

DEPARTMENT OF
STATISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN

2016 NEWSLETTER





DEPARTMENT UPDATES

From the Chair's Desk

DR. BERTRAND CLARKE

It seems only yesterday that I was writing my last column for this newsletter. It's a bit of déjà vu because I wrote about how we were updating our programs and hiring new junior people and we are still updating our programs and hiring new junior people.

Some details:

Spring 2015, **we revamped the required courses for our MS and PhD programs.** These new and revised courses will prepare our students for the latest needs of the statistical science and the job market. In August 2016, we will begin the actual implementation of these courses. This will make new demands on all of us, but we can do it.

Fall 2015, we **revamped our examination system.** Loosely, the written comprehensive exam for MS students was replaced by a 'Stat Day' presentation of a project. The written exam is now a qualifying exam primarily for PhD students. This means we won't have one written exam serving double duty for our two degree programs. This rationalization was long overdue.

Our two junior hires, **Drs. Qi Zhang and Yuzhen Zhou** arrived in August 2015 and have been roaring along like the proverbial house afire. They glided smoothly into their new professorially ranked jobs and within months, Qi and Yuzhen were rapidly acquiring the skills junior people must acquire to be successful.

At this time of writing we have an accepted offer from **Dr. Yuhang Xu** who will join us in

August. He fills the Statistical Prediction position that we were unable to fill last year. (Remember in my column last year I said we had three position? We only filled two. Just as well – getting Yuhang is a bit of a coup.) We have one more position to fill and at this point we have three candidates. We may even have an option on another position. Stay tuned.

Drs. Erin Blankenship and Chris Bilder were named Fellows of the American Statistical Association (ASA). This award is limited to only 1/3 of one percent of all ASA members each year. In total, our Department now has five Fellows among its faculty (four current and one retired). Dr. Blankenship received her award at the Joint Statistics Meetings in August, 2015. Her Fellow citation was "for innovation and leadership in K-12 teacher development; for excellence in teaching, mentoring, and inspiring future teachers, teaching assistants, and statistics education researchers; and for interdisciplinary collaboration and service to the profession." Dr. Bilder will receive his award at the Joint Statistics Meetings this August during the Fellow's recognition ceremony. His Fellow citation was "for influential contributions in categorical data analysis and group testing methods; for leadership in the field of statistics education, especially the innovative use of computer technology; and for extensive departmental and ASA service."

So, where do we go from here? Glad you asked. Our 'To Do' list seems to get more and more inclusive as we go along. Here are some major items:

Revamp our elective courses. My view is that now our required courses are comparable to the required courses at all the top statistical depart-

ments. So, we want to go after comparative advantage via our electives. That means we must figure out what important statistical topics we can easily offer well that other departments could only offer with great effort. Many of us have ideas, but this is going to be a group decision led by our junior people, with support from the senior people. We have some top junior people so we want their contribution to where the Department should go.

Revamp our service courses at the graduate level. This goal speaks for itself. We want to make sure that we are offering what other departments need, especially in terms of new and emerging techniques. Achieving this will be a longer process than updating our required or elective courses because we will have to coordinate with many departments – departments that have become more quantitative and so may be making new demands on us.

Build out our consulting program. Part of this will happen as we bring out our new required courses. But there's more: The Stat Help Desk will be staffed by two PhD students year round. We made one visit to the Panhandle REC and we are planning another. We are also looking for ways to be part of extension more generally. It would be good for the subject matter researchers and for our students. I remember way back when I had a job as a surveyor in statistics – going door-to-door asking people to fill out questionnaires. There's nothing like participating in data collection to help you understand what you are really measuring.

Develop a service MS degree. The idea is that there are many people who intend to get a PhD in some field other than statistics. I don't know

why people would want a PhD that was not in Statistics but it takes all types to make a world. We have to come up with a track so they can get a 'terminal' (unfortunate terminology, that) MS from us that will serve them well on the job market. It can't just be the same as our regular MS because it's a different audience. This is controversial but we can resolve it with some compromising here and there – without losing the intellectual foundation of our MS degree.

