



Department of Statistics

2015 NEWSLETTER





Department of Statistics
340 Hardin Hall
Lincoln, NE 68583-0963

Honoring Our Retirees

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Welcome New Students

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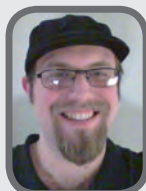
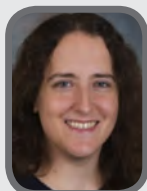


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From the Chair



BERT CLARKE

What are the signal events that occurred last past year? Three come to mind.

- 1) The graduate student quarters have been entirely revamped. For those of you who remember, the graduate student quarters used to be an eyesore. Desks more suited to dollhouses. Poor storage. Everything in that dreadful shade of gray. Now, all the desks, chairs, shelves, and other storage places are new and not so dull. All of them actually match and there's even a little color to brighten it up.
- 2) Last July a new Assistant Professor Yumou Qiu (PhD 2015 Iowa State University) joined the Department. His main area is estimating large covariance matrices but he's been branching out into other areas both methodological and applied.
- 3) Barbara Pike retired in early January. We hired a replacement for her – Charley Hill (which gives her the rather neat email id chill12) – late in December. Since Barbara stayed on with us on a part time basis for nearly two months there was a nice overlap between Barbara and Charley. We wish Barbara all the best and the rumor is that she's moving to Wyoming. The transition from Barbara to Charley has gone well and all of us enjoy Charley's sense of humor as well as her professionalism.

Substantial as these changes are, they presage changes yet to come are likely to be even bigger.

First, we are hiring again. At the time this is being written, we have a nonzero probability of bringing three – yes you read that right – three new assistant professors on board. Two are in targeted areas: The first is in Bayes spatial and spatio-temporal statistics and the second is in statistical prediction (the goal is to do plant phenotyping using multitype data). The third does not have a specific area but we expect it will be in some obviously important emerging branch of statistics. At this point, we have started interviews and, entertainingly,

some names have surfaced on more than one short list. This is unsurprising if you're searching for the best people.

Second, the APR report from Fall 2013 has motivated us to begin massive updating of both our MS and PhD programs. To this end we held a retreat over spring break. Preparation for this retreat was extensive: Five teams were formed to develop course proposals in five different areas: Statistical computing, Consulting, MS theory, Statistical Methods, and PhD theory. By the end of the retreat we had essentially unanimous agreement on what to do. Briefly, we are beefing up both our computing and consulting offerings, updating our MS theory courses, and converting the courses 802, 870, 970, 873, 971 into three courses that follow each other logically and may concisely be described as beginning with linear mixed models and then developing the vast body of methodology that follows from it. The situation with the theory courses is a little more complicated. First, the old 982 and 983 have been compressed into one course on the classical theory. This makes room for a new course on recent theory. Second, the curriculum of the erstwhile measure theoretic probability course has been reduced in an effort to make it more relevant to non-theory oriented students. Then each student must take at least one of two follow on courses: One is for breadth, covering a wide array of topics that graduates can expect to encounter post-graduation, and the other is for depth, in the area of the measure theoretic approach to theory and methods.

Third, come 1 July 2015 there will be three retirements: Profs. Marx, McCutcheon, and Parkhurst. All of them have served the department brilliantly in very different ways and with great energy. Prof. Marx's main area has been consulting in a variety of application domains too numerous to mention. Prof. McCutcheon's main area has been survey methodology. Prof. Parkhurst's contributions have mainly been in thermal hysteresis (see her R package at cran.rproject.org/web/packages/hysteresis/vignettes/index.html). All three plan to continue serving the Department in various ways for the foreseeable future. As much as we regret seeing them retire, we wish all them all the best and hope they don't go too far away.

So, even if we don't know what the department will look like in August 2015, let alone August 2016, we are sure it will be very different.

