

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Statistics Newsletter, Volume 9, 2008

A Message from the Chairman

Until three years ago the department's newsletter was professionally printed and copies mailed to everyone. This was an expensive process that we could not continue to support so we suspended production while we considered options. This year, thanks to Pam McGhee and Adrian Barbu, we are producing the Newsletter entirely within the Department and are distributing it electronically. The new format is not only cheaper, but it will save trees. We would like to hear from you on this change of format.

Probably the biggest news item from the Department is the budget cuts within the state of Florida. As you know Florida has been in tight financial times. While the department's operating budget is at the lowest level since I came to FSU (2002), the number of graduate students has increased from 32 to 53 (2007 Academic year count), and our students, faculty, and staff continue to be recognized through awards and research funding. The department is alive and thriving.

Next academic year marks the 50th Anniversary of the department. Plans are underway for a conference and celebration to be held in Tallahassee, April 17 and 18, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel. Mark your calendar. XuFeng Niu will be sending information as the plans progress and we will post updates on our website.

In Fall 2007, our new PhD program in Biostatistics began. Approximately 15 of our current students either selected Biostatistics upon entry or switched from Statistics to Biostatistics and more than half of our incoming students for 2008-9 have chosen Biostatistics as their major.

Faculty retirements (six in the last six years!) under the Florida DROP program finally ended last year when Myles Hollander retired. No other faculty are planning to retire. Due to these retirements, the department has many new faces among the faculty. Thanks to Ron and Carolyn Hobbs, an endowed chair was established in their name within the department and Debajyoti Sinha was hired to fill that position in 2007. Deb has just completed his first academic year with the department and is truly an outstanding addition to our senior faculty. A full story about Deb is included in the main body of the Newsletter. In addition to Deb Sinha, five other new faculty have joined the department in the last three years. In chronological order of hiring: Vic Patrangenaru joined us as a tenured Associate Professor in 2006 and Wei Wu joined us as an Assistant Professor in 2006. Jinfeng Zhang and Adrian Barbu joined as Assistant Professors in 2007. Our newest hire, Yiyuan She will join the Department in Fall 2008. He is receiving his PhD from Stanford. Full stories on these new and outstanding faculty members are also included in this issue.

Our faculty received many honors, awards, and promotions in the last year including an ASA Fellowship, a Graduate Mentor Award, and Outstanding Teaching Awards. These awards are covered in detail in the body of this Newsletter. Recognition and awards are not only received by the faculty, however. Pam McGhee, our Office Manager, has been selected to receive FSU's Gabor award for 2008. To quote from the Provost's award letter: "This award recognizes outstanding efficiency and effectiveness and includes a \$1,000 Savings Bond." Those of you who have worked with Pam know this is well done and well deserved!



Dan McGee

STATISTICS

Hobbs Endowed Professor of Statistics-- Debajyoti Sinha



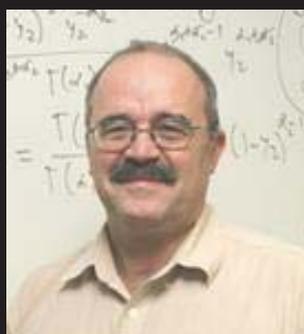
Debajyoti Sinha

Debajyoti (Deb) Sinha received his PhD in Statistics from University of Rochester in 1993. In 1993 he was appointed Assistant Professor in Statistics in University of New Hampshire and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1998. From 1999 he joined Medical University of South Carolina as Associate Professor in Biostatistics, was promoted to Professor in 2004 and was appointed Director of the Biostatistics Division in 2006. Deb joined FSU in 2007, as **Hobbs Endowed Professor of Statistics**.

Deb's research interests are in Bayesian biostatistics, survival analysis and stochastic modeling of cancer relapse. He holds more than 50 publications in top Statistics and Medical journals and several grants and awards from the National Cancer Institute, National Institute of Health, Department of Defense and other national agencies. The most notable grants are uninterrupted support since 1994 for "Semiparametric Bayesian methods for survival data" from NCI, and a FIRST award from NCI obtained in 1995. Deb is an ASA fellow and an elected member of the Royal Statistical Society.

The Hobbs Endowed position in Statistics was established by **Ron Hobbs** (MS Statistics, 1967) and his wife **Carolyn** (BS Recreation Studies, 1965). Ron and Carolyn have been very generous in their gifts to FSU, and several years ago they decided to donate money to create an endowed position in Statistics. The Ron and Carolyn Hobbs Endowed Chair fund assured that we would be able to fill a high level position with an outstanding person. Debajyoti Sinha has just completed his first academic year with the department as our Hobbs Endowed Professor and is truly an outstanding addition to our senior faculty. We are grateful to Ron and Carolyn for their support which allowed us to hire Deb.