Critically evaluate our undergraduate offerings, maybe starting with the Statistics Minor. Let's get our existing undergrad courses in order as a prelude to starting our own major.

And then there are a whole host of things we are doing that we mustn't stop doing... Recruiting the best students to our programs that we can. Mentoring and otherwise advising our junior people. Helping to get our Department more recognition. Some of this is the usual thing: Professional service with journals, conferences, speaking opportunities etc. Some of this is new: More engagement with the broader community, ensuring that we identify the 21st century trends early and get to the front of the queue.

When I reflect on all the new things we're trying to do I keep asking myself what we can stop doing so we will have the time, energy, and other resources to do all the new things we have to do so we can march smartly into the 21st century. I'm confident answers will emerge. Once you've got good people, the rest follows.



REMEMBERING Allan McCutcheon



ALLAN L. MCCUTCHEON passed away on Tuesday, May 2, 2016. Allan was a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Statistics, Clifton Chair of Survey Science, founding director of the Gallup Research Center, and founding chair of the Survey Research and Methodology doctoral program at UNL. In addition, he was the Senior Statistical Director of the National Election Pool, which conducts exit polls and calls for the presidential elections for ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox News, and the Associated Press. Allan received numerous honors and awards, including the rank of Fellow in both the American Statistical Association and the Royal Statistical Society. He also served on numerous advisory panels related to survey research including the National Science Foundation's panel on the "The Future of Survey Research". He educated a large number of diverse students and treated them as family. Allan greatly enjoyed traveling around the world and was also a devoted "foodie" exploring new dishes in restaurants and in the kitchen. To help relieve the stresses of his professional commitments, Allan engaged in an appropriate hobby - juggling. After taking up the hobby long time ago to improve his hand-eye coordination, he became hooked by the sheer fun of it, indulging the neighborhood children with an occasional show while he practiced hoisting balls and clubs in the air. His wife added to the spectacle of his pastime when she bought him a unicycle for his birthday. "She said if I learned to ride the unicycle and juggle at the same time, she'd buy me a bear costume" he laughed. Allan was a wonderful colleague and will be greatly missed by the many people whose lives were enriched by knowing him.

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS HISTORY

BY DR. DAVID MARX



When I came to the University of Nebraska in April of 1989, it was to start a Department of Biometry with a Master's Program. When I arrived there were already four faculty in the center, not including Dr Charlie O. Gardner who headed it up. I was allowed two new faculty positions as well as some programming positions. Obviously, the developing of a new department and program was successful. However, it was apparent from the start that other departments had ways to obtain additional funding which we did not. Researchers in other departments were not, at that time, encouraged to put statistical faculty on their grants. Hence we needed to find a way to "enhance" our financial outlook.

I had worked for US/AID for several years on a project in Rwanda. At that time US/AID had a summer program for international students on US/AID fellowships which allowed them to attend a US/AID sanctioned summer program. Thus, we developed a three week summer statistics program for which the Department was paid several thousand dollars (I think) per student who attended. We had between ten and twenty students attend per year. Most of our faculty participated in the teaching which involved mostly field plot designs and analysis and regression analysis. We spend two weeks in the classroom and the final week went for a "field trip". We were all tired of being cooped up in a classroom during the summer anyway!

For the "field trip" we usually went to Gudmundsen Ranch in the sandhills of Nebraska. This ranch is part of

the UNL Extension program which contributes to the research through the Gudmundsen Ranch Sandhills Laboratory. From there we went to view Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Having some extra time on our hands at the end of the day, we then arrived at Deadwood, South Dakota about 7:00pm. You may recall, Deadwood is very tourist oriented and there are plenty of ways to gamble your money away. I started, the first year, by giving each student, two rolls of quarters (about twenty dollars) to "spend" however they chose. Within thirty minutes, I had students coming back asking for more money since they had lost all the money that they originally had been given. Then next year, I gave out only about half of the quarters to begin with, and then gave them less each time they ran out of money and thus it lasted until time to head back to the motel.

