of LeConte with some graduate student offices on the first floor. With the increases in faculty and graduate students, though, we are bursting our seams.

The Department continues to be very productive in research with numerous publications and with over 1.6 million dollars in contracts and grants in effect. This is all indicative of the high quality of the department and supports USC's objective to become a top teaching and research university, and our stated goal to become one of the top programs in the South within the next few years. Our growth and continued

strong scholarly activities indicate that this goal is a real possibility, one that we all can be proud of upon its achievement.

Our continued progress toward this goal cannot be achieved without your help. You are a vital part of our student-recruiting network and you enhance the overall reputation of the department through your professional success. Your endowment contributions help us attract top students and faculty and are especially important in these times of dwindling budgets. Thank you for your strong and continued support!

I hope this past holiday season found you healthy and in good spirits and that the New Year is full of joy and happiness!

Jim Lynch, Chair

Faculty and Staff News

Changes in the faculty and staff this year include the addition of two new faculty members who joined us in August:

David Hitchcock joined the Department as an Assistant Professor on August 16, 2004. David received his BS degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia, his M.S. in Mathematical Sciences from Clemson University and his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Florida. His dissertation was on functional data analysis. Given his academic pedigree it may take some doing before David is a diehard gamecock but getting Steve Spurrier as coach will help with the conversion.



David Hitchcock

Mark Becker joined the Department when he was appointed Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at the University of South Carolina on September 1, 2004. He

received his BS in Mathematics from Towson State University in Maryland and his Ph.D. in Statistics from Pennsylvania State University. Mark was formerly dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota and associate dean for academic affairs and professor of biostatistics at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. His research interests are categorical data, analysis of cross-over clinical trials, diagnostic accuracy, numerical optimization, and statistical applications in the health and social sciences.



Mark Becker

We have had a few changes in the organizational structure of the department. Brian Habing is now the Graduate Director. Don Edwards continues as Director of the Distance Education Program, with Brian handling the M.S. and Ph.D. students and Don the MIS students and the certificate students. John Spurrier is still the Director of the Undergraduate Program and Georgiana Baker remains as Assistant to the Chair.

John Grego is still in the Stat Lab as the Director and Roumen Vesselinov just started his second year as Manager.

Tammie Dickenson continues to coordinate our lab course, STAT 201, where she supervises the assistants and develops materials for this course. Stan Haines has similar responsibilities regarding the STAT 110 course. Since he is teaching two large sections of STAT 110, he has incorporated some multimedia tools to get real time feedback from his students. Stan also oversees office space and equipment for the department.

In the main office, Debra Williams continues as the Business/Office Manager and Anita Wood as the Student Services Coordinator and general Administrative Assistant. Ariel Turner

returned this fall to serve as office assistant.



Homecoming Event in Honor of Joe Padgett

As part of the College of Science and Mathematics celebration of Homecoming Week, Dr. William "Joe" Padgett was honored with a presentation and reception. Joe, who retired from USC in June 2003, was accompanied by his wife Faye, his daughter Carla, son-in-law, Dave, son Scott, and Scott's fiancé Myra.

Several invited speakers, including Jerry Odom, Bob Stephenson, John Spurrier, Bob Taylor, and L.J. Wei, honored Joe with remarks and Power-Point presentations. Dr. Roger H. Sawyer, Interim Dean, COSM, presented Joe with a wood and brass plaque with Joe's likeness. The presentation was followed by an outdoor reception in front of the COSM Graduate Sciences Center.



Joe with Roger Sawyer and Jim Lynch



Joe's family (Faye, Carla, Dave, Myra, Scott)



Outdoor reception in front of the COSM Graduate Sciences Center

Student Awards

At the 2004 University Awards Day ceremony in April, the Stephen D. Durham Award for Outstanding Performance as a Statistics Major went to Lindsey Martin. Bonnie Coggins received the Department's Mu Sigma Rho Award in 2004. Mu Sigma Rho is the national Statistics Honor Society and the award is for outstanding academic performance.

