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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

*Bob Smidt*

Hello again. This was a busy year for us, starting off with work on a five-year self-study and finishing with a budget crisis that has led to faculty furloughs for the 2009-2010 academic year. But, most importantly, we graduated 22 students with a Bachelor's degree in Statistics—our largest graduating class ever. For you not-so-recent grads, students now present the results of their senior projects to faculty and other students; these showed that this year's seniors completed a wide variety of interesting projects.

The recent graduates will be fine representatives of Cal Poly and the Statistics program.

The face of the Statistics Department has changed because of the excellent faculty we have added over the last few years; next year the changes will be because of subtractions.

The Statistics Department's first chair and one of the driving forces behind the department's creation is finally going to call it a day. **Jim Daly** will be teaching under the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) one last time during fall quarter, 2009. Jim has enjoyed his semi-retirement and planned to stop teaching after the 2008-2009 academic year. But when two of our faculty members, **Andrew Schaffner** and **Ulric Lund**, received well-deserved sabbaticals that included fall quarter, we did not have enough faculty to teach needed classes. When I asked FERP's who were not teaching in the fall to consider doing so, Jim changed his retirement plans and stepped forward. Both on a professional and personal level, I will sorely miss Jim when he finally totters off into retirement. (He has written a bit of history about the department that you can enjoy later in this newsletter.)

Another notable retirement is that of **Roxy Peck**; she plans to retire in December. While she has served as associate dean for the College of Science and Mathematics since the mid 1990s and only taught an occasional statistics course, she was an important member of the department before her "promotion" to associate dean (I put promotion in quotes because how good can it be to go from teaching Statistics to becoming primarily a paper-pusher—oops, I think that happened to me, too). Anyway, she succeeded Jim Daly as department chair and did a great job of advancing the department during her tenure. She is also an innovative instructor, a textbook author, and

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## Robert Smidt Greetings (*Cont.*)

continues to work in statistical education. I hope she will think about FERPing in the future.

I have long claimed that we have one of the finest (I actually claim it is THE finest) faculty group at Cal Poly. As evidence of this, one of our faculty members, **Allan Rossman**, has been selected to receive a very prestigious award. The Mathematical Association of America voted to honor him with the *Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics*. The prize, given annually to only three faculty across the nation, will be presented at the Joint Prize Session to be held in San Francisco in January 2010. At the prize session dinner, Allan will give a 20-25 minute talk about teaching. Allan is an innovative, excellent professor and well-deserving of this honor. Another of our faculty members, **Heather Smith**, was named a *Distinguished Lecturer*, a notable University award. Heather, besides the usual lecturing assignment, team-teaches our capstone class (which she helped develop) and teaches survey sampling; she does a great job in all. She is active professionally, directing students in undergraduate research projects, consulting on faculty research, and guiding many students on senior projects (last year, she advised more senior projects than any other of our faculty).

While not everyone had life-changing events, most faculty members have had interesting years. **Kent Smith** completed his first year as a FERP and seems to be enjoying his life as a sage. **Jimmy Doi** received tenure and promotion to associate professor; not that there was a doubt—Jimmy is doing outstanding work. **Soma Roy** successfully completed her first year with us, after a last-minute trip to India in the fall to straighten out some visa (or was it master card?) problems. **Lina Ignatova** and **Sam Frame** completed their second tenure-track years and were deservedly reappointed for two more years. **Karen McGaughey** returned from her stay at AMD in the Bay Area and smoothly transitioned back into life as a university professor. **John Walker**, **Soma Roy**, **Beth Chance**, **Allan Rossman**, and **Roxy Peck** attended the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) this summer. **Matt Carlton**, **Beth Chance**, **Roxy Peck**, **Allan Rossman**, **Mary Mortlock** (a former lecturer who remains a friend to the department), and I traveled to Louisville in June to help grade the Advanced Placement Statistics exam. **Allan Rossman** served as the “Chief Reader Designate,” and will be the Chief Reader (the field general) for the exam over the next three years. Over the last two summers **Sam Frame**, **Matt Carlton**, and **Andrew Schaffner** (twice) attended workshops in Berkeley on computing in the statistical curriculum; their experiences should improve what and how our students learn computing. **Beth Chance** led our assessment efforts and became co-chair (with **Roxy Peck**) of the college’s assessment committee. Beth also designed and has started to teach one of our classes in a hybrid form (described later). As mentioned earlier, **Ulric Lund** and **Andrew Schaffner** received sabbaticals and will spend some of their time outside the classroom working on a text (Andrew) and research (Ulric); it should be a fruitful year for both. **Jeff Sklar** designed a new course, STAT 417 *Introduction to Survival Analysis Methods*, which he will teach for the first time in the winter quarter, 2010. **Jay Devore** taught as a FERP during winter quarter. **Steve Rein** continued to wear multiple hats, teaching a variety of courses, serving on the Academic Senate, as our technology committee chair, and a final year as the editor of this newsletter (**Lina Ignatova** is taking over as editor). And our fine group of lecturers, **Becky Ottesen**, **Nina Schleicher**, **Olga Dekhtyar**, **Len Deaton**, **Les Pennelly**, and **Gary Hughes** all did a fine job in the classroom.

(Continued on page 3)

### Robert Smidt Greetings (*Cont.*)

Saving the most important for last, **Carol Morris** has returned from an extended fight against cancer. She had some very tough times, but has returned as perky as ever (I hate perky). Other than having naturally curly hair for the first time in her life, she seems to be back into the swing of things and doing well. The department appreciated the wonderful job that **Jennifer Lemke** did during Carol's absence.

We are going through a two-year program review. Last year was the "self-study" portion of the process. We are supposed to look at what we have been doing and assess how successful we have been in reaching our goals for the students. (I just summarized a long, turgid set of instructions into one sentence.) Because the departments at Cal Poly are so different, sometimes the instructions for the self-study don't apply well to us and led to some silliness, but the major thrust of evaluating how well we are doing is worthwhile. During the fall quarter, we will be visited by three program reviewers: Brian Jersky (Dean, School of Science, St. Mary's College of California), Jessica Utts (Professor, Statistics Dept., UC Irvine, and statistics text author), and Louise Berner (Professor, Food Science and Nutrition Dept., Cal Poly). They will examine the self-study, interview faculty, staff, and students, and, generally, assess the effectiveness of our program (again, I am simplifying). They will then produce a report that will provide guidance for the future. It should be an interesting process.

As I am sure you realize, we are going to be taking furloughs this academic year. While there are a few vagaries about how these furloughs will be implemented, it looks like each faculty member will need to take six furlough days during each quarter. The impact these will have on students will depend on how each faculty member chooses the days on which he or she is forbidden to work, but we hope to minimize the negative effects. This is being done to meet the needs of students that have already been admitted to Cal Poly and the CSU. But next year, there are plans for fewer students to be attending Cal Poly and the rest of the CSU. Theoretically, if this plan is successful, there will be fewer classes and no need for furloughs. We'll see. It will be unpleasant for the students who otherwise would have been admitted to Cal Poly and for the lecturers who will have fewer or no classes to teach.

Thanks to all of you who have supported the department financially this last year—your names appear later in this missive. Although we can't use those funds to pay for classes, we do use that money in ways that benefit students and faculty. It helps us to keep the department running as a cohesive whole, where the students are able to recognize that we are very much interested in their success.

One last thing. In one of the few romantic comedies I ever enjoyed, *The American President*, Michael Douglas talks about a gun-control bill, saying that he will go door-to-door to "get the guns." In the last few Musings, we have asked you to send us an update about what has been going on with you. While some have sent blurbs about their lives, some of you have been rather reticent to do so. Okay, here is your warning—you need to send us an update about how you are and what you have been doing. Otherwise, a crotchety old department chair will be going door-to-door to "get the updates." You have been warned!

Have a great year—keep (or get) in touch with us and let us know how you are doing!

Bob Smidt, Dept Chair

# A HISTORY OF THE STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AND THE STATISTICS MAJOR

By Jim Daly



Jim Daly & Bob Smidt

Statistics as a major did not exist at Cal Poly until the early 1970's. Until 1969 all the faculty that taught statistics courses were members of the Mathematics Department, and the closest thing to a B.S. degree in Statistics was a B.S. in Mathematics with a Statistics Option. In 1969 the university (at that time a college) decided that the Mathematics Department had too many faculty members. The department included, in addition to all the mathematics faculty, faculty teaching computer science courses, statistics courses, and philosophy courses. During this year the faculty of the last three disciplines created the Computer Science and Statistics Department, where philosophy was considered a section within the new department. Within one year the philosophy faculty were given their own department, and Computer Science and Statistics functioned as a joint department for the next 14 years (1970—1984). Leon Maksoudian, John Groves, Bob Butler, and Gary Fuller were members of the Mathematics Department teaching primarily statistics courses. These individuals transferred across to the new department, while Sing Chou Wu, John Rogers and I were hired in the first four years of the new department. Bob Butler and Gary Fuller retired in the early years of the new department, but all of the other individuals continued to teach statistics at Cal Poly for at least the next twenty years.

A Bachelors degree in Statistics wasn't created immediately, but first showed up in the 1973-1975 Catalog. The first three graduates with a B.S. in Statistics (Pam Miley, Ken Ristow, and Ken Gerald) completed their degrees in the Spring and Summer of 1973. There was only one graduate in 1974, but there were six graduates in 1975, and the major was off and running.

The department and faculty offices were located in the courtyards just off the second floor of the Computer Science Building (Building 14, now known as the Frank E. Pilling Computer Science Building). Leon Maksoudian served as chair of the joint department in 1972 and 1973, but otherwise the chair was always a member of the computer science faculty (they had more people and more machines). Dan Stubbs, the chair of the department in the mid-1970's, created a position of Statistics Coordinator within the joint department, and let the statistics faculty make most decisions affecting its major, the hiring of new statistics faculty, and the developing of new statistics courses. I was lucky (?) enough to serve in this position until the Statistics Department was created. In the period from 1977 through 1981, four tenure-track faculty were hired-Jay Devore, Bob Smidt, Roxy Peck, and Kent Smith. All of these individuals remained full-time at Cal Poly until Jay Devore retired in 2006.

