Message from the Department Head

Greetings from OSU Statistics! Please forgive us for being silent for so long. It is our goal to keep in touch with our friends and alumni with the latest from the Department. We hope you do the same in return.

I arrived in Stillwater in 1986, a wet-behind-the-ears master’s student. Little did I know that someday I would assume the role of department head, following in the distinguished footsteps of Carl Marshall, Leroy Folks, Larry Claypool, Bill Warde and Abe Ahmad. To have my name on that list is indeed an honor.

This newsletter is brief and limited in its scope. To gain a better appreciation as to what is happening, we invite you to pay us a visit. But please let us know when you are coming so we can plan to spend some time with you. Also, there is information in this document about a dinner we will have at JSM this year, so if you plan to be in Boston, let us know. Please feel free to contact me at mark.payton@okstate.edu. I would love to hear from you.

Warmest regards,

[Signature]

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Department Debuts a New Look in the Main Office

In addition to the main office, the department classroom MSCS 317 received a makeover. MSCS 317 is now equipped with a multimedia podium, SmartBoard®, and new seating.

Renee’ Flasch and Fran Mihura run the front office and greet visitors to the department.
Faculty Notes

Mark Payton assumed the role of Statistics Department Head July 1, 2013. Mark has been working with the College of Health Sciences in Tulsa and the College of Veterinary Medicine in Stillwater developing a course for students in these medical fields. Mark’s son, Riley, will be a freshman at OSU in the fall. Mackenzie is in high school and throws a wicked fast ball for her softball team.

P. Larry Claypool retired in 2007 but is still active with the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). At OSU all research, teaching, and testing activities involving animals must be approved by this committee.

Lan Zhu joined the faculty in August 2007 and was promoted to the rank of associate professor in June 2013. She has been actively collaborating with life scientists in interdisciplinary projects and successful in attaining external funding to support her research in genetic statistics and other applied fields.

Ye Liang joined the faculty in August 2012. He earned his Ph.D. in statistics from University of Missouri-Columbia. He specializes in Bayesian statistics and has been collaboratively working with ecologists and political scientists. He and his wife, Xi, recently had a baby girl, Chloe, born in Stillwater.

Josh Habiger joined the faculty in August 2010 after completing doctoral studies at the University of South Carolina. His research interests are in high dimensional data and discrete data analysis. Josh is originally from Ellinwood, KS. His wife, Kate Allred, teaches art at Perry High School. He is an avid sports fan of basketball and football. In his spare time he plays tennis and Frisbee golf.

Nishantha Samarakoon and Tamer Elbayoumi will continue as Visiting Assistant Professors.

Mindy McCann is the Graduate Coordinator for the department working with all incoming graduate students. In June 2014 she was promoted to the rank of Professor.

Carla Goad is the Undergraduate Advisor for the department. She has been offering three of our graduate courses online. Statistics for Experimenters I is in its eighth year online. Her boys are now in college; Michael at OSU and Andrew at K-State. Her daughter, Elizabeth, attends Stillwater Middle School.

In August 2014, Mindy McCann and Carla Goad will each have been at OSU for twenty years.

Ibrahim (Abe) Ahmad ended his five year term as Department Head in 2013. Abe will be on sabbatical during the Fall 2014 semester.

Brenda Masters served as Interim Associate Provost and Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Education during the 2013–2014 academic year. She will continue working with the new provost and the Office of Academic Affairs as the Director for University Reaccreditation. She continues to teach STAT 2023 for the Department.

J. Leroy Folks has been retired since 1998 and resides in Stillwater. He gave a departmental seminar, ‘History of Statistics’ in Fall 2013.

Jeanne Hill (faculty 1998—2001) is on the statistics faculty at Baylor. She and her husband, David Ryden have three children, Evangeline, Eli, and Atticus.

The Oklahoma Chapter of the ASA has been inactive for a period of time. Recently, the faculty have made efforts to ‘jump start’ our Chapter. For questions about membership and activities, contact Josh Habiger (Chair) at jhabiger@okstate.edu.

Payton in Alaska for Iditarod

In February, 2014, Mark Payton accompanied Dr. Michael Davis, Professor in the College of Veterinary Health Sciences, to Alaska for the start of the Iditarod, a 1000 mile dog sled race from Anchorage to Nome. Davis is a world-renown expert in the physiology of Alaskan sled dogs and sports medicine, and Payton has been a member of his team of researchers for 15 years.