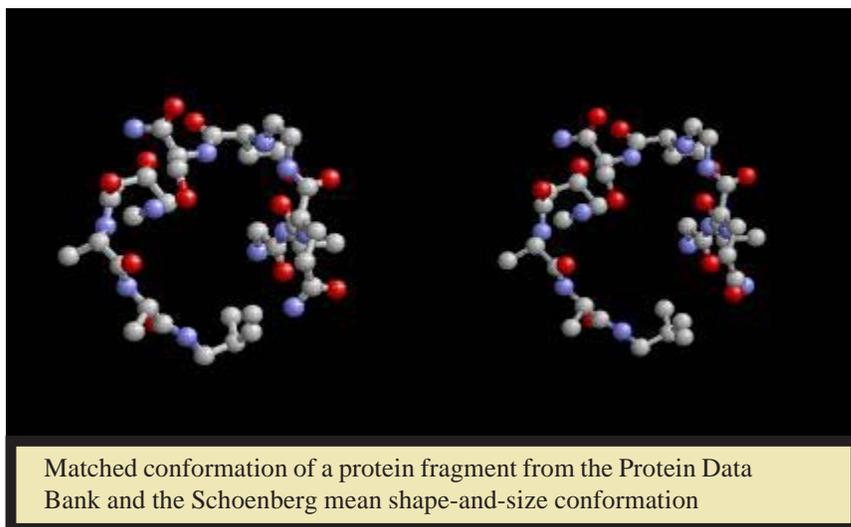
Associate Professor Victor Patrangenaru



Victor Patrangenaru

Vic Patrangenaru joined our department in 2006. He has a PhD in Statistics from Indiana University-Bloomington (1998), and a PhD in Mathematics from Haifa University (1994). Vic came from Texas Tech University, where he served as an associate professor from 2003 to 2006. His research interests include large sample theory and nonparametric bootstrap on manifolds, applications of statistics and differential geometry in medical imaging, bioinformatics and pattern recognition.

In a collective effort with Dr. Jinfeng Zhang, Dr. Ananda Bandulasiri (a former student of Vic Patrangenaru) and Jing Su (a graduate student in our department), Vic is currently developing a statistics on manifolds methodology for analyzing 3D configurations, and for studying the connection between 3D protein shape and size and protein function.



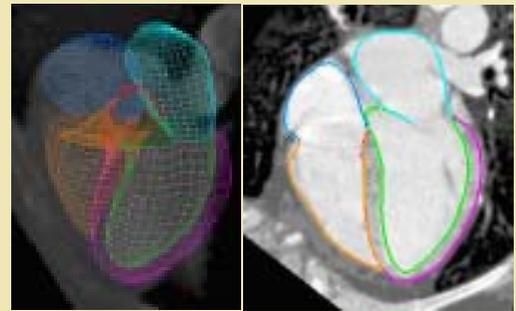
Matched conformation of a protein fragment from the Protein Data Bank and the Schoenberg mean shape-and-size conformation

Our Assistant Professors



Adrian Barbu

Dr. Adrian Barbu received his PhD in Mathematics from Ohio State University in 2000 and another PhD in Computer Science from University of California, Los Angeles in 2005. In the period 2005-2007 he worked in Siemens Corporate Research, Princeton, NJ as a research scientist in the Integrated Data Systems department. He joined the Statistics Department at Florida State University in August 2007. His research focuses on learning models and algorithms for Computer Vision and Medical Imaging applications. His PhD work in UCLA



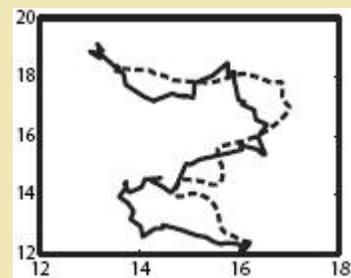
Four Chamber Heart Segmentation in CT obtained in one second using Marginal Space Learning.

generalized the Swendsen-Wang algorithm to arbitrary posterior probabilities and made it faster using data-driven techniques. During his stay in Siemens Corporate Research, he developed a technique named Marginal Space Learning for fast detection of objects with many parameters. One application of this technique is the robust and accurate segmentation of all the Heart Chambers in only one second. Currently he is working on Active Random Fields, a technique that simultaneously learns a model and an associated inference algorithm for increased speed and accuracy.



Wei Wu

Dr. Wei Wu received his PhD in Applied Mathematics from Brown University in 2004. He then pursued a short-term post-doctoral research position in the Department of Computer Science at Brown University, followed by two years as a post-doctoral scholar in the Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy at University of Chicago. He joined the Department of Statistics faculty in Florida State University in 2006. Dr. Wu's research interests are in computational statistics, particularly in statistical modeling for neural systems. He investigates linear and non-linear



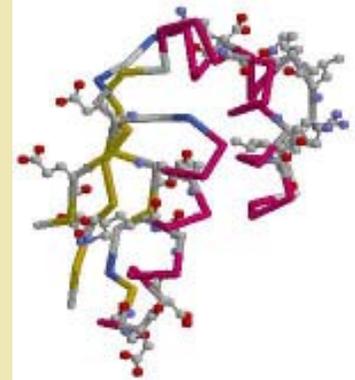
Prediction of neural activity using a Kalman Filter. True trajectory (dashed) and predicted trajectory (solid).