In a reorganization of Cal Poly in 1984, the campus administrators decided that the computer science faculty and major belonged in the College of Engineering, and not in the College of Science and Mathematics, where the Computer Science and Statistics Department then resided. Because the statistics faculty taught service courses in statistics to departments in all of the other colleges, it made very little sense to have the statistics faculty and the major go to the College of Engineering. The university considered two possibilities with respect to the statistics faculty and the statistics major: putting the faculty and major back in the Mathematics Department, or creating a new Statistics Department. We are forever grateful that they made the correct choice.

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## STATISTICS DEPT. HISTORY *(Cont.)*

The new department had its first office in 14-240. I was elected as the first chair of the Statistics Department, and Patricia Fleischauer was our first office manager. Most faculty continued to have their offices in the courtyard off the second floor.

In the late 1980's, the Statistics Department office and the offices of statistics faculty were relocated to building 47 (formerly Faculty Offices Building, now Faculty Offices North). We were located on the second floor directly across from what was then the Cal Poly Fire Station (now part of the Cal Poly Police Station). The faculty knew that any student who showed up at office hours was very dedicated, since people easily got lost in this maze that was called an office building. The department stayed in this location for about four years (until the early 1990's). In 1990 Roxy Peck took over as chair of the department. During her six years as chair, the department moved into its current location (first floor, north side, of Faculty Offices East), and hired our first full-time faculty member in more than a dozen years, Rick Rossi. Unfortunately, the lure of the great trout streams in western Montana beckoned, and he only stayed with us a few years. We also got a new office manager, Maria Burton. Leon Maksudian retired during this time (1994), but continued to teach part-time through the Faculty Early Retirement Program.

The move into the new Faculty Offices East (the department's current location) had a number of benefits for the department faculty and majors. The department now has its own conference room and a study/work area for the students. Due to the great generosity of one of our alums, Mark Newland, we were able to make this area into the Newland Family Statistical Laboratory. Since the creation of this Laboratory, the statistics majors (especially juniors and seniors), have spent numerous hours working on the lab computers, discussing and completing class assignments, and even socializing.

Bob Smidt served as chair from 1996 to 1998. Andrew Schaffner, a graduate of Cal Poly with a B.S. in Mathematics who then earned his Ph.D. in Statistics from the the University of Washington, joined our department in 1997. Andrew was the first of thirteen new tenure-track individuals to join the department in the next dozen years. Heather Smith, an outstanding lecturer in the statistics program, also joined our department during this time.

Jay Devore took over as chair in the fall of 1998, and would serve as chair until the fall of 2006. Carol Erickson also started at this time as our department manager, and served in this position for nearly the entire time Jay was the chair. The "old guard" was starting to retire, with Sing Chou Wu, John Rogers, and John Groves retiring in the next three years, but the loss was definitely made up by hiring six new faculty in that same period—Steve Rein, Matt Carlton, Beth Chance, Ulric Lund, Allan Rossman and John Walker. Jimmy Doi, Karen McGaughey (both in 2003) and Jeff Sklar (2005) were also hired while Jay Devore was chair of the Department. Becky Ottesen, a graduate of Cal Poly with a B.S. in Statistics, also returned to teach part-time for us after receiving her M.S. from U.S.C. in Biostatistics.

We started to lose more of the old guard in the last four years as I retired in fall of 2005, Jay Devore in the fall of 2006, and Kent Smith in the fall of 2008. The three of us do continue to teach part-time by participating in the FERP (Faculty Early Retirement Program). With Jay

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## STATISTICS DEPT. HISTORY *(Cont.)*

Devore retiring in fall of 2006, Bob Smidt took over again as chair. Carol Morris, our current administrative coordinator, started shortly before Bob took over as chair. Since he became chair, three more faculty members were hired—Samuel Frame, Lina Ignatova (both in 2007) and Soma Roy (2008). Samuel is another graduate of our B.S. program, who then earned his Ph.D. in Statistics at University of California at Santa Barbara.

This brings us to the present where the department has fourteen tenure track individuals, (and Roxy Peck as Associate Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics), three individuals on the FERP program, and a number of lecturers.

The department has employed many outstanding lecturers over the years, but for lack of space, I only mentioned two of them above—Heather Smith and Rebecca Ottesen. Most of the lecturers in the Statistics Department teach only service courses in statistics. That is, they teach statistics courses required by majors other than statistics. However, Heather Smith and Rebecca Ottesen regularly teach a number of upper division courses to our majors, and have had large impact on the statistics program.

\*

## JOYCE CURRY-DALY SCHOLARSHIP Statistics Department Scholarship

By Jim Daly



The Joyce Curry-Daly Scholarship is named in recognition of Joyce Curry-Daly, a graduate of the Cal Poly Mathematics Department and a lecturer in statistics at Cal Poly from 1970 until her death in September of 1997. During her time at Cal Poly, she was very active as the supervisor of department tutors, and worked for many years with the SMART program, a School of Science and Mathematics program intended to encourage underprivileged students to develop a strong interest in mathematics and the sciences in junior high with the goal that they will have the interest and knowledge to pursue these subjects at the college level.

The scholarship fund, started shortly after her death with the idea of supporting her strong commitment to education, is an endowment with approximately 3% to 4% of it being used each year to support the academic pursuits of worthy statistics majors. At the present time 2-3 majors are selected each year to receive a proportion of the allocated amount. As new contributions increase the size of the scholarship fund, we hope to increase the number of students who receive financial support from this fund.

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## REPORT ON COLLEGE BASED FEES

By Heather Smith

College-Based Fee (CBF) funds continue to enhance statistics majors' educational experiences at Cal Poly. During the 2008/2009 academic year and in the summer of 2009 some of the items funded with these fees were:

### STAT LAB Improvements

Seven new computers were purchased and installed for use by our statistics majors.

A desk copy of each of the textbooks used in the upper division statistics classes were purchased and made available in the Stat Lab.

### Student Support

During the fall of 2008 nine students attended the Western users of SAS (WUSS) conference in southern California. Some of their registration and travel expenses were paid for by CBF.

Seventeen students prepared for and took the SAS certification exam. CBF paid for their exam fees.

Students' memberships in ASA were funded.

### Summer Research Projects

This summer six students and I worked on two research projects, both of which helped meet the research needs of the greater Cal Poly community. CBF partially funded this work.

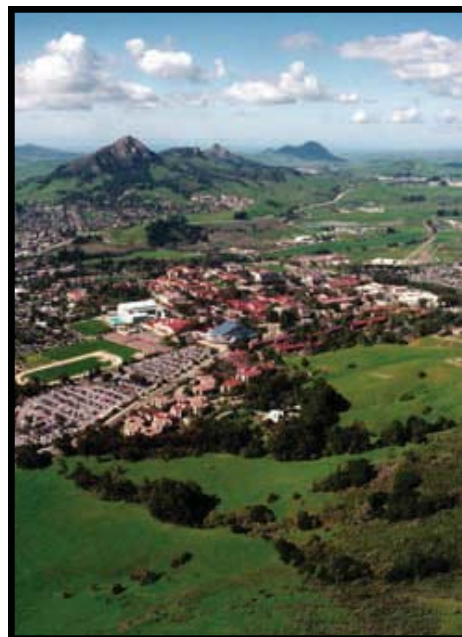
### Course Offerings

In Fall 2008 STAT 150 was team taught by Professors Doi and Rossman. In Spring 2009 STAT 465 was team taught by Professors Lund and Smith. Funding for team teaching was provided by CBF.

### Additional items partially funded by CBF

*The Statistics Department Speakers' Series* continued this year. Six speakers came to give talks to our department.

In the summer of 2008 seven faculty members participated in the *Joint Statistical Meetings* in Denver, Colorado. Also two faculty members attended the *Statistics Computing Workshop* in Berkeley, California.



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## FOCUS ON FACULTY

### Matt Carlton



I was fortunate enough to take a sabbatical for winter and spring quarters of 2009. That time was (mostly) spent developing a business statistics textbook with Prof. Devore. We're still slogging away at the book — finding interesting and relevant business examples is always a challenge — with the hope of providing a first draft to the publisher by early spring 2010.

The other major professional project on my plate is *Statistically Speaking*, a 32-segment video series being developed to replace the (in)famous *Against All Odds*. I'm in charge of statistical content development alongside Patti Collings (BYU) and former Cal Poly instructor Mary Mortlock. When finished, the videos will be available for high school and college teachers to use in the classroom; they may also be broadcast on PBS. The project started more than 3 years ago, but we're set to complete all videos by the end of the calendar year.

Outside the world of academics, I managed to sneak in a trip to Copper Canyon, Mexico back in April. Our trip started in a small mountain town at the northeast end of the canyon, wound down the canyon on a passenger train (the tracks are in very good condition, considering they were built in 1961), and ended in the resort town of El Fuerte. If you ever get a chance to tour the Copper Canyon, I recommend it.

### Jimmy Doi



This past year was my 6<sup>th</sup> year of employment at Cal Poly. It seems like only yesterday that I first came to the department to give my on-site interview. It's amazing how quickly the time has gone by.

2008-09 was a hectic one ... the academic year felt like an epic boxing match! Here are the quarter-by-quarter, or round-by-round, highlights ... (ding!):

**[Fall]** – I joined Dr. Rossman in my first team-teaching experience in Stat 150, which was a blast. I've only been accustomed to teaching classes on my own and, although this mode of instruction offers great freedom, it can also make the instructor prone to getting into ruts. I know for myself, for many statistics topics, I have grown used to teaching them a particular way and it was very refreshing to work with Dr. Rossman and to see how another instructor teaches. I think it was as much a learning experience for me as it was for the students. I am slated to teach Stat 150 again this upcoming fall and I look forward to applying what I've learned last year and making adjustments along the way.

