From the Chair

I am just now completing my first three-year term as chair, and recently received a re-appointment offer from the Dean for another three years, which I graciously accepted. I’ve greatly enjoyed facilitating and recognizing the work of our outstanding faculty in research, teaching and service, and look forward to supporting their efforts the next three years.

The Department ends this year much as it began; Prof. Yanyuan Ma from Texas A&M University and Prof. Dewei Wang from Clemson University each completed their first year with our department, and all the old-timers stuck around. Prof. Lianming Wang received the welcome news that his tenure and promotion to Associate Professor file had been approved! We did not hire this Spring, though I could swear it seemed just as hectic as ever during the Spring semester. It was a wonderfully productive year for the faculty, with over 30 publications in excellent journals. Our faculty interests can be reviewed in the reorganized research themes on our website.

Our only transition this year was the hiring of Kathryn Backus as Business Manager after Connie Schroyer moved on in May. Connie was only with us for a year, but was a wonderful presence in the office.

The number of supported graduate students—36—remained the same as last year, though it appears our students are more active than ever. Whether at JSM in Boston, ENAR in Miami, SRCOS in Wilmington NC, or the SC Statistics Consortium in Clemson, you would find several of our graduate students presenting papers or posters. It’s great to see this level of activity and the department is pleased to support it. One of our students, Peijie Hou (advisor Joshua Tebbs), received a prestigious Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship this year, which will support his research this upcoming year.

We worked hard on faculty nominations again, and I try not to take it personally when deserving faculty candidates get overlooked. I’m happy to report that Prof. Don Edwards was awarded a Vice President for Research Breakthrough Leadership in Research Award for his work on
New Faculty/Staff Profiles

Fei Jiang

Dr. Fei Jiang, who completed her doctoral work at Rice University in December 2013, and finished her postdoctoral training in T. H. Chan Harvard School of Public Health in February 2015, joined our department in March 2015 as a postdoctoral fellow working with Prof. Yanyuan Ma. Dr. Jiang already has accomplished three manuscripts with Prof. Ma, and one of them has been published in Annals of Statistics. Dr. Jiang also has one paper with Prof. Peter Muller on clinical trial design, which has been published in Statistics in Medicine. Dr. Jiang has worked primarily in semi-parametric modeling and estimation, survival analysis, and randomized clinical trial design. She continues research with Prof. Ma, now focusing on a high dimensional semi-parametric approach under the setting where the data set has non-ignorable missing response.

Kathryn Backus

Kathryn joined us early in June 2015 as our new Business Manager. She has plenty of experience with USC, having worked at the Office of the Bursar since 2007 in a variety of roles. She first worked on legal residency issues, and then moved on to handling department accounts and invoicing of prepaid tuition plans. Recently, she provided direct support for students’ questions about refunds and fees.

The switch from Bursar to business manager of an academic department is more of a transition than you might think. Kathryn has been busy with training programs and fortunately has a former colleague who has been a Business Manager for a number of years now and has proven an invaluable resource.

Transitions

Connie Schroyer

We were very sorry to see Connie Schroyer move on from her Business Manager position after spending just over a year with us. Connie was sorry too, in no small part because she was looking forward to handling numerous previously-bewildering tasks with a year’s experience under her belt. Connie’s family was unable to relocate to Columbia, so she accepted a position closer to home with the Lowcountry Council of Governments. We had a wonderful time getting to know her this year and wish her well! Connie continues to contribute by helping Kathryn Backus on a regular basis.

Palmetto Lecturer VI: Naisyin Wang

We welcomed our sixth Palmetto Lecturer, Naisyin Wang, to our campus the week of March 2-March 6. The Palmetto Lecturer series was started by Don Edwards and has been organized by our Colloquium coordinator, Xianzheng Huang, the past 3 years. Prof. Huang also successfully applied for an Institute for Visiting Scholars grant from the Office of the Provost to partially support the Palmetto Lecturer series.

Dr. Wang earned her Ph.D. in Statistics at Cornell University and accepted a position at Texas A&M University, where she worked till 2009, at which time she accepted an appointment as Professor of Statistics at University of Michigan. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

She has served as co-editor of both Statistica Sinica (2011-2014) and Biometrics (2006-2008). She served as President of the International Chinese Statistical Association in 2010, IMS program chair for WNAR/IMS, and Fisher Lecture and Samuel Wilks Memorial Medal committees.