Bayesian inferences, state-space models, and information theory to represent and decode population neuronal activity in primate motor cortex. He also conducts spectral/temporal analysis on birdsongs to explore the integration of neural pathways that generate learned songs.

Dr. Jinfeng Zhang obtained his BSc from Peking University in 1997 and MS in mathematics and computer science in 2002 from University of Illinois at Chicago. He then studied protein structure modeling using Monte Carlo methods under the guidance of Dr. Jie Liang (co-advised by Dr. Rong Chen) and obtained his PhD in bioinformatics in 2004 at UIC. From 2004-2007, he spent three years with Dr. Jun Liu in the department of statistics of Harvard University as a post doctoral fellow working on developing new Monte Carlo methods for protein structure prediction and machine learning methods for biological data mining. He joined the department of statistics of FSU in the fall of 2007.



Jinfeng Zhang



Dr. Zhang's research interests lie in bioinformatics, computational biophysics, and computational statistics. His recent research projects have been in protein structure prediction, biological networks, and biological data mining.

Faculty Honors



Anuj Srivastava

Dr. Anuj Srivastava Dr. Anuj Srivastava received a Graduate Faculty Mentor Award for 2007-2008. This award is given to faculty “whose dedication to graduate students and commitment to excellence in graduate education and mentoring have made a significant contribution to the quality of life and professional development of graduate students at Florida State University”. Since joining the department in 1997, Dr. Srivastava he has directed 4 PhD graduates in Statistics (Mick Smith, Rob Neher, David Kaziska, and Evgenia Rubinshtein). Additionally, he has co-directed two PhD graduates — one in Electrical Engineering at FSU (Shantanu Joshi) and one in Computer Science at University of Lille in France (Chafik Samir). He has served on PhD thesis committees of more than 15 students at FSU and outside. Currently, he is directing or co-directing several PhD students in Statistics, including Nikolay Balov, Moeti Ncube, Muffasir Badshah, and Wei Liu.

Dr. Steve Ramsier and Ms. Radha Bose both won Undergraduate Teaching Awards for 2007-2008. Dr.

Ramsier and Ms. Bose normally teach 2-3 large lecture classes each every Fall and Spring semester and literally have hundreds of students in their classes. The fact that they were able to win this award when they teach classes with very large student to instructor ratios is proof of the amount of dedication they have to their students and their teaching.



Steve Ramsier



Radha Bose

Dr. Steve Ramsier was accepted to attend an NSF/CAUSE-sponsored workshop on Integrating Computing in the Statistics Curricula.

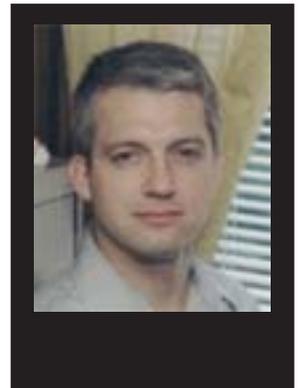
Ms. Radha Bose was recently promoted to Associate in Statistics effective Fall 2008.

Dr. Marten Wegkamp was recently promoted to Professor effective Fall 2008.

Dr. Eric Chicken was recently promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure effective Fall 2008. Next year Dr. Chicken will take over as President of the Florida Chapter of the American Statistical Association. The current chair is another of our professors, **Dr. Xufeng Niu**.



Marten Wegkamp



Two FSU Faculty Selected as ASA Fellows

Dr. Xufeng Niu and **Dr. Betsy Becker** (Professor in College of Education with a courtesy appointment in Statistics) were both elected as fellows of the American Statistical Association in May 2008.

Dr. Niu's research areas include time-series analysis, spatial statistics, linear and nonlinear models, and statistical applications in environmental analysis. Dr. Niu has worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Transportation on several projects over the years.

Dr. Becker's research areas are in educational psychology and learning systems where she is currently working on how to combine the results of multiple-regression analyses.



Xufeng Niu



Betsy Becker

Graduate Student Awards



Yang Liu

Yang Liu (PhD candidate) won the Anna & Yongyuan Li 2007-2008 competition for the best student colloquium for her talk on “Analysis of Longitudinal Trials with Incomplete and Potentially Non-Normal Data”.

Matthew Dutton (PhD candidate) was awarded a University Fellowship for 2008-2009. This is the second time he has won this fellowship. Matthew was also recently selected as a Florida Senate Intern for the 2008-2009 academic year. Matt will work with the Committee on Reapportionment in the state senate. This committee is in charge of analyzing population statistics to aid in the process of allocating Congressional seats to districts every ten years.