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**Jimmy Doi—Cont.**

**[Winter]** – The other new teaching experience I enjoyed was our categorical data analysis class, Stat 418. My dissertation is related to this area and it was a great experience getting back into this familiar material. I am scheduled to teach the course once again this upcoming winter and I am planning to make many adjustments, especially in the form of using new data sets I've encountered, to make the class a better experience.

**[Spring]** – I taught no new classes this term, but I did teach for the first time a combined section of Stat 312 (70 students). One of my biggest concerns was that the double class size might inhibit interaction with the students, but overall things went surprisingly well. It was a successful experiment and I'd be willing to try it again. As a final note, at the end of the spring quarter, I was greeted with the news from the Provost and President that I had been awarded tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor (*yippee!*) ... what a way to end the year!

With respect to professional activities, I continue to work as statistical consultant on various research projects. One is with Dr. Louise Berner from the Food Science and Nutrition Department. I agreed to join Dr. Berner in a multi-year study of protein intakes in adults and to look at associations of protein intakes with anthropometric and physical functioning measures. The data source is the most-recently available National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). Dr. Berner wrote a grant to support this research and set aside a line item to hire a statistician. I have been serving in that role. One of the most gratifying aspects of this project is that we've been able to involve our own statistics students to work as SAS programmers on the analysis. In the first year, Gabe Becker laid the ground work in establishing some complicated SAS macros required to import and manipulate the NHANES data set. After Gabe graduated, Max Wise took over in the second year and continued to make adjustments to the code as our analysis scope broadened. Max graduated this past June, but continued to work on this project and his term ended this summer. For our third and final year of the project, statistics senior Brian Verbaken will complete the duties as programmer and I'm sure he will be up to any tasks we'll be needing.

**Lina Ignatova**

It has been two years since I moved to San Luis Obispo from Columbia, South Carolina after finishing my PhD in statistics at USC. I joined Cal Poly with great enthusiasm and joy. Soon after moving to SLO, I passed through some difficulties adapting to the numerous changes in my life. Now, I may say, my time at Cal Poly has been rewarding in many ways, and I am proud to be a part of our team.

I was really fortunate to arrive at a time when substantial changes of our curriculum were just taking place. As you know one of our primary departmental objectives is to offer introductory courses in statistics to students from many different majors. So, during my first year I had the chance to teach three intro level courses for almost all majors. This experience was enjoyable for me and I hope the material introduced was beneficial for many of my students. In addition, I had the opportunity to sit in the classes of some of my colleagues which was a great experience for me and an example of how to interact with students, keep their interest, and guide them through the learning process.

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## Focus on Faculty (Cont.)

### Lina Ignatova-Cont.

"Since June 2009, I am the new editor of this department newsletter, so alumnae please send us a brief description of any interesting and exciting activities/stories for inclusion in our newsletter."

*-Lina Ignatova*

During my second year I taught the probability class STAT 425. This was my first opportunity to interact with almost all of our strong senior students. I am looking forward to repeating this class during Fall of 2009.

With respect to other professional activities, I began collaborating with Professor Jay Singh from the Business department. For several months we have been working on a problem in packaging determining an optimal thickness for cushioning in a package that will keep the material enclosed safe during transportation - which will hopefully soon result in a publication.

The second project I am currently working on is with my collaborators from USC-Columbia. We are writing a paper on exact sequential and multistage inference.

Finally, since June 2009, I am the new editor of this department newsletter, so alumnae please send us a brief description of any interesting and exciting activities/stories for inclusion in our newsletter.

\*

### Ulric Lund



The highlight of the 2008/2009 academic year for me was teaching STAT 465 for the first time. Professors John Walker and Heather Smith developed the course several years ago, and have team-taught it from its inception until this past year. It is our capstone course, in which statistical consulting projects motivate the students to select from the many statistical methods they have learned about

during their tenure as statistics majors. The class also focuses on communication aspects of statistical consulting. To give students opportunities to develop their communication skills as statisticians, the class uses one-on-one consulting sessions with mock clients and small group consulting sessions, and students draft professional memos to report their statistical findings to the client. John was kind enough to step aside last year, and so I had the opportunity to team-teach the course with Heather. It was a very different kind of course for me to be teaching. This course was taught much more conversationally than I am used to. Rather than following my own structured lectures, class time was often driven by students' questions and curiosities. It was a great experience for me to try an alternative approach to teaching, and I look forward to teaming up with Heather again next spring to teach STAT 465 for the second time.

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**Interested in being a  
Statistics  
Colloquium guest  
speaker?**

**Contact Ulric Lund at**

**(805) 756-6122 or  
ulund@calpoly.edu**

## Focus on Faculty (Cont.)

### Ulric Lund—Cont.

For 2009/2010 I look forward to a quarter of sabbatical in the fall. I will be able to get some momentum going on a statistical research paper in my near and dear niche of circular statistics, and I will work on co-authoring a paper with a mosquito researcher in Florida.

\*

### Karen McGaughey



Having just completed my 4<sup>th</sup> year at Cal Poly and my first since my leave of absence with industry, I couldn't be happier with my decision to return. Being back in the classroom full-time has been challenging and rewarding. Having seen how statistics is used in industry, and the lack of understanding by many of the scientists who employ statistical methods on a daily basis has motivated me to reconsider how I teach, what's important, and the level of effort I expect from my students. I enjoyed teaching the intro courses STAT 251 and STAT 217 this year, and had a great time putting the Stat majors through their paces again in STAT 423.

With regards to my professional activities, I have had several irons in the fire this year. I partnered with colleagues in Engineering and IT on several grant applications. I have continued work with colleagues at AMD, Inc. on several projects, including an iterative outlier screening method for reliability data. In addition, I worked as the statistical consultant in the Winter and again in the Summer quarter. This position has been loads of fun. I thoroughly enjoy working with researchers (faculty and students) on their problems. The best part is that every day there is a new problem, in many disciplines which very often require nonstandard methods. The following quote (attributed to Yogi Berra, Albert Einstein, and Jan L. A. van de Snep-scheut) sums up the art and practice of statistical consulting quite well. "In theory there is no difference between practice and theory. In practice there is."

On a personal note, I am the proud owner (with a colleague) of a new house in Arroyo Grande. I love living only a few miles from the coast and I've taken every opportunity to hit the beach for a run or a sunset. I haven't taken up surfing yet, but it's definitely on my list.

\*



***"I couldn't be happier with my decision to return. Being back in the classroom full-time has been challenging and rewarding."***

***Karen McGaughey***

## Focus on Faculty (*Cont.*)



Steve Rein

### Steve Rein

With four kids (now aged 14, 12, 9 and 7) I am finding life pretty busy these days. Highlights of the past year include camping trips to Big Basin, Santa Cruz and Big Sur, seeing performances of *Les Miserables* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the family as well as teaching three kids to ski over winter break (along with trying to teach the other one to snowboard).

During the last year I also had the honor of serving as the Vice-Chair of the Academic Senate at Cal Poly. I've also started requiring students in Stat 252 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter for business students, mostly ANOVA, regression and multiple regression) to do a class project where they collect and analyze datasets with multiple regression. In the next year I'm looking forward to finally teaching Stat 324, the regression class, and I intend to incorporate the use of the R statistical package into the course.



Soma Roy

### Soma Roy

I cannot believe it's close to a year that I have been here. It seems like only yesterday that I moved to San Luis Obispo, and started at my first real job. After the initial hiccup of having to fly back home to India right before Fall 2008 classes started, to get my immigration papers in order, things have been, fortunately, less exciting. In the past months I have had the opportunity to teach various classes, and this has helped me figure out, to some extent, what techniques work and what don't work when it comes to understanding and learning Statistics. The support that I have received from the faculty and staff members of the department, and the dean's office has been invaluable, and has made me feel very much at home.

I have had the opportunity to meet some of our wonderful students through the Stat Club; a great student-run organization that believes in helping the community and having fun while doing it. I am very glad to be a co-advisor, along with Dr. Jeff Sklar, for Stat Club, and hope to see it plan many more great events in the coming year. One of the social events the Stat Club organizes is the "Shack Night" – a sometimes quarterly and sometimes fortnightly gathering of faculty and students at the *Shack* – a burger joint on Foothill Avenue. This is a fun opportunity for both students and faculty to get to know each other in a non-school environment. I was also thoroughly impressed with the work the students put in for raising funds for Relay for Life.

It has been a busy year with brand new challenges and brand new responsibilities, but I would not have it any other way.



## Focus on Faculty (Cont.)

### Andrew Schaffner

This coming year is very exciting for me: I'll be on sabbatical for two quarters to work on a textbook! Some of you know that one of my favorite non-major courses to teach has been STAT 218: Statistics for Life Sciences. I've taught this course for nearly 12 years and continue to have a great time weaving my personal interests and consulting experience into the course. Now I'm going to try to wrap this up in a book...well, a revision to a book. I'll be joining Oberlin professor Jeff Witmer as a co-author to revise *Statistics for Life Sciences*. I'm looking forward to trying my hand at something new (authorship) and (selfishly) having some time away while the university struggles with the California economy and faculty furloughs.



Andrew Schaffner

### Jeff Sklar

Hi there! Well another year has passed by, and a new one is coming up. Last year was busy as I spent most of it serving as the statistical consultant, but it was also very rewarding because I had the opportunity to work with several faculty members and students from a variety of disciplines. This coming year, my fifth (how time flies!), I am looking forward to teaching a brand new course in the department, STAT 417 Introduction to Survival Analysis Methods. This course has been in the works since its inception as a five-week experimental course offered in Winter 2007. I'm really excited that it now has a permanent place in the statistics curriculum. I've also been putting the finishing touches on a couple introductory chapters on survival analysis methods to be included in a book for a second course in statistics. The book should be out sometime in late 2010. Finally, I'll also continue co-advising the Statistics Club with Dr. Roy, a new faculty member in the department. One of the favorite activities of the Club is to meet at the Shack with faculty to have dinner and mingle.