Dr. Wang’s talk was bracketed by three sets of talks by graduate students from MUSC, USC and Clemson. Doctoral student Shuai-Fu Tang, advised by Josh Tebbs and Dewei Wang, received an award for Best Student Presentation for his talk on nonparametric tests of uniform stochastic ordering. Doctoral students Jundu Bao, Will Cipolli, and MD Shamim Warasi also presented.

We also feted at a dessert party (see front page photo). Prof. Wang’s colloquium talk discussed Bayesian joint modeling of longitudinal trajectories and health outcomes. Subjects’ health trajectories were modeled as curves characterized by random coefficients in mixed effects models. Two different approaches, shared random effects and latent classes, were compared for linking subjects’ class-specific features to primary health outcomes.

At the SC ASA Annual Meeting on Friday, March 6, held in the new Darla Moore Business School, Prof. Wang spoke on parameter estimation for ordinary differential equations (ODEs). She explained that the parameters in ODEs often have important physiological meanings for scientists, and that effective estimation often focuses on comparisons of the assumed physical model and the underlying model, in addition to more familiar considerations of the stability and variation of estimation procedures.

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Faculty and Staff News

Don Edwards is finishing his 34th year on the faculty. He remains very active in statistical methods for healthcare auditing; developing new statistical methods, working with many of our graduates at Palmetto GBA, and also on several Department of Justice investigations. He was honored for work in this area by receiving one of the University’s Breakthrough Leadership in Research awards last year. He also continues as co-investigator on an NIH R01 grant with former faculty member Kerrie Nelson (now at Boston U.) studying model-based measures of inter-rater agreement, and work with USC colleague Iris Lin on extensions of these models to enhance the accuracy of subjective-judgment diagnostic processes in medicine. In service, Don continues as assistant grad director for the Masters and Certificate in Applied Statistics programs, and he is past-president of the Southern Region Council on Statistics, in his final year as an officer in that organization. He was banquet speaker at the SRC in Wilmington last month, and received the SRC’s Paul Minton Service Award at the banquet.

On the personal side, Don just turned 60. He and Sharon are still healthy and happy, traveling a bit as time allows. With two years left on my TERI (pre-retirement) program, we are thinking about what happens next…I’m not ready to retire!!

John Grego finished his first 3-year term as Department Chair and signed on for another 3-year stint. He continues to teach the stat consulting sequence (STAT 790 and STAT 791) and supports contracts for the Stat Lab, though he now rarely handles any grants consulting. He taught STAT 706 and STAT 541 as distance classes this past year, and taught his Honors College service course, Public Engagement, Natural History and Cultural History at Congaree National Park, for the second term.

John, Phil Yates and doctoral student Kaiven Mai published a paper on censored finite mixture models that appeared this year in Environmetrics. He continues work with Kaiven and Phil on Bayesian calibration. He presented his work with David Hitchcock on recap-ture methods at the ENAR Spring meeting in Miami in a special invited session organized by the editorial board of Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics. He continues work with Jim Lynch and other collaborators on failure models for composite data. He currently serves as co-chair of the newly-formed ad hoc faculty committee on Information Technology, which will become a standing committee this fall. The committee is quite active and looks as though it will be an effective advocate for improving high performance computing, data curation, classroom technology and a host of other IT issues.

John’s oldest daughter Caroline continues her doctoral program in environmental history at UC Boulder, and his youngest daughter Emily completed the first year of her MFA program in Jewellery/Metals and CAD/CAM at Rhode Island School of Design. Yes, she bore the full brunt of that historic New England winter. His wife Rhonda finally steps down from her position as English Department Chair at Midlands Technical College and is looking forward to pursuing several projects that have been on hold in recent years. John concludes in his twelfth year as president of Friends of Congaree Swamp.

Brian Habling continues his research in item response theory. He again served as undergraduate director for the department and finished his second term as chair of the university committee on curricular and courses, before switching over to chair the curricula committee for the College of Arts and Sciences. In April 2014 he joined five other Ph.D. advisors in Philadelphia at the annual meetings of the American Educational Research Association and National Council on Measurement in Education. The various presentations included a training session with Jeesalyn Smith and research presentations with Leslie Hendrix and EDRM student Phil Sherlock. In other news, Kevin (now 5 1/2) had a great year in kindergarten and is enjoying his first summer vacation.