Matthew Dutton



Moeti Ncube

Moeti Ncube (PhD candidate) and **Jordan Cuevas** (new PhD student) won Wilson-Auzenne Graduate Assistantships for Minorities for 2008-2009.

Wenting Wang and **Yu Gu** tied for the Best First Year Student in Theoretical Statistics award for 2006-2007. **Daniel Crane** won the award for Best First Year Student in Applied Statistics for 2006-2007.

Mahtab Marker (PhD graduate 2007) received the Ralph A. Bradley award for the best PhD dissertation for 2007.



Jordan Cuevas



Wenting Wang



Dan Crane



Mahtab Marker



Yu Gu

New Assistant Professor - Yiyuan She



Yiyuan She

Yiyuan She will join the department in Fall 2008 as our newest Assistant Professor in Statistics. Yiyuan has a Master’s degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from Peking University and he will receive his PhD in Statistics from Stanford University this summer.

She’s research interests lie in the fields of Machine Learning, Statistical Computing, and Bioinformatics. In particular, he is interested in sparsity problems using the l_1 -penalty or variants, like variable selection, supervised clustering, and outlier detection. He considers regression problems with customizable sparsity patterns and investigates the power and limitations of the classical way of using l_1 -penalty. He also designs fast iterative algorithms for sparsity recovery that can be used in supervised gene clustering.

“With an interdisciplinary background in mathematics, statistics, and computer science, I am fascinated by the elegant and instructive statistics theories as well as the interesting problems arising in various applied fields ... In the field of machine learning, I have found myself fascinated and intrigued by the l_1 -penalty and sparsity problems. My future research plan in this area would be the application, the improvement, and the computation problem of the l_1 -penalized regression or its variants.