Some big changes have occurred in the past year, and some bigger ones are in the works for the new year ahead. Maria (my wife and an advisor in the College of Engineering) and I have moved from downtown San Luis Obispo to Shell Beach. It's much more quiet and peaceful, and we enjoy taking strolls to the beach, but I'll admit that I miss the excitement of downtown SLO, and being able to easily walk to the restaurants and shops. The other big news is that we are expecting our first child in January, 2010. We're really excited to introduce the next statistician (or whatever other profession he or she wants to be!) into our family.



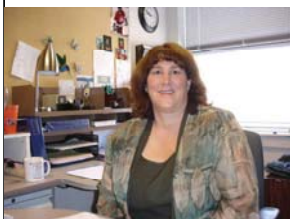
Jeff Sklar



Awards Banquet  
Jeff Sklar, John Walker, Roxy Peck

## Focus on Faculty (Cont.)

### Heather Smith



I have just completed my thirteenth year at Cal Poly. I continue to enjoy teaching the *Survey Research* course and the *Consulting* course for statistics majors, along with *Engineering Statistics* and *Applied Experimental Design and Regression* for undergraduate and graduate students. I have been busy consulting on three projects spanning the fields of engineering, health, and social science. I continue to work with many Cal Poly students, sitting on four Masters Student's thesis committees this year and working with two statistics majors on their senior projects. In June I was honored to be nominated for and to have won Cal Poly's *Distinguished Lecturer Award*. Personally, life is great. My two sons (ages 11 and 13) are busy excelling in their academic, athletic, and artistic pursuits. My husband, David, continues to work hard as a research statistician at Westat Inc. This year he also worked with a Cal Poly statistics student on his senior project.

### Kent Smith



Ah! Retirement at last!

Try to think of the serenity and relaxation: staying up late, getting up late, working in the garden, walking the dog, pool tournaments six nights a week, working on my vintage cars, no obligations, no responsibilities, no lectures to give, no tests to make up, no tests to grade, no committee meetings. I could go on, but then I don't have to. I'm retired—or am I? You probably haven't heard of something called "FERPing." FERP is a program available to qualified faculty members. It stands for Faculty Early Retirement Program. It allows a faculty member to teach a maximum of half time. Given the state of this nation's economy, it seemed prudent to enroll in this program. So I'm FERPing.

I teach two quarters a year: obligations, responsibilities, lectures to give, tests to make up, and tests to grade. Oh yes, I remain an author of a business statistics text that is entering its eighth edition. It is scheduled to be published at the beginning of 2010. So in those quarters in which I teach, my days run on about the same schedule as they did before I retired. When I'm not teaching, I actually do have time to work in the garden. The garden looks as good as it ever has.

Some of you might have noticed that the vehicles I drove (1971 VW bus and 1969 MGC-GT) were looking a little unkempt the last time you saw them. No more! Dottie and I had all three—Dottie's is a 1989 Cadillac—of our cars re-painted. They look sweet!

I'm still hooked on pool. However, the tournaments have about disappeared. They usually cycle that way, but this part of the cycle is about as bad as it has been. I have been asked to teach a pool recreation class. I'm still thinking about it. Oddly enough I'm just not sure that I have the time. Well it's a great ride. I wish you all the same.



## COLLOQUIUM SPEAKERS SOUGHT INDUSTRY INPUT SOUGHT

By Ulric Lund

**Colloquium speakers sought:** We were fortunate to have a number of speakers visit the department in the past year, and we thank them for their time and effort: Curt Hinrichs from JMP, Jamis Perret from Texas A&M, Hal Stern from UCI, Deb Nolan from UC Berkeley, Brian Smith from Amgen, Larry George from the ASA SPES Marquardt Memorial Industrial Speakers Program, and Chris Franklin from University of Georgia.

We are always interested in hearing back from our alumni. If you would like to share your experience in industry or academia with our faculty and students, please feel free to contact me to schedule a visit and seminar (ulund@calpoly.edu).

**Industry input sought:** We are continually evaluating our curriculum, adding and removing courses that we offer, and altering course content. Some of you, as statisticians working in industry, are hiring individuals such as our graduates, and we would greatly appreciate any input you may have in terms of the courses we offer and their content. We welcome you to visit our current course listings at our department's home page (<http://www.calpoly.edu/~stat/courses.html>) to peruse our course offerings. If you have any comments or suggestions, kindly direct them to the department chair, Bob Smidt (rsmidt@calpoly.edu).

## NEWS/AWARDS

### PROFESSOR JAY DEVORE WINS MCGUFFEY LONGEVITY AWARD



Jay Devore was recently chosen by the Text and Academic Authors Association (TAA) to receive their 2009 McGuffey Longevity Award for his book "Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences" 7<sup>th</sup> edition. The book has been in print since 1982. Devore will begin work on a revision for an 8<sup>th</sup> edition. The book has been used at hundreds of colleges and universities across the country and around the world and has been translated into Spanish and Chinese.

### PROFESSOR ALLAN ROSSMAN AWARDED THE PRESTIGIOUS HAIMO AWARD

Allan Rossman has been awarded the Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics by MAA, for the year 2010, this award is only given to 3 people nationally every year.



## MU SIGMA RHO AWARDS FOR 2008-2009

**Mu Sigma Rho is the National Honorary Society for Statistics**

David Evans  
Kyle Gasperik  
Brian Verbaken

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS AWARDS BANQUET

By Jimmy Doi



On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 I had the pleasure of attending the annual College of Science and Mathematics (COSAM) Awards Banquet held at the Madonna Inn.

At this event, the college recognizes some of the most notable students from each of our departments. The evening was filled with great food and a great opportunity to socialize with students, their parents, and loved ones.

The highlight of the evening is when students are recognized for their outstanding academic record and service. For each award recipient, we get to hear about the student's achievements and/or contributions to the university and community. This was my 5<sup>th</sup> time attending the banquet and, as with every year in the past, I was amazed by the wonderful caliber of students we have in our college. It was not uncommon to hear of students who achieved near perfect GPAs and were heavily involved with extra-curricular activities both on/off campus. What was most striking to me was the level of volunteerism found among the awardees. These students are truly among the best and brightest at our university.

Every department boasts an incredible group of students, and we were very proud to have three of our own students recognized for their outstanding achievements. These students were Max Wise, Emily Tietjen, and Hunter Glanz.



**Max Wise** received the Department Award for Outstanding Major in Academic Achievement. He had achieved the highest GPA among our seniors and has exhibited a high level of excellence

throughout his academic career. He is currently working with me (as SAS programmer) on a research project with Dr. Louise Berner

from the Department of Food Science and Nutrition. After his research work is completed at the end of this summer, he hopes to find a job as a statistician and gain some industrial experience. He is also leaning towards pursuing a graduate degree in statistics.

**Emily Tietjen** received the Department Award for Outstanding Major in Service Achievement. Throughout her years in our department, Emily has been one of the most active students in terms of service. She served as President for the Statistics Club and helped organize many key club events including participation in Relay for Life, the signature fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. She has served as a teaching assistant for many faculty and she has always done a stellar job. Emily has also been an outstanding departmental citizen. Whenever we needed help for department related functions, Emily has always been one of the first to volunteer. Emily graduated this past June, but will continue her education at Cal Poly as a Noyce Scholar where she will be completing the credential program



to eventually become a high school math instructor.

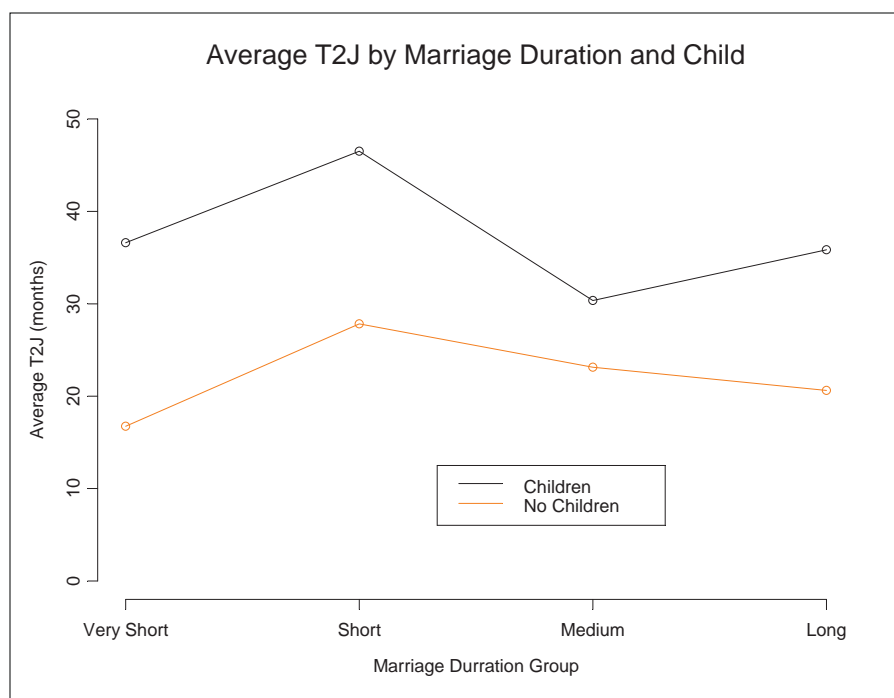
**Hunter Glanz** received the award for Contributions to the Objectives and Public Image of the College. Unlike the departmental awards for academic and service achievement, this award is one of only three awards designated by COSAM. Throughout his years at Cal Poly, Hunter has been very active at the department, college, and university level. He has served as various officers in the Stat Club, COSAM Student Council and as a COSAM Ambassador. He served as the Chair and main organizer for the recent COSAM Awards Banquet. And he has served on the University Student Philanthropy Council. For his immediate plans, Hunter is about to embark on his graduate studies in Statistics at Boston University.



