The Department of Statistics awarded Michael Price and Grant Spears the H.P. Kuang Scholarship. Both of the recipients are currently seniors. Michael is working on his B.S. in statistics with a major in mathematics and minor in business administration. Grant is working on his B.S. in Math/Stat. 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.

2011 Graduating Students

**Bachelor of Science-Behavioral Statistics**
Rebecca Schluter

**Bachelor of Science-Statistics**
Joseph Long
Patrick Lauinger

**Certificate-Statistics**
Gom Ale
Anna Glazyrina
Daniel Creswell
Arundhati Ghosh
Gretchen Kost

**Doctor of Philosophy-Statistics**
Ronald Degges
Daniel Conroy
Marcia Paulsen

**Master of Science-Applied Statistics**
Yanchun Zhao
Alfred Ndungu
Yuni Chen
Ran Fu
David Mathisen
Kishor Devkota
Jyothsnadevi Pothana
Deepti Annam
Yunli Wang
Zhuangli Wang

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**McNair Scholars**

Two of our undergraduates have received McNair Scholarships this year, Scot Jones and Deanna Schreiber-Gregory. Scot Jones is a junior at NDSU majoring in Statistics. He is currently working on research with Dr. Rhonda Magel. The research that they are doing involves investigating the factors that are significant in predicting the point spread of NBA basketball games. They are also trying to develop techniques to try and predict point spreads of future basketball games.

Deanna Schreiber-Gregory is a senior majoring in both Statistics and Psychology. She is currently working on research under the McNair Scholarship program with Dr. Michael Robinson in Psychology. Congratulations to both of these students!
Welcome from the Chair

We have had a lot of research activity happening in our Department during this past year. Faculty and students have conducted research on sports statistics, nuclear power safety, developing new test statistics for cluster hypotheses, and also developing test statistics for mixed designs. We also held the first Red River Valley Statistics Conference at NDSU last May, 2011 and another one is planned for April 18, 2012. Several of our students presented their research at this conference. The Department has also welcomed Dr. Indranil Ghosh as a visiting faculty member in our Department during this past year. He is a graduate from University of California – Riverside with a research area in multivariate analysis.

Dr. Ron Degges, Assistant Professor of Practice

Ronald Degges received his Ph.D. in May, 2011. His dissertation was on “Bivariate Censored Data” with Rhonda Magel serving as his advisor. Ron has since been promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor of Practice. Ron is currently working on improving and developing future web-based courses for the Department of Statistics. He also has the responsibility of being in charge of several sections of Stat 330, Introductory Statistics. Ron will also be working on submitting portions of his Ph.D. research for publication.

Dr. Seung Won Hyun, Assistant Professor

Last year, I attended ICODOE (International Conference on Design of Experiments) 2011 conference held in University of Memphis, Tennessee. In the conference, I presented “Optimal Designs for a Probit Model with a Quadratic Term”. The conference was small and focused on the area of experimental design. There were so many chances to meet all the researchers in the area, to get some advices about my researches and to find sources for a future research. After the conference, I could develop and finish two research papers. The research papers were submitted to major statistical journals and they are currently in reviewing process.

I am having very busy spring semester. I started a joint research with Dr. Yail Kim in Department of Civil Engineering at NDSU. The research is about comparing concrete surfaces under several weather conditions. I help him to verify his results using regression techniques. I also started a joint research with Dr. Gang Shen in our department about optimal designs to estimate the ED50 using a conditional distribution. This research is just started but we both hope that we can find some good results soon.

McNair Scholars — Above left: Scot Jones Above right: Deanna Schreiber-Gregory
Volodymyr Melnykov and Nuclear Power Safety

Dr. Volodymyr Melnykov just recently returned from his trip to the Ukraine and collecting available data on nuclear power plants in that area. He is presently analyzing the data to determine significant factors affecting nuclear power plant safety. Dr. Melnykov also recently had an article accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, with R. Maitra and S. Lahiri on “Bootstrapping for Significance of Compact Clusters.”

Tatjana Miljkovic and Actuarial Information

Tatjana Miljkovic is the faculty advisor of the NDSU Actuarial Club. She also serves as the actuarial advisor in the Department of Statistics. The club invites guest speakers from local insurance companies to provide their perspective on Actuarial Science and work projects in this area. Two guest speakers were recently invited to campus. One speaker was Joe Paul, FSA and vice president of Midland National Life Insurance Company. The second speaker was Jim Wynstra, FSA and vice president of Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Tatjana just had a paper appearing in the *Journal of Agricultural Science and Technology* with Thein A. Maung, Cole R. Gustafson, David M. Saxowsky, and John Nowatzki. The paper was on “Market Information on Sourcing Cellulosic Feedstock for Biofuel Production in Northern Plains Region of the United States.”

