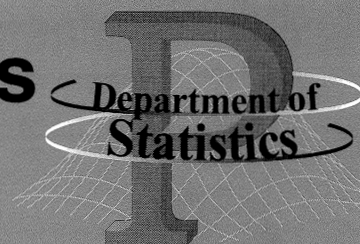


# Department of Statistics

## NEWSLETTER



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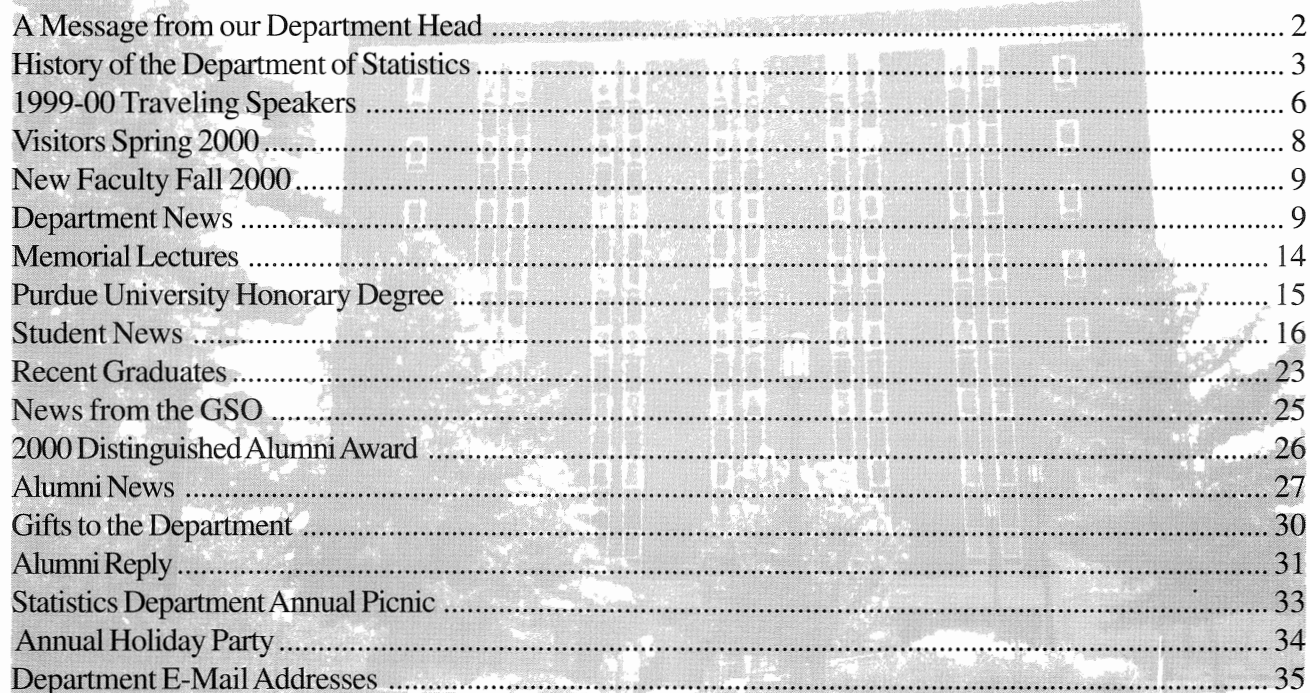
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**Purdue University**

**Fall 2000**

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## A Message from the Department Head

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Dear Alums and Friends,

The process of curriculum and course improvement is continual in academia but several projects that represent years of work will be implemented for the first time in the Department this Fall 2000 semester.

The advice of an external Statistics Advisory Council has led to the offering of a course in categorical data analysis for this Fall 2000 as well as other improvements in preparation for students interested in biostatistics, statistical genetics and bioinformatics.

The Department has implemented a revised Ph.D. exam system in Fall 2000 to provide more flexibility

for entering students. The new system allows students with different academic backgrounds to proceed at different paces and enables students to take advantage of the multidisciplinary aspects of our degree. It also allows students to begin research at an earlier time if that is appropriate. The new exam system begins with three exams each of which covers two semester courses. One exam is in probability, one in statistical methodology and the third in statistical theory. After passing the three exams and choosing an advisor, the student may take other exams appropriate for the research area as required by the advisor.

The Department has submitted to the Graduate School a proposal for a graduate Certificate in Statistics that would allow graduate students from other fields to earn credentials that indicate expertise in statistics beyond the bachelor's degree but short of an MS.

The job demand for expertise in the statistical sciences has grown enormously and the Department strives to allow our students to enjoy its benefits.

Best regards to you,



Mary Ellen Bock

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### Calendar of Coming Events

The 2000 Holiday Party will be held in the Outlook Room at the Trails, Lafayette, Indiana on Saturday, December 16, 2000.

The 2001 Joint Statistical Meetings will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 5-9, 2001.

# History of the Department of Statistics to 1993

by

Shanti S. Gupta and William J. Studden

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*NOTE: This history was written in 1993 and gives a picture of the Department at that time.*

The Department of Statistics at Purdue was formed in 1963 as a part of what was then the Division of Mathematical Sciences and became an independent entity within the School of Science in 1968. Prior to 1963, statistics and probability courses at Purdue were taught within the Department of Mathematics mainly by professors affiliated with the Statistical Laboratory, which was housed on the second floor of the Engineering Administration Building.

Prominent names associated with the Stat Lab were Carl F. Kossack, Irving W. Burr, Paul Irick and Virgil L. Anderson. Anderson was head of the Statistical Laboratory from 1956 until 1966 when it ceased to exist. The first Ph.D.'s in statistics at Purdue appear to have been awarded to Sister Mary Agnes Hatke and Maurice Miller Lemme, who received degrees within the Department of Mathematics under the direction of Irving Burr in 1947.

In the 1950's statistics and computing saw considerable growth throughout the country. Until the early 1970's the department's activities in graduate programs and teaching were part of or closely intertwined with those of the Department of Mathematics. Graduate students majoring in statistics were required to take the mathematics qualifiers, and promotions for junior faculty in statistics were processed through the Department of Mathematics.

Early faculty members teaching statistics and mathematics and associated with the department include Irving W. Burr (1941-74), Virgil L. Anderson (1951-86), Henry Teicher (1951-67), Louis Cote (1960-90), Shanti Gupta (1962-), K. C. S. Pillai (1962-85), Marcel Neuts (1962-76), Y. S. Chow

(1963-69), Glen Baxter (1965-83), Stephen Samuels (1963-), William Studden (1964-), and Prem Puri (1965-89).

The department had substantial growth in faculty in the sixties. In 1962 Professor Shanti S. Gupta was hired in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Shanti Gupta received his Ph.D. in theoretical statistics from the University of North Carolina in 1956, and worked in Bell Telephone Laboratories in 1956-57 and again in 1958-61. He was a visiting Associate Professor of Statistics at Stanford before coming to Purdue. It was anticipated that his theoretical and practical experience would promote the growth of statistics at Purdue.

In 1968 the Statistics Department was made an independent entity within the School of Science, a task accomplished largely through the efforts of Professor Gupta, who was appointed the first head of the department, and the support of Felix Haas who was the Dean of the School of Science. This was an important recognition of the status and the growth potential of statistics and probability at Purdue.

The department continued to grow and flourish and was recognized as one of the top 10 theoretical Statistics Departments in the world. Besides strong graduate programs in statistics and probability, the department taught a large number of service courses at Purdue and had a very active statistical consulting service. The department offered M.S. degrees in both applied and theoretical statistics, a joint M.S. degree in statistics and computer science, as well as Ph.D. degrees with thesis topics in a wide variety of

# History of the Department of Statistics to 1993 (cont.)

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research areas. From 1963 to 1993 the department awarded approximately 260 M.S. degrees and 150 Ph.D. degrees.

Research and funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other agencies increased dramatically and new areas of research became prominent. These areas included Bayesian analysis, design theory, multiple decision theory, design of experiments, multivariate analysis, sequential analysis, probability theory and stochastic processes.

The Department hosted five international symposia on Statistical Decision Theory and Related Topics by 1993. The proceedings held in the summer of 1992, under the editorship of S. S. Gupta and J. O. Berger were published by Springer Verlag in 1994. These symposia were held regularly at five year intervals. Besides these symposia the department held other prominent workshops and conferences.