Andreea Brezaie Savu received the 2003-2004 College of Science and Mathematics Senior Scholarship. Andreea, who is also a double major in stat and math, was awarded a Woody Scholarship by the Actuarial Foundation. This is a national competition and it is an honor for Andreea and for our undergrad program.

Our incoming graduate students this fall again fared well in fellowship awards. W. J. Padgett Graduate Fellowships for 2004-2005 were awarded to Lalita Das and Chitaili Datta. Jessalyn Smith, Laura Taylor, and Nicholas Pritchard obtained College of Science and Mathematics Fellowships.

Graduate student awards were given at the Recognition Colloquium in April. Robert Parody and Andrea Phillips were recognized for excellence as graduate teaching assistants; Francisco Vera as graduate research assistant. Melanie Autin received the Department Citizenship Award. At the Graduate Student Day Awards Ceremony earlier in April, Russ Stocker was recognized for excellence in research and Brooke Buckley for excellent academic performance, while Roland Deutsch was named outstanding first-year student

Walt Piegorsch named co-editor of JASA



Walt Piegorsch has been appointed the co-editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association (JASA) - Theory and Methods for 2005-2008. This is quite an honor for the Department and Walt since ASA is the major statistical society in the US and JASA has long been considered one of the premier journals of statistical science. (Science Citation Index reported JASA was the most highly cited journal in the mathematical sciences in

1991-2001, with 16,457 citations, more than 50% more than the next most highly cited journals.)

Faculty Awards

John Grego received the inaugural Dr. A. James Hicks Leadership Award from the South Carolina Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (SC-LSAMP). This award is for John's long-term work as evaluator for the SC-LSAMP program.

John Spurrier received the 2003-2004 College of Science and Mathematics Advisor of the Year Award. This is another in a long series of education awards that John has received.

2004 Graduates

Each year we have to say "good-bye" to a number of students who are graduating. Although they will be missed, their success is gratifying and we wish them well in their careers. Receiving the Ph.D. degree were Russ Stocker and David Hare while Phil Yates is in Chicago finishing his dissertation.

M.S. degrees were awarded to Wendy Roth, Andrea Phillips, Hai Dong, and Deana Kozarev. Geoffrey Stewart received an MIS degree and Alice Bonaimé, Roumen Kozarev and Eungyoung Lee received certificates of graduate studies in applied statistics.

Also, Jennifer Geisler, Lindsey Martin, Casey Wood and Jenine Stevenson received bachelor's degrees.

Stat Club and Mu Sigma

Brian Habing advised the Stat Club, working with the 2003/2004 officers: graduate student Rob Parody, and undergraduates Bonnie Coggins, Andreea Savu, and Tristan Amer. Undergrad Chris Dombrowski replaced Andreea as an officer for 2004/2005. Don Edwards advised the Mu Sigma Rho honor society: President David Hare, Vice President Russ Stocker, Secretary Brooke Buckley, and Treasurer Rob Parody.

Stat Club and Mu Sigma Rho again mixed statistics related activities like Career Night with outdoor activities. Before the year began, several members were partially supported to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco. The annual spring hike was held in March with John Grego leading a group through the Congaree Swamp. In the fall a campout was held on a beautiful November weekend at Huntington Beach State Park on the coast, and the annual trip to the Lights Before Christmas at Riverbanks Zoological Park and Garden was held again in December. Among the plans for the coming year are an overnight stay at the February

SCASA meeting in Charleston, and the designing of a new Stat Club T-shirt.

Don Edwards advised Mu Sigma Rho until August, when David Hitchcock became the advisor. New members for Mu Sigma Rho include Alexander McLain, Thomas Jaki, Rob Parody, Yuping Wu, Michael Gizzi, Ahmed Alhadhrami, Nick Prithard, Andreea Sevu, Tristan Amer, Emmy Smith-McKinney, Nancy Chalmers, Bonnie Coggins, and April Bolin.