The 2014-2015 academic year marks the sixth year as instructor and STAT 110 coordinator for Leslie Hendrix. She is still enjoying teaching “Statistical Literacy” to large groups of mainly freshmen, Statistics for the Biological and Life Sciences to mostly pre-med undergraduates, and online STAT 110. The distributed learning section of STAT 110 is in high demand and Leslie learned a lot as she overhauled the course to conform to the Quality Matters rubric and be ADA compliant. She is an active member of the provost’s Student Retention Workforce, the university’s financial aid committee, and the online testing workgroup. She spends her free time watching sports, dance, and boating on Lake Murray with her husband, Mark, and children Hunter (19), Colton, (18), and Laney (12).

David Hitchcock has stayed busy this year with teaching, advising, and research. He is working with several Ph.D. students, including with: Zizhen Wu on simultaneous registration and clustering of functional data; Sontsiao Huang on automated Bayesian fitting procedures for large sets of functional data; and Chong Ma on classification of functional data in forensics. He has continued to collaborate with a USC research group on analyzing survey data for diet and nutrition of schoolchildren. He enjoyed teaching some theoretical undergraduate courses such as statistical inference and stochastic processes, as well as the large introductory statistical reasoning course. Outside of work, David continues to enjoy playing tennis, reading, and spending time with his family.

Kathryn Backus joined the Statistics Department in early June. She is not new to the University though, having worked in the Bursar’s Office for the past 8 1/2 years. Born and raised in Kentucky, Kathryn has lived in South Carolina for the past 17 years. She has 2 teenage boys that keep her quite busy! In her spare time, Kathryn enjoys running and is currently training for her 6th half marathon that she will be running in Dublin, Ireland this summer.

“I am looking forward to working with you all and getting to know you all, as well.”

Don Edwards

Kathryn Backus

Paramita Chakraborty is continuing her collaborative work on fractional diffusion with Dr. Hong Wang from the department of Mathematics. She has also started a joint project with Dr. James Lynch and Dr. John Grego on a multiple testing problem. In December, 2014 she traveled to IASSL international Conference at Colombo, Sri Lanka, where she was invited to present her work; the talk was well received. She taught the 810-180 in kindergarten and is enjoying his first summer vacation.

In service, I am also working with many of our graduates at Palmetto GBA, and also on several Department of Justice investigations. He was honored for work in this area by receiving one of the University’s Breakthrough Leadership in Research awards last year. He also continues as co-investigator on an NIH R01 grant with former faculty member Kerrie Nelson (now at Boston U.) studying model-based measures of inter-rater agreement, and work with USC colleague Iris Lin on extensions of these models to enhance the accuracy of subjective-judgment diagnostic processes in medicine. In service, Don continues as assistant grad director for the Masters and Certificate in Applied Statistics programs, and he is past-president of the Southern Region Council on Statistics, in his final year as an officer in that organization. He was banquet speaker at the SRC in Wilmington last month, and received the SRC’s Paul Minton Service Award at the banquet.

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Xianzheng Huang is gradually branch- ing out her research from model diag- nostics to improved inference based on wrong models. In particular, instead of focusing on detecting inadequate model assumptions, she has started to consider developing inference methods that are less compromised by inadequate model assumptions without resorting to semi-/ non-parametric methods. The goal is to retain the high efficiency of parametric inference while correcting for the bias due to inadequate parametric assump-
tions. Another new research direction of Huang arises from her collaboration with her colleague in Memphis, who has been working on network inference. In the past year’s teaching, Huang had her first trial teaching distance courses, and learnt how frustrating it can be for (the instructor and) students who attempted to study math stat without a traditional calculus and algebra background.

Jim Lynch is thoroughly enjoying his retirement 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 and nonparametric Bayes and subjective probability methods.

Xiaoyan (Iris) Lin continues her research in Bayesian modeling and its application to different areas such as survival analysis, medical diagnosis process, and panel count data. She has been quite active in reviewing grant proposals for NIH, NSF, and NSA, and manuscripts for publications for many journals. He is still involved in service activities for the ASA. He is still with the Center for Colon Cancer Research as Director of the Biometry Core, with Piaomu as his graduate research assistant. The NIH support for this Center was successfully granted and will continue until 2018. He continues to play squash with students Roy Bower and William Cipollini, with Roy having taken over as the “top dog” in squash having beaten all challengers.