One development in the Statistics Department was the creation, in October 1987, of the Center for Statistical Decision Sciences. The department envisioned the role of the Center to encompass many cross disciplinary activities in decision sciences on a broad basis. The Center sponsored several series of seminars and mini-conferences. It had an active series of technical reports and numerous statisticians visited the center each year.

Purdue's Department of Statistics from its inception was the only such department in Indiana. As such, it offered the state's most complete array of courses in probability and theoretical and applied statistics at both undergraduate and graduate levels. It was the only Indiana source for doctorates in statistics. The Statistics Department offered students from many fields an acquaintance with the methods and reasoning of applied statistics. In addition, it provided broad training in both theory and practice for professional statisticians and for probabilists.

Graduate training was integrated with the Department's research and with the Statistical Consulting Service, in which graduate students gained experience working with clients on real problems.

Because statistics itself was primarily a graduate discipline, the department's undergraduate teaching was concentrated in service courses for students in a wide variety of disciplines. Graduate students from many disciplines in addition to statistics itself also took the department's courses. The teaching was therefore tilted toward more advanced courses. About one-third of the credit hours offered in later years were taught in courses numbered 500 or above. The number of credit hours taught grew rapidly from 3,159 in the 1968-69 academic year to 11,601 in 1978-79, then more slowly to 12,970 in 1988-89 and 13,779 in 1992-93.

The most profound change in teaching over the years of the department's existence was certainly the ever-increasing use of software. Reflecting changes in the professional practice of statistics, computing, once reserved for graduate courses, moved to introductory service courses and its implementation moved from a central card reader to terminals to networks of Macintosh (for undergraduates) or Unix (for graduate students) workstations.

The Mathematics and Statistics Departments cooperated academically in several ways. Many courses in probability theory were jointly listed by the departments and there were always joint appointments, especially for probabilists. Most of the few undergraduate statistics majors also qualified for a degree in mathematics. In 1989 the two departments created a joint major in actuarial science that enrolled about 100 undergraduates in 1992.

# History of the Department of Statistics to 1993 (cont.)

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## Computing Facilities

Early computing at Purdue in the post World War II era was done in the Statistics and Computing Laboratory headed by Carl F. Kossack. The equipment was mainly desk calculators, IBM tabulators, and card sorters. An Electro-Data machine, programmed in machine language and fed by paper tape, was acquired in 1953. This was replaced by an IBM 360 in 1958.

In 1962 the Mathematics Department was moved out of the School of Science, Education and Humanities, and a Division of Mathematical Sciences was created with Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science as its units. The Statistics Department made research and consulting use of the computing equipment in the Purdue University Computing Center under the direction of Alan Perlis. Computers began to be used in statistics teaching when packaged programs such as SPSS, BMDP became available around 1975. In 1983 the Statistics Department bought its first in-house computer, a VAX 11/780 system. This was made possible largely by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

In 1992 the department had a network consisting of two file servers, one an IBM RISC/6000 and the other an older Sun, recently upgraded to a 4/280. Connected to these servers were 6 Sun workstations, 24 X-windows terminals and one stand-alone IBM RISC/6000 workstation. These were used by faculty, students and staff, including all of the secretaries. Output devices included several laser printers and two pen plotters. In addition, about two dozen "dumb" terminals were still connected to the servers. Most of these were in graduate student offices; all but two of the faculty used workstations.

Most of the equipment was funded through two grants from the NSF Scientific Computing Re-

sources for the Mathematical Sciences (SCREMS) program, a grant from Sun Microsystems to the Presidential Young Investigator, Prof. Tom Sellke, and several individual NSF grants.

The Department continually upgraded its equipment. In 1992 the DEC VAX11/780, acquired through the first SCREMS grant, was retired. The Department anticipated replacing all of the Sun equipment with additional IBM RISC/6000 equipment, under the IBM Shared University Research (SUR) Program.

The Department was a leader in the use of sophisticated statistical software, such as S-Plus and LispStat, symbolic mathematical software, such as Mathematica, and various dialects of the technical (mathematical) document preparation system, TeX. One measure of this leadership was reflected in the fact that former Ph.D. students at such places as Duke University and the University of California frequently requested permission to run programs at Purdue which they were unable to run at their new locations.

## Consulting Service

With support from the Purdue University Computing Center (PUCC) and the Statistics Department, the consulting service provided the university community with free advice on problems involving the use of statistics. For individuals seeking assistance with computer software a drop-in service was provided during normal working hours at PUCC. Problems involving the design of experiments, statistical analysis of data and interpretation of results were handled by appointment in a room provided by the Statistics Department. The Consulting Service tried to develop a working relationship with the clients and become involved in the process whereby research ideas are formulated, translated into the framework of a statistical model, and investigated in the context of such a model.

# History of the Department of Statistics (cont.)

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By providing statistical consulting, the Department addressed all three functions of a university: education, research and teaching. The service provided had a direct impact on the quality of research

performed while giving the graduate students who worked as consultants a very valuable learning experience by working with real problems.

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## 1999-00 Traveling Speakers

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**R. Rathmacher**, Eli Lilly, “Overview of Drug Development”, August 25, 1999.

**Cindy Nakatsu**, Purdue University, “Dynamics of the Bacterial Community in the Rhizosphere of Corn”, August 31, 1999.

**Greg Enas**, Eli Lilly, “Enhancing the Value Delivered by the Statistician Throughout Drug Discovery and Development”, September 1, 1999.

**Phil Iversen**, Eli Lilly, “Estimating the False Negative Rate of a High Throughput Screen”, September 8, 1999.

**Vladimir Spokoiny**, Institute for Applied Analysis and Stochastics, Berlin, Germany, “Statistical Inference for Time-inhomogeneous Finance Data”, September 9, 1999.

**Jeffrey D. Hofer**, Eli Lilly, “A Statistician’s Role in Drug Product Development”, September 15, 1999.

**Thaddeus Tarpey**, Wright State University, “Measuring Intraspecies Genetic Diversity Using RAPD-PCR Profiles”, September 14, 1999.

**Eric P. Fox**, Pratt & Whitney, “Probabilistic Design at Pratt & Whitney”, September 17, 1999.

**Wendell C. Smith**, Eli Lilly, “Statistical Methods in Assay Validation”, September 22, 1999.

**Wherly Hoffman**, Eli Lilly, “Applications of Statistical Methods in Toxicology”, September 29, 1999.

**Brian Smith**, Eli Lilly, “Clinical Pharmacology Statistics”, October 6, 1999.

**Daniel Gervini**, Universidad de Buenos Aires, “A Robust and Fully Efficient Regression Estimator”, October 7, 1999.

**Jeffrey D. Tew**, General Motors Corporation, “An Overview of the Enterprise Systems Laboratory at General Motors R&D”, October 15, 1999.

**Lynn E. Eberly**, University of Minnesota, “Correlates of Coenrollment in AIDS Clinical Trials”, October 19, 1999.

**Doug Faries**, Eli Lilly, “Statistical Issues in Phase II Trials: Reaching a Product Decision”, October 20, 1999.

**Bill Huster**, Eli Lilly, “From Product Decision to Regulatory Submission (and beyond!)”, October 27, 1999.

**Alexander Korostelev**, Wayne State University, “Estimation of Smooth Functionals in Image Models”, October 28, 1999.

**Roy N. Tamura**, Eli Lilly, “Randomization Methods in Clinical Trials”, November 3, 1999.

## 1999-00 Traveling Speakers (cont.)

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**Peter Brockwell**, Colorado State University, “Non-linear Models for Financial Time Series”, November 5, 1999.

**Robert L. Obenchain**, Eli Lilly, “Adjustment for Treatment Selection Bias in Retrospective Studies”, November 10, 1999.

**Ravi R. Mazumdar**, Purdue University, “Cell Loss in Large Buffers Fed by Heterogeneous Long-Tailed Sources”, November 11, 1999.

**Sean P. Meyn**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, “Feedback Regulation for Sequencing and Routing in Multiclass Queueing Networks”, November 12, 1999.

**Spencer V. Muse**, North Carolina State University, “Multilocus Molecular Evolutionary Analysis”, November 16, 1999.

**Laura Foust**, Eli Lilly, “Identifying, Controlling, and Reducing Variability: Statistics in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing”, November 17, 1999.