One of the most interesting things which I participated in as Head of Biometry was a trip to Morocco with all of the other IANR department heads. Nebraska was the lead institution in the MIAC project which funded the trip. It was interesting in that as soon as the researchers learned that I was a statistician, I was separated from the other department heads and met privately with each researcher to help with analysis of data and experimental design. Of course, then, I missed all the fun touristy things everyone else got to do, but I still had a great experience.

Lastly, one cold and blustery January day, I got a call from Dr. Larry Nelson from North Carolina State University. He wanted to know if I would like to be one of two main speakers at an IBS (International Biometric Society) conference in Trinidad. I actually thought he was teasing, but he was on the level. The other speaker was C.R. Rao, I think most of you have heard of him! This actually started a long collaboration with CARDI (Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institution). However, this is enough for one newsletter, more later!

Honoring David Marx BY DR. WALT STROUP

Dave Marx retired in June, 2015. He served the Department from 1989 until his retirement. Without Dave, there would be no Department of Statistics. With this article, we honor Dave and his service to the University and to the statistics discipline. When Dave arrived in 1989, there was only a Biometrics Center with four faculty members. We did a little research, but mostly consulted and taught a few service courses. There was no Department and no degree program as we know it today. Within two years of his arrival, through Dave's hard work, there was a Depart-

ment of Biometry, Linda Young and Steve Kachman had joined our faculty, and the MS program in Biometry had been created. The Biometry Department established itself as a thriving applied statistics program, producing dozens of successful MS graduates. In just a few years, the Department that Dave led grew from an idea to an essential component of what became the Department of Statistics in 2003. Shortly after the formation of the Biometry Department, Dave succeeded in hiring Carol Gotway to join our faculty. While Carol and Linda later found new opportunities to pursue, each left a lasting, indelible and positive legacy to the benefit of statistics at the University of Nebraska.

As Department Head, Dave dramatically improved statistics' impact on research at UNL, spearheaded efforts to involve the Department in international programs in Africa, the Caribbean, and South America, was instrumental in revitalizing the Nebraska Chapter of the American Statistical Association, and, in general, energized the statistics discipline in the state of Nebraska. Through his efforts, we came very close the creating the Statistics Department in the 1990s, and those efforts set the stage for what would occur a few years later.

As a person, Dave set precedents that helped make our Department a uniquely great place to work. When he became Department Head, he had three teenage or pre-teenage children. Without ever shirking his departmental responsibilities, he made it clear that his family came first – if there was a soccer game or track meet involving one of his kids, he'd be there. He encouraged us to do the same. When I became Department Chair, Dave's example made it easier for me to reserve priority time for my son, who was 8 then and 17 when I stepped down. When we faced dilemmas in faculty meeting, Dave always made it simple: "This decision isn't that hard. What's best for the students?" When the Statistics Department was formed and we added a PhD program, Dave had a run of highly successful PhD students. His former students will attest that Dave was a terrific advisor, one that the Department will sorely miss. In addition, I know that while I served as department chair, Dave's counsel and advice was absolutely essential. I don't have the words to adequately express my gratitude for the wisdom, support, and encouragement he gave me during that period. Once he stepped down as Chair, Dave became by far and away the Department's most versatile and effective consultant, collaborator and ambassador for statistics on the UNL campus.

It's only been a few months, but we already miss Dave tremendously. All I can say is thank you Dave. You have been a tremendous colleague, a good friend, and we wish you only the best!

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS



JASON ADAMS
(SOUTHERN UTAH)



JOHNNA BALLER

Johnna Baller is originally from Walden, Colorado. She attended the University of Northern Colorado where she received a Bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics with an emphasis in Statistics and a minor in Business Administration. In August of 2015, Johnna started her

graduate career at UNL in the Department of Statistics under the advising of Dr. Kachman. She is particularly interested in statistical applications in agriculture. Her pastimes include hunting, fishing, participating in any kind of sport, and spending time with her family on their ranch.



