

# Statistics News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2002

## Hello and Welcome to the Statistics News

Welcome to the first annual Division of Statistics newsletter! We plan to make the newsletter a yearly event to help alumni and friends learn about happenings in the division, and keep in touch with each other. In this first newsletter we have many news items to report, and updates from many alumni to share. If you have not contacted us yet about your latest professional and personal information, please do so and we can share it in the next newsletter.

## In Memoriam - Remembering our Colleagues

### Division Director

#### Al Manson

Allison Ray Manson was a member of the ASA, and several other statistical and chemical professional societies. He passed away on January 11, 2002 after a yearlong battle with cancer. He was a respected teacher, consultant, and leader, having served recently as president of the Snake River Chapter of the ASA.

Al Manson received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and in 1965, he earned his Ph.D. in Statistics from VPI where he graduated first in his class. He was a faculty member in the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University from 1966 until 1988, when we left academia to pursue consulting fulltime. His consulting interests included environmental statistics and sales/ratio studies. In 1997, Manson joined the faculty at the University of Idaho as professor and director of the Division of Statistics.

At the University of Idaho,

Manson worked hard to build the statistics program. He had great plans for statistics at the University of Idaho, and had made progress in many areas toward achieving his goals for the division. Among his many initiatives was the development of a course on SAS programming and statistical analysis. He is greatly missed.

#### Business and Statistics Professor Randy Byers

C. Randall "Randy" Byers died Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Boone and Crockett Ranch near Great Falls, Montana, of a heart attack. He was 56 years old.

A fourth-generation Idahoan, Randy graduated in 1968 from the UI College of Business and was named as an outstanding graduating senior. Randy went on to complete his master's degree from the University of Wyoming and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Professor Byers joined the UI business faculty in 1973 and served as department chairman for 18 years. He had been honored with nu-

merous teaching and advising awards. Most recently he returned to the classroom full time, where he continued his love for teaching which spanned almost 30 years at the UI College of Business and Economics. Because he was well-known and admired by so many of his students and advisees, the first floor level in the new J. A. Albertson's Building was recently named in his honor.

Randy served as the division's first director when it separated from the Department of Mathematics in 1996. He was instrumental in the implementation and organization of the division. Later on, despite his many duties, Randy continued his active involvement with the division as an affiliate faculty member.

#### Alumna

#### Sheri Michener

Sheri Lynn Michener, age 52, died March 10, 2002 at her home in Belton, Missouri.

Sheri attended the University of Idaho, graduating

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UI Reorganization	2
MSAC to SAC	2
Division Picnic	2
Brink Elevator	2
New Degree Options	2
Division Library	2
Manson Memorial	2
Faculty & Staff News	2
Alumni News	3

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADUATES

- Ann Abbott - Spring 2002
- Carl Brenner - Summer 2002
- Song Chen - Summer 2001
- Tae-Ho Hong - Fall 2002
- Lin Lu - Summer 2000
- Junjia Zhu - Summer 2002
- Meng Xu - Fall 2001
- Yaomin Xu - Spring 2002
- Jianying Zhang - Spring 2002



continued on page 2

## In Memoriam from page 1

with a B.S. in Microbiology in 1969 and an M.S. in Statistics in 1986. Her major professor was Dale Everson.

Sheri had worked as a biometrician for Pfizer Pharmaceutical Animal Health Division since 1990. As part of this job, she traveled to several foreign countries including Greece, England, Brazil, and Australia. Previous to joining Pfizer, she worked as a consultant and statistician for other companies in the animal health field.

## University Reorganization

The College of Letters and Science at the University of Idaho and two other colleges have been reformed into two new colleges. The Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, and Physics units from Letters and Science were joined with Geography and Geology from the College of Mines and Earth Sciences to form the new College of Science. The other units from the College of Letters and Science joined units from the College of Art and Architecture to form the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences. The first dean of the new College of Science is Earl Bennett, former Dean of the College of Mines and Earth Sciences. He will serve as Dean for the 2002-2003 academic year.

## MSAC to SAC

With the development of the Polya Math Center, the Department of Mathematics no longer shares the tutoring facility formerly known as MSAC (Mathematics and Statistics Assistance Center) with us. We now have the SAC tutoring center located in the new Commons Building in Room 346.

## Faculty and Staff News

**Dale Everson**, professor emeritus and former director, is still active in university activities when he is not traveling around the country visiting family or sightseeing. Dale helped the division immensely last year by teaching four courses during Ken Newman's sabbatical.

We welcome **Dean Johnson** to our faculty this year. Dean is serving as a visiting assistant professor this year after recently receiving his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from WSU.