Honoring Our Retirees

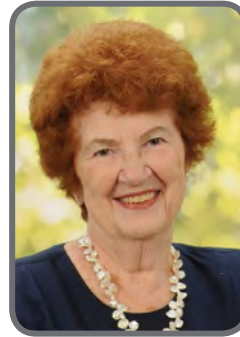


DAVID MARX

"I received my bachelors of science in chemistry at the College of Wooster (Ohio), master's degree in statistics from the University of Missouri (Columbia) and doctorate from the University of Kentucky (Lexington). My first position was in the Center for Quantitative Studies at the University of Arizona in Tucson. After four years there I was asked to develop an Agricultural Statistics Lab at the University of Arkansas. When talking to the Dean there he said that I needed to have a tenure home, so which department did I wish to be tenured in? I had absolutely no idea so I said, 'What department are you tenured in?' He said 'Agronomy' and I said 'I'll take Agronomy.' Hence I've been a professor of Agronomy in my career. After that I was asked to go the University of Nebraska to start a Department of Biometry where I served as head for about eight years, during which time we developed a Master's Degree Program.

During my academic career, I have had the opportunity to work and give workshops internationally. Rwanda, Burundi, Niger, Morocco, Syria, Kenya, Zambia, Columbia, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rico, St Kitts, St Lucia, and Mexico are some of the countries I have visited professionally. During my time in Africa I have climbed to the top of Mt Kilimanjaro, sat back to back with a mountain gorilla in the Virunga's (Rwanda), jumped across the Nile River, stood on the rock where Stanley met Livingstone, and have had many other exciting adventures.

I have enjoyed the teaching and consulting during my time at UNL, but my favorite part of the job has always been working with graduate students. There have been eight doctoral students successfully defend their dissertations under my direction (with three more to come). I have been fortunate to have had very intelligent, motivated, and hardworking graduate students with which to interact on their statistical projects or dissertations. Every single one of them has been an absolute joy with which to work (although not necessarily all the time). To that end they have made my time at UNL interesting, exciting, and rewarding. To them I simply say, as the song goes, 'Thanks for the Memories!'"



ANNE PARKHURST

Professor Anne Parkhurst's over 45 years of contributions to UNL include the development of statistical procedures such as hysteresis to characterize dynamic systems and predict both human and animal well-being, establishing an independent statistics department, advancing a supportive environment for international students, and warming the chilly climate for women in academics.



BARBARA PIKE

Barbara Pike started in the Department of Statistics in July 2004. At that time we probably had 15-20 grad students so the Department has grown quite a bit since that time! Her first year was difficult because, she not only didn't know much of anything, but the department moved from Miller Hall during the 2005 Spring Break week and we had a departmental review in Fall 2005. Both Barbara and Carol (another retired secretary) were quite busy with those activities. Barbara is now enjoying the slower pace of retirement. She and her husband are working on downsizing from their large house to a smaller home and, possibly, moving out of state.

Welcome New Students

Started in 2014/2015



JESSICA BUROW

Jessica Burow is a Statistics Ph.D. student with research pursuits in statistical modeling of big data in social media. Her intentions are to use predictive analytics and sentiment analysis to understand the flow of social networking behavior and opinions. Jessica has been a loyal Husker fan since she can remember and adventuring the wilderness terrain is her pastime.



McKENNA METTLING

McKenna Mettling is a first-year student and Graduate Teaching Assistant. She just completed her undergraduate degree at Regis University in Denver, Colorado. McKenna is interested in sports statistics and statistical applications in agriculture. She is a "small-town girl" who loves animals and spending time with family. In her spare time McKenna likes to watch movies, listen to music, read, spend time with friends, or play sports. She especially enjoys football, basketball, and golf.



NUR FIRYAL ROSLAN

Nur Firyal Roslan is 1st year Ph. D student. She earned my BA degree in business administration major in Actuarial Science from University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2014. Her research interest would be something that is related to Business in Statistics. She loves to spend her free time read books, listen to music and travel to other places.



DAVID MONTGOMERY

David Montgomery is originally from Northwest Indiana. He studied computer science at Purdue University before changing majors to math, then transferring to Indiana University Northwest where Dave received his bachelor's degree in mathematics. He was also interested in entrepreneurship and social diversity while working on his undergrad degree. He moved to Lincoln in the middle of December 2014 in order to start graduate studies at UNL, and now has an assistantship grading for Stat 218. This being his first semester, he is undecided on which field to focus. In his spare time, Dave lives stream video games on Ogeeku.



KELSEY KARNIK

Kelsey Karnik is originally from Omaha, NE, and just started her first year in the PhD program. She earned her BS in Mathematics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, during which she took several undergraduate courses from our department. As an undergrad she completed an honors theses on Big Ten football data with Dr. David Marx, but she is exploring all possibilities for her PhD research. When not doing schoolwork or research, Kelsey loves to spend time with family, go out with friends, and relax by watching movies and TV.