RYAN DANCZAK

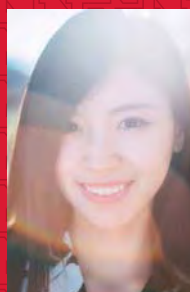
Ryan Danczak was born and raised in Marshfield, Wisconsin. He attended Winona State University from 2010-2014 and received bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Math Education. After graduating, he accepted a teaching position at Hudson High School in Hudson, Wisconsin. In 2015, Ryan accepted a fellowship offer from the Statistics Department at UNL to pursue a Master's Degree starting in the Fall of 2015. During free time, Ryan enjoys playing sports and spending time with friends/family.



JESSICA HAUSCHILD

Jessica Hauschild grew up in Andover, Kansas. She attended Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina, KS, where she received a bachelor's degree in Mathematics with minors in Computer Programming and Physics. Starting in August of 2015, Jessica began

graduate school at UNL in the Department of Statistics. She is interested in going into industry following graduation. Some of her hobbies include watching TV (The Big Bang Theory is the favorite currently), reading, and volunteering at her parents' respective workplaces.



JINYU LI

Jinyu Li graduated from the Imperial College in London. She pursues a Ph.D. in Statistics and serves as a Research Assistant in Dr. Soukko-va's laboratory. Jinyu's research interest is survey methodology and applications of statistics in public health. Applying statistics to benefit

other people and improve their lives in the future is the most fulfilling thing she could imagine. In her free time, Jinyu loves travelling and exploring. Taking an adventure is also on the top of her bucket list.



THAO VU
(UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA - LINCOLN)



RONGHAO WANG

Ronghao graduated with a BS from Shanghai University and a MS from Imperial College in London. Now he is a Ph.D. student and a Teaching Assistant at our Department. Ronghao is also an amateur photographer and he loves to watch NBA games in his free time.



RANIL WEERACKOON

Ranil Weerackoon is a first year Master's student in Statistics with a focus in Sports Statistics. He received his degree in Math with an option in Statistics from California State University, Long Beach. He currently works at the Nebraska Athletic Performance Laboratory

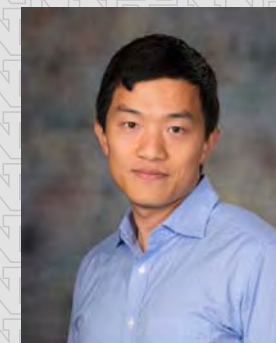
on developing win probability models for the Nebraska football and baseball teams. His research interests include prediction and regression modelling and he hopes to launch a career as a statistician for a sports team. His hobbies include watching and playing sports, particularly football, tennis, and basketball



FANG (AMY) ZHOU

Fang (Amy) Zou is now a first-year MS student in the statistics program. Her current project involves quantitative effects of medical treatments on human health. Before joining UNL, she was serving as a Mathematics teacher in China. She holds Master and Bachelor degrees in Mathematics from Central China Normal University.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



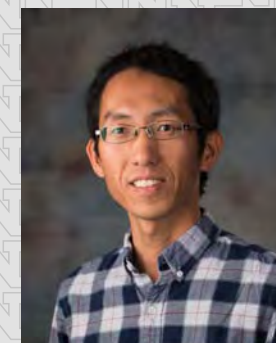
DR. QI ZHANG

Dr. Qi Zhang joined the Department in August 2015. Before that, he received his PhD in Department of Statistics at University of Pittsburgh in 2013, and spent two years in the University of Wisconsin-Madison as a postdoc. Before he came to US in 2008, he

received his BS in Math in China Agricultural University. His hometown is Jinzhou, a northeastern Chinese city known for apples and a Gettysburg-like bloody combat in 1948 during Chinese civil war.

Qi has worked on many areas in statistics, ranging from high dimensional variable selection, network analysis to statistical genomics. His current research interests is statistical methods of multi-type high dimensional data integration (e.g., multi-types of -omics data) with the goal of understanding causal relationships among the biomedical observations. Even though the motivations of his statistical research are mostly from biological sciences, he also keeps an eye on social sciences.