Recent Faculty Publications

- Barbu, A.** and Zhu, S.C. (2007). Cluster sampling and its applications in image analysis. *J. Computational and Graphical Statistics*, 16, No 4, pp.877-900.
- Zheng, Y., **Barbu, A.**, Georgescu, B., Scheuring, M., and Comaniciu, D. (October 2007). Fast Automatic Heart Chamber Segmentation from 3D CT Data Using Marginal Space Learning and Steerable Features. *Proceedings International Conference in Computer Vision*.
- Barbu, A.**, Athitsos, V., Georgescu, B., Boehm, S., Durlak, P., and Comaniciu, D. (June 2007). Hierarchical Learning of Curves: Application to Guidewire Localization in Fluoroscopy. *Proceedings IEEE Conference in Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*.
- Zheng, Y., Georgescu, B., **Barbu, A.**, Scheuring, M. and Comaniciu, D. (2008) Four-chamber heart Modeling and Automatic Segmentation for 3D Cardiac CT Volumes, *Proceedings SPIE Medical Imaging (in press)*.
- Bunea, F.**, Tsybakov, A. and **Wegkamp, M.**(2007). Aggregation for Gaussian regression. *The Annals of Statistics*, Vol 35, 1674 -1697.
- Bunea, F.**, Tsybakov, A. and **Wegkamp, M.** (2007). Sparse density estimation with l_1 penalties. *Annual Conference on Learning Theory, Lecture Notes in Artificial Intelligence*, pp. 530 - 544, Springer.
- Bunea, F.**, Tsybakov, A. and **Wegkamp, M.** (2007). Sparsity oracle inequalities for the lasso. *Electronic Journal of Statistics*, pp. 169- 194.
- Bunea, F.** (2007). Consistent selection via the Lasso for high dimensional approximating models. *IMS Lecture Notes-Monograph Series*, Vol 123, pp. 123 - 137.
- Bunea, F.** and Nobel A. (2008). Online prediction algorithms for aggregation of arbitrary estimators of a conditional mean. *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* (in press).
- Chicken, E.**, Loper, D. and Werner, C. (2007). Estimating tidal effects in flow: a multiscale method using correlated phenomena. *Water Resources Research* 43 W05414.
- Medda, A., **Chicken, E.**, and DeBrunner, V.(August 2007). Sigma-sampling wavelet denoising for structural health monitoring. *Statistical Signal Processing, IEEE/SP* 119- 22.
- Chicken, E.** (2007). Nonparametric regression with sample design following a random process. *Communications in Statistics - Theory and Methods* 36 1915-1934.
- Chicken, E.** (2007). Directional step models for multiscale correlation thresholding. *Water Resources Research* 43 Supp.
- Huffer, F.W.**, and Park, C. (2007). A Test for Elliptical Symmetry. *Journal of Multivariate Analysis*, 98, 256-281.
- Smit, E., Garcia-Palmieri, M., Figueroa, N., **McGee, D.**, Messina, M., Freudenheim, J. and Crespo, C. (2007). Protein and legume intake and prostate cancer mortality in Puerto Rican men. *Nutr Cancer* 58: 146-152.
- Hall, S., **Niu, X-F.**, Walker, J.C., and Mayo, M.S. (2007). Generalized Linear Mixed-Effects Models for the Analysis of Odor Detection Data. *Journal of Modern Applied Statistical Methods* (in press).
- Norton, J. and **Niu X-F.** (2007). Modeling Birth Outcomes with Spatiotemporal Dependence. *Proceeding of American Statistical Association*. (In Press).
- Kobelo, D., **Patranganaru, V.** and Mussa, R. (2008). Safety Analysis of Florida Urban Limited Access Highways with Special Focus on the Influence of Truck Lane Restriction Policy. *Transportation Engineering*, 134, 297-306.
- Patranganaru, V., Liu, X., and Sugathadasa, S. (2008) Nonparametric 3D Projective Shape Estimation from Pairs of 2D Images - I, In Memory of W.P. Dayawansa. <http://arxiv.org/PS/cache/arxiv/pdf/0806/0806.0899v1.pdf>
- Munk, A., Paige, R, Pang, J., **Patranganaru, V.**, and Ruymgaart, F. (2007). The one- and multi sample problem for functional data with application to projective shape analysis. *Journal of Multivariate Analysis (in press)*.
- Senkal, C.E., Ponnusamy, S., Rossi, M.J., Bialewski, J., **Sinha, D.**, Jiang, J.C., Jazwinski, S.M., Hannun, Y.A., and Ogretmen, B. (2007). Role of human longevity assurance gene 1 and C18-ceramide in chemotherapy-induced cell death in human head and neck squamous cell carcinomas. *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*, 6, 712-722.
- Garrow, D., Miller, S., **Sinha, D.**, Hoffman, B.J., Hawes, R.H., Conway, J., and Romagnuolo, J. (2007). Endoscopic Ultrasound: A meta-analysis of test performance in suspected biliary obstruction. *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*.
- Cooner, F., Banerjee, S., Carlin, B.P., and **Sinha, D.** (2007). Flexible cure rate modelling under latent activation schemes. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, 102, 560-572.
- Ryu, D., **Sinha, D.**, Mallick, B., Lipsitz, S.R. and Lipshultz, S.E. (2007). Longitudinal Studies with Outcome Dependent Follow-Up: Models and Bayesian Regression. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, 102, 952-961.
- Sinha, D.**, Ibrahim, J.G., Ouyang, B., and Maiti, T. (2008). Current Methods for Recurrent Events Data with Dependent Termination: A Bayesian Perspective. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, (in press).
- McHenry, M.B., Lipsitz, S.R., and **Sinha, D.**, (2008). Additive Hazard Rate Regression Model Estimation using Maximum Likelihood and Weighted Least Squares. *The Annals of Applied Statistics*, (in press).
- Cho, H., Ibrahim, J.G., **Sinha, D.** and Zhu, H. (2008). Bayesian case influence diagnostics for survival models. *Biometrics*, (in press).
- Mio, W., **Srivastava, A.**, and Joshi, S., (July 2007). On Shape of Plane Elastic Curves. *International Journal of Computer Vision*, vol. 73, no. 3, pp. 307-324.
- Grenander, U, **Srivastava A.**, and Saini, S. (November 2007). A Pattern-Theoretic Characterization of Biological Growth. *IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging*, vol. 26, no. 5, pp. 648-659.
- Kaziska, D. and **Srivastava, A.** (December 2007). Classification of Cyclostationary Processes on Nonlinear Shape Manifolds for Gait-Based Human Recognition. *Journal of American Statistical Association*, vol. 102, no. 480, pages 1114-1124.
- Srivastava, A.** (March 2007). Human Identification using facial curves with extensions to joint shape-texture analysis. *2nd International Conference on Computer Vision Theory and Applications VISAPP 2007*, Barcelona, Spain. (with C. Samir and M. Daoudi).
- Srivastava, A.** (June 2007). An Efficient Representation for Computing Geodesics Between n-Dimensional Elastic Curves. *IEEE Conference on computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, Minneapolis, MN.. (with S. Joshi, E. Klassen and I. Jermyn).
- Srivastava, A.** (June 2007). Riemannian Analysis of Probability Density Functions with Applications in Vision. *IEEE Conference on computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, Minneapolis, MN, June 2007. (with I. Jermyn and S. Joshi).
- Srivastava, A.** (2007). Tree Species Classification Using Radiometry, Texture and Shape Based Features. *European Conference on Signal Processing (EUSIPCO)*, Poland. (with M. Kulikova, M. Mani, and X. Descombes).
- Srivastava, A.** (August 2007). Shape Analysis of Open Curves in R3 with Applications to Study of Fiber Tracts in DT-MRI Data. *Proceedings of Sixth International Workshop on Energy Minimization Methods in Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (EMMCVPR)*, pages 399-413, Hubei, China. (with N. Balov, C. Li, and Z. Ding).
- Srivastava, A.** (August 2007). Removing Shape-Preserving Transformations in Square-Root Elastic (SRE) Framework for Shape Analysis of Curves. *Proceedings of Sixth International Workshop on Energy Minimization Methods in Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (EMMCVPR)*, pages 387-398, Hubei, China. (with S.H. Joshi, E. Klassen, and I.H. Jermyn)
- Kaziska, D. and **Srivastava, A.** (2007). The Karcher Mean of a Class of Symmetric Distributions on a Unit Circle. *Statistics and Probability Letters*. (accepted for publication).
- Srivastava, A.**, Samir, C., Joshi, S.H., and Daoudi, M. (2007). Elastic Shape Models for Face Analysis Using Curvilinear Coordinates. *Journal of Mathematical Imaging and Vision* (in press).
- Wegkamp, M.** (2007). Lasso type classifiers with a reject option.