**Tim Johnson** joined the faculty in Fall 2000 as an assistant professor. He and his wife, Kristine Kuhn, a professor at WSU, are the proud parents of Milena

## Division Picnic

The first annual Division Picnic was held on September 17, 2002. Many graduate students attended and enjoyed our September weather with faculty, staff, and guests. The most notable foods at the potluck were a pair of dishes provided by graduate student Elhadji Sidi who brought cous-cous and Nigerian style chicken. Our picnic was surprisingly free of yellow jacket visitors, which have become very common at fall picnics.

## Brink Elevator

Some of you may have endured with us the remodeling of Brink and Phinney Halls. The dust has settled and we don't expect to suffer any more relocations. There are now sprinkler systems throughout both buildings and a third stairway coming up to the fourth floor. Best of all, for two years now, we have had an elevator in Brink Hall, which makes it much easier to bring in computers and boxes of books from the basement level of the building.

Adele, born on September 14, 2002.

**Stephen Lee** was awarded a grant from the Jaynes Foundation to offer a special topics course in Bayesian Statistics for Fall 2002

**Ken Newman** just returned from a yearlong sabbatical at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, with exciting new research results.

**Barbara Olsen** has been the administrative assistant for the division for nearly three years. Her husband, Patrick Olsen, is in the graduate program and an instructor in the Department of Geography. Their son, Griffin, turned one year old on December 17, and now

## New Degree Options

The faculty voted last spring to create multiple options for the Master's degree in Statistics: thesis-based; internship-based; or non-thesis research-based. The third option involves hands-on experience with statistical consulting. The much-dreaded Qualifying Exam will now only be required for the non-thesis based degree options.

## Division Reference Library

The division collection of reference books received very generous gifts from the estates of Al Manson and Sheri Michener. The much expanded set of division books now is available for checkout by Statistics faculty and students.

## Manson Memorial Fund

The division has begun soliciting donations for a memorial to former Director Al Manson. Depending upon the amount raised, the memorial will range from an object on campus (a tree or bench), up to an endowed faculty position. For information, please contact Chris Williams at [chrisw@uidaho.edu](mailto:chrisw@uidaho.edu).

holds the record as the youngest person to work in the division office.

**Rene Finney** did a superb job of serving as division administrative assistant during Barbara's maternity leave.

**Kirk Steinhorst** received an Idaho State Board of Education grant last spring to develop a web-supported Stat 251 course.

**Chris Williams** is serving as interim director, following the untimely death of Al Manson in January 2002.

**Chris Williams** was promoted to professor in July 2002.

continued on page 3

## Faculty and Staff News cont. from page 2

The Division of Statistics hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Bayesian Inference and Maximum Entropy Methods in Science and Engineering in August 2002. **Chris Williams** was the local organizer for the meeting, which attracted researchers from Europe, South America, New Zealand, and throughout the U.S.

**Chris Williams** will teach a special topics course in Spring 2003 on Data Mining that is made possible from a software grant that past Director **Al Manson** obtained from the SAS Institute

## Alumni News

**Peter L. Bonate** is Director of Pharmacokinetics at ILEX Oncology, Inc. in San Antonio, Texas.

**Carl Brenner** is the newest market statistician at Coldwater Creek in Sandpoint. He started in September. Carl is assisting in general modeling needs and working on store location decision modeling and mapping.

Carl and his family just moved back to Idaho from Virginia and have a new son, Baden Everett, who was born November 22.

**Hailong Cheng** is a senior clinical biostatistician for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass.

**Jeff Hovermill** is completing his doctoral degree in Instruction and Curriculum in Mathematics Education from the University of Colorado-Boulder and plans to graduate in Summer 2003. His dissertation involves facilitating and researching the professional development of high school mathematics teachers as they learn to integrate Fathom, a dynamic statistics education technology, into their curriculum and instruction. He also serves as Professional Development Coordinator for MathStar New Mexico, a Department of Education project implemented through New Mexico State University, and provides professional development support to approximately 100 New Mexico mathematics teachers across the state. He is engaged to marry Abby Hulser in July 2003.

**Anne (Shih) Jacobson** will be working for Kaiser Permanente as a senior data

## Alumni News cont. from column 1

analyst consultant starting December 2002. Currently, she's finishing a consulting project for PMI Group on a mortgage underwriting risk model for their Australia subsidiary. She got married last year in Hawaii. Her husband is a senior compliance analyst for a brokerage firm. They live in the San Francisco Bay area with two dogs, two cats, and two cockatiels.

**Linette Fox Lanclos** is working in the pharmaceutical industry, primarily in clinical trials. However, statisticians in the pharmaceutical industry are exposed to a variety of statistical problems aside from experimental design and analysis, as they work on statistical problems that are passed to them from basic scientists, pre-clinical folks, and marketing teams. She has worked on osteoporosis, weight-loss, central nervous system, rheumatoid arthritis and antiviral drugs. Most recently, her work has focused on antivirals.