After work, Qi enjoys spending time with his wife, running, biking, day hiking, BBQ, playing soccer occasionally, and reading in history, philosophy, literature and social sciences. He also enjoys listening to classical and rock music, and having a morning cup of coffee.



DR. YUZHEN ZHOU

Dr. Yuzhen Zhou is from Wenzhou, a prefecture-level city in southeastern China. Wenzhou, a booming city, is well known for manufacturing and business. He received his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Master's degree in Probability from Nankai University, China. Yuzhen

came to the United States in 2010 and completed his Ph.D. in statistics from Michigan State University on August 2015. Then joined the Department of Statistics at UNL.

Yuzhen's primary research interests lie in developing theories and tools to allow prediction and inference about large and multivariate spatial and spatial temporal datasets. For example, he seeks a modeling framework that incorporates disparate sources and types of spatially indexed data and propagates sources of uncertainty through to predictions.

RESEARCH NEWS

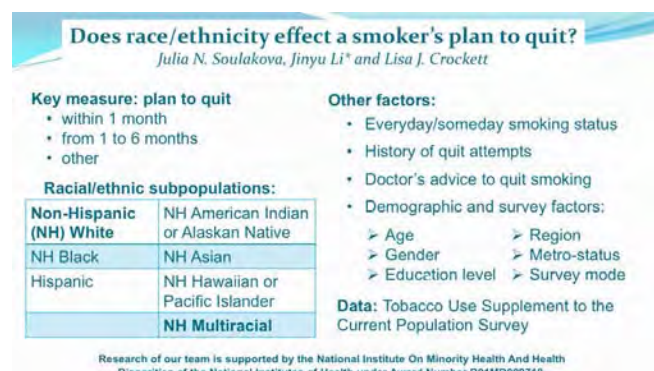


DR. JULIA SOULAKOVA received an R01 grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIH, DHHS, in July of 2016. The title of the grant is "Evaluating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Success of National Health Care Efforts to Promote Smoking Cessation". This is a collaborative research with the Department of

Psychology, UNL. The overall goals of the four-year study are to determine the quality of health care for smoking cessation (HCSC) for diverse racial and ethnic groups, over-time changes in the quality of the HCSC, and smokers' awareness and attitudes regarding currently available smoking cessation methods and treatments. Results of the study are expected to play a vital role in improving the health care system as a whole, helping to close the gap in the quality of health care services offered to racial/ethnic minorities and non-minorities, and further decreasing rates of smoking-caused conditions and diseases across all subpopulations. The award makes it possible to award two GRAs to Statistics graduate students each year.

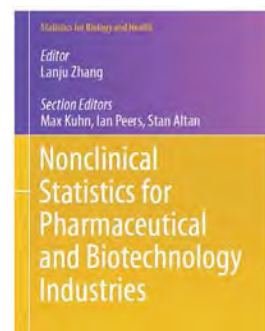
MINORITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

On February 12th, 2016, **RYAN DANCZAK** and **JOY (JINYU) LI** (students from Dr. Julia Soulakova's research team, pictured at the New Students" section) attended the 2016 Minority Health Initiative Retreat in Omaha, Nebraska. Joy talked about her current GRA work in a bullet session (her title slide is shown). Both were impressed by the keynote speaker Dr. David Chae, an epidemiologist who studies health disparities and the implications of stressors experienced by minorities. A particular focus of his research is on discrimination, a qualitatively unique form of stress that has been connected with reduced mental well-being, damaging health activities and indicators of chronic disease risk. This retreat provided them a first-hand exposure to the current minority health disparity issues being researched. The retreat had an open forum for discussion on future plans for improving minority health in the United States. Being in a room surrounded with experts in the field of minority health was an invaluable learning experience. Ryan and Joy would highly recommend other Statistics students to attend similar retreats and seminars related to their particular area of interest.