Edel Peña

Peña and his students, Piaomu Liu, Beidi Qiang, Shiweng Shen, Jeff Thompson, and Taeho Kim continued their Friday research seminar meetings. Prof Jim Lynch is a frequent participant in these meetings. Peña gave invited talks at the JSM, Case Western Reserve University, Florida International University, MIN Conference in Tokyo, Japan, PRBB/CREAL in Barcelona, Spain, at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, and at the ASDMA Conference in Piraeus, Greece. His student Piaomu Liu gave talks at the ENAR Meeting, a poster presentation at the SRCOS meeting, and will give a talk at the JSM in Seattle. Peña continues to be involved in study sections of the National Institutes of Health, and has been quite active in reviewing grant proposals for NIH, NSF, and NSA, and manuscripts for publications for many journals. He is still involved in service activities for the ASA. He is still with the Center for Colon Cancer Research as Director of the Biometry Core, with Piaomu as his graduate research assistant. The NIH support for this Center was successfully granted and will continue until 2018. He continues to play squash with students Roy Bower and William Cipollini, with Roy having taken over as the “top dog” in squash having beaten all challengers.

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

John Spurrier has recently published his second comedy book “Too Long at the Beach! Comic Views of Beach Vacations”. It is available at amazon.com. He and his wife Pam continue to travel, bike and play golf. He teaches in a continuing education program for senior citizens and helps second graders improve their reading skills.

Maureen Petekewich continues as Assistant Chair and STAT 201 Coordinator. She serves as a Faculty Fellow for the Center for Teaching Excellence for Coordinators of Large Undergraduate Courses and actively participates on the Information Literacy Specialty team for the Carolina Core. She presented on STAT 201’s hybrid course design at the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics in Las Vegas (ICTCM 2015) and contributed a poster on the new design at the United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS 2015) in State College, PA. She is making slow but steady progress on her dissertation in Education Research and Measurement. Her children are growing up! Madeline starts high school in the Fall and Elizabeth begins fourth grade.

Joshua Tebbs finished a three year term on the University Committee for Tenure and Promotions, serving as Chair during the Spring 2015 semester. With his service assignment behind him, he is now looking forward to his Fall 2015 sabbatical! He will stay in Columbia to catch up on research and to work with his three Ph.D. students who will be graduating next year. Shamim Sarker, Peijie Hou, and Chuan-Fa Tang.

Dewei Wang is finishing his first year in the department. He is thoroughly enjoying his role as an assistant professor. He taught STAT 549 last year and will teach it again this coming fall. He also enjoyed entertaining time series analysis with motivated and active first-year graduate students, and looks forward to teaching other graduate-level, theoretical courses in the near future. Besides interacting with students in class, he has begun advising two hard-working PhD students, Peijie Hou and Chuan-Fa Tang, jointly with Joshua Tebbs. Peijie’s topics are in the area of group testing; they are finishing two papers this summer. With Chuan-Fa, they have developed a new nonparametric test against uninforming stochastic ordering.

A paper summarizing this finding will be submitted soon. Along with finishing these papers this summer, Dewei is also working on his first grant application. On a personal note, Dewei and his wife Chendi welcomed their new baby girl, Cindy, into their family in January, 2015.

Liangming Wang had another successful year of his academic life. He published two papers at Computational Statistics and Data Analysis and also had two papers in press at Lifetime Data Analysis and Statistical Methods in Medical in 2014. He challenged himself by teaching three new courses in the last three semesters. He submitted his tenure application in summer 2014 and just received a notice of recommendation for tenure and promotion from USC president’s office in May 2015.
We maintain our affiliation with the USC Genetics Counseling Program. Each spring, we provide a one-hour seminar for the first-year genetics counseling graduate students. During the summer, we work with the students individually, assisting in the preparation of the methodology section of their thesis proposals. During the students’ second year, we provide consultation on conducting the proposed analysis.

The number of non-USC individual clients using Stat Lab services continues to increase. The majority of the increase can be attributed to client referrals and doctoral students directed to the lab by their dissertation advisors.

Special thanks to our assistants and other students who helped with Stat Lab projects: Wen Cheng, Jeff Thompson, Seungchul Baek, Junshu Bao, Xiang Li, and Yawei Liang.