JANA CARMICHAEL

Jana Carmichael is a first year PhD student. She graduated with a BS in mathematics from UNL. She is interested in survey research and applications of statistics in nutrition. Jana enjoys biking and watching The Best Movies, which are the ones with Alan Rickman in them.

Recent Graduates & Current Jobs

MS **Ran Gu** will start working on her PhD at the Departments of Statistics and Educational Psychology Fall 2015.

PH.D. **Aimee Schwab** has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Statistics position at Xavier University.

Pavel Chernyavskiy has accepted a position of a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the National Cancer Institute of the NIH in Rockville, MD.

Recent Graduates & Current Jobs

The Statistics Graduate Student Association has been integral in providing the department with feedback on important topics such as comprehensive exams and curriculum changes throughout the year. The STAT GSA has hosted Happy Hour events each month, encouraging students to get to know each other better. They held a department-wide competition centered around the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament in March, which Dr. Blankenship won this year. The STAT GSA also hosted an end-of-the-year bowling party for faculty, staff, students, and their families.

Graduate Fellowship

Brianna Hitt will work as a Statistician Intern at GSK Consumer Health (formerly Novartis Consumer Health OTC) in Lincoln, NE this summer.

Marina Ptukhina has received a summer internship at Vistakon, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. in Jacksonville, FL.

Faculty News



YUMOU QIU

"I was born and raised in Chongqing, which is a major city in Southwest China, along the Yangtze River, and one of China's four direct-controlled municipalities (the other three are Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin). It is the youngest and the only such municipality in inland China. The city population is over 6 million. I am one of them. After graduation from the high school, I went to Beijing for college study. I attended the School of Mathematical Science in Beijing Normal

University in 2004, where I got my BS in Mathematical Statistics in June 2008. After that, I attended Guanghua School of Management in Peking University, and got a master degree in Economy in 2010.

During the two years study in the business school, I found out that I am more willing to pursue a PhD in Statistics than make PPTs in the industrial companies. This is when I met my PhD advisor Professor Song Xi Chen, and became a PhD student in the Department of Statistics at Iowa State University. I came to Ames in the fall of 2010 and happily stayed there for 4 years. I like this beautiful small town (according to Chinese standard) very much even though it usually has nearly 4 months of cold winter. I enjoyed the environment of Middle West of US.

I am very pleased to join the statistic family at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I love the friendly environment here and I am eager to contribute my effort to the family. My research focuses on high-dimensional statistical analysis, including inference for large covariance matrices, network inference, signal detection and multi-group classification. I am also interested in applications in genetic analysis. If you have problems requiring statistical consulting, please contact with me. I will be happy to work with you.

In my free time, I like to watch sport games, drink tea, hang out with friends and cook. Sometimes, I miss the delicious hometown food, especially, the famous Hot Pot. I am learning to cook it."



KATHY HANFORD

DRS. KACHMAN AND HANFORD are part of the recently funded COBRE, Nebraska Center for the Prevention of Obesity Disease through Dietary Molecules, where they are the Bioinformatics and Biostatistics Coordinators for the Molecular Biology, Bioinformatics, and Biostatistics Core.



JENNIFER CLARKE

Dr. Jennifer Clarke was interviewed by the American Statistical Association. This article first appeared in the March issue of *Amstat News*, the membership magazine of the American Statistical Association.

Please find the interview below, quoted from magazine.amstat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015an/march_web.pdf.

of Health K25 training award from the National Cancer Institute focused on statistical methodology for high-dimensional genomic data. In 2007, I moved to the University of Miami, where I was an Assistant and then Associate professor in the Division of Biostatistics. I was recruited in 2013 to UNL. This was a circuitous path, but it gave me the right sort of experience for what I'm doing now. I would summarize this as:

- Excellent graduate and post-graduate training in statistics, both Bayesian and frequentist, with a strong emphasis on computation.
- Postdoctoral training on multidisciplinary research projects and a training grant that involved statistics, computation, cell biology, oncology, and genetics.
- Faculty positions at schools of medicine and colleges of arts and sciences (which have very different intellectual cultures).
- International scholarly experiences, both inside and outside the western world.
- A love of learning (a never-ending endeavor) and of statistics, both as an intellectual field and as a powerful, enabling field for students and researchers from other disciplines.

