



NORTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- 2009-2010 Graduating Students
- Statistics Scholarship recipients
- NDSU Spring Commencement
- Faculty/Staff of the department
- NDSU Reaches Top National Rank from Carnegie Commission
- Where are some of our graduates now?

FACULTY &
STAFF

Dr. Rhonda Magel

Dr. Fu-Chih Cheng

Mr. Ron Degges

Dr. Seung Won Hyun

Dr. Volodymyr Melnykov

Mrs. Tatjana Miljkovic

Dr. Gang Shen

Dawn Halle

2009-2010 Graduating Students

Bachelor of Science-Behavioral Statistics

Elizabeth Wegleitner

Bachelor of Science-Statistics

Celton Seelig

BreAnne Larson

Christopher McEwen

Certificate- Statistics

Tala Qtaishat

Kholoud Alananbeh

Paul Fisk

Nadene Vevea

Amy Miller

Bachelor of Science-Mathematics & Statistics

Travis Dockter

Master of Science-Applied Statistics

Yi Li

Prasanth Vanguru

Thomas Hanson

Martha Nelson

Li Cao

Salman Shams



HP Kuang Scholarship

The Department of Statistics awarded Caitlin Dean and Rebecca Maier the H.P. Kuang Scholarship. Both of the recipients are currently seniors. Caitlin is working on her B.S. in Statistics with a major in psychology and minor in religion. Rebecca is working on her B.S. in Math/Stat with the preactuarial option and a minor in English. Congratulations to all awardees!! Recipients are selected by a committee in the department based on their statistics courses they have taken and GPA at NDSU.

NDSU Commencement is May 14, 2011

President Dean L. Bresciani announced in February that Dr. Robert M. Gates, U.S. Secretary of Defense, will be the guest speaker at NDSU's spring commencement May 14. Dr. Robert M. Gates was sworn in on December 18, 2006, as the 22nd Secretary of Defense. Dr. Gates is the only Secretary of Defense in U.S. history to be asked to remain in that office by a newly-elected President. President Barack Obama is the eighth president Dr. Gates has served.

Secretary Gates is a native of Wichita, Kansas. He received his bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary, his master's degree in history from Indiana University, and his doctorate in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown University.

North Dakota State University's spring commencement is on May 14, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fargodome.



Dr. Rhonda Magel, Department Chair

We have had a busy year in the Department of Statistics. In October 2010, we held a luncheon for area alumni. It was great to see our past graduates who are now working at Noridian, Neuropsychiatric Institute, and PRACS/Cetero. Another luncheon is planned for next year with details to be sent out later.

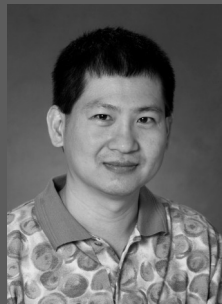
The Department also had a visitor from Iowa State University who was in the Department for 5 to 6 days in the fall, Dr. Ranjan Maitra. During his visit to our Department, Dr. Maitra gave a presentation on assessing significance of clusters using bootstrap for the Red River

Valley Chapter of the American Statistical Association.

In addition to our students who graduated in May and December 2010 (listed in the newsletter), the Department has eight graduate students holding their defenses during the week of April 4-8 and two to three more graduate students are planning to hold their defenses in early June. These students will be listed in our next newsletter. The Department had two undergraduate students who were selected by a departmental committee to receive HP Kuang Scholarships. Congratulations Rebecca and Caitlin. Congratula-

tions also to all of our graduates and those graduating in May.

On a personal note, I got to run the Twin Cities Marathon in October 2010 and have plans to run my fifth marathon in May 2011 – in of course Fargo. There has actually been research done that indicates there is a positive correlation between aerobic fitness and quantitative ability. I know that a lot of our present students are physically active and involved in a lot of sports and I also know that was true of our past graduates. So – stay active– keep doing statistical calculations – working out – and overall having fun.



Dr. Fu-Chih Cheng, Assistant Professor

I am currently working with researchers on exploring the associations between socioeconomic status, student ethnic diversity, gender, and students' perceptions

of their classroom learning environments and to examine associations between students' perceptions of their science classroom environment and their perceptions

of academic efficacy in science tasks. The study was conducted both on U.S. and Turkish schools.