**Kara Bennett**, Harvard University, “The Many Roles of a Statistician Involved in Clinical Trials”, November 30, 1999.

**Julia Varshavsky**, Eli Lilly, “Marketing Research: Role in

Drug Development and Overview of Statistical Methods”, December 1, 1999.

**Friedrich Liese**, University of Rostock, Germany, “Asymptotic Distribution of the Random Regret Risk for Selecting Good Exponential Populations”, December 2, 1999.

**Gopal Chaudhuri**, Thomson Electronics, Indianapolis, “A New Approach to System Reliability”, December 3, 1999.

**Hira Koul**, Michigan State University, “Nonparametric Model Checks for Time Series”, December 3, 1999.

**Jay Andersen**, Eli Lilly, “Applications of Decision Analysis in the Pharmaceutical Industry”, December 8, 1999.

**Mark Low**, University of Pennsylvania, “Adaptive Estimation of Linear Functionals”, December 9, 1999.

**Chunming Zhang**, The University of North Carolina, “Generalized Likelihood Ratio Statistics and Wilks Phenomenon”, January 11, 2000.

**Yu Zhang**, University of Colorado, “On the Speed of Convergence for Two Dimensional First Passage Ising Percolation”, January 13, 2000.

**Jenny Steichen**, University of Illinois, “A Functional Central Limit Theorem for Markov Additive Processes”, January 28, 2000.

**Richard A. Vitale**, University of Connecticut, “Gaussian Processes and Intrinsic Volumes”, February 3, 2000.

**Michael Stein**, University of Chicago, “Local Stationarity and Simulation of Self-Affine Intrinsic Random Functions”, February 10, 2000.

**Don Berry**, Texas Medical Center, “Biostatistical Potpourri”, February 17, 2000.

**Arup Bose**, Indian Statistical Institute and Purdue University, “Generalised Bootstrap Technique and Its Accuracy”, February 25, 2000.

**Robert Stine**, University of Pennsylvania, “Model Selection via Universal Coding”, March 2, 2000.

**Gary C. McDonald**, General Motors R&D Center, “Choosing a Portfolio of R&D Projects”, March 9, 2000.

**Michael Yu Zhu**, University of Michigan, “A General Approach to Robust Parameter Design and Other Designs with Multiple Groups of Factors”, March 22, 2000.

## 1999-00 Traveling Speakers (cont.)

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**Sam Efromovich**, University of New Mexico, “Nonparametric Curve Estimation: From Asymptotic to Small Sample Sizes”, March 24, 2000.

**Stanley Sawyer**, Washington University, “Statistical Tests for Detecting Gene Conversion”, March 30, 2000.

**Richard Levine**, University of California at Davis, “Implementations of the Monte Carlo EM Algorithm”, April 6, 2000.

**Bradley Efron**, Stanford University, “Smoothers and the Cost of

Model Selection”, April 12, 2000.

**Gregory F. Lawler**, Duke University, “Calculating the Intersection Exponents for Planar Brownian Motion”, April 14, 2000.

**Steven Lalley**, University of Chicago, “Mixing Rates for a Class of Riffle Shuffles”, April 20, 2000.

**Elvezio Ronchetti**, University of Geneva, “Robustness Aspects of Model Selection”, April 26, 2000.

**Gene Hwang**, Cornell University, “Does E-M Algorithm Work for Identifying Principal Components When Massive Data are Missing?”, April 27, 2000.

**Jing Shyr**, SPSS, Inc., “The Impact of Data Mining on Statistical Research”, April 28, 2000.

**Michael Woodroffe**, University of Michigan, “Central Limit Theorems for Additive Functionals of Markov Chains”, May 4, 2000.

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## Visitors Spring 2000

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**Arup Bose**



**Arup Bose** was a Visiting Professor from Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, India for the Spring 2000 semester. His current research interests include resampling plans, heavy tailed

modeling, sequential analysis and large sample theory. He is a Managing Editor of *Sankhya*. Interestingly, Arup's first faculty position was at this department as a Visiting Assistant Professor for the period 1987-1990. He also visited us in 1995-96.

**Adele Galasso**



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**Adele Galasso** is a Visiting Scholar. She received her B.S. in Statistics in 1997 and is currently working on her Ph.D. at The University of Rome “La Sapienza”. She is visiting Purdue University in order to work with

Professor Shanti S. Gupta. Her research interests are Multiple Decision Theory and Reliability Theory.



## Joining the Department in August 2000

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### *Assistant Professor of Statistics and Mathematics*

**Frederi Viens** - Dr. Viens comes to Purdue as Assistant Professor of Statistics and Mathematics. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Irvine in 1996 in the area of probability theory and its applications to stochastic partial differential equations. He was previously Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of North Texas. An NSF postdoctoral fellowship allowed him to spend 12 months each at the University of Barcelona and the University of Paris VI.

### *Assistant Professor of Statistics*

**Michael Zhu** - Dr. Zhu received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in May 2000. His research interests primarily focus on developing and applying statistical methodology to industrial applications including manufacturing, computer software engineering and drug discovery.

### *Visiting Faculty*

**R. V. Ramamoorthi** - Ph.D. 1981, Indian Statistical Institute

**Mei Wang** - Ph.D. 1990, University of Michigan

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## Department News

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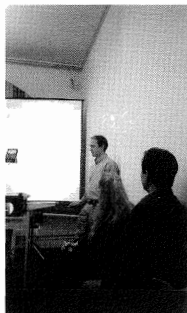
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### “Stat Day”

April 11, 2000

April 13 was the third annual “Stat Day” at Purdue. The highlight of this day is the *Myra L. Samuels Lecture*. It also includes an informal get-together with colleagues from the Division of Biostatistics and other departments at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis. This year there were 25 participants including **Brad Efron** (the Myra Samuels Lecture speaker,

see page 14). Lunch was provided by the department and was followed by informal research presentations by **Wanzhu Tu** and **Siu Hui** of the Division of Biostatistics and **Jayson Wilbur**, **Michael Black**, and **Brian Munneke** who are graduate students in our department and are working in collaboration with Professor Rebecca Doerge on their Ph.D. research in statistical genetics.



*Jayson Wilbur*



*Brian Munneke*

## Department News (cont.)

### Statistical Consulting Service (SCS)

<http://www.stat.purdue.edu/consulting/website/>

*Each year the Statistical Consulting Service (SCS) prepares an Executive Summary to review its activities and operations. Here are some excerpts from this document.*

With support from the Purdue University Computing Center (PUCC) and the Statistics Department, the SCS provides the university community with free advice on problems involving the use of statistics. The service consists of two parts. For individuals needing assistance with statistical software, a drop-in service is provided during normal working hours at PUCC. The second part of the service deals with problems involving design of experiments, the statistical analysis of data and the interpretation of results; these clients are handled by appointment in a room provided by the Statistics Department. We try to develop a working relationship with the clients and to become involved in the process whereby research ideas are formulated, translated into the framework of a statistical model, and investigated in the context of such a model.

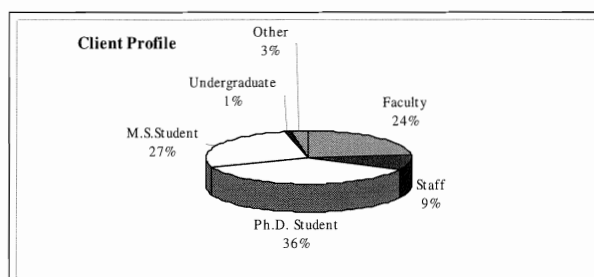
The SCS is supervised by **George McCabe** and **Bruce Craig** is the assistant director. **Regina Becker** has been manager of the SCS since 1995. **Teena Seele**, Information Processing Systems Operator in the Statistics Department, provides clerical support. During 1999, 21 students worked as consultants. The majority of them were from the Statistics Department; other consultants came from Psychology, Forestry, Economics, Child Development and Family Studies and Mathematics.

#### Client Profile

We do not obtain information about clients who seek help with software problems. Consultants

serve 50 – 75 clients each week in the walk-in office in the Mathematical Sciences building and by telephone and email.

We held meetings with 105 design consulting clients in 1999: 25 faculty, 68 student, 9 staff and 3 were



classified as other.