No, you don't need to follow my winding professional road to be qualified for a position such as mine, so take a deep breath. What you do need is excellent training, both in statistics and in a collaborative field, and a willingness to learn and listen. Oh yes, and a determination to succeed!

Please describe a few of your current projects and what they entail.

This is the fun part. Here are three of my current projects:

- (1) We just started a PhD program in complex biosystems, which is recruiting students for the fall of 2015. It is directed at students interested in quantitative statistical and computational approaches to data acquisition and analysis in multiple areas of biology. The program is interdisciplinary, so graduate students are recruited through a common portal, and the program affords a full year of research rotations (three total) on diverse topics. In the first year of study, the students consider "big questions" in multiple areas of life sciences and learn current technical and analytical approaches to answer them—as well as open challenges. The goal is that students acquire a foundation in population, cellular, and molecular life sciences; statistics; bioinformatics; and computational analysis. The advantages to the student are the wide choices available for research projects and an interdisciplinary educational approach that allows students to see cutting-edge methodologies at the beginning of their studies.
- (2) I am developing novel statistical approaches to metagenomic data, with a focus on bacterial identification and community description. For those of you not familiar with metagenomics, it is an approach to analyzing complex microbial communities based on genomic data collected directly from mixed microbial DNA. We have developed two approaches to detect the presence or absence of microbes in a sample, one Bayesian and one frequentist. Currently, we are developing novel approaches to clustering such data (both genomic and abundance) based on ensembling.
- (3) The CSI is involved in the construction and development of an advanced plant phenotyping facility at UNL. This is a big deal because, as a land grant institution in an agricultural state, we want an environment conducive to cross-disciplinary research among plant breeding, genetics, metabolic engineering, physiology, stress biology, and statistical and computational modeling, along with optical and hyperspectral imagery capture and analyses. From a statistical standpoint, one focus will be on the analysis of and accurate prediction from multitype data: The phenotyping platforms will collect not only imaging data, but also allow data capture on carbon/water flux, photosynthetic capacity, leaf area, and soil measurements. The challenge is to bridge the genotype to

Please describe your position and responsibilities.

Formally, I am an associate professor in the Department of Statistics and the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL). I have the usual responsibilities that associate professors have—maintaining a research program (mine focuses on statistical metagenomics and statistical prediction), teaching, and advising graduate students. However, what's novel about my position is that I'm director of the Computational Sciences Initiative (CSI) at UNL.

The CSI—despite its unfortunate acronym—is a university-wide, faculty-driven program to enable and develop resources for Big Data and data science, with an emphasis on the life sciences. I started in this position in August 2013.

The CSI is supported by the Chancellor's program of excellence award that provides funding for faculty and postdoctoral researchers, staff support, hardware/software, and seed grants in research areas relevant to the data sciences, with the expectation that CSI will acquire other sources of funding as it develops.

The goal is to establish cross-campus linkages via data science that will conduct research, training, and consulting with both academic and industry partners. UNL has three campuses—City Campus (the main campus), East Campus (home of the Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, or IANR), and the Nebraska Innovation Campus (our newest campus focused on academic-industry partnerships).

The CSI directed the hire of two new faculty members in the IANR for the 2013–2014 academic year (one in comparative genomics and one in mathematical modeling) and anticipates an additional five new hires for the 2015–2016 academic year (in Bayes spatial-temporal analysis, agricultural information systems, remote sensing, statistical prediction, and spatial economics).

We have a working group of approximately 40 faculty and postdoctoral researchers who meet monthly to discuss data challenges in disparate, interdisciplinary fields ranging from computational biology to social sciences to sustainable and reliable food systems.

What is your background, and what do you think most qualified you for this position?

I have two undergraduate degrees, one in mathematics and one in psychology, from Skidmore College. I have an MS in statistics from Carnegie Mellon University and a PhD in statistics from The Pennsylvania State University. After I completed my doctorate in 2000, I was a postdoctoral researcher at the National Institute for Statistical Sciences (NISS) on a project with GlaxoSmithKline and a visiting assistant professor in the department of statistical sciences at Duke University. In 2004, I became a research assistant professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Duke and received a National Institutes

phenotype gap at the plant level. To a statistician, this translates into the development of novel techniques to predict plant phenotype from both genomic and environmental data that may be collected over time. The CSI is involved in this project on two fronts: one is the development of statistical methodology and one is the development of a data management and access pipeline for plant phenotyping.