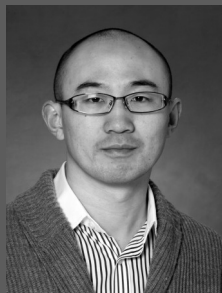
Mr. Ron Degges, Senior Lecturer

I have been working on a committee this year that talks about online education and using technology in the classroom. The name of the committee is 'Technology-Enhanced Science Education Group'. We have seen presentations on the following:

1. Videotaping lectures and putting on blackboard for an online class or even a regular class.
2. How to use WIMBA in blackboard.
3. How to use wikiis and journals for student assignments.

We meet once a month.

Also I have been working on my dissertation and my defense is set for April 6th.



Dr. Seung Won Hyun, Assistant Professor

I recently attended ENAR 2011 conference held in Miami Florida. ENAR stands for Eastern North American Region. It is the biggest biostatistics conference on the east side. It is held once a year. Many researchers, including students in the area of biostatistics, come to present their research, find sources for future research and find jobs. Since it is a very large conference, you don't have many chances to meet new people in the area, but there are a

lot of chances to find sources that can be motivation for your research. You can find out the current hot topics in biostatistics. In the conference, I presented my research paper that was submitted to the Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference in last November. The research is about designs for estimating EC_{50} . I talked about several design issues by restricting design space to estimate the EC_{50} . I am planning to present this paper in my biostatistics class if

there is enough time before the end of semester. The conference was pretty good. The weather and beach in Miami was so good. I could be relaxed there and had so much fun meeting people and had chances to discuss my research with other researchers and get some advice from them too. If you are interested in biostatistics, I recommend you to attend this conference during your student life.

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.” —Helen Keller

Dr. Volodymyr Melnykov, Assistant Professor

The last year was interesting and productive. I was elected the President of the ASA Red River Chapter, taught several new courses and worked on some challenging projects.

At this moment, I am extending bootstrapping in clustering to the problem of variable selection.

Also, I am helping to organize a conference in Dubuque, Iowa. The conference is devoted to statistical, computational and visualization methods in medical informatics.

Later this year, I am going to the Joint Statistical Meetings in Florida.



“Teaching is not a profession, It’s a passion.” —Unknown

Mrs. Tatjana Miljkovic, Lecturer

Early in 2010, I served as a member of a “Hachemeister Prize” committee which evaluated eligible papers for Hachemeister’s Award. These papers were published by ASTIN bulletin in the prior calendar year. ASTIN is the scientific journal of the International Actuarial Association (IAA) covering all aspects of actuarial and stochastic modeling practice, mostly for non-life

insurance.

In fall of 2010, I taught Survival and Risk Analysis II course. This course was offered to undergraduate and graduate students who have interest in actuarial science. The content of the course match the requirements of CAS/SAO Exam 4: “Construction and Evaluation of Actuarial Models” and will prepare the students for this

actuarial exam.

In my free time, I served as a vice president of the NDSU Women’s Club. The primary role of the club is to provide scholarships to the eligible female students. My role was to advertise and administer the scholarship program. This year, I will be moving to the president role of the club.



Dr. Gang Shen, Assistant Professor

The change-point problem has been the subject of considerable interest in many research areas, because a change-point often characterizes the occurrence of a major event.

In the past year, I conducted research on both the classical and isotonic change-point problem.

A paper on the proposed new Bayesian approach was published and the two papers on a new non-parametric approach, which is immediately applicable to some climatic issues including

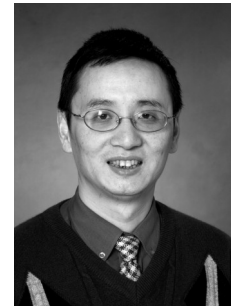
the global warming, were submitted for a possible publication.

I’m looking forward to sharing with the scientific community at NDSU of the recent advances of our researches in this research topic.

I taught stat 330 introductory statistics, stat 462/662 experimental design, and stat 774 linear models I in the past year. I enjoy my teaching at this school, since it provides me an opportunity to interact with the students and serve them with my expertise.

In the coming fall semester, I will teach stat 786, advanced inference. I wish this course will provide the students with some advanced tools for their statistics research.

I served in the local science fair held at the Oak Grove Lutheran school last month. The application of the statistical experimental designs by some 7th and 8th graders in their projects impressed me. The power of statistics really has a far-reaching influence beyond what I thought.