Our cells regulate genes in more pluralistic and probabilistic ways than we govern our societies. Why should we care? Because if gene regulation runs amok, it causes cancer. Most medical publications describe cancer as deterministic process. However, regulators bind to and dissociate from DNA in a matter of minutes in markedly stochastic processes.

So-called "master regulators" are frequently substituted by others in much less hierarchical ways than previously thought. **DR. ISTVAN LADUNGA** and his Team developed a well-evidenced model of stochastic and pluralistic gene regulation in humans and mice. The results were published in the prestigious journal Nucleic Acids Research.



DRS. WALT STROUP AND MICHELLE QUINLAN

co-authored Chapter 22, "Statistical Considerations for Stability and the Estimation of Shelf Life" in a new Springer Book that became available in February, 2016. The chapter starts with a description of the probability and modeling considerations required to understand stability data, continues with an assessment of existing and currently mandated methods, and concludes with several proposed alternatives and a comparison of their small-sample performance. Stan Altan, the section editor who worked with Michelle and Walt, called the chapter "a work of art." Time will tell what kind of impact the chapter will have. Meanwhile, Marina Ptukhina is picking up where the chapter leaves off, investigating Bayesian alternatives and extension to Michelle's and Walt's work.

FEATURED ALUMNI



TUCKER ZELENY

"I began helping out in the Nebraska Athletic Department on a part-time basis in September 2014 while I was completing the final year of my PhD in the Statistics Department. This was a great opportunity for me as I was hoping to pursue a career related to sports analytics. While the field has grown considerably in the past decade, most of the statistical analysis applied to sports takes place at the professional level. Luckily, some of the forward thinkers within Nebraska Athletics saw the value that can be provided though data and I was hired full-time as the Director of Sports Analytics in July 2015.

My role within the athletic program is essentially to work with any sports team or non-sports department (Business, Ticketing, Academics, etc.) to provide solutions and insight through data analysis. To this point, I've worked with the football, men's basketball, baseball and soccer teams, as well as the strength and conditioning program, the academics program, Nebraska Athletic Performance Lab and the business office. Projects have ranged from opponent scouting reports, self-evaluation and in-game strategy to injury prevention, performance projection and national trend identification.

The first year has been fantastic. It's been interesting to meet with various coaches, trainers and department heads to learn what types of data they collect, how they've used that data in the past, and how I can help to take things a step further. I look forward to the growth of the Analytics department and the chance to reach more teams and departments within Athletics. I'm very grateful as this wouldn't be possible for me without the opportunity provided by the Statistics Department."



LEANNA STORK

My career as an applied statistician at Monsanto began ten years ago after completing my graduate degrees in statistics (UNL, MS in Biometry 2000; VCU, PhD in Biostatistics 2005). I currently lead a team of statisticians designing agricultural experiments, conducting statistical analyses, and providing science based solutions to help bringing better agricultural products and tools to farmers around the world. I am passionate about the work I do because I know that these tools help farmers positively impact food production and also reduce the impact of agriculture on our planet. I collaborate with many scientists in areas including plant biology, entomology, agronomy, molecular biology, and plant breeding.

This year I was selected as an Associate Fellow into the Monsanto Science Fellows program. This is an opportunity for me to engage and collaborate with Monsanto's top scientists. The Science Fellows contribute to scientific leadership and provide strategic input to senior management by sharing and fostering an environment for innovative solutions. They have tackled topics such as climate change and water use in agriculture which has provided important strategic direction for the company.

I also serve on the Leadership Team for the Monsanto Women in Science Exchange (WiSE). WiSE aims to expand female presence and impact at all levels of the company. We empower women to enhance their contributions to Monsanto's culture, scientific innovation, and success. The WiSE Leadership team has hosted numerous workshops, panel discussions, mentoring programs, and activities that have been successful to engage both male and female scientists in discussions about women's leadership, advocacy, and participation at Monsanto. The world is experiencing a "data revolution". I'm a member of the Monsanto Data Science Council, which consists of Data Science leaders from across the company. Our goal is to drive enterprise-wide leadership, decision making, and strategic direction for Monsanto's data science capabilities. Lastly, I expand my career though involvement in professional societies such as the American Statistical Association. I am serving as the Vice-Chair of the Editorial Board for Significance magazine.