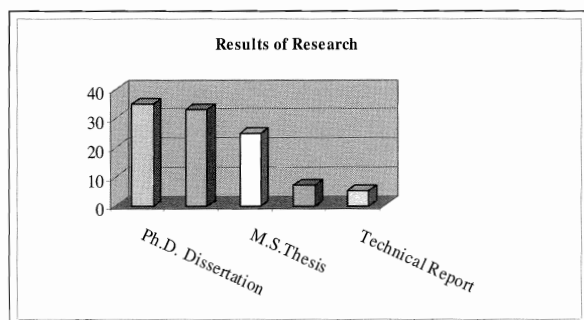
We served clients in 41 different departments in the following schools:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Agriculture</i>	29
<i>Consumer &amp; Family</i>	21
<i>Liberal Arts</i>	17
<i>Pharmacy &amp; Nursing</i>	9
<i>Veterinary Medicine</i>	8
<i>Engineering</i>	6
<i>Education</i>	6
<i>Technology</i>	4
<i>Science</i>	4
<i>Other</i>	

Projects resulting in journal articles or technical reports accounted for 36% of the requests, while Ph.D. and master's theses projects represented 57%. The category 'Other' includes analysis of survey data, development of assessment tools, conference presentations and semester projects.

## Department News (cont.)

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### Project Activity

Approximately 80 – 85 projects were active at any time during the year. Some of these were projects that continued from previous semesters, but the majority of active projects were more recent requests.

One hundred and six projects were completed in 1999, including some long-term projects that were active over the course of several years.

<u>Application Year</u>	<u>Number Completed</u>
1996	2
1997	5
1998	38
1999	61

### Other Activities

In early 1996, the Department of Statistics initiated a formal relationship with Purdue's Technical Assistance Program (TAP). Through TAP, faculty and students have the opportunity to support Indiana

business, industry and governmental units in their applications of statistical techniques.

In 1999 Regina Becker, Tom Kuczek and George McCabe worked on TAP projects along with graduate students James O'Malley, Dwight Beaudry and Jessica Su.

The Statistical Consulting Service assisted in 23 TAP projects this year covering a wide variety of applications. Some highlights:

- apply SPC techniques in a metal shop to improve quality
- analyze production data to identify critical processes
- predict the effect of a steel specification change on process output
- assess the capability of a steel tube manufacturing process
- write a quality manual for a county agency for disabled adults

The department's commitment to service through TAP has given many students an opportunity to learn more about manufacturing processes. Graduate students who have worked on TAP projects have been very enthusiastic about this opportunity to apply their knowledge to practical situations.

## Department News (cont.)

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### New Faces in the Statistics Department

#### Introducing our Director of Corporate and Alumni Relations



**Grady Jones** joined the staff of the Department of Statistics in November of 1999. Grady has a shared appointment with the Department of Mathematics to serve as Director of Corporate and Alumni Relations. He is a graduate of Oakland City University, Oakland, Indiana.

The majority of his career has been spent in public relations positions. For the previous five years, Grady worked as the Media Relations Specialist for the Purdue University News Service. The position provided an opportunity to work with every department at Purdue. Grady “marketed” Purdue related stories to the national, state and local media. He particularly concentrated on placing stories on national television programs such as “Good Morning America,” “20/20,” “Dateline,” and PBS’s “News Hour.”

Before coming to Purdue, Grady had spent fifteen years as the manager of a business. The experience from his business days has given him a natural rapport with the corporate executives he is contacting on behalf of the Department of Statistics. His goal is to develop a closer relationship between the Department and industries that have an interest in our graduates.

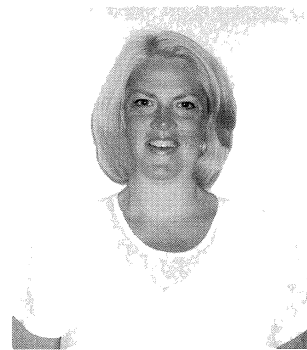
Grady’s family is very connected to Purdue. His wife, Stacy, is a Communications graduate and his

son, Ryan, is a freshman in the School of Management. His two daughters are students at Lafayette’s Jefferson High School. Additionally, Stacy’s father, Dr. Donald MacLeod was a physician at the Purdue Student Hospital during the ‘60’s and ‘70’s.

A significant portion of Grady’s time is spent traveling. He is trying to meet as many alumni as possible. This is the part of the job he enjoys the most. Don’t be surprised to receive a call saying that he is going to be in your city and would like to meet for lunch. It’s his favorite way to develop a friendship.



**Brenda Scott** joined the Statistics Department April 24, 2000. She is our new Secretary IV, receptionist and Textbook Deputy.



**Carmen Kennedy** joined the Statistics Department August 10, 2000. She is our new Graduate Secretary.

## Department News (cont.)

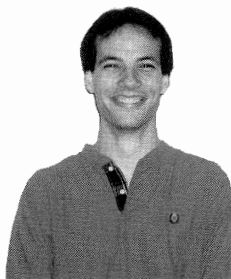
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### Computing Facilities

by *Doug Crabill*  
*Computer Systems*  
*Administrator*

A new dual CPU Linux server with 1.5GB of RAM has been purchased and will be pressed into service in time for use in the fall semester. It will be used to gain easy access to certain Linux applications and for general purpose use. It will also act as our new S-Plus server since our primary operating system (AIX) will no longer be supported by S-Plus. No other UNIX machine purchases were made, but we've more than tripled our available hard drive space on our current UNIX systems.



Our Windows NT domain has been completely rebuilt from scratch with new servers and clients. It is well integrated with our UNIX systems and the PUCS systems and sees heavy use by our students and staff.

On a sadder note, our Webmaster, **Michael Hilborn**, accepted a position in Boston. Mike did some great work for the department in his tenure here. We'll certainly miss him.

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### Of Special Note

**Burgess Davis** was selected as one of the Eleven Best Teachers of Undergraduates in the School of Science 2000.

**Rebecca Doerge** was promoted to Associate Professor of Statistics and Agronomy.

**Katy Simonsen** was selected as one of the Eleven Best Teachers of Undergraduates in the School of Science 2000.

### New Arrivals

**Eric Chicken** and his wife, Rebecca, are the parents of a daughter, Clair, born March 3, 2000. **Christine Emsley** and her husband, Brett, are the proud parents of a little boy, Conor William, who was born December 11, 1999. **Hongmei Jiang** and her husband, Zeqiang Sun, have a new son, Abe Sun, born August 19, 2000. **Andrew McKeen** and his wife, Heather, are the parents of Conor Andrew who made his arrival on February 4, 2000. **Julia Varshavsky** and her husband, Jeff Helderbrand, are parents for the second time. Their daughter, Maia Racquel, was born June 28, 2000. Nadia Vitek was born September 28, 1999 to **Olga Vitek** and her husband, Jan. **Jason Xu** and his wife, Zhen Wang, have a new daughter, Christina, born November 12, 1999. Jason says "I'm a proud dad!" **Marianna Pensky** and her husband, Roy Sudipo, are the proud parents of a daughter. Marianna has been a visitor in the department. Congratulations!!



### Weddings

**Jason Wilbur** and Stephanie Nuland were married March 11, 2000. **Ping Ma** and Wenxuan Zhong were married on May 10, 2000. **Michael Heimlich** and Heidi Cutter were married June 3, 2000. **Christina Wassel** and Kyle Fyr were married June 10, 2000. Our best wishes to them.

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### Job Search Network

If you have job information that you would like to include in our web site, please e-mail the job announcement to stat-jobs @stat.purdue.edu.