On the personal front, Linette recently married a longtime friend and former University of Idaho work colleague. They currently reside in the Washington, D.C. metro area, but may be moving back West as her husband's work seems to be leading in that direction.

**Lin Lu** is a Ph.D. student in Statistics at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

**Salman Sabir** was at UI from 1991 to 1994 and obtained two master's degrees, one in Statistics with Dr. Brian Dennis, and another in Forest Resources with Dr. Charles T. Stiff.

Upon his return to Pakistan, he continued working for the government for five years and then joined The Aga Khan University in November 1998 as a senior research officer. He now has a faculty position as a senior instructor in the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Department of Community Health Sciences. He has been course director for the Fundamentals of Biostatistics course, both at undergrad (MBBS) and at graduate levels. He is also course director for a semiannual short course on Statistics, Data Analysis and Computer Skills. Salman also provides consulting on campus and off campus, and is involved in many large and small studies as a Biostatistics expert.

Salman is married to Asiya and they have a son, Mohammad Huzafa Salman, who is five years old.

**Cindy Spiker** graduated in 1995. She currently lives in Des Moines, Iowa, where she works as a database marketing manager for Meredith Corporation. Meredith Corporation publishes Better Homes and Gardens, Ladies' Home Journal, Country Home, Midwest Living and several other popular home and family magazines. Meredith also owns various television stations around the country including stations in Phoenix, Las Vegas, Portland, Kansas City, Nashville and Atlanta. Cindy works on the magazine side of the business, mining their consumer database to sell subscriptions to customers. Cindy enjoys being involved in both the statistical side of the business, as well as the marketing side.

She also teaches an evening business statistics class at Drake University in Des Moines, and enjoys playing golf and volleyball and working on projects around her home.

**Greg Stenback** graduated from UI in 1987 with an M.S. in Applied Statistics under Kirk Steinhorst.

After working as a statistician for five years with Shell Development Company in Houston, Texas, Greg's family was tired of Houston. So, although he loved working for Shell, Greg and his wife, Jana, decided to go back to the academic environment. He graduated in 1996 with a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University with a thesis topic "Application of Geostatistics to Expedited Site Characterization." Greg currently works at Iowa State as an associate scientist doing work on characterization and remediation of hazardous waste sites. Jana, who graduated with a Chemistry degree from UI, is working as an ecology laboratory manager at Iowa State.

Their oldest son, Eric, is currently attending the University of Idaho. Both, he and their second child, who will graduate from Ames High in 2003, were born in Moscow. The Stenbacks also have a daughter who was born in Katy, Texas, and is now in the sixth grade.

**Gene Gi-Gong Tzou** is living in Seoul, Korea.

**Norm Varin** is working for Regence BlueShield of Idaho as an actuary, in

continued on page 4



ARX021

*Happy Holidays!*



Visit us on the web!  
[www.uidaho.edu/LS/Stat](http://www.uidaho.edu/LS/Stat)



### Alumni News cont. from page 3

various positions of responsibility since 1991. He and his family recently moved to Meridian from Moscow where they had lived since they graduated from the University of Idaho (undergraduate in 1989).

Norm is married to Tracy (maiden name Steed) who is also a graduate of the University of Idaho. They have two daughters, Kendall age 6 and Kelsey age 4.

**Kate Wharton** is living in Seattle with her husband, Greg, who is working as an architect and real estate developer. She is mainly at home taking care of their two children, Meredith, 8 and Jack, 5, but also has been working part-time as an instructor at Seattle Central Community College, teaching courses in business math and statistics. She has been tempted to get a "CORRELATION DOES NOT IMPLY CAUSA-

TION" tattoo, but settled for a button for her lab coat: "Lottery: A Tax on People who can't do Math!"

**Meng Xu** is a biostatistician in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. She works directly and independently with clinical scientists from various medical specialties. Meng is working on numerous studies simultaneously, providing expertise and support in all phases of statistical science, from designing studies to publishing the results.

**Li Zeng** is with the research department at Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., located in Johnston, Iowa, which is now part of Dupont. She is a senior research associate with primary responsibility to conduct QTL mapping in assisting corn breeding.

Li's husband, Chaoqun Yao, works in the Medical Research Center at the University of Iowa as a research

scientist. Lucy, their 13-year-old daughter, started high school this fall. Chris, their 16-month-old son, walks and talks more than 10 single words.

**Jianying Zhang** is a first-year Ph.D. student and half-time teaching assistant in the Statistics Department at Purdue University.

**Lifen Zhou** is a senior biostatistician for Amgen Biostat. She is working on clinical trials for rheumatoid arthritis and really enjoys her job. Lifen's husband is a control engineer and works for a small company. They recently bought a beautiful home in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Their daughter, a senior in high school, and their son, a second-grader, are both doing great.

**Junjia Zhu** is a Ph.D. student in Statistics at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