## Divorce: Santa Barbara Style

By Samuel J. Frame

During the 2004-2005 academic year, I was a Ph.D. student at U.C. Santa Barbara and an analyst at Toyon Research Corporation. One day, I was contacted by Brian H. Burke (Certified Family Law Specialist, Burke Family Law Firm, Santa Barbara) and asked to serve as a statistical consultant to his law firm in support of a study of divorce cases he was preparing for publication and several conferences. Mr. Burke had gathered data on all family law cases filed in the Anacapa Division during 1997. Initially, he asked me to help with organizing, cleaning, and summarizing the data. Primarily, he was interested in how the length of marriage and having children affected *Time to Judgment (T2J)*: the amount of time between physical separation of the couple and judgment. I performed these tasks, summarized them, and provided agreeable deliverables. The most interesting analysis I provided was a simple graph (produced with S+2000) which shows how the average T2J changes with different marriage durations and children. Life as a graduate student, teaching assistant, research assistant, and an analyst continued until I graduated in March 2006. Then, I started my career at Cal Poly.



During the Spring term of 2009, I received a strange package from a familiar address. Mr. Burke had managed to locate me and send me the current status of his project. In preparation for publication and conferences, Mr. Burke was interested in more advanced statistical analysis using Generalized Linear Models for Poisson data and obtaining sample size estimates for further studies and extensions to other legal jurisdictions. This collaborative work has led to a joint publication which is currently being prepared for submission to a peer reviewed law journal. We are also considering writing a proposal to obtain similar longitudinal family law data for all of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo Counties as part of much larger analysis.



## Improving the Computing Curriculum

By Andrew Schaffner

The Statistics Department is always doing its best to provide the cutting edge for our students. Many years ago when I was a student at Cal Poly (1990) I recall first learning about S-Plus from Dr. Rick Rossi (now at Montana Tech). We didn't have a course in anything other than SAS, but Dr. Rossi noted my excitement around computing, interest in data visualization, and revulsion of SAS (sorry SAS lovers). He hooked me up with a copy of S-Plus, gave me a book, and mentored me along. We've come a long way since then.

Since 1997 we've offered an "advanced computing" course using S-Plus (and now R). This course has slowly evolved from a methods course (e.g., how do you fit a Linear Model in R), to a computationally intensive methods course (e.g., how do you build a regression tree or build a kernel density estimator), to what is now becoming a data technologies course (e.g., how do you extract and parse data from complex resources (SQL, HTML, XML) and visualize the results in a meaningful way, say with Google Earth). Our revised course was inspired by my past two years of participation in the NSF Integrating Computing into the Statistics Curricula workshops at UC Berkeley (last year I was also joined by Matt Carlton and this year by Samuel Frame). Our new aim is to teach computing as an additional dimension of the statistics program, and not just to leverage it as a medium by which to teach extra topics not covered in our other courses. As we improve the course, we are making extensive use of case-studies and more involved data analyses using non-traditional data sources (e.g., text and web-based). These real-world problems expose students to messy data and will help them develop the computational reasoning skills to write code to manage such problems. Modern statistical methods are presented in a heuristic fashion to illustrate that statistics is a dynamic and changing field with relevance and many recent advances.

We believe this combination of topical problem-based data analysis, new methodology and rich computing and visualization is important for statistical education and practice in this era of multi-disciplinary, data-centric scientific collaboration.

<http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/users/statcur/>



## Stat Dept Offers First Hybrid Version of Stat 217

By Beth Chance

This past spring, I taught a hybrid section of Stat 217. Rather than students attending four hours of lecture each week, there was just one face-to-face class meeting of about 75 minutes per week plus an optional lab session for 50 minutes. The course was designed for students to work through additional material on their own outside of class. Discussion board assignments, self-tests, and tutorials were created to maintain a sufficient level of interactive feedback and to help students monitor their progress. An additional section was taught this summer and one of the seven sections offered this fall will also be a hybrid version. Cal Poly students appear to appreciate this option offering more flexibility in their schedules and a more tailored level of self-paced learning.



## SPRING GRADUATION 2009

This academic year we had our largest graduating class ever. A total of 22 students received a Bachelor's in Statistics.



**Rebecca Joy Andersen**  
**Tyler F. Benz**  
**Mary Ellen Dehaven**  
**Yuichiro Fujita**  
**Alex Christopher Gates**  
**Hunter S. Glanz**  
**Tristan R. Grogan**  
**Hsiang Wei Kung**  
**Oliver Michael Mead**  
**Vincent Thomas Milano**  
**Christopher Thomas Moore**

**Lauren Marie Olerich**  
**Daniela Y. Sakamoto**  
**Aaron B. Shev**  
**Brian Daniel Stevenson**  
**William Milton Stevenson**  
**Lauren Michelle Sweeney**  
**Emily Ruth Tietjin**  
**Sergio Vaca**  
**Maxwell David Wise**  
**Daniel Thomas Young**  
**Patrick Ciavonne Ziegler**

*(Some Graduates not shown)*

## STUDENT AWARDS

By Lina Ignatova

Naturally, it turned out that among all our excellent students there was a bigger than usual group of outstanding students. Since each department gets limited COSAM awards we decided to make our own award ceremony to recognize all of them. The outstanding students, in their overall achievement and performance during their time at Cal Poly are:

- **Rebecca Andersen – Academic Excellence Award**
- **Hunter Glanz - Academic Excellence Award** (Hunter also received the University Recognition for his contributions to the objectives and the Public image of the college)
- **Oliver Mead – Service Award** for his contributions to the department
- **Emily Tietjen - Citizenship Award** for her contributions to the department and the community
- **Max Wise – Academic Excellence Award**
- **Daniel Young - Academic Excellence Award**



## SUMMER RESEARCH

By Heather Smith

This summer I worked collaboratively with six statistics majors and other Cal Poly researchers on two projects. Each student was paid for their work through a combination of CBF funding and funding provided through the projects' grants. Both projects are ongoing and several of the students will continue their work through the 2009/2010 academic year. Both projects involve 1) survey instrument design, 2) survey data processing and analysis, and 3) report writing.

The first project, **FLASH**, is a study of Cal Poly students' health and wellness. The Center for Obesity Research (COPE) at Cal Poly has developed and implemented this survey. The project is longitudinal and this year's effort is a pilot study. STAT majors Mat Adams, Katrina Jackson, Kevin Kung, and Andy Zbin have processed and are analyzing data concerning several hundred Cal Poly students' health. The STAT majors are also developing poster sessions for an upcoming Wellness conference at Cal Poly. In the 2009/2010 academic year they will continue to help develop the survey instrument for use in subsequent years of the study and will analyze and report findings from newly obtained data.

The second project, **ADVANCE**, is a National Science Foundation funded project whose goal is to study and then improve the campus climate for female faculty in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines. STAT majors Rebecca Anderson and Kristen Howard have processed and are analyzing survey data concerning the campus climate for several hundred Cal Poly faculty. They are writing technical memos to research team members reporting survey findings.





## SUMMER TRAVELS

By Allan Rossman



My summer travels actually began before classes ended, as I left SLO on May 31 to attend the Reading of Advanced Placement (AP) exams in Louisville, Kentucky. My role at this year's Reading (I don't know why it's called a Reading – we actually *grade* the exams as well as read them!) was to serve as Chief Reader-Designate, which means that next year I'll be responsible for coordinating the grading of all 120,000 or so exams. My 11 days in Louisville were exhausting, but I enjoyed them very much because the AP Statistics readers are a great group to work with. One oddity from that trip is that the hotel in which we were housed ceased its operations on the very day that we left, as it was to be converted into a homeless shelter.

In mid-June I went to Columbus, Ohio for a week. Beth Chance, John Holcomb (from Cleveland State), and I presented two workshops for college statistics teachers. The first of these was based on an NSF-funded curriculum project that we have been working on, based on the idea of replacing normal-based inference procedures with randomization tests in the teaching of introductory statistics. The second workshop was conducted in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Minnesota, focusing on the use of model-eliciting activities for introducing students to statistical concepts. Following these workshops I attended the U.S. Conference on Teaching Statistics and led a breakout session with Beth on the theme of identifying which topics can be let go in teaching introductory statistics.

I embarked on a three-city trip in mid-July. First I went to Oklahoma City, where Beth and I presented a workshop for teachers at the Oklahoma City Community College. Then I traveled to Grinnell, Iowa for a meeting of the Statistics in the Liberal Arts Workshop (SLAW). I joined this group when I taught at Dickinson College, and I enjoy their thought-provoking discussions about the teaching of statistics and the role of statisticians in liberal arts colleges. From there I flew to San Antonio, where I gave two presentations about AP Statistics at the AP Annual Conference. Both Oklahoma City and San Antonio had temperatures well above 100 during my visits.

On July 31 I crossed the country to Washington, DC for the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). I did not give a formal presentation at JSM this year, but I did present a session for a BAPS (Beyond AP Statistics) workshop. I also had several meetings with colleagues with whom I am working on joint projects. I had considered not attending JSM this year, but I always enjoy connecting with old friends, attending thought-provoking sessions, and gaining ideas about how to teach statistics better. From Washington Beth and I flew back across the country, but not yet home, to Portland, Oregon. In Portland we presented a workshop on teaching statistics for Project NExT Fellows. This audience consists of new faculty members in mathematics and statistics who want to learn how to become good teachers as well as good statisticians and mathematicians.

My last two trips were my longest and most interesting. In mid-August I traveled to Durban, South Africa for conferences of the International Statistical Institute and International Association for Statistical Education (IASE). I served as president of IASE for the past two years, which provided me with a wonderful opportunity to learn how statistics is taught around the world. Following the conference, my wife Eileen joined me, along with Roxy Peck, on a safari during which we saw many lions and cheetahs and leopards up-close. Then in early September I went to the beautiful city of Edinburgh, Scotland to give a presentation at a Royal Statistical Society conference.

## THE SUMMER BEFORE FOREVER

By Tyler Benz (*Class of 2009*)

Graduating from Cal Poly has been one of, if not THE, greatest achievement of my young life thus far. The experience was wonderful and absolutely unforgettable, something that would fill volume after volume were I to recount all of my time in San Luis Obispo. However, that is not the topic that I will focus on. Instead I will report my whereabouts beginning immediately after graduation and ending on this fine afternoon where I now reside in Monterey, California.