# Memorial Lectures

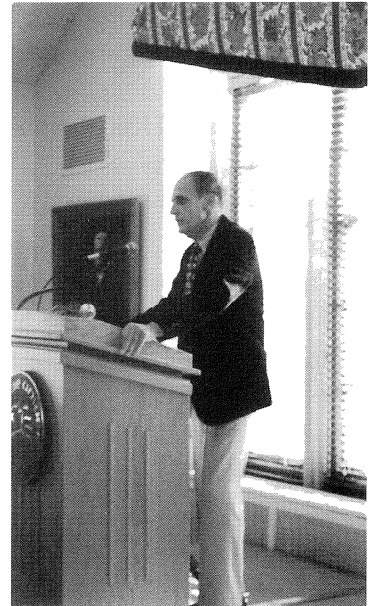
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## Myra Samuels Memorial Lecture



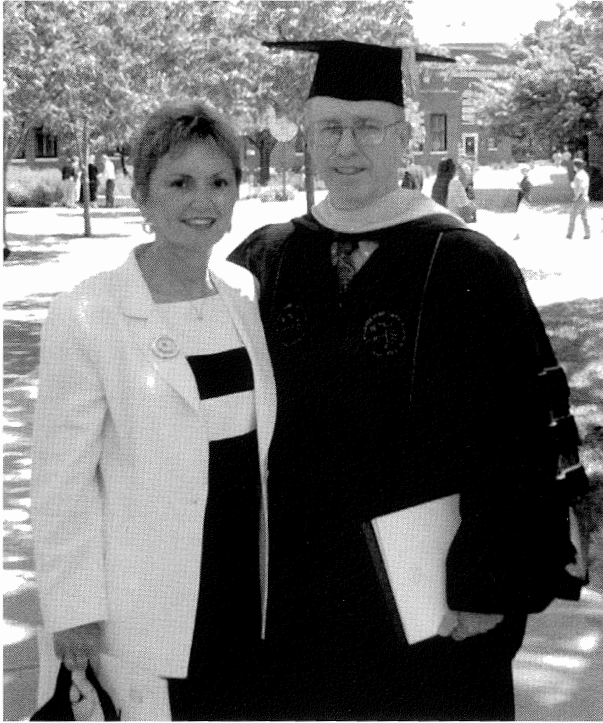
The 2000 *Myra Samuels Memorial Lecture* was presented on Thursday, April 13, 2000 by **Dr. Bradley Efron**, Max H. Stein Professor of Humanities and Sciences, Department of Statistics at Stanford University. The title of the address was “Bootstrap Biostat”. The lectures were founded in memory of Dr. Myra Samuels who worked for many years in the Statistics Department and was an Associate Professor in Veterinary Pathobiology at the time of her death. The Myra Samuels Biostatistics Fund provides support for these lectures.



A view of the Myra Samuels Garden from the 5th floor of the Mathematical Sciences Building. The garden was dedicated in April, 1997, and is a source of continual enjoyment to all who pass through it.

## Purdue University Honorary Degree

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*Jeanne and Gary McDonald*

Honorary Degrees are the highest academic honors granted by Purdue University and are awarded to outstanding individuals who have a significant connection to the School of Science. **Dr. Gary C. McDonald** received an Honorary Degree May 13, 2000.

Dr. McDonald is a leader in bringing the benefits of research in mathematics and statistics to industry and government.

He is director of the Enterprise Systems Lab of the General Motors Research and Development Center, the latest appointment in a 30-year career with GM. The Lab specializes in several areas: business and planning systems, distribution and supply chain, production systems, variation and quality analysis, body fabrication, body assembly and powertrain manufacturing.

Dr. McDonald received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from St. Mary's College. His master's and doctoral degrees in mathematical statistics, both from Purdue, were awarded in 1966 and 1969, respectively. His research supervisor was Shanti Gupta.

He joined the GM Research and Development Center upon completion of his Ph.D. At the Center, he was head of the Mathematics Department and the Operations Research Department before being named to his current position in 1998. In addition to his GM work, he has been an instructor and adjunct professor at Wayne State University and Oakland University.

Dr. McDonald has published more than 50 articles in diverse areas of applied and mathematical statistics. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is an active participant at the national level in several research panels related to mathematical and statistical sciences. He is a trustee of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences, a director of the MATHCOUNTS Foundation and a former Board of Governors member of the Institute of Mathematics and Its Applications.

Dr. McDonald has maintained strong ties to Purdue, having served on program committees for the renowned Purdue International Statistics Symposia. He received the first School of Science Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Department of Statistics, and he has served as a member of the School of Science Dean's Advisory Council.

# Student News

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## First Master's Degrees Specialization in Computational Finance

The Fall 1999 semester was an important milestone for the Department of Statistics. Four students were awarded the first Master's degrees with emphasis in Computational Finance.



**Christopher Bessey** completed the degree in only three semesters and is now employed by Bank of America in Charlotte, North Carolina.



**Matthew Suhr** also earned an earlier Master's degree in Mathematics. Matt received the annual "Outstanding Classroom Teaching of Statistics by a Teaching Assistant" award from the Statistics Department. He is currently employed by Williams Energy Marketing and Trading in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Laura Di Domenico**, earned an earlier Master's in Mathematics and is currently employed at Daimler Chrysler Technical Center in Auburn Hills, Michigan.



**Ira Wijesoorya**, too, earned an earlier Master's degree in Mathematics. She is currently employed by Planmatics, Inc. in Rockville, Maryland.



**Brian Munneke** won an award at the International Plant and Animal Genome Conference held in San Diego, CA, January 9-12, 2000. The award was for Brian's poster, with co-authors Bill Beavis at the National Center of Genome Resources, Santa Fe, NM, and R. W. Doerge, Department of Statistics, Purdue University, entitled, "Conditional permutation based confidence measures for cluster groupings".



**Arkendra Kumar De** and **Jonathan Alan Peters**, undergraduate students in the Department of Statistics, were both elected to Phi Beta Kappa.



## Student News (Cont.)

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**Michael (Mik) Black** was one of five finalists for the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology 1999 Young Investigator Award. The title of his talk was “A Bayesian approach to the assessment of diagnostic test accuracy in the absence of a gold standard”.



**Jayson Wilbur** presented a poster at the Sigma Xi Graduate Student Poster Competition April 12, 2000, at the Purdue Memorial Union. The title of Jayson's poster was “Statistical analysis of rhizosphere microbial communities”. This work is an interdisciplinary effort in statistical genomics that includes the Departments of Agronomy and Statistics at Purdue University. Jayson is currently supported by a Purdue Research Foundation grant to R.W. Doerge for this work.

### GSO Guest Speaker

**Tim McAuliffe**, of the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group, Chicago, Illinois, spoke at the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) meeting on Monday, April 10, 2000. The title of his talk was “Some Experiences from Pharmaceutical Clinical Trials”. Tim is an alumnus of the Department of Statistics who received his M.S. in 1987.



## Student News (cont.)

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### I. W. Burr Award

This award was established in 1974 upon the retirement of the late Professor Irving W. Burr, an eminent statistician who taught at Purdue for nearly 35 years.

The student receiving this award should have completed or nearly completed the Ph.D. in statistics. The criteria for selection are: 1) Promise of contribution to the profession as evidenced by academic excellence in courses and exams and by the quality of the thesis research and 2) Excellence in teaching or consulting while the student is at Purdue.

The recipient of the 2000 I. W. Burr award is **Wen-Chi Tsai**. Wen-Chi is from Taiwan and earned her M.S. degree from National Taiwan University in 1994. She entered the Statistics Department at Purdue in 1995. Her areas of research are Stochastic Geometry and Mathematical Statistics.



*L. to R. W.-C. Tsai, Dean Harry Morrison and A. De.*

### V. L. Anderson Scholarship and School of Science Outstanding Achievement Award

The V. L. Anderson Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student who shows promise of contributing to statistics and its applications. The scholarship is in honor of Virgil Anderson who retired from the Department of Statistics in December of 1986 after nearly 36 years.

**Mr. Arkendra De** is the recipient of both the 2000 V. L. Anderson Scholarship and the School of Science Outstanding Achievement Award. Arkendra entered Purdue in August 1997. His research interests are application of statistical and probability theory to biology, specifically genetics and ecology. He expects to graduate in May 2001 with a degree in Statistics with Mathematics Emphasis.

## Student News (cont.)

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### L. J. Cote M. S. Excellence in Statistics

This award is in honor of Louis J. Cote who retired from the Department of Statistics in June of 1991. The student receiving this award should be completing an Applied M.S. rather than a pre-Ph.D. program. The criteria for selection are the qualities required of an applied statistician: 1) Technical skill as evidenced by course performance, faculty evaluation, and performance on the final M.S. Examination and 2) Skill in consulting and communication, normally evidenced by excellence in supervised consulting or secondarily in teaching.

The recipient of the 2000 L. J. Cote M. S. Excellence in Statistics award is **Dwight Beaudry**. Dwight has a B.A. in Physics with a minor in mathematics from Baylor University, 1995. He has an M.S. in Education Psychology (areas: measurement and testing/counseling) also from Baylor University, 1997. He came to Purdue in the Fall of 1997 as a graduate student in the Quantitative Psychology Department and then transferred to the Statistics Department in the Fall of 1998. His areas of interest are experimental design, industrial statistics and quality control. He worked for the Department of Statistics, the Statistical Consulting Service and Purdue's Technical Assistance Program (TAP). He also worked on a project, for Sandia National Labs, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



*L to R: Dwight Beaudry and Matt Suhr*

Dwight won a Mary G. Natrella Scholarship to attend the Joint Research Conference in Seattle, Washington.