Dawn Halle, Academic Assistant

I am coming up on my 3rd year anniversary with the Department of Statistics. This past year has been a very busy one. I have attended many different trainings on campus with new and updated software available to us here at NDSU. There always seems to be something new to learn.

My oldest daughter, Parish (13), has been involved in basketball and track this year in Discovery Middle School. Savanna (11) has been involved with girl scouts, track and soccer. Isaac (7) is in his first year of cub scouts and plans on joining soccer this summer.

I am looking forward to this summer and plan on catching some Redhawks and Twins baseball games. Hopefully we will have some time for a family trip also.

I hope everyone has a great year!!



“We all need someone who inspires us to do better than we know how.”

— Anonymous

NDSU Reaches Top National Rank from Carnegie Commission

North Dakota State University has joined the nation's top 108 public and private universities in the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education's elite category of "Research Universities/Very High Research Activity."

According to the foundation, the classifications "are intended to group institutions into meaningful, analytically manageable categories in order to allow researchers to make reasonable comparisons among similar institutions."

The Carnegie classifications were developed in 1970, and dramatically revised in 2005, which is the last time the lists were updated. According to the Carnegie website, the classifications "provide the framework in which institutional diversity in U.S. higher education is commonly described. It is now the leading taxonomy of all accredited colleges and universities in the United States, currently developed using nationally available data from the U.S. Office of Postsecondary Education, the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, the National Science Foundation and the College Board."

"Success is getting
and achieving what
you want.
Happiness is
wanting and being
content with what
you get." —
Bernard Meltzer

Where are some of our graduates now?

Lorrie Lendvoy: For the past 2 years Lorrie has been working for Noridian Administrative Services in Fargo as a Senior Statistical Analyst. She analyzes Medicare claims data primarily to assist law enforcement (e.g. OIG, HEAT Strike Force) in detecting and prosecuting fraud. She also provides analysis to various policy makers in the Federal government. Prior to Fargo, she spent many years working for healthcare quality improvement organizations in Minot, ND and Helena, MT. In my spare time she enjoys spending time with friends, reading, road trips, volleyball, golf, racquetball, and hiking.

Jared Doom: Jared is currently working for Milliman, Inc., a global actuarial consulting firm headquartered in Seattle. Milliman has offices worldwide, and he works in the Milwaukee, WI branch in the health consulting department. The clients of their health consulting practice include employers (who provide health insurance for employees), health insurance companies, state Medicaid agencies, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), pharmaceutical companies, and others.

He recently became an Associate of the Society of Actuaries (ASA) which requires satisfying the Society of Actuaries' (SOA's) "basic education" requirements. These requirements involve passing a number of actuarial exams as well as having completed college courses in statistics, economics and finance. The actuarial exams require a substantial amount of self-study (the SOA recommends anywhere from 250-350 hours of study for each exam required to become an ASA) and have pass rates ranging from 40-55 percent.

Tharemy Hopkins: Shortly after graduation, Dr. Magel and Tharemy co-authored an article about Slugging Percentage in Baseball that was published in the Journal of Quantitative Analysis in Sports. Currently he is employed as an Administrative Specialist for MB Schoen & Associates here in Fargo, where he specializes in performance analytics. He also self-contracts Statistical Analyses work for Prime Contact, a survey and research firm in Fargo. He married Kay shortly after graduation and live in Fargo. Kay has her MBA and works as an Academic Advisor for the NDSU College of Business. Together they own and manage a growing online marketing business. He enjoys baseball, fishing, hunting, and watching movies with Kay. They look forward to buying a house and starting a family this coming year.

Scott Schram: Scott is the current State Bituminous Engineer for the Iowa Department of Transportation. He and his wife reside in Ankeny, Iowa with their 3 year old son.

Erik Inman: Erik is working as a Data Management Specialist (Analyst) for Mano Clinic in Rochester, MN. He lives with his longtime girlfriend (Desiree) and they have a 3 year old son (Miles). Erik enjoys golf and home-brewing in his spare time. He went to a conference in Vegas for SAP Business Objects this March and plans to have some additional SAS training this summer in Chicago.

DONATIONS

The Department of Statistics wishes to thank all donors who have contributed to our scholarship programs and to the department. You are making a significant difference in the lives of our students and to North Dakota State University.

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