Statistical Laboratory Activities

The Stat Lab had an uneventful year on the personnel front for a change. John Grego continues as the Stat Lab Director, and our new Stat Lab Manager, Roumen Vesselinov, has settled in. Roumen began teaching in the Fall semester.

The Stat Lab's contracts with the SC Department of Public Safety (Safety Belt Survey), SC Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, USC's Department of Speech and Communication Disorders, and Turner Environmental Services continued. We have entered into a consulting agreement with SC Department of Natural Resources, and assisted them on largemouth bass growth curve analysis, and fish passage at the St. Stephens fish lift, among other studies. Through the Department of Defense, we are working with botanists at Fort Jackson to study a rare plant, rough-leaved loosestrife. The Stat Lab was awarded a grant by Clemson University's Strom Thurmond Institute to develop stochastic transfer function models to predict water levels on the Congaree, Wateree, and Santee Rivers. These models will be used in management decisions as part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) relicensing for the Santee-Cooper dams

Professional Degrees and Distance Education

We have over 30 part-time students; 20 of these are in our Masters of Industrial Statistics (M.I.S) degree program, 9 more are in our Certificate of Graduate Studies in Applied Statistics (C.A.S.) program. Most are distance education students. All our distance education courses are now being video streamed. This allows our distance education students to conveniently view a lecture via the internet outside of the normal TV lecture time.

Other Faculty News and Activities

Georgie Baker continues to work in quality control, teaching STAT 525 and acting as liaison with Midlands Tech Center for Quality, the American Society for Quality (ASQ) and various

industries in the area. Georgie is the newsletter editor for the Columbia Chapter of ASQ and a member of Midlands Tech Center for Quality Advisory Board.

Tammiee Dickenson is hard at work on her Ph.D. dissertation in Educational Research and Measurement which is being co-directed by Brian Habing and Mike Seaman. She defended the proposal this past summer and hopes to complete her dissertation this Spring. Her twin boys are now 4 years old and also keep her quite busy.

Don Edwards has been quite busy with the distance education program. He set up a small studio in the department to prerecord course materials for video streaming purposes. Prerecording allows the Department to offer three distance classes per semester when only two studios are provided by the University. Since its inception five years ago, the Department's distance program has offered thirteen different graduate statistics courses; eight faculty members have contributed their time to the effort. The Department now has 32 part-time graduate students enrolled in the MIS and CAS programs; most of these take courses at a distance by video streaming.

In research, Don continues his work with two local companies on methods for detecting Medicare fraud, and also his work with the USES (Urbanization and Southeastern Estuarine Systems) project, sponsored by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. He has begun a research effort on measures of agreement with Dr. Kerrie Nelson.

Nancy Glenn's paper with Renae Brodie of the Department of Biological Sciences is due to be published in Marine Biology. She is currently collaborating with Austin Hughes of the Department of Biological Sciences.

John Grego received a grant from the USGS through Clemson University's Strom Thurmond Institute--SC Water Resources Center to predict historic water levels on the Santee River. In cooperation with the Coastal Conservation League, American Rivers and the National Hydrology Institute, this modelling will be used to develop input to FERC during relicensing of the Santee-Cooper dams on Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie. Graduate student Zongshou Cai has been supporting this research.

Brian Habing was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor this year, and appointed the department's graduate director in October. He continues his research on educational measurement and psychometrics and was the Division D program co-chair for the American Educational Research Asso-

ciation annual meeting in April. He is co-directing Tammiee Dickenson's PhD research in EDRM as well as the research of two M.S. Students.

David Hitchcock joined the faculty in August and is working on research in functional data analysis, particularly cluster analysis and dissimilarity estimation. His wife, Sandi, works at the Nursing School and they are expecting their first child in late January 2005.

(LATE BREAKING NEWS: David and Sandy gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Matthew, on January 6, 2005).