Electronic Journal of Statistics 1, 155-168.

Bartlett, P. and **Wegkamp, M.** Classification with a reject option using a hinge loss. *Journal of Machine Learning Research* (in press).

Gyorfı, L. and **Wegkamp, M.** Quantization for nonparametric regression. *I.E.E.E. Transactions on Information Theory* (in press)

Wu, W. and Hatsopoulos, N. (2007). Coordinate system representations of movement direction in the premotor cortex. *Experimental Brain Research*, vol. 176, no. 4, pp. 652-657.

Chi, Z., **Wu, W.**, Haga, Z., Hatsopoulos, N., and Margoliash D.. (2007). Template-based spike pattern identification with linear convolution and dynamic time warping. *Journal of Neurophysiology*, vol. 97, pp. 1221-1235.

Thompson, J., **Wu, W.**, Bertram, R., and Johnson, F.. (2007). Auditory-dependent vocal recovery in adult male zebra finches is facilitated by lesion of a forebrain pathway that includes the basal ganglia. *Journal of Neuroscience*, vol. 27, no. 45, pp. 12308-12320.

Wu, W. and Hatsopoulos, N.. Real-time decoding of non-stationary neural activity in motor cortex. *IEEE Transactions on Neural Systems and Rehabilitation Engineering*, (in press).

Zhang, J., Kou, S.C., Liu, J.S. (2007) Polymer structure simulation and optimization via a fragment re-growth Monte Carlo. *J. Chem. Phys.* 126, 225101.

Current Grants

Dr. Victor Patrangenaru received an NSF grant “Nonparametric Theory on Manifolds of Shapes & Images, with Applications to Biology, Medical Imaging, and Machine Vision” and an NSA grant for “Statistical Analysis on Manifolds and 3D Surface Identification from Noncalibrated Camera Images”.

Dr. Adrian Barbu and **Dr. Jinfeng Zhang** received First Year Assistant Professor awards from FSU. Dr. Barbu’s project is “Robust Classification Using Marginal Space Fusion”. Dr. Zhang’s project is “High-Resolution Protein Structure Modeling & Applications”.

Dr. Wei Wu received a CRC (Council on Research and Creativity) grant “Motor cortical decoding of target-directed hand motion” from FSU for 2008.

Dr. Debajyoti Sinha received a new NIH grant “Semiparametric Bayesian Methods for Survival Data”.

Dr. Florentina Bunea and **Dr. Marten Wegkamp** received a new NSF grant “Sparsity oracle inequalities via l_1 regularization in nonparametric models”.

Emeritus Professor **Jayaram Sethuraman** was awarded the Research And Engineering and Apprenticeship Program Award (REAP) again for 2008.

Dr. Anuj Srivastava is a Co-PI with Washington Mio (Mathematics) as PI and Xuiwen Liu (Computer Science) as Co-PI on an NSF Computing and Communicating Foundations Grant “Algorithmic Riemannian Geometry for a Statistical Analysis of Images”.

Srivastava is the PI for FSU and Co-PI with faculty from Ohio State, MIT, Boston University, and the University of Michigan on an AFOSR MURI grant “Integrated Fusion, Performance Prediction and Sensor Management for Automatic Target Exploitation”.

Srivastava is PI with Washington Mio and Xuiwen Liu as Co-PI’s on an ARO grant “Statistical Analysis of Shapes for Target Recognition”.

Dr. Srivastava has a Northrop-Grumman Innovation Alliance Award for \$25K.

In the last academic year while on sabbatical, **Dr. Srivastava** received funding from CNRS/ Univ of Lille, France where he recently served as Visiting Professor for four months and from the University of Lille, France where he served as a Visiting Professor for two months.

Dr. Debajyoti Sinha is the Principal Investigator on a National Cancer Institute grant “Semiparametric Bayesian Methods for Survival Data” which he is jointly working on with researchers Stuart Lipsitz (Brigham and Women’s Hospital), Andrea Troxel (University of Pennsylvania), and Joseph Ibrahim (UNC, Chapel Hill).

Dr. Eric Chicken is a Co-PI with Dr. David Loper (Geology and GFDI - Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Institute) on the grant “Using the Woodville Karst Plain as a pilot for establishing a hydrological observatory and a water data center based in Tallahassee” which is funded by the Florida Geological Survey.