After graduating I still had about two weeks remaining on my lease, and so I spent those days simply absorbing what very well might be the last days of permanent living in SLO. I climbed mountains, lounged on my front lawn to watch the cars drive down Grand Avenue, stayed up late, and hung out with friends. Those two weeks went by faster than ever and very quickly it was time for me to move out and move on.

My Mom moved to SLO the year before, having accepted a position in the Housing Department at Cal Poly, and so I was able to store most of my things with her until I moved to my new destination (Side note: It was amazing having my Mom in town for my final year in college, as she would bring me Jamba Juice and Pete's Coffee while I was studying hard in the Stat Lab. Not that that was the only great thing about having my Mom in town, but with so much Stats flying through my head, she knew just the remedy for me!).

I had already lined up a job working for Northrop Grumman in the Monterey area but I didn't start work until the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, which left me about four weeks where I was free to have my last real Summer Break. My Dad was in the process of moving to Boise, Idaho, and so I decided to take the time that I had and make a road trip of it. Driving directly to Idaho did not appeal too much to me, so I mapped out a route and planned a trip, something that I had always wanted to do but never really had the time or the drive. I was also doing this trip alone, as many of my stops were with family and close friends that I knew along the way and I wanted to give them my full attention at each destination. I also kind of felt that a solo trip would allow me to clear my head and gather my thoughts together to prepare for this next big stage of my life.

The day that my lease ended, June 30<sup>th</sup>, my roommates and I all parted ways, each going back to our respective hometowns, except that I headed in the opposite direction from mine (not that either of my parents lived in my hometown at this point, but I guess it will always be my hometown right?). I am from Windsor, a small city about an hour north of San Francisco, but my first destination was San Diego. I arrived after about five hours of driving, where I met up with my cousin who currently goes to SD State University. I stayed with him for one night and left the following morning for my next destination: Phoenix, Arizona. My brother (Scott, 19) moved out there after he graduated from high school a year ago and is currently enrolled in MMA, a motorcycle technician school. His birthday is on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and so I wanted to spend a couple of nights there with him and his girlfriend and celebrate the occasion. We had a blast and it was great being able to hang out with him, as I hadn't seen him since Christmas.

With the next day being the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, I knew that I wanted to be somewhere that would guarantee a grand fireworks display and many fes-



(Continued on Page 23)

tivities. As my next stop was Denver, Colorado, I had a feeling that spending the 4<sup>th</sup> there would be well worth the travels. And let me tell you, it's quite a long drive there from Phoenix. Especially when you leave at Midnight on the 4<sup>th</sup> like I did, since I wanted to spend the ENTIRE day with my brother on his birthday, up until it was no longer his birthday. I probably could have thought that one through a little bit better. It took me around 16 hours to finally arrive in Denver, traveling 900 miles with two naps in between the drive. I saw the sun rise as I drove through Albuquerque, NM, one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. The scenery all through Colorado was beautiful, and really everywhere that I traveled, unique and wonderful landscape could be seen.

When I finally arrived in Denver, I met up with my friend who had an engineering internship there and whose brother had moved there the year before with a permanent engineering job for the same company (both are Cal Poly Mustangs). Most of the drive to Denver I told myself that I would take a nice long nap before we went out for the 4<sup>th</sup>, since I hadn't slept the night before and besides the two short naps, I had been up for about 30 hours. However, seeing my friend and being in a foreign and fascinating city energized me, and so instead of napping we began our festivities. I cannot begin to tell you how amazing this 4<sup>th</sup> of July was for me, suffice to say we went to a party on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of an exclusive apartment complex with a huge balcony (all of the rooms on this floor backed up to this balcony, which included a pool, hot tub, couches, plenty of one of the best views I have seen). The balcony is right on the edge of Denver, and so from right to left you can see each of the skyscrapers in their grandeur with Coors Stadium (Where the Rockies play) on the far left side. There was a game going on and we were close enough where you could see some of the fans and game inside, but not right up against it so that it was annoying. After the game, they had a fantastic fireworks display, which capped a great night.



I stayed in Denver for a couple more nights, rode bikes around the city, and had a great time. My next stop was Boise, Idaho, and I left after I had a good night's sleep, a brilliant move on my part. Driving to Boise, I drove through Wyoming and Utah, both of which also had such pretty things to look at, entertaining me most of the way. This drive took around 13 hours, so not quite as bad as the one preceding it. I arrived in Boise, and it was much different than I had anticipated. I really enjoyed everything about the area (not to mention how much cheaper it is to live out there!). The house that my Dad moved to is very nice, and it was wonderful being able to hang out with my two little sisters (Jaquelyn, 5, and Crystal, 7) and little brother (Alex, 14). My next stop was Chico, CA to visit some friends who go to school there, but that would have been another long drive and so I decided to cut the drive in half-ish and stay a night in Reno.

I checked my things at the Peppermill hotel in Reno and immediately flew down the Texas Hold 'em tables, where I planted myself for the next four hours, meeting lots of new and interesting people (and then taking their money). I left the table after I became the only remaining person at the table of the original people that sat there when I had first sat down. I made a little over \$300 profit, which paid for the hotel and helped with the rest of my trip (looking back, I don't know if I would have made it back to SLO with the remaining money I had, not including the poker money!)

The next morning I left for Chico, and spent three nights there and had a blast. I then drove to my hometown Windsor and stayed with friends there for a few nights. Finally, I made the final stretch back to SLO. The people who moved into my old house let me stay there for a couple of nights until I had to move my stuff to my new home in Monterey, which was very nice of them.

(Continued on Page 24)

### The Summer Before Forever (Cont.)

I have been working at my new job for about 7 weeks now, and I absolutely love it. I could go into much more detail but I realize how much I wrote about my trip (though I could go on forever with full detailed accounts of my trip), and so I won't go there. I do want to mention that the main thing I do is write SAS code for my customers, manipulating and extracting data, among other things (GO SAS!).

The bottom line is this: I miss my friends (that includes you, Stat faculty!) and life in SLO, but I am excited for this new chapter of my life and intrigued as to where it will take me. I will go forth and continue to strive for excellence, creating new experiences and sharing memories with many other different people. There are so many things yet to do, ideas to be had, people to be met, and happiness to be found. But there is one thing that will never change – I will forever remember the place where I developed into an adult, where I learned the tools necessary to survive in this world, where I met and befriended so many wonderful people. The final stop on my way to the big bad real world was CAL POLY STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO.

Oh, and don't think that I won't be back to visit. A lot. How could anybody just pack up and leave the greatest place in the world forever? Frankly, I think that's impossible.

## END OF THE YEAR SOCIAL

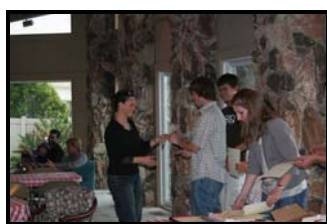
By Carol Morris

Every June the Statistics Department organizes a fantastic End-of-the-Year Social. All faculty, their families, significant others, and Statistics Majors & Minors and their guests are invited. This year the turn-out was excellent (70+ people). I think the turn-out is so good because everyone has so much fun together.

This year we went to the beautiful Spindrift Club House in Shell Beach, which is located right next to the ocean. The view is spectacular, and the clubhouse is fantastic. There is a pool room, ping pong tables, kitchen area, and an expansive entertaining area for our group activities. The crashing waves and sunset were beautiful. Our pot-luck was fantastic. We have some great cooks in the Stat Dept, and the Stat students always bring great food and deserts as well. Everyone went away stuffed and happy.

It was great fun to visit with everyone and their families, get to know our faculty and students better, see how the kids have grown since last year, and to just enjoy one another's company. After dinner we had a student awards ceremony to honor our best students. We also had a funny faculty awards certificate presentation, which was put on by the students. They have a great sense of humor. I was impressed with how hard the Stat Majors worked to make the Stat End-of-the-Year Social a big success.

One thing about the Statistics Department and our Majors, we know how to have FUN!!





## KEEPING IN TOUCH

**Todd Alonzo** (*Class of 1994*)



I can't believe it has been 15 years since I graduated from Cal Poly. Where does the time go? The first 5 years after SLO were spent in rainy Seattle where I earned my Masters and PhD in Biostatistics at the University of Washington. The past 10 years have been spent in sunny Southern California. My two boys (Peyton 9 and Carson 7) continue to grow like weeds. My wife, Kim, and I enjoy coaching their sports teams and supporting them in their numerous activities. A wonderful aspect of being a professor is that my schedule is flexible so that I can attend all of my boys' events. This summer we enjoyed a family vacation to Washington DC. There is so much history there.

I am an Associate Professor of Research in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California (USC). In the 10 years that I have been at USC, I have learned to juggle many projects at once. Each year there is more and more to juggle but I am enjoying it. I am currently juggling:

- As statistician for the Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) committee of the Children's Oncology Group, I design and analyze clinical trials assessing the efficacy of treatments for kids with AML.
- I am developing statistical methodology for assessing the accuracy of biomarkers and medical diagnostic tests when true disease status is only available for a non-random subset of subjects.
- I teach Biostatistics to 160 first year medical students at USC. This is challenging given the wide range in mathematics backgrounds.
- As associate editor for 3 journals (*Biometrics*, *Biometrical Journal*, and *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*), I identify people to

provide reviews of papers submitted to these journals and then I make a recommendation on whether the paper should be published.

- I am currently President of the Western North American Region of the International Biometric Society. In June I presided over a statistical meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Hopefully I will be able to visit SLO again soon.

**Rebecca Anderson** (*Class of 2009*)

My experience in the Stat department at Cal Poly was a very positive one. I switched into the department from Math and I am glad that I did. I felt that the smaller size of the Stat department gives it a much more personal feel. I felt much more involved and at home in the Stat department with the friendly staff and students. I feel fortunate to have been able to work with and learn from the students and faculty in this department. I have always enjoyed coming to Cal Poly, and I think that the Stat department helped to make my senior year even better.