“These dogs and their mushers are amazing,” Payton commented. “They go 1000 miles in a little under 9 days through terrible conditions. One could argue that these dogs are the world’s best athletes.” Payton got to meet several noted Iditarod mushers, including 4-time champion Martin Buser and this year’s runner-up, Aliy Zirkle. He also served on Alan Moore’s dog guide team for the start of the race. “It was a great experience,” Payton concluded. “I hope to make a return trip.”

Pictured here with Mark is Rosie. Rosie is on the team of Martin Buser, a four time Iditarod champion.
**Student News**

**Undergraduates**

**Sean Bulleigh** from Lakeville, MN was named Outstanding Senior. Sean plans to continue his studies at OSU next year, completing his Masters Degree in Accounting.

**Jin Shi** (Beijing, China) graduated this spring with a BS in Statistics. Jin has been accepted at Brown University in the graduate Biostatistics degree program.

Freshman **Abigail Hebenstreit** was awarded the Claypool Undergraduate Scholarship for 2014-2015.

**Graduate**

**Su Chen** (PhD 2013) received the Carl Marshall Award. Su has joined the faculty at the University of Memphis as an Assistant Professor.

Congratulations to our Spring & Summer 2014 grads: Zhenhua Sang (MS), Sayed Mostafa (MS), Nick Kaukis (MS) Ole Forsberg (PhD), Yimin Zhang (PhD), & Ningning Wang (PhD).

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**Forsberg is Named Outstanding Teaching Assistant**

Dr. Ole Forsberg was named the Outstanding Teaching Assistant by the College of Arts and Sciences for 2013—2014. Ole received his M.A.T. in Secondary Education from Johns Hopkins University, a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Tennessee and recently completed his Ph.D. in Statistics at OSU. Thank you for a job well done, Ole! Ole will stay on with the department as a visiting assistant professor.

**Attending JSM in Boston this year?** Look for an announcement at the conference center regarding dinner plans for OSU alumni, friends, and faculty (past and present!).

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**Alumni Update**

**Lucas Shannon** (BS 2013) is now working at American Fidelity Assurance in OKC as an actuarial analyst.

**Jack Knorr** (MS 2011) completed his PhD at Baylor this spring and has taken a position as a research scientist with Eli Lilly in Indianapolis.

**Chip Litchfield** (BS 2008) completed his MS in Logistics and Supply Chain Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology. His thesis was recognized by AFIT for its academic excellence and was awarded the best logistics thesis. Captain Litchfield is currently at Scott Air Force Base in O’Fallon, Illinois.

**Tracy Morris** (PhD 2007) is an associate professor and vice-chair of the Department of Math and Statistics at University of Central Oklahoma. In April Tracy gave a presentation to the Oklahoma Chapter of the ASA about her research projects with students at UCO.

**Anthony Miller** (MS 1996) went to work as a Data Scientist for Devon Energy in OKC in March 2014. For the past 17 years he had been working at Acxiom.

**Tim Coburn** (PhD 1980) is now the Director of Master of Energy Business Program at the University of Tulsa.

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**Williams Selected for Endowed Chair**

D. Keith Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H. is the inaugural recipient of the Robert C. Walls Professorship in Biostatistics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Keith earned his Master of Science in Statistics at OSU in 1990, and since then has earned his Ph.D. in biostatistics and an M.P.H. Keith collaborates with many researchers in health sciences and has won numerous teaching awards for his dedication to students.


We love hearing from our alumni!

Send your personal or professional updates to us at statistics@okstate.edu.

If you can help us locate other OSU Statistics alumni, we would appreciate it.
 Donate to the Department

Friends and Alumni who wish to make a financial gift to the Department of Statistics at OSU should go online to http://www.osugiving.com/statistics. Donors can choose from the following fund accounts:

Statistics Department Fund # 22-4350
The Statistics Department Fund supports guest speaker activities.

P. Larry Claypool Undergraduate Statistics Scholarship # 22-5290
The P. Larry Claypool Undergraduate Statistics Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate student.

Carl Marshall Award # 22-4110
The Carl Marshall Award is presented to the outstanding Ph.D. graduate.

Robert D. Morrison Award # 22-8050
The Robert D. Morrison Award is presented to the outstanding M.S. graduate.

David L. Weeks Award # 22-3210
The David L. Weeks Award honors an outstanding statistics graduate student in Experimental Design.

Retirement Gift Fund # 22-4490
The Retirement Gift Fund provides gifts for statistics faculty upon retirement.

J. Leroy Folks Award # 22-5680
The J. Leroy Folks Award honors distinguished alumni of OSU Department of Statistics.

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