### Outstanding Classroom Teaching by a Teaching Assistant

Teaching Assistants contribute substantially to the teaching mission of the Department of Statistics. The faculty of the department has established an annual award to recognize service to the department and to students through outstanding classroom teaching of Statistics by a Teaching Assistant.

The Fall 1999 recipient is **Matthew Suhr**. Matt was recognized for his excellent performance in STAT 225 in the Spring 1999 semester. He is originally from Omaha, Nebraska. He earned his BBA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison; M.S. in Mathematics in 1995 from the University of Nebraska, Omaha; M.S. in Mathematics with a Specialization in Computational Science Engineering in 1998 and a M.S. in Statistics with a Specialization in Computational Finance in 1999, both from Purdue University. His areas of interest are Computational Finance and Risk Management.

## Student News (cont.)

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### Glen E. Baxter Award

The Glen E. Baxter Memorial Fund was established in 1983 by family and friends of Professor Baxter shortly after the premature death of this gifted teacher-scholar. The annual proceeds from the fund are used to award scholarships to honor undergraduate students who have demonstrated excellence in mathematics. The recipients of the awards are selected by a committee of professors from the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics.

The 2000 recipients of the Glen E. Baxter Award are **Arkendra De** and **Brandon Scott Zerbe**. Arkendra and Brandon are both students in the School of Science, and both have a baccalaureate degree in the mathematical sciences as immediate educational objectives. Arkendra is following a rigorous program that leads to a double major in Statistics and Mathematics. He is minoring in biology. He has been the recipient of many honors, including the Biology Alumni Scholarship, the V. L. Anderson Scholarship in Statistics; and the School of Science Outstanding Achievement Award. Arkendra is active in the Science Student Council, serves as a Science Ambassador and as a mentor for Science Scholars, and to serve as Secretary of the Asian American Association.

Brandon has chosen to follow the Mathematical Honors curriculum, a program of study designed to prepare one for graduate study in mathematics. He has served and is serving as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant in four different courses. He has been the recipient of a School of Science Scholarship, the Arthur Rosenthal Scholarship, and the American Chemical Society Merit Award. In addition to these rigorous academic challenges, Brandon has assumed significant responsibilities for the larger community, by serving as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, as a member of the Symphony Orchestra, and as an officer in his residence hall government.

Both scholars have had their names appear regularly on the Dean's List, and most recently, both Brandon and Arkendra have been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, as Juniors.

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### Teaching Assistantships and Fellowships for 2000-2001

**David Annis**, Purdue University; **Christopher Fraser**, California State, Hayward; **Ellen Gundlach**, Purdue University; **Chenghong Li**, Purdue University; **Lei Liu**, Nankai University - People's Republic of China; **John Stevens**, Utah State University; **Jing Su**, Purdue University;

**Aneta Valova**, Purdue University; **Ryan Wiegand**, St. Olaf College; **Lianbo Yu**, Nankai University - People's Republic of China.

**Wenxuan Zhong** will be a new student this fall as well as **Yunqing Li** and **Adair Morse** who are working towards a dual degree.

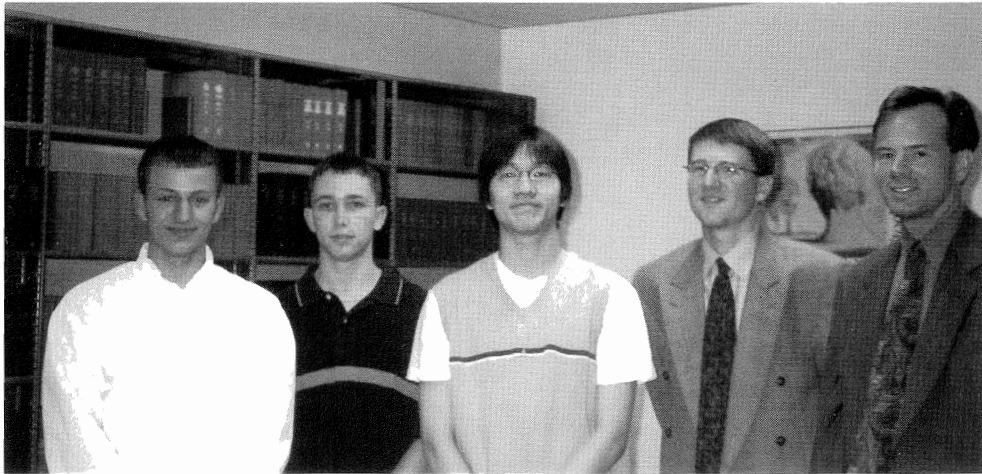
## Student News (cont.)

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### Actuarial Science Awards

The Actuarial Science Awards are funded by the Lincoln Financial Group. The Lincoln Scholarship, Lincoln Actuarial Achievement Award and the Actuarial Alumni Award are awarded to outstanding Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen, respectively, on the basis of academic performance, actuarial exams passed and extracurricular activities. **Chris Ruckman**, a 1987 Alumnus of Purdue University, and **Larry Jackson** both of Lincoln Financial Group, presented the Lincoln Scholarship Award to **Damon Andres**; the Lincoln Actuarial Achievement Awards to **Mark Mishler** and **Vivian Poon**; and Actuarial Alumni Awards to **Lauren Coleman** and **Andy Howard**.



*L to R. D. Andres, M. Mishler, V. Poon, C. Ruckman and L. Jackson*

### School of Science Outstanding Senior Award

The 2000 winner of the School of Science Outstanding Achievement Award for Mathematics and Statistics is **Michael Heimlich**. Michael is from Reynolds, Indiana. He graduated in May, 2000, and received his B.S. in Mathematics and Statistics with a minor in Management. Michael worked for the Statistical Consulting Service in the Department of Statistics from June 1999 through May 2000. He is currently employed with A. G. Edwards, an investment banking company. Michael and his wife, Heidi, live in St. Louis, Missouri.



## Student News (cont.)

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### New 1999-00 Graduate Students

The fourth annual new graduate student pizza party was held on August 15, 1999. The party is a chance for the new students to get to know each other and some of the faculty and staff. It was also an opportunity to give them a head start on learning

about the department before their first official week on campus. A reception was also held in the Mathematics Library on August 20, 1999, where the new students were introduced to faculty and staff.



*Front Row L-R Jiangtao Li, Hongmei Jiang, Lixiang Liu, Nak-Kyeong Kim, Yali Liu, 2nd Row. Kyunga Kim, Yaohua Zhang, Jiang Zhen, Brad Johnson, Priitha Ghosh, Olga, Vitek, Cachuang Cao, 3rd Row. Bo Hong, Ping Ma, Andrea Collevocchio, Izabela Soltyś, Joe Nolan, Chuancai Wang, Nels Tomlinson, Arijit Chakrabarti.*



Aarti Sriram and Christina Wassel joined our department in January 2000.