In September I will be starting as a financial management specialist intern at General Services Administration (GSA), which is a federal government branch in San Francisco. I am doing a three year internship with Public Building Services for the Pacific Rim Region (CA, NV, AZ, HI) where I will be rotating through the different divisions to see where I can find my best fit.

**Hunter Glanz** (*Class of 2009*)

This last year the Statistics Department was able to help send a group of students to the annual WUSS (Western Users of SAS Software) Conference. Max Wise, Vincent Milano, Lauren Olerich, Aaron Shev, Chris Moore, Tyler Benz, Sergio Vaca and I (Hunter Glanz)

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### Keeping in Touch (*Cont.*)

traveled to Universal City, California to mingle with and learn from SAS experts from across the country. The conference lasted three days, from November 5th to November 7th. The WUSS Conference provides student scholarships to almost every student that applies to help alleviate the cost of the classes offered as well as travel. With these scholarships our group was able to stay at the conference hotel at a significantly discounted rate and attend a few of the half-day classes free of cost. While we learned quite a bit, the connections we made and the people we met were just as important. Experts such as Ron Cody and Art Carpenter taught some of the classes we attended and even made personal contributions of SAS literature to our Statistics Lab back at Cal Poly. Perhaps the most surprising thing was how many of the SAS skills being demonstrated were already being taught in the Statistics Department's STAT 330 class by Dr. Doi, Dr. Lund and Rebecca Ottesen. We were definitely well-prepared for learning all of the new tips and tricks being demonstrated by people who work at the SAS Institute, who have been using SAS in other industries or have been using SAS in other ways throughout academia. In the end, the trip was practically free for those of us who had gotten a scholarship. Though we missed three days of school to attend, it was definitely worth it to experience the mingling of ideas and people who all share a common thread as strong as SAS.

#### Tristan Grogan (*Class of 2009*)



My 3 month summer internship with Gallo ended last Friday (May 18<sup>th</sup>-August 14<sup>th</sup>). I had a great time there and learned a lot! I had no idea what went into

wine and how many different kinds of wine existed. The statisticians there are either geared towards marketing or research. I was on the marketing side of things and mostly worked with time series data. Specifically, I

analyzed different regions in the country and calculated price elasticities on different wine brands (Gallo and non-Gallo) to help gauge brand health and see what regional/brand differences existed. Going into the internship I was worried that it might not be very related to statistics as we know it, but I was knee deep in time series models daily! I thought it was a great experience and it will be a great reference for my future.



There is a possibility of me going back for a future summer internship with them. Modesto, although touted as one of the worst places to live, wasn't all that bad to me. The highlight activity outside of work was my brother and I kayaking down the Stanislaus River one weekend. I didn't have a chance to make it to Yosemite, but that was in striking distance and I plan to visit it in the future when I have more time. It was a very hot climate but I'm used to it being hot from living in Redding.

I will be leaving for Long Beach this Sunday (the 24th) for grad school at CSULB which starts on the 31st. I will be sharing a great condo which is close to campus. I will be taking grad courses full time, and working 15-20 hours a week with the department for my graduate assistantship position. Tuesday, August 25th, I will be meeting with my graduate coordinator and finding out what I will be doing exactly for this position. I've been told it's a mix of tutoring, grading, and consulting. It should be great work experience and it will certainly help foot some of the bills! I feel prepared from Cal Poly's rigorous curriculum, but we will see how the classes go.



## Keeping in Touch (*Cont.*)

### Joshua Knechtel (*Class of 1998*)

It's hard to believe that it has been 10 years since joining MS Investment Management (MSIM). Time flies when you are having fun, I guess. It's been even longer since my time at Cal Poly. I do miss the sunshine.

I was asked to mention my experience at Cal Poly. What's not to love? It was a fantastic education. I didn't feel I lacked anything in preparation when competing with many Ivy League grads during my masters program at University of Chicago. I really enjoyed having contact with the professors, whether it was a major course or a course fulfilling other requirements. I didn't realize just how special and unique that was until talking with colleagues at Chicago. How many undergrads enjoy beers at their local pub (Spikes) with their professors?

I really must thank the Statistics department faculty for inspiring me to raise my own goals and achieve more than I expected of myself. In particular, special thanks to Dr. Devore for encouraging me to pursue graduate studies. I honestly wasn't considering going beyond the bachelor's level, but Jay argued that I should. In retrospect, that was the best piece of advice I've ever been given in regards to career and life decisions.

As mentioned, after Cal Poly, I went to The University of Chicago for a masters in financial mathematics. From there, I was hired into the same group at MSIM that I work today. The group is called Global Tactical Asset Allocation. We manage multi-asset (stocks, bonds, currency, commodity) class investment portfolios for predominantly pension fund clients. It also involves some advisory to major pension funds, such as a large state pension fund for public school teachers, on assumptions they use for their asset mix. Sadly, CALPERS/CALSTERS is currently not one of our clients.

The job entails being a jack-of-all-trades. Some days I am the resident "statistician", some days the "arm-chair" economist while

other days I am a market technician. I enjoy not doing the same thing day in and day out.

My wife and I bought a home across the Hudson in Jersey City roughly 5 years ago. Renovation of this home has been my other job. We decided, arguably poorly, to do it all ourselves. I think having both grown up in families who had built their own homes gave us misguided enthusiasm. Well, five years later we are still working on it. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

When I am not working in the office or on the house, I enjoy traveling and working on my hobby of building audio amps from vacuum tubes (1930's technology) and speakers (much to my wife's chagrin).

There are no children to report, just a house full of animals that my wife "rescued" from our neighborhood.

### Janet Long Bates (*Class of 1983*)

After graduating in Dec. '83, I accepted a job at Northrop Corporation in Los Angeles as a software engineer. I quickly transitioned to aircraft integration engineering and have been working in this field for the past 25 years.



I lived in Los Angeles for 10 years and worked on a program called TSSAM. After the TSSAM program came to an end in 1995, I accepted an aircraft engineering job at Eglin Air Force Base as a support contractor in Nov 1995. I married a wonderful man in June 2002. He has 4 grown children and we now have 5 grandkids. We became foster parents in Nov 2004 and have had approximately 30 kids come into and out of our lives. Due to our extensive travel schedules we can only provide respite services. We continue to see our first foster son, Andrew, on a regular basis. He came to us

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## Keeping in Touch (*Cont.*)

when he was 2 and he just turned 7. My husband enjoys golf, which I am saving for retirement, we enjoy going out on our boat and I enjoy working out. I competed in a mini-triathlon and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> for my age. Attached is a picture from Jan 2009 with most of the kids/grandkids.

### Ed Lopes (*Class of 1983*)

While not officially an alumnus of the Statistics Department, I was close to the department as a 1983 Computer Science graduate and Statistics grader for Joyce Curry-Daly. After Cal Poly, I spent 20 years at Xerox...in El Segundo, CA, then Washington, DC and later, Xerox's International Training Center in Leesburg, VA. While at Leesburg, I taught sales, sales support, quality, and management classes to Xerox employees, and later managed sales curriculum development. After leaving Xerox in 2003, I was Training Director for a small contact center company for 3½ years, and now for the last 2½ years, I lead our Process Engineering and Data Collection efforts (think "Statistics") for a small defense contractor that builds vehicle-based landmine and IED (improvised explosive device) detection systems for military and humanitarian purposes. It's very meaningful work and has a direct effect on people's lives. Pretty cool when you find something to do that is totally in line with your values and something you love doing, even if it took 25 years! Sometimes the role finds you!

My wife, Carole, and I have two high school kids and live in Northern Virginia, near Washington Dulles International Airport.

I miss the Central Coast and look forward to future opportunities to visit!

### Jenna Maskell (*Class of 2008*)

I can't believe it's already been a year since graduation! Luckily for me, the transition from Cal Poly to the "real-world" was a piece of cake! Since graduation, I have been working as a Data Analyst for Yahoo!, in Burbank. I am responsible for analyzing advertiser requests for investigations into click fraud, while providing solutions that will significantly reduce or eliminate recurring traffic quality issues, across all markets. It is definitely nice working with other analysts who are familiar with R, and use it frequently. In fact, we're soon going to be conducting time series in R! This will be something new for me, but I'm very excited about it. Overall, I love living in "SoCal" near my friends and family. Yahoo! is a very relaxed company to work for (similar to all you've heard about Google – but we're better!).



**Stat Faculty 2009:** (left to right)

Soma Roy, Jeff Sklar, Bob Smidt, Lina Ignatova, Jimmy Doi, Steve Rein, Andrew Schaffner, Matt Carlton, Karen McGaughey, Beth Chance, John Walker, Heather Smith, Samuel Frame, Allan Rossman, Ulric Lund.



## Keeping in Touch (*Cont.*)

### Oliver Mead (*Class of 2009*)

I came to Cal Poly in the fall of 2005 to study statistics. In four short years I earned my degree. Now if this was the entire story of my Cal Poly statistics career, I would consider it a success, but it is not. My story is full of struggles and victories. It is full of nights where I stayed up until one in the morning falling asleep in between studying and praying that Dr. Ignatova won't ask any questions about the hypergeometric distribution on tomorrow's test. Days filled with laughing in the statistics lab about the stories Dr. Smidt told us that day in class. Serious study sessions in the statistics lab about the stories Dr. Smidt told us that day in class. Serious study sessions in the stat lab, where sometimes the interpretation of an odds ratio made less sense the more times you said it out loud.

Hours and hours of going back to basic principles of probability theory in order to understand our upper division statistics classes. Breaks from classes spent laying on the grass looking at the clouds, trying to pretend that the clouds didn't look like sigmas and mus. Not studying as hard as I should have and getting a D on a statistics test. Studying my butt off and getting an A on a statistics test. Frustrating moments filled with not understanding how to figure out with 95% confidence how many grasshoppers are inside a circle of area A.

My story at Cal Poly was filled with surprises. Surprises like finding that most of my professors were really easy to talk to about statistics and even easier to talk to about serious life issues. I was surprised to find out that Dr. Doi has a jump shot that looks a lot like Kobe Bryant's; surprised to come to Cal



Poly looking for a statistics degree and finding a family in my fellow statistics majors; surprised that I was able to explain important statistical concepts to some of my most mathematically challenged friends. Overall, I realize that my experience at Cal Poly was full of challenges and struggles, but with the help of my friends, my parents, my church, and my professors, I was able to rise up to the challenges and overcome my struggles.