Dr. Xufeng Niu is a Co-PI with XiaoLei Zou as PI (Department of Meteorology) on an FSU Cornerstone Program grant “Toward Establishing a Research and Educational Center for Data Assimilation”. He is also the PI and Project Manager for the grant “Statistical Analysis of Environmental Data” which is funded by the Florida Department of Environmental protection.



Florentina Bunea



Jayaram Sethuraman

Biostat Grad Students Apply Their Skills in Summer Internships



Lanjia Lin



Li Fan

This summer, three of our Biostatistics PhD students, **Li Fan**, **Lanjia Lin**, and **Yang Liu**, are gaining valuable experience by applying their skills in the pharmaceutical industry.

Lanjia Lin is doing her first summer internship. She is working in the Biostatistics Department of Novartis Oncology in Florham Park, New Jersey. She is working on developing a simulation tool for dose escalation models in Phase I studies using Bayesian methods and also on developing Hierarchical Bayesian methods for Logistic Regression Models in randomized Phase II studies.

Yang Liu is doing her second summer internship at the

Department of Oncology, Pfizer La Jolla Laboratories. One of her main duties involves working on adaptive designs including group sequential methods and sample-size re-estimation.

Li Fan is doing her second summer internship at Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceutical, Inc in Bridgewater, New Jersey. She is working on comparisons of methods for analyzing pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetics data in Phase I studies, including developing simulation studies for these comparisons.

Through their internships, Lanjia, Yang, and Li have an exceptional opportunity to experience and learn the drug development process — especially the clinical trials that are being developed, implemented, and managed. They are also learning the importance of biostatistics in the pharmaceutical industry. Yang Liu states: “This is a great opportunity where I can use what I’ve learned at school and also I can learn a great deal ...a summer intern job is fun and challenging...and it makes your resume look better.”

The Department of Statistics began a new PhD program in Biostatistics in Fall 2007. FSU is the only school in the state of Florida to offer a PhD degree in Biostatistics.

Alumni News

Robert Neher (PhD 2004) is in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Air Force Institute of Technology, Dayton, OH as an Assistant Professor where he received an Instructor of the Quarter award in 2005.

Nicole Ishill (MS 2003) is working at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Dacheng Liu (PhD 2003) is in Biometrics and Data Management for Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc in Connecticut.

Matthew Hall (MS 2002) is working at Child Health Corporation of America.

Ryan Petska (MS 2001) is a Statistical Consulting Manager for Ernst & Young LLP in Washington, D.C.

Kristen (Hill) Turner (MS 2001) is a Policy Analyst/Coordinator for Statistical Research: Mental Health Law & Policy/C&G at the University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

Michiko Wolcott (MS 1999) is Senior Director, International Analytics, Analytical Services, Equifax.

Kara Morgan (MS 1998) is the Consulting Manager for the US statistical consulting team for the Insightful Corporation.

Tommy Minton (MS 1997) is now working as an Adjunct Instructor at Seminole Community College.

Yizhou Yang (MS 1996) is a Senior Manager in Risk Management for Dell Financial Services. Before taking the job at Dell, Yizhou worked for J.P. Morgan Chase, MSA, and CapitalOne.

Mark Lewis (MS 1995) is an Associate Professor with the School of Operational Research and Industrial Engineering at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Jean Roayaei, (PhD 1984) is a Senior Biostatistician & Statistical Geneticist at the National Cancer Institute in Maryland.

Bill Salokar (MS 1980) joined the American Cancer Society as a Manger of Quantitative Research.

Anthony Quinzi (PhD 1976) is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Information and Decision Sciences at the University of Texas, El Paso. Dr. Quinzi is also a Systems Analyst with the US Army TRADOC Analysis Center, White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Doug Jones (PhD 1973) is an Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Rutgers Business School, New Jersey.

PhD Graduates

2008

Jon Norton is working at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research with the US Food and Drug Administration.

2007

Seo-Eun Choi is in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics at Arkansas State University.

Jianghua He is working at Kansas University Medical Center's Department of Biostatistics.

Mahtab Marker is employed with Schering-Plough Corporation World Headquarters, N. J.

Dimitre Stefanov is an Assistant Professor at the University of Akron in Ohio.

Dai Ho Uhm is working in the Department of Statistics at Oklahoma State University.

2006

Anna Auguste is employed with Capital One in Richmond, Virginia.

Ayesha Delpish is Assistant Professor at Elon University, Department of Mathematics in North Carolina.

Radu Herbei is an Assistant Professor at Ohio State University.

Evgenia Rubinshtein is currently employed at the University of Central Arkansas.

Dinesh Sharma is an Assistant Professor at Florida International University.

Han Yu is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toledo in Ohio.

2005

David Kaziska is with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Air Force Institute of Technology, Dayton, OH.