# Recent Graduates

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## ***December Graduates 1999***

### ***Masters***

#### ***Specialization in Computational Finance***

Chris T. Bessey  
Laura Di Domenico  
Matthew E. Suhr  
Ira L. Wijesooriya

### ***Masters***

#### ***Specialization in Mathematical Statistics***

Olga Korosteleva  
Bhramar Mukherjee  
Xiaoli Qi

### ***Masters***

#### ***Specialization in Applied Statistics***

Jianjunn Li



## Recent Graduates (cont.)

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### **May 2000 Graduates**

#### **Doctorates**

Jason H. Stover (Lalley) *Filtering and Estimation  
of Noise Contaminated Chaotic Time Series*

#### **Masters**

##### ***Specialization in Mathematical Statistics***

Eric K. Chicken  
Jingyuan Wang  
Rui Wang  
Jayson D. Wilbur

#### **Masters**

##### ***Specialization in Applied Statistics***

Greg K. Ball  
Nels Tomlinson

#### **Masters**

##### ***Specialization in Computational Finance***

Liqing Yan

#### **Bachelors**

Christopher Douglas Canfield	Brian Kenneth Carteaux
Joshua Allen Connan	James Porter Eubank
Michael John Heimlich	Yu Hin Eric Ho
Evi Horia	John William Koelling
Jacqueline Marie Krausman	James Lingo
Rashida Mior Ahmad Darw	Corrine Anne Plourd
Muhammad Shafie Abdul Rahim	David Todd Sherman
Lisa Marie Sieradski	Anthony William
Pavlina Theocharous	Kenneth William Yuhasz

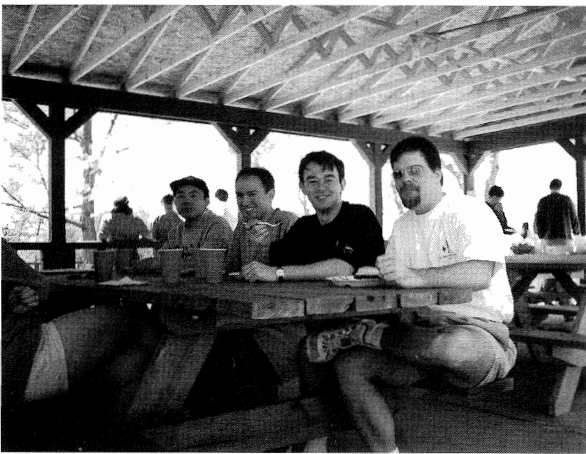


# News from the GSO

By Mik Black

Hard as it is to believe, yet another year has rolled by, and with it a lot of GSO activities and events.

As usual, the GSO year started off with the general mayhem of trying to find enough speakers to justify providing free pizza for our students once a month. This year we were fortunate enough to have the following speakers: **Professor Jayanta K. Ghosh**,



Indian Statistical Institute and Purdue University, **Dr. Marcey Abate**, Sandia National Laboratories, **Tim McAuliffe**, American College of Surgeons Oncology Group, and from Purdue University, **Chonghak Park**, **Olga Korosteleva**, **Professor Ioannis Kontoyiannis**, **Jianjun Li**, **Professor Tony Cai**, **Nitai Mukhopadhyay**, **Professor Herman Rubin**, **Jason Stover**, and **Michael Black**. All of our speakers gave great talks, although special mention must go to **Jianjin Li**, who, after speaking for ten minutes, saw that the pizza had

arrived and, feeling compassion for his fellow students (and maybe a little hunger), abandoned his talk in favor of dinner.

With the pizza problem under control, the next big job for the GSO was the organization of the Second Annual Statistics Department Egg Toss at Professor Rebecca Doerge's Third Annual Fall Float Day. This of course went off without a hitch, except for the fact that the winners were **AGAIN J. and R. Roper** from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Egg Tossing and Genetics program.

After egg tossing, of course, came the Statistics Department Holiday Party, complete with entertainment provided by the GSO. As usual the faculty suffered miserably at the hands of the students - this time in the form of prosecution for "high crimes and misdemeanors against the statistical pedagogy" in the High Court of Judge **Dwight Beaudry** presiding, swift and fair justice was handed down to **Professors Doerge, Simonsen, Craig and Kontoyiannis**, who, after much grovelling to the benevolent judge were let off with a warning. More pleasant for all were the comedic stylings of our very

own **Ionut Florescu**, whose whacky Romanian humor was the second funniest thing I saw that night - the first of course being Ionut's Elvis impersonation to the tune of "Jailhouse Rock".

With the Fall semester out of the way, the GSO began the time-honoured task of waiting until the last possible minute to find a really famous statistician to invite to give a talk at Purdue. This year our speaker was **Professor Don Berry**, University of Texas, Houston, who narrowly beat out **Persi Diaconis** as our first



*Top: Now there's a group of suspicious characters, L. Qu, J. Wilbur, M. Black and D. Beaudry. They seem to be enjoying their meal. Right: Mark and Tom Sellke taking advantage of the beautiful day.*

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## News from the GSO (Cont.)

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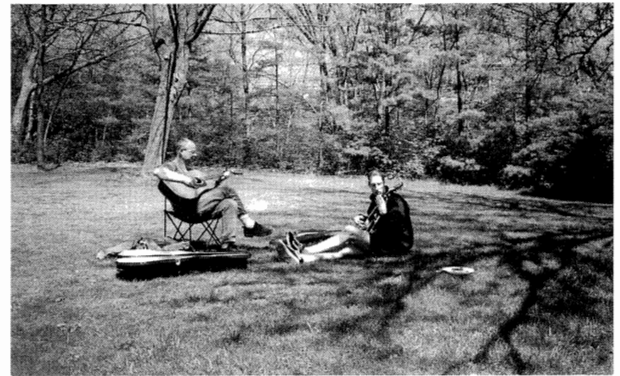
choice. Much of the strength of Diaconnis's support seems to have come from **Jason Stover** convincing many of the students that, if invited, Persi would do magic tricks for us. Despite a lack of magic tricks, Professor Berry was an excellent invited speaker, and proved to be a great source of information and inspiration during the two days he spent here.

As the Spring semester drew to a close it was time for the GSO to organize the Annual Staff and Faculty Appreciation Picnic. For the first time in four years we managed to have the picnic at Happy Hollow Park AND have the sun shining, so that was quite an achievement. Speaking for myself, the food was good, the day was great, and rugby is the greatest sport in the world.

Finally, the last thing that we do each year is elect a new GSO. It is my pleasure, therefore, to announce the following students as being the GSO officers for

next year: **Aarti Sriram, Brad Johnson and Chuancai Wang**. Thanks to everyone who has been involved with the GSO this year - we've had a great year and it looks like next year will be more of the same.

*For the Statistics GSO: Dwight Beaudry, Leming Qu, Chuancai Wang and Mik Black.*



*Left to Right. B. Johnson and N. Grevstad relaxing after lunch by playing guitar.*

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## 2000 Distinguished Alumni Award

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**Dr. Jing Shyr** received the 2000 School of Science Distinguished Alumni Award. These awards were established in 1990 to recognize outstanding achievement in professional and related fields of endeavor for alumni of the School of Science.

Dr. Shyr is Chief Statistician and Vice President of Development for SPSS. She manages Analytic product lines, several of them are targeted for data mining. She is also involved in the company's strategic product planning. As the Chief Statistician for the company, she often gives presentations to the statistical community, major clients and international offices. She has been with SPSS for 13 years. Prior to SPSS, she taught in the MBA program at Vanderbilt University for two years. She received her Ph.D. in Statistics from Purdue in 1984.

## Alumni News

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**Ming-Hui Chen (Ph.D. 1993)** is currently Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). He received the Harold J. Gay Associate Professorship in Mathematical Sciences of WPI for 1998-2000. Ming-Hui published a book on Monte Carlo Methods in Bayesian Computation in the Springer Series in Statistics (January 2000), which is co-authored with Qi-Man Shao, University of Oregon, and Joseph G. Ibrahim, Harvard School of Public Health. He also co-authored "Applied Statistics for Engineers and Scientists" published by Prentice Hall in 1999. The first author of this book is Joseph Petrucelli, who is also a Purdue Statistics Department graduate (MS, 1974). The third author is Balgobin Nandram. All three authors are currently working at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Ming-Hui is also a member of the International Statistical Institute.

**Dipak Dey (Ph.D. 1980)** was elected a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

**Jim Dorsch (M.S. 1977)** reports that he is currently doing work entirely unrelated to statistics. He works as a publisher and a freelance writer, specializing in beer based on his familiarity with this topic.

**Sara Fisher Ellison (B.S. 1987)**. Her Purdue B.S. in Mathematics and Statistics, with both distinction and honors led to a Churchill Scholarship at Cambridge University in England. There she earned a Diploma of Advanced Study in Mathematical Statistics and met her eventual husband, Glenn. After her year in England, she moved to the "other Cambridge," at MIT in the Economics Department. She received her Ph.D. in 1993, with a thesis entitled "A Residual-based Nonparametric Specification Test: Finite-Sample, Asymptotic, and Computational Properties."

Her first position after graduate school was at the National Bureau of Economic Research, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Since then she spends her time studying industries, such as the sugar and pharmaceutical industries. She now writes papers with titles like "Pharmaceutical Prices and Political Activity," cleverly burying any complicated statistical techniques deep in an appendix. She has more recently been a visiting professor and now a senior lecturer at MIT. The 1999-2000 academic year finds her as the Arch W. Shaw National Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institute. Luckily, her husband, an MIT economist as well, is spending the year at the Center for

Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, also on Stanford's campus. They have two children, ages 5 and 2.