Dr. Gang Shen, Assistant Professor

Dr. Gang Shen recently had a book review accepted for publication in JASA on “Multivariate Nonparametric Methods with R: An Approach Based on Spatial Signs and Ranks”. Dr. Shen, along with Dr. Melynkov, developed a test based on the empirical likelihood ratio method for testing hypotheses about clustering. Their work is presently under review by a journal.

“We all need someone who inspires us to do better than we know how.”
Success is getting and achieving what you want. Happiness is wanting and being content with what you get.” — Bernard Meltzer

Turnover Margin in Professional Football

Geoffrey Childress (M.S. graduate) and Rhonda Magel (Chair) had a paper accepted on "Examining the Outcome Effects of the Turnover Margin in Profession Football”. The paper will appear in a future issue of the Journal of Sports Science and Engineering. A model is developed estimating the probability of a football team winning the game based on their turnover margin.

Science Café

Dr. Rhonda Magel and Michael Price, senior majoring in statistics, presented a talk on “Does Football Momentum Translate into Points?” at the science café on January 31, 2012. They also appeared on Valley News Live, WDAY TV, and Prairie Public Radio. A Super Bowl equation was developed based on game statistics that would most influence the outcome of the Super Bowl and the equation did hold up for the Super Bowl game played in February, 2012. A paper on their results on momentum in football has been submitted to a journal.

International Journal on Science in Society

Li Cao (MS graduate), Alfred Ndungu (Ph.D. graduate student), and Rhonda Magel (Chair) worked on research on "Comparing the Durbin, Wilcoxon Signed-Ranks Test, and a Proposed Tests in a Balanced Incomplete Block Design”. The work was presented by Rhonda Magel at the International Conference on Science and Society in August, 2011 which was held at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The paper was then submitted to The International Journal of Science and Society and accepted for publication in December, 2011.

Sports Statistics Conference Held at MIT

Two of our graduate students, Kyal Brandt and Joe Long, recently attended a conference on sports statistics held at MIT in March 2012. They found that many sports teams were employing statisticians to help them in winning games. They also found out about many apps that could be employed by statisticians during games in order to help them collect data.
Red River Valley Statistics Conference

The Department of Statistics at NDSU hosted the first Red River Valley Statistics Conference in May, 2012. Dr. Gang Shen gave the keynote address; Dr. Volodymyr Melnykov served as the conference proceedings editor; Dr. Gang Shen and Dr. Won Hyun served as session chairs; and Dr. Craig Schnell, Provost, gave the opening remarks. Dawn Halle coordinated the food and the rooms and she spent much of the day running back and forth between the Department and the conference rooms. Several students made posters on their research for the conference and others gave talks. A list of those giving talks and the titles of their talks are given below. The next Red River Valley Statistics Conference is scheduled to be held at NDSU in April, 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gang Shen</td>
<td>A U-test to the Isotonic Change-point Problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred Mungai Ndungu</td>
<td>A Nonparametric Test for the Non-decreasing Alternative in an Incomplete Block Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Mathisen</td>
<td>A Comparison of Nonparametric Test Statistics for Nondecreasing Treatment Effects Over a Mixed Model Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanna Schreiber-Gregory</td>
<td>Comparing Over-the Counter Drug Prices and Availability Using Nonparametric Tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyal Brandt</td>
<td>Reported Energy Intake by Weight Status, Day and Estimated Energy Requirement Among Adults: What We Eat in America NHANES 2003-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatjana Miljkovic</td>
<td>A Simulation Study Based on a New BIC for Detecting Change-points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Carmen Degges</td>
<td>Testing Umbrella Alternatives for Bivariate Censored Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuni Chen</td>
<td>A Comparison of the Ansari-Bradley Test and the Moses Test for the Variances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ran Fu</td>
<td>Proposed Nonparametric Test for a Mixed Design of Independent Samples and Paired Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kishor Devkota</td>
<td>Factors Influencing the Success of Basketball teams in NBA League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Price</td>
<td>Scoring Trends: Momentum in Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deepti Annam</td>
<td>Factors Influencing C Sequestration in Northern Great Plains Grasslands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhuangli Wang</td>
<td>Proposed Nonparametric Test for Simple Tree Alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yunli Wang</td>
<td>Finding the Mass Spectrum of a Sample Placed into Liquid Solution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane Loeffler</td>
<td>Cluster Algorithm Comparison for Ellipsoidal Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siqian Liu</td>
<td>MUSIC Algorithm in Signal DOA Estimation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above Left: Kyal Brandt  Above Right: Zhuangli Wang. These 2 graduate students were presenting at the 1st Annual Red River Valley Statistical Conference.

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corrections/updates to
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Dawn at 701-231-7532