The Stat Lab again operated without a director this year and course release for that position has been suspended. Stat Lab Manager Wilma Sims overseas some contracts and all of the gratis consulting. John Grego continues to handle a couple of the long-term contracts he has usually managed, though supervision of the Safety Belt project was handed entirely to Wilma in 2015. 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 work with Jones Ecological Research Center and SC Department of Natural Resources. We are also providing statistical support to Normandeau Associates for US Army Corps of Engineer projects in the Pacific Northwest.

Graduate Program

Our graduate students continue to contribute to our department’s research success. Over the last few years our students’ 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 an incoming class of 10 new masters and Ph.D students in Fall of 2015.
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. Paramita Chakraborty spearheaded the revising of STAT 515 to take into account the increased preparation many students are receiving in high school, Brian Habing worked with Ed Dickey and Jan Yow in Education to create a pathway for Stat majors to become high school math teachers, and Brian and Lesley Kennedy spearheaded creating new recruitment materials for orientation. Projects for the coming year include streamlining the double major process for students in Mathematics, Economics, and Computer Science, and working with computer science to strengthen our presence in Big Data, Data Science, and Data Mining.

2014-15 Undergraduate Awards

The Mu Sigma Rho award was earned by Hannah Knowles and the Stephen D. Durham award went to Camden Millender. Jonathan Tregde was the winner of the Excellence in Academics Award.

2014-15 Graduate Student Awards

Outstanding Graduate Assistant Awards went to Piaomu Liu, Shiwen Shen, and Seung Chul Baek. The Outstanding Graduate Student in Academics was Peijie Hou and the Outstanding First Year Student was Xichen Mou. Shamim Warasi and William Cipolli won the Citizenship Award and the James D Lynch Award for Graduate Research went to Haoming Zhou.

2014-15 Undergraduate Awards

Bachelor of Science
Marissa J. Brienza
Colin P. McCloskey

Master of Science
Lillian Wanda
Xinmeng Gong
Tong Wu
Xiya Yia
Fan Xu
Jingyuan Chen
Roy Bower
Pathak Poosirivat

PhD
A.K.M Rahman
Naichen Wang
Yin Fu
Shun Yu

Graduates 8/2014 - 5/2015

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Doctoral student Piaomu Liu was among 31 graduate students who participated in the 20th Industrial Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Workshop for Graduate Students for 10 days in July 2014. The "Analysis of Self-Reported Health Outcomes Data" group was mentored by Mark Wolf, SAS, and Kenneth Lopiano, SAMSI and Duke Univ. Piaomu Liu (fourth from left) is pictured here with Dr. Lopiano (left), Dr. Wolf (fifth from left) and students from Youngstown State, UC Riverside, Stanford, UT Dallas and George Mason.

Matt Yates has taken all his courses in the MAS program from his home in Philadelphia PA. He was passing through Columbia last summer and stopped by to say hello to a couple faculty members. It was great to finally meet one of our outstanding MAS students!

LC 201A, our go-to classroom for upper-level courses, is in the midst of renovation this summer and well on schedule for Fall 2015 classes. We requested the renovation through the university’s Classroom Enhancement and Scheduling Committee, so the department is only on the hook for a new classroom computer.
Distributed Learning

The Department’s online grad programs continue to attract fine part-time students. The Master of Applied Statistics (MAS) program now has 50 students admitted who have taken at least one J-course, with 6 more for the Master of Industrial Statistics. The Certificate of Graduate Study in Applied Statistics (CAS) has a headcount of 26 with an additional 11 students taking J-courses under non-degree status. Part-time students often become inactive, though – of these 93 admitted students, only 37 took classes or comprehensive exams in academic year 2014-15.

The CAS program has been redesigned to be more “in line” with Certificate programs at competing institutions; as of Fall 2015, one can earn the CAS with only four courses: STAT 700-701 and two approved electives. All of these courses may be applied to a graduate degree in another field, so the CAS ranks are growing well with students concurrently enrolled in doctoral and masters programs in (e.g.) economics, educational research, chemistry, geography, psychology and others.

Don Edwards continues to direct these grad programs, giving an invited talk at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston (August 2014) about the USC programs and competing programs at 6 other universities. The USC program, though not as large as some of the others, is of comparable or superior quality in terms of breadth of course selection and faculty credentials – check out our redesigned webpage at www.stat.sc.edu/distance-programs. The USC program exists thanks to the work of many faculty over the past 15 years who have unselishly developed and taught distance graduate classes with little or no reward for themselves…in the past two years these faculty include (adjunct) Cheryl Black, Don Edwards, Brian Habling, David Hinchcock, Xuanzhong Huang, Iris Lin, John Gregg, Ediel Peta and Joshua Tebbs.