How unique is your position in academia, and what motivated UNL to create it?

This position is unique in some ways, but common in others. There are many faculty members in academia whose research is focused on applied statistics, or statistical computation, and who work in collaborative environments with nonstatisticians. These people make essential contributions, but rarely have a significant voice outside of their immediate group.

My position is different in that I receive university support to advance statistics and the quantitative sciences, in both education and research, with the expectation that I will bring needed expertise and develop needed resources at UNL. This position was developed because the faculty, particularly those in the life sciences, recognized that statistics, bioinformatics, and computation were critical to the future of their research and to the training of their students.

Several years ago, a laboratory would have simply hired a postdoctoral researcher with a quantitative background to enable research and help in training students. Now, however, with the explosion in the amount of available data and the required analytical skills, this is no longer enough. The faculty and administration at UNL decided to develop a central hub of faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and technicians, who could either provide methodological and analytical expertise directly or link faculty and students to appropriate resources. This is the CSI.

Any advice for other universities considering such a position? Any advice for statisticians considering a position like yours (or trying to facilitate more interdisciplinary partnerships in their university)?

My advice for other universities would be to do the same. Many fields are in the process of becoming more quantitative, and this trend will continue. The most successful universities will be the ones that provide institutional support to quantitative fields, tailored to their own needs and strengths. Statistics as a field is growing and will continue to grow with our ability to collect data and our desire to make evidence-based decisions, and, along with this growth, comes other needed skills from fields such as computer science, electrical engineering, bioinformatics and computational biology, and mathematics. It is often daunting for faculty from traditionally nonquantitative fields to find the quantitative resources they need, let alone collaborate with quantitative faculty! The same is true for potential industry partners who are looking for a quantitative 'point person' on campus.

For statisticians considering a position like mine, I hesitate to give advice, as the world for statisticians is changing rapidly. However, here are a few highlights:

- (1) Be a statistician, first and foremost. This can be a hard thing to do, particularly in interdisciplinary settings, where either (1) proper statistical methods may not be discussed or of concern to your colleagues or (2) a certain level of knowledge of another field is assumed (and you don't have it). So speak up when you have a concern, suggestion, or question. Collaborations worth pursuing will allow this, and if they don't, maybe they are not worth pursuing.
- (2) Be willing to learn the 'languages' of other fields. In practice, effective communication with a nonstatistician requires learning by both parties—you learn to express yourself in a way accessible to other scholars and professionals, and they learn how to express

themselves more precisely and quantitatively. This is difficult, but it can be extremely rewarding when it works.

- (3) Develop your computational skills. Often, simply accessing data and preparing it for data analysis requires considerable computational acumen—let alone doing the desired analyses. This may require courses in statistical computation and packages, as well as courses in computational languages that are not statistical.

How do you think the general area of 'data sciences' will affect the field of statistics over the next five years? What branches of the sciences are playing a growing role in interdisciplinary statistics?

The general area of data sciences will have a huge positive impact on the field of statistics. Why do I say this? I define data science as a three-legged stool, the legs being computer science, statistics, and a subject matter field (a popular one is business). No two of these fields can be successful in data science without the third. I see an increasing number of students who describe their interest as data science and understand this to include a solid background in statistics. In the 2000s, I often had to convince students interested in what we now refer to as data science that statistics was important. This has reversed: Now I often have to find resources to meet the demand for statistics.

In terms of branches of sciences that are pushing a growth in interdisciplinary statistics, I will mention a few and my apologies for those I omit. At the top of my list are (1) biological sciences (with genomic data as well as imaging and phenotypic data), (2) agricultural sciences (with plant breeding and remote sensing), (3) business (with decision analytics, Internet surveys, and Big Data applications), (4) earth and atmospheric sciences (with astrophysics, global imaging, and climate change), and (5) ecology (with metagenomics, spatial-temporal contexts, and environmental sciences). All these areas have challenging data for statisticians and people with a willingness to work collaboratively.

What would you like to accomplish in the next several years to consider the creation of this position a success?