My career as a statistician at Monsanto have been filled with opportunities. Career development is a continuous and evolving process which I will continue to make it a priority, and I would challenge any statistician to do the same.

STUDENT NEWS

FROM THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

DRS. JULIA SOULAKOVA AND YUZHEN ZHOU



Congratulations on everybody's hard work during the 2015-16 academic year! We hope that you were able to manage your education, research and other duties and activities in a productive way. We got a number of outstanding applications for the Graduate Fellowship this year. The Committee has worked very hard to determine the recipient of the fellowship.

Our congratulations go to **DOLA PATHAK** (pictured)! Dola has shown her long-term commitment to Statistics through her PhD research activities and outstanding performance in the 900-level courses. Dola's name will be added to the plaque displayed in the main office later this year. Our congratulations also go to those students who applied for the fellowship but did not receive it. Thank you for providing us an opportunity to learn more about your research interests and academic achievements. Our senior students, **CYRILLE NZOUDA** and **MARYNA PTUKHINA**, received a travel award to attend the 2016 JSM and present their PhD research at the conference. Congratulations! Whether your plans for the summer are to study for an exam, work on your research, or take or teach classes, we wish you a very productive summer and hope to hear from you next year!



BRIANNA HITT presented her Master's project at JSM in Seattle this past summer. Her contributed paper presentation was held by the Section on Statistical Education and was entitled: "Modeling Undergraduate Retention to Aid in Making Programming Decisions at Universities." Brianna also had an internship last summer - she worked as a Statistician Intern at GSK (formerly Novartis Consumer Health) here in Lincoln, NE, as two summers ago. Brianna worked on projects related to statistical quality control for the manufacturing plant.

CHANCELLOR PERLMAN RETIRES



During Chancellor Perlman's 16 years of tenure, total enrollment reached 25,260, we rank among the top 50 public colleges according to U.S. News & World Report. We are 1 of the 28 best university

programs in undergraduate research and creative projects. We are the Best Value College according to the Princeton Review, and ours is the Best Value Law School in the U.S, according to The National Jurist. Chancellor Perlman noted "that voyage has seen historic advances for the state's largest public university. Among them are the formation and continued development of the Nebraska Innovation Campus; UNL's 2011 admission to the Big Ten Conference and its Committee on Institutional Cooperation; ... sustained year-over-year growth in the university's research expenditures; continued investment in campus infrastructure and facilities; and increased international partnerships."

RONNIE D. GREEN NAMED NEW CHANCELLOR



University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds announced that following a national search, he has named Ronnie D. Green the next chancellor of the University of Nebraska-

Lincoln. Green's appointment is subject to approval by the Board of Regents at its May 25 meeting.

"Under Chancellor Perlman's leadership, and thanks to the efforts of talented faculty, staff and students, UNL is experiencing impressive momentum. My goal was to find the right person to build on that momentum," Bounds said. "Ronnie Green is that leader. He has a deep understanding of and commitment to the mission of a land-grant university. He recognizes UNL's potential to reach an even higher level of excellence. And the feedback I've received from a range of university constituents — students, faculty, staff, leaders in agriculture and business and others — confirms Nebraskans' confidence in Ronnie's ability to lead UNL forward."

Reporting to the NU president, the UNL chancellor is the chief executive officer for the campus, which serves more than 25,000 students in nine academic colleges, employs more than 6,400 faculty and staff, has an operating budget of more than \$1.2 billion and research expenditures of more than \$275 million, and includes a nationally prominent Division I athletics program." Source: UNL

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.

SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT

Yes, I/we would like to support the Department of Statistics Development Fund.

____ One-time gift of: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other \$_____

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