Last year’s DL story woefully neglected to name graduates; we will correct this error now and add the grads for the current academic year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAS graduates AY 2013-15</th>
<th>CAS graduates AYs 2013-15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doug Bryan</td>
<td>John Korsekal</td>
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<td>Allan Detoma</td>
<td>David Simon</td>
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<td>Xu Gao</td>
<td>Elizabeth White-Hurst</td>
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<td>Keith Haynes</td>
<td>InTae Yoo</td>
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<td>Andrea Lamont</td>
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<td>Ramin Madarthian</td>
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<td>Anna Popowski</td>
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<td>David Wilcox</td>
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The department also continues to offer many distributive learning classes at other levels. STAT J515 and STAT J600 are high enrollment service courses coordinated by Brian Habling. STAT J110 is coordinated by Leslie Hendrix, is offered every semester and is consistently over capacity in enrollment. Along with traditional students, it is attracting students from Palmetto College and also students targeted by the Back to Carolina initiative. STAT J201 (Maureen Perkewich ), a “flip the classroom” course with recorded lectures offered online and live laboratory sections taught by graduate students, was successfully implemented Fall 2014 and filled to capacity all year and in two summer 2015 sections. Feedback from students in all STAT J-courses has been overwhelmingly positive – they appreciate the flexibility to watch lectures on their own schedule and the ability to re-watch lectures on difficult concepts.

Alumni and USC Stat Family News

We were saddened to learn of the passing of William Jason Owen (MS 1995, PhD 1997) this past January. Jason lived in Richmond VA with his wife Carla and children Stephen, Christopher and Lindsey. He was a tenured professor of statistics at University of Richmond, having started his post-doctoral career at University of New Hampshire.

Jason came to our department from Salisbury University in Maryland. He worked on his Masters with Stephen Durham on optimal design for binary experiments, and then worked on his PhD with Joe Padgett on accelerated life test models. Joe notes that Jason "worked as a research assistant on the NSF grants that I had with Jim Lynch and Stephen Durham and did outstanding work as a very active and contributing member of the research team. His work on his dissertation with me was also outstanding. He was an excellent computer programmer and tenaciously worked on research until finding a solution." Jason was also a member of the “X-Bar Joes”, our notorious yet surprisingly competent department rock band named after Joe Padgett, which also featured Todd Ogden and Don Edwards. We had the opportunity to see Jason at professional conferences throughout the years, and many of us got to see him at the anniversary conference held in 2010. Jason's health had worsened then, though as Joe reports, “Jason knew the leukodystrophy he had would progress but he was always upbeat and cheerful.”

Jason's family requested that memorial donations could be made to the United Leukodystrophy Foundation (ULF) 224 N. 2nd St., Suite 2, DeKalb, IL 60115 (ulf.org); or to the Aidan Jack Seeger Foundation to aid in newborn screening for Leukodystrophy (aidanjackseegerfoundation.org).
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
2014 was another great year for alumni support—alumni and friends gave over $6000 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 B1593) 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.

Other Precious Metals (Thank you!)
Tammie Dickenson
Craig Wheatley
Jesalyn Ann Smith
Andrew Vestes Bowden Jr.
Alice Hill
Casey Munn
Robert Stephenson Jr.
Yuping Wu
Xiaoyan Lin
Luke Whiteside

Golden Pocket Protectors: > $1000
Kendall Hunt Publishing Co

Silver Pocket Protectors: [$300-1000]
Kimbrough Coleman Adams
Mary Alice Barth
Trevor Alexander Craney
Shell Oil Company Foundation

Bronze Pocket Protectors: [$100-300]
James D. Lynch
Joe Padgett
John Grego
Kathleen Shutt
Kevin Doerge
James Gileston
John Spurrier
Thomas Horan

The Department General Fund
The Department of Statistics General Fund is critical to our operations and recruiting efforts. By law, certain expenses such as the new James D. Lynch graduate research award, the Stephen D. Durham undergraduate award, and other student 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 and organizations made contributions in 2014; several have taken advantage of their company policy to match contributions.

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