I would like to develop CSI into a cross-campus hub for data sciences. We are supporting two bioinformaticians and are hiring an assistant professor of practice and a postdoctoral researcher. I would like to see this group have an impact on the university in terms of educating students (workshops, short courses, and lectures on topics in data science) and furthering its research mission. I would like the CSI and its website (<http://bigdata.unl.edu>) to become a 'go-to' place for students and faculty who are interested in the data sciences.

We have hosted several events on campus focused on Big Data or the data sciences, with both external and internal speakers, and I would like to support future events. The creation of this position will be a success if, in the next few years, (1) faculty researchers and graduate students will have found major direct benefits from quantitative support; (2) students will have found the CSI to be a frequently accessed resource for education and guidance in the data sciences; (3) the administration considers the CSI to be a critical resource for research, education, and industry relations; and (4) I am satisfied we have the resources necessary to support statistics, computation, and the data sciences at UNL so research projects that were essentially infeasible when I started here become routine.

If you were not a statistician, you would be ...?

Earlier in my life, I wanted to become a professional ski racer, but I simply didn't have enough athletic talent. In my wildest dreams, I am a Formula 1 race car driver (ask my friends about my love of cars). But being more realistic, I likely would have become a struggling artist or run my own auto shop. I can't tell you what these have in common, except my enthusiasm for them.

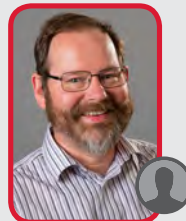
Faculty News Continued



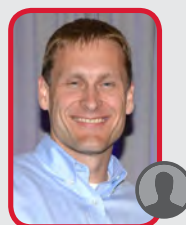
DR. ALLAN McCUTCHEON

Dr. McCutcheon delivered an invited talk entitled "Web Surveys, Online Panels, and Paradata: Automating Responsive Designs" at the 2015 Distinguished Lecture for the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. Previous speakers invited to this meeting include luminaries such as J.N.K. Rao, Donald Rubin, and Rod Little.

Dr. McCutcheon has also been invited to give a presentation entitled: "Survey Informatics: the Future of Survey Methodology and Survey Statistics Training in the Academy?" at the May meeting of the Committee on National Statistics (CNStat) at the National Academy of Science in Washington, DC.



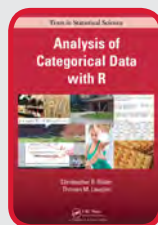
DR. STEVE KACHMAN was awarded a UNL/USMARC grant to investigate statistical methods for incorporating functional information into genetic evaluation of livestock. He is working on the project with Danielle Wilson-Wells, a PhD student in the Department.



DR. CHRIS BILDER traveled to Honolulu in June to give an invited talk for the New Investigators Luncheon at the WNAR/IMS Conference. His presentation "Yes! Yes, but . . . NO!" (motivated by a They Might be Giants song) presented survival strategies for those beginning a career in academia (see chrisbilder.com/wnar).

Chris's book, *Analysis of Categorical Data with R* (crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781439855676), was published in August and sold out its initial US printing by December. The publisher "rushed" new books from the UK to the US by boat in January, leaving many of his students high and dry without a book for the first few weeks of the semester. Chris also prepared a new R01 NIH grant application that was submitted in February. The application proposed extensions to his previous grant for group testing research and builds upon his paper that was given the ASA Outstanding Statistical Application Award in August.

You can follow Chris on Twitter at twitter.com/Chris_Bilder (@Chris_Bilder).



DR. ERIN BLANKENSHIP (shown), Aimee Schwab, Dola Pathak and Marina Ptukhina were featured in a Washington Post article on Dec 19, 2014 entitled: "Women flocking to statistics, the newly hot, high-tech field of data science."

Dr. Erin Blankenship will serve as Interim Associate Dean at CASNR starting July 1. In a one year, 25% FTE term, her role in the Dean's Office will be to develop models for predicting enrollment and retention, and other quantitative methods for measuring student success.



DR. ISTVAN LADUNGA presented a talk entitled "Semi-random mechanisms can accurately regulate transcription" at the 2015 Meeting "Systems Biology: Global Regulation of Gene Expression" organized by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY but held in Puerto Rico (below).