Billy Franks, Jr. is employed with Astellas Pharmaceuticals in Chicago, IL.

Mahtab Munshi is employed with Takeda Pharmaceuticals in Chicago, IL.

Saengla Chaimongkol is a Lecturer in the Mathematics and Statistics Department, Thammasat University, Thailand.

MS Graduates

2008

Daniel Crane

Xiaoyun Li is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Xin Li

Greg Miller is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Ben Neely is working at the US Census Bureau.

2007

Steven Brown is employed by the FSU College of Medicine.

Li Fan is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Yan Li is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Lanjia Lin is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Moeti Ncube is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Sanjay Saini is employed by Suez Energy North America, Houston, TX.

Carl Siebert is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Yingfeng Tao is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Deborah Weissman-Berman is working at FAMU.

Jelani Wiltshire is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Su-Tan Wu is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

2006

Chandramouli Banerjee is a Statistician/Data Analyst in an IT company, MASTEK, in Mumbai, India.

Matthew Dutton is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Peiqing Liang is with the Nielsen Company in Chicago.

Yang Liu is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Xiaomeng Sun is a Senior Actuarial Analyst at Lincoln Financial Group.

Warren Thompson is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Xin Wu

2005

Jeffrey Dobias is an instructor and athletic coach at Mount de Sales Academy, Macon, GA.

Stella Gomez is working at FAMU, IME.

Wenhao Gui is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Shuva Gupta is continuing with the PhD program in Statistics.

Andrada Ivanescu is an Associate Professor in the Biostatistics department at East Carolina University (Ph.D. expected Fall 2008).

Dileepa Kumarapperuma is employed by EverBank, Jacksonville, FL.

Helen Lai

Nicole Robichaux

Xia Wang

To Update your Alumni Information, please go to:
<http://stat.fsu.edu/people/AlumniUpdateForm.php>

Contributions

You may show your support to the Department by contributing to any of the following funds:

The **Statistics General Development Fund** was created to provide general support for our department in a variety of areas.

The **Ralph A. Bradley Student Award** is named for our department's founder, Dr. Ralph A. Bradley. The award is presented to a graduating PhD student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, culminating in the presentation of the best doctoral dissertation of the year.

The **Yongyuan and Anna Li Fund** was established by Anna Li in memory of her husband Yongyuan Li who died from cancer on April 7, 1997. The award consists of a cash prize and certificate and is presented to the graduate student who presents the best student colloquium each year.

The **Ronald and Carolyn Hobbs Endowed Fund** in Statistics was established by Ron Hobbs (MS '67) and his wife Carolyn. The establishment of this fund was used to create an endowed chair position which Debajyoti Sinha now holds and the funds will be used in support of his research and scholarly activities.

Thank You!

The Department would like to thank the following alumni who made very generous donations to the Statistics General Development Fund in the last few years: Nora F. Blair, Attorney at Law (MS 1975), William J. Blot (PhD 1970), Terry Katz (MS 1985), Doug Ransom (MS 1984), William D. Warde (MS 1967), Glenn J. Eschrich (BS 1966), Edward Nevius (PhD 1975), Franklin R. Harrison (BS 1991), and John L. Dorian (BS 1979, MS 1980).

As always, we appreciate your continued support and are proud of our alumni and their accomplishments.

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Form 99SDDM

Our Newest Graduate Students



Michael Brandow



Jennifer Geis



Brendan Hadder



Jingyong Su



Feng Zhao

For Fall 2008 the following new students will join our program: Peter Stafford (New York), Michael Brandow (Florida - currently an undergraduate at FSU), Brendan Hadder (Washington, DC - currently an undergraduate at FSU), Robert Holden (Kentucky), Jennifer Geis (South Korea), Jordan Cuevas (Florida, currently in another graduate program at FSU), Jingyong Su (China), Sahar Pirmoradian (Iran), Seoungyeon Ha (South Korea), and Feng Zhao (China).

The students who were admitted in 2007 are: Emilola Abayomi (Georgia), Sharifah Alrajhi (Saudi Arabia), Ariel Aloe (US/Argentina), Lindsey Bell (Florida), Kelli Bindernagel (California), Sheri Creel (Florida), Leif Ellingson (Florida), Jaime Frade (Florida), Paul Hill (Trinidad), Ester Kim (Florida/Brazil), Sebastian Kurtek (Florida), Xin Li (China), Jianchang Lin (China), Jonathan Moody (Georgia), Daniel Osborne (Florida), Tamika Royal (Jamaica), and Jihyung Shin (South Korea).



Emilola Abayomi



Sharifah Alrajhi



Ariel Aloe



Lindsey Bell



Kelli Bindernagel



Sheri Creel



Leif Ellingson



Jaime Frade



Paul Hill



Sebastian Kurtek



Xin Li



Jianchang Lin



Jonathan Moody



Daniel Osborne



Tamika Royal



Jihyung Shin