As for my future, I am taking a break from schooling for the next year and working in the kitchen for Calvin Crest Conferences in Oakhurst California. I hope over the next year to find some peace and quiet and grow in my faith. I do plan however to reapply to graduate schools and continue with my goal of getting a masters degree in statistics. I am thankful for every opportunity and experience I had at Cal Poly and for all my professors who have given me more then they could ever know.



## Keeping in Touch (*Cont.*)

### Susyn Normington (*Class of 1999*)

I have almost completed 2 years at Wells Fargo and still love it! I just recently moved from my Corporate Credit oversight role for credit models to a role within the Home Equity group. I manage the use of the property valuation models for assessing and managing equity lines and loans. My kids (son is almost 3 years and daughter is 15 months) are by far my greatest accomplishment, though, and they continue to amaze me every day! Almost every weekend is spent exploring a new kid-friendly adventure in the Bay Area and I have a feeling that we will never run out of things to do!

### Laura (Fay) Patnode (*Class of 1998*)



Eleven years after graduation, I'm still working for Wells Fargo in downtown San Francisco. I'm in my 5<sup>th</sup> role within the company, leading a group of 20 credit risk management consultants, focusing on credit risk across the loan portfolio in the Corporate Credit office. Although I've been with the same company for a number of years, I'm still having a great time and have had great opportunities to dig into topics I never thought I'd be responsible for (like accounting, finance, etc.). Those problem solving skills learned in school have really come in handy lately. :) Thank you Stats Dept!

Home life has also been very busy these last few years. My husband (Mike Patnode - Computer Science 1989) and I have a beautiful 2 year old daughter and are due to have a baby boy on 9/30/09. Wish us luck!

### Janice Pavell (*Class of 1982*)

As a graduate from 1982, it's hard to believe 27 years have passed since I called SLO home. It's also hard to believe I have been an IBMer the whole time too. When I first

joined IBM in Poughkeepsie, NY, everyone said "IBM" stood for "I've Been Moved" so I didn't expect to be in New York for long.... but as the years went by I found out not everyone moves around and I remained in what Bob Smidt told me was a "black hole". He wasn't too far off. I have been doing software support for one of the mainframe operating systems for many years. In addition to developing and controlling processes for software development, I have also been involved with monitoring delivery of software products to customers worldwide, and I prepare downloadable product packages for distribution to our customers via the internet.

The beginning of 2009 brought a major change to my life. My husband and I escaped from the black hole, and now live in beautiful Colorado! Colorado Springs to be exact. It was quite a challenging year in 2008 to try to sell our home in such a deteriorating economic environment, but patience was rewarded.... Well, lowering the asking price on the home didn't hurt either, and although our timing was bad, we are just thankful that it is all behind us and we are settled into our new city and state and loving it! And the best part is that I am still doing my same job with IBM, even though I'm not near my team anymore. It wasn't as hard to adjust to the isolation of "working from home" as I thought it might be, so I am fortunate that today's technology and a progressive IBM management attitude toward remote workers has allowed me to be in this great work/life situation.

Now that I am in Colorado I hope that we'll have more opportunities to travel around the West and make some trips that will take me back to SLO. I was excited to have my niece from Thousand Oaks, CA attend Cal Poly as a freshman last fall. Hearing from her about her experiences starting with WOW week brought back so many great memories! And without any recommendations from me, she managed to take a business statistics class taught by Jay Devore last

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### Keeping in Touch (*Cont.*)

winter quarter and found out the "Pavell" name has a lasting impact when he questioned her about whether or not we are related. It can be a small world!

It's a little too soon for me to be thinking about retirement (although one can always dream) but in the mean time when I am not stuck in my chair staring at a computer monitor I'll be trying to spend as much time outdoors as possible, biking and hiking, all year round. I couldn't quite manage to get back to calling California "home", but this is a great "second best".

#### **Clint and Rachel Roberts** (*Class of 2003*)

Rachel and I are proud and happy parents of Cora Joanne Roberts, born on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Also, we bought our first house, here in Richmond, in June so I feel like I have finally "settled down." I really enjoy working as a statistician at Capital One. The working environment is fun and flexible, and the Capital One culture is something I am proud to be a part of. It is especially exciting to work here in the midst of a great recession, with economic as well as regulatory challenges, where analytical problem-solving and innovation are highly valued.



#### **Tierra Stimson** (*Class of 2004*)

For the last few years I have been teaching and doing my dissertation research examining goal attainment. This has led me to the attainment of my own goal- getting my Ph.D. in Psychology. My dissertation will be defended and sent off to the printers in less than 8 weeks! Come September, all budgets willing, I will begin the new chapter in my life as a teacher. I have four psychology classes that I am scheduled to teach in the Fall, at two community colleges, and hope to gain one more.

I know this is an update on me, but I want to thank the statistics department at Cal Poly

for ALL of their support. If it were not for the faculty that encouraged me to apply to a Ph.D. program, for the exceptional quality of the faculty teaching the statistics courses, and to the research opportunities I was given (because faculty thought they were jobs I could do), I would not be becoming Dr. Stimson.

#### **Emily Tietjen** (*Class of 2009*)

Hi! I've been with the Statistics Department for five years here at Cal Poly. It's a department I've loved since the day I arrived here because of the great professors, challenging courses, and extra-curricular opportunities. I have served as a grader, tutor, TA, research assistant and Stat club member (and current Co-President). I started grading the quarter after STAT 150, and I haven't stopped since. Along with grading, I've served as a TA in a number of classes. While spending 18 hours a week in the Stat studio for one quarter was a bit ridiculous, I've found the experience to be rewarding. I also found tutoring in the lab (and privately) to be a very fulfilling. It is gratifying to help students learn material they find difficult. Additionally, I've also gotten to know a lot of the Stat professors this way. On an academic level (as well as a personal level) this contact with the professors outside of the classroom setting has meant a lot to me. Stat professors, I appreciate all of the opportunities you've given me!

Stat Club and Stat Club events have always been fun for me mostly because of the company I'm in. Stat majors, I've loved every minute I've spent with you! As the Community Service coordinator last year and the Co-President of the Stat club this year, I've roped our club into helping out with a variety of events - most importantly, to me, with Cal Poly's Relay for Life (the American

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### Keeping in Touch (*Cont.*)

Cancer Society's biggest fundraiser). It has been a special joy to help out with this event these last two years because cancer has affected people close to me, as it has so many others. I am especially proud to have served as the Data Entry and Accounting Chair for the Relay for Life event.

I would be sad to say I am leaving you, but since I will be working on my teaching credential in Mathematics at Cal Poly, I don't have to! I have received the Robert Noyce Scholarship that will help in my pursuit of obtaining a teaching credential. After completing the program, I will teach in a High-Need school district to fulfill the requirements of the scholarship. My many experiences here will have prepared me well for what is to come. For that, I want to thank all of you very much.

#### Max Wise (*Class of 2009*)



I am currently searching for jobs in the Monterey and San Francisco Bay areas. At the moment, one of my primary leads is a position as a Statistical Assistant at ETS, the company responsible for development of many standardized tests such as the SAT and AP tests. My other lead is a SAS programming position at Northrop Grumman in Monterey.

I have greatly enjoyed my time at Cal Poly. The Statistics Department has a lot to offer students, and I felt that the professors were all very committed to providing us with a quality education. It's great that many students get the opportunity to work on real research projects while at Cal Poly. I've learned a huge amount from my involvement in a project with Dr. Berner from Food Science, and Dr. Doi from our department. Before that, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Chance and Dr. Rossman in their statistics education research. One of my favorite things about our department was the statistics lab, which created a unique environment in which the statistics majors were able to build a sense of community amongst themselves and with the faculty. We are very appreciative to have this facility available. We also appreciate Carol's sup-

port, which keeps the department running. I will miss my days at Cal Poly with all the amazing people in the Statistics Department, but I will surely be back to visit.

#### Daniel Young (*Class of 2009*)

My degree has been conferred and my time as a student at Cal Poly has finally come to an end. From Dr. Doi's Stat 321 in Fall 2006 to Dr. Devore's Stat 416 in Winter 2009, I've thoroughly enjoyed my time studying statistics at Cal Poly. I won't soon forget any course, instructor, or friend, and would like to thank everyone for the instruction and friendship over the last few years.

At the beginning of July I moved to Raleigh, NC, where I will pursue a PhD in Statistics at North Carolina State University. I loved my time in the Statistics Department at Cal Poly, so pursuing a graduate degree seemed like the obvious thing to do. I have been hired as a teaching assistant, and have been awarded a Provost's Fellowship, so although I don't really have a clue what I'd like to do when I finish here, I should have lots of opportunities to figure out what I would (or wouldn't) like to do for a career.

*(Late entry out of order)*

#### Rebecca Sermer (*Class of 2006*)

My husband and I have been trying to take two trips a year and have so far been to Mexico, Costa Rica, Spain, Portugal, and Taiwan! We are hoping to go to Thailand next but don't have any definite plans, maybe for New Year's. PayPal is a good company to work for, great people and a fun place to work. But the grass is always greener on the other side and I am looking into other career options as well. But, I would for sure recommend it to fellow Cal Poly students that are looking for a job. Let me know if any graduating students are interested in working with PayPal and I can, God willing, pass their resumes along to the appropriate persons. (rsermer@gmail.com)

✱





Your support  
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## DONORS, WE THANK YOU!!

We wish to extend a sincere "Thank You" to the following contributors who gave to the Statistics Department and/or the Joyce Curry-Daly Endowment Scholarship fund from July 2008 through June 2009. Because of your generosity, we've been able to provide scholarship support for three Statistics majors, as well as keep the Newland Family Statistics Laboratory equipment and software updated and running properly. Your support is truly appreciated by faculty, staff, and students.

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