DR. DAVID MARX delivered an invited talk at the Iowa Baseball Symposium in February and another talk at the Society for American Baseball Research Conference in March.

Alumni News

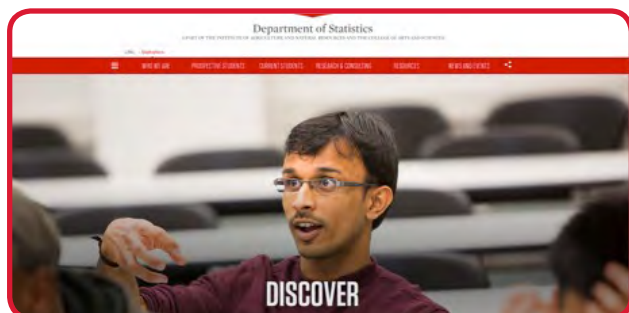


LEANNA (GUERIN) STORK is currently the team lead for the Regulatory Statistics Technology Center at Monsanto Co., which is a sustainable agricultural company with global headquarters based in St. Louis, Missouri. She grew up in Malcolm, Nebraska, which is a rural community near Lincoln and really enjoyed her high school math and science classes. LeAnna went on to receive her B.S. in Statistics from the University of Nebraska at Kearney (1998), M.S. in Biometry from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2000) under the advisement of Dr. Walter Stroup, and Ph.D. in Biostatistics from Virginia Commonwealth University (2005). Her areas of expertise are the design of experiments, mixed model analyses, and nonlinear dose-response models for mixtures toxicology studies.

LeAnna joined the Regulatory Statistics Technology Center at Monsanto in 2005 as a consulting statistician collaborating within many scientific disciplines of agricultural research and development. She has provided statistical expertise and input for the robust design of agricultural studies and corresponding high quality statistical analyses using a wide variety of statistical methods. During her tenure at Monsanto LeAnna has had increasing leadership responsibilities within the Regulatory Statistics Technology and has served as the team lead since 2012. She partners with cross-functional teams globally to lead the strategy ensuring the implementation of rigorous and defensible statistical methods and applications which enable the global registration of chemistry and agricultural biotechnology products. LeAnna is active within the ASA recently serving as the Vice-Chair, Chair, and Past-Chair for the Conference on Statistical Practice Steering Committee and currently serving on the Editorial Board for Significance Magazine.

New Website

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR COMPLETELY RE-DESIGNED WEBSITE.
CHECK IT OUT AT STATISTICS.UNL.EDU



New at NU



DR. HANK BOUNDS, the commissioner of higher education for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, was chosen to be the University of Nebraska's next president, and started in this position April 1, 2015.

The Board of Regents voted unanimously to approve Bounds, who was one of four finalists. Dr. Bounds replaces J.B. Milliken, who left last year to become Chancellor of the City University of New York. As NU President, Bounds will oversee campuses in Lincoln, Omaha and Kearney, as well as the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis. He also will serve as a public liaison to the Legislature and general public.

Dr. Bounds had served as CEO of Mississippi's eight public universities since 2009 overlooking a budget of \$4.5 billion. He was the state's superintendent of K-12 schools from 2005 to 2009 and was superintendent of the Pascagoula school system from 2001 to 2005. Earlier, he worked as a high school principal. Bounds oversaw about 85,000 students in Mississippi, while the four Nebraska institutions, including Big Ten member University of Nebraska-Lincoln, have about 50,000 students.

The other finalists were Michael Martin, chancellor of the Colorado State University System; Sally Rockey, deputy director for extramural research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland; and George Ross; president of Central Michigan University. (Sources: NU, Hattiesburg American).

Thank you!

The next time you are in Lincoln, please stop by the Department for a visit! We also encourage you to give a seminar (we promise not to ask tough questions!) about what you think is important for a statistics graduate student to learn and participate in as a student.

If your company or organization is looking to hire new statistics graduates, please email us and we would be happy to distribute an announcement to the graduate students.

Our successes are due to the alumni and friends of the Department of Statistics. Private support is vital to ensure a vibrant future for our department because state support for UNL continues to decrease. Please consider making a donation to the Department of Statistics Development Fund (01088740) at the University of Nebraska Foundation. All funds go toward the support of students and faculty in the department. For example, we use these funds to support student trips to conferences, to recruit students, and to provide recognition of faculty and students.

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