Kerrie Nelson, who joined the department in 2002, is examining methods for measuring inter-rater agreement using mixed models, and for other types of correlated data.

Joe Padgett is still enjoying "partial retirement" living in the mountain area of SC. He is still teaching a graduate course each semester in Mathematical Sciences at Clemson and doing research with colleagues there. Also, Joe and Jim Lynch continue to work on reliability theory research funded by the National Science Foundation.

Edsel Peña is collaborating with researchers at MUSC, Florida State, Cornell, Chicago, and Georgia Tech on various research projects and grant proposals, and is working with several students involved in his grants. He is also involved in some research dealing with statistical methods relevant to research at the Center for Colon Cancer Research at USC.

Walt Piegorsch and Webster West continue their joint collaboration on low-dose toxicological risk estimation, supported by funding from the National Cancer Institute. Walt Piegorsch is also involved in NSF-sponsored, cross-disciplinary research grants on social/ethical implications of nanotechnology and on statistical decision support systems for studying spatial and temporal geographic hazards.

John Spurrier continues his research in multiple comparisons and nonparametric statistics and is directing an M.S. student.

Roumen Vesselinov and his wife, Elena, gave birth to their first child, a daughter, name Alexandra on October 19, 2004. Roumen published 3 papers in peer-refereed journals in 2004; was co-investigator in 2 NIH grants, and has 2 papers under review.

In addition to his work with Dr. Piegorsch, Webster West continues to develop StatCrunch, and he has also started new lines of research in non-parametric estimation and proteomics.

Alumni News

Jennifer Geisler (B.S., 2004) has just accepted a position as Underwriting Team Leader for State Farm. The position is in their operations center in Atlanta.

T.J. Horan (M.S., 1995) has moved to SAS where he is Manager, Analytic Solutions. He is based out of San Diego with frequent trips to Cary, NC. His specific role is in helping SAS expand their presence in the "software solutions" space in addition to the "software tools" space that they currently occupy.

Andre Lubecke (Ph.D., 1985) was a finalist for the Governor's 2004 Professor of the Year. Andre is Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computing at Lander University in Greenwood, SC.

Carl Miller (Ph.D., 2002) and his wife Ann, were blessed with a baby boy, Matthew Thomas Miller, who arrived into this world on July 22, 2004 at 10:12 am. He was 9 pounds 12 ounces and 20 ½ inches long.

Arzu Onar began her new faculty position at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on January 3, 2005.

Jan Overstreet (M.S. 1990) and her husband Tim are moving from Cookeville, TN to Winder, GA. Tim will be working with Johns Manville.

Jason (M.S. 1996) and Kelly Richwine (M.S. 1996), welcome a new addition to their family. Allyson Nicole Richwine was born September 23, 2003, 9 lbs 3 oz, 22 in. She joins big brothers Josh (4 years old) and Caleb (2 years old). They live in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Jason is a Healthcare Statistician at HGS Administrators.

Casey Wood (B.S. 2004) has accepted a position as an Account Development Manager with US LEC, a telecommunications company, in Charlotte, NC.

Do You Have News?

As always, we want to hear from you! Please send information regarding job changes, spouse, children, address, awards, travel, etc., to Jim Lynch, Department of Statistics, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 29208 (or lynch@stat.sc.edu). A form is included at the end of the Newsletter for your convenience.

We are also interested in learning how your USC education has helped you. In addition, any suggestions you

have to improve our programs are welcome. You might be quoted in our brochures!

Student Recruitment

We are always looking for good students, and you are a vital part of our recruiting network. Please send us names, addresses, and phone numbers of potential students for our undergraduate or graduate programs. John Spurrier, (803) 777-5072, is our Undergraduate Director and Brian Habing, (803) 777-3578, is the Graduate Director. The address for both is Department of Statistics, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 29208. They can also be reached by e-mail at spurrier@stat.sc.edu and habing@stat.sc.edu, respectively.

USC Educational Foundation

Contributions can be made to one of three funds for the Department within the USC Educational Foundation. Your gifts can be restricted in any way you specify. Some employers provide a matching gifts program, also.

Department Fund

The Department of Statistics Fund (Account 1A3410) supports annual awards for top undergraduate and graduate students, helps support student receptions, helps provide computer software for student use, and other activities. Major contributions could be used to establish undergraduate scholarships or graduate fellowships or help to establish chaired professorships.

Undergraduate Scholarships

Scholarships are an excellent tool for recruiting and retaining undergraduate statistics majors. They provide welcome financial assistance at a time when tuition costs are rising.

To assist our students and to improve our ability to recruit students, the Department has recently established a Statistics Alumni Scholarship Fund to provide scholarships for undergraduate statistics majors. We have received some generous donations from our alumni and faculty to get the fund started. We need to raise about \$12,000 more to be able to award our first Statistics Alumni Scholarship.

Our dream is to support several students each year. You might wish to make your gift in honor of a faculty or

staff member who was particularly helpful to you at USC. Please make a contribution to the Statistics Alumni Scholarship Fund (Account 1A1421). A form for making a contribution is attached at the end of this newsletter. Contributions in any amount will be appreciated. Help the dream come true - help develop the next generation of statisticians.

Graduate Fellowships

The W. J. Padgett Fellowship Fund (Account 1B1593) was established in 1993 and helps us attract outstanding graduate students to the Department by offering supplemental fellowships annually.

Scholarships and fellowships are funded with interest from all three of the department's funds. Contributions to them will continue to help young statisticians into the future. Contribution forms for these funds are enclosed for your convenience.

Thank You!

The following made donations to one of the Department Funds in 2004.

Loretta Myers Atkins	Jamie McGee
Bank of America	Anne McNair
Georgiana Baker	William McNail
Gail Ward-Besser	Diane McNichols
Madeline Boyle-Whitesel	Melonie T. Miles
Evelyn Cannon	Susan Milton
George A. Carter, II	William T. Moore
Trevor Craney	NCR Corporation
Tammie Dickenson	Michele Nichols
Don Edwards	Jerry Odom
John Grego	Joe Padgett
Sneh Gulati	Wei Pan
Brian Habing	Edsel Pena
Stanley Haines	Ping Sa
David Hitchcock	Jeffery S. Smolka
Jennifer Lasecki	John Spurrier
Cherng-Huir A. Lee	Manfred Stoll
Shiowjen Lee	Mary Ann Taylor
Shu-Chen S. Lee	Robert L. Taylor
Cherng-Huir A. Lee	Roumen Vesselinov
Yuhlong Lio	Hua Wen
Carrie Lynch	Debra Williams
Shubhada Mahajan	

The Statistics Department Faculty and Staff Wish You a Happy New Year!



We Want To Hear From You!

We would like to share information about your accomplishments and activities with your classmates and other graduates. 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. To do this, simply go into Alumni News on our homepage (www.stat.sc.edu) and click on "Share Some News." Send this form to Jim Lynch, Department of Statistics, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208 (or e-mail the information to lynch@stat.sc.edu).

Name: _____ Degree and Year: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

News of any kind:

Thoughts on how your USC statistics education has helped you. May we quote you in our Departmental brochures?

Suggestions for the Department:

GIFT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Name _____ SSN _____
 Address _____
 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: Development Office, University of South Carolina, Byrnes 6th, Columbia, SC 29208

GIFT FOR "Statistics Alumni Scholarship Fund"

Name _____ SSN _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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 (Account 1A1421)

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GIFT FOR "W. J. Padgett Fellowship Fund"

Name _____ SSN _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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Reminders to begin _____
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This gift is to be restricted for the use of the Department of Statistics for the "W. J. Padgett Fellowship Fund." (Account 1B1593)

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Columbia, SC 29208

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