Dr. Ellison not only remembers her time at Purdue fondly, but also relies on her Purdue education constantly. Her Purdue statistics courses provided her not only with a firm footing for her future education but also with test questions she can recycle for her MIT classes. Perhaps most importantly, the work she did as a research assistant for George McCabe helped to develop solid empirical instincts, on which she relies daily (or at least the days when she actually gets some research done).

**Rebecca Elliott (M.S. 1982)** began a new job at Eli Lilly in October 1999. She works with Quality Control Labs Tech Services in Indianapolis.

**Marilyn M. Hixon (M.S. 1976)** joined Brevard Community College, Palm Bay, Florida, in 1990 as the first (and only) mathematics professor at the newest campus. She has taught every level of mathematics from remedial through calculus. The introductory statistics course is one of her specialties. She is in her second year as department chair. Due to the small size of their campus, her responsibilities extend beyond mathematics; she

## Alumni News (cont.)

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is also chair of communications, college preparatory, humanities, and languages. She is looking forward to a retirement somewhere with seasons, leaves, and no hurricanes!

**Tzu-Cheg Kao (Ph.D. 1982)** was promoted to Professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

**OJ Kwon (BS 1995; 1999, MS Applied Statistics)** is currently working for a management consulting company called "American Management Systems" ([www.ams.com](http://www.ams.com)) as a Decision Analyst/Consultant. He recently finished an executive program in International Finance at Georgetown University so he can pursue his long term goal of applying his statistics skills to management and financial areas.

**Domenic J. Reda (M.S. 1976)** is the Associate Director for the Hines VA Cooperative Studies Program Coordinating Center. He has been involved in the design and conduct of multi-center randomized clinical trials and epidemiologic investigations for nearly 20 years. He is a Ph.D. candidate in biostatistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. He completed his M.S. in Applied

Statistics at Purdue University and his B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has published more than 70 papers in medical journals, including four papers in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and three in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He currently serves on two data safety monitoring boards and an academic advisory council for Purdue University's Department of Statistics. He is a faculty member for two courses designed to train clinical investigators in the design and conduct of clinical research.

**Christine Hixon Smiley (M.S. 1995)** who is with Kestnbaum and Co. recently wrote an article on "How to select demographic data to enhance your customer file" which has been put online. The url for this article is <http://www2.targetonline.com/tm/monthlyarticles/1099/1099shoe.html>. The article originally appeared in the October 1999 issue of *Target Marketing*.

**Jim Tomkins (M.S. 1967; Ph.D. 1970)** began a 5-year appointment as Vice-President (Administration) at the University of Regina, Saskatoon, Canada, on July 1, 1999. He has been a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics

since 1969, and retains the rank of Professor, at the University of Regina.

**Karen Stechuchak (M.S. 1997)** was recently recognized for her "Outstanding effort and achievement." She has been a statistician in the Institute for Clinical and Epidemiologic Research (ICER) Biostatistics Unit with Health Services Research and Development Services (HSR&D) Service, Durham, North Carolina since July, 1997. Since that time, the scope of statistical support provided through health services research has grown significantly. Karen has played a pivotal role in improving the statistical services provided to health services researchers. Her technical acumen was felt immediately as she helped develop and maintain a unique Access toolbox for use in data management. Karen is also instrumental in Durham's application of the Palm III Connected Organizer for electronic data collection, and development of the Active X component which allows for direct importation of data collected on the Palm into Access.

Karen's programming skill is matched by her skill for careful analysis. Her work is always of the highest quality. A recent effort to spiral the electronic data collection to remote sites in the "Race Patient Preferences and Stroke Risk Reduction" project

## Alumni News (cont.)

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was a success due to Karen's willingness to work significant overtime.

**Lawrence (Larry) D. Stone (MS Stat, 1966; Ph. D. Math, 1967)** was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering on October 3, 1999 at the National Academies building in Washington, D.C. Larry was elected to the academy for his work in search theory and applications. Academy membership honors those who have made important contributions to engineering theory and practice, including significant contributions to the literature of engineering theory and practice and those

who have demonstrated unusual accomplishments in the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology. The academy has a total of 1984 U. S. members and 154 foreign associates.

Larry also co-authored the book "Bayesian Multiple Target Tracking" which was published by Artech House in 1999. This book presents the mathematical theory of tracking multiple targets such as aircraft, submarines, ships, and missiles in situations where the sensor information is ambiguous and subject to error. He is presently the Chief Operating Officer of Metron Inc., a scientific consulting company in Reston, Virginia.

**Wong Wing -Yue (Ph.D. 1976 (Gupta)) and Yoon-Kwai Leong (Ph.D. 1976 (Gupta))**. Wing-Yue retired from the University of Malaya in June of 1999. He is teaching mathematics and statistics at Monash University at Sunway Campus, Malaysia. His wife Yoon-Kwai teaches statistics at Kolej Tar. Their son, Wai-Tou, earned a degree in electrical engineering in 1998 and is now working with Motorola in Chicago. Their daughter, Pui-Mung, is studying in the computer technology department at Purdue.

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*We want to hear from you!  
Fill out the Alumni Reply  
form or send an e-mail, fax or  
letter and tell us about your-  
self.*

# Gifts to the Department

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## Special Thanks To Our Friends

The Department of Statistics would like to give a heartfelt "Thank You" to the following donors for their generous contributions from Fall 1999 to Spring 2000. We apologize if we have omitted anyone or incorrectly spelled a name.

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### **Virgil L Anderson Scholarship**

Karen Snepp  
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Thomas M. and Sarah Sellke  
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on behalf of Mustafa L.  
Kavvas  
Jerry R. Guebard  
Nancy C. Hassett  
Richard J. and Naomi L. Benz  
Stephen P. and Rebecca H.  
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**Matching Gifts**  
Kimberly-Clark Fdn. Inc.  
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If you would like to give to any of these funds, or if you are interested in planned gift, estate planning contact Grady Jones at (765) 494-1987. ❖

See "Gifts to the Department" page 35

## ***Alumni Reply Form***

Please complete and return this form for our alumni files. Include news (professional and/or personal) of your current activities, or suggestions for the next issue of newsletter. Mail it to Teena Seele, Department of Statistics, Purdue University, 1399 Mathematical Sciences Building, W. Lafayette, IN 47907-1399, e-mail it to seele@stat.purdue.edu or fax it to 765-494-0558.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s) and year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Internet/Commercial Electronic Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include some information about yourself:**

(unless you request otherwise, we will assume it may be mentioned in future Newsletters.)

If you need more room, please continue on the reverse side.

***Alumni Reply Form (cont.)***



## The 1999 Statistics Department Picnic

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*Bill Lucas*



*L to R J. Nolan, N. Grevstad, T Ball and G. Ball.*

The 1999 Statistics Department Picnic at Fort Ouiatenon, West Lafayette, Indiana was held on September 12. The picnic is a very good way for everyone to get to know each other. The new graduate students are our special guests. Once again, our “chef”, **Bill Lucas**, husband of **Norma Lucas**, was on hand to see that nobody went hungry. As you can see from the picture, he had a grill full of pork chops. It was a beautiful, fun day filled with eating, relaxing and playing volleyball.

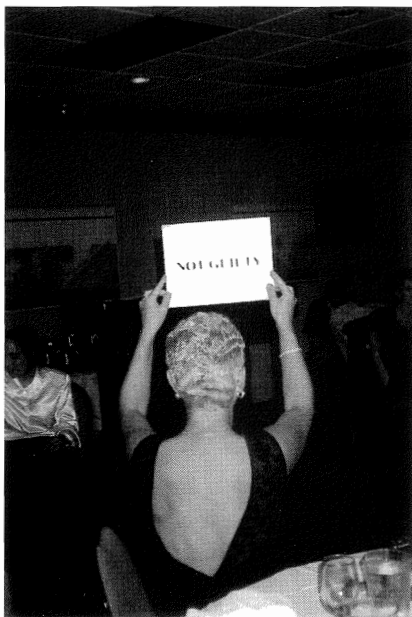


## 1999 Annual Holiday Party

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The 1999 Statistics Department Holiday Party was held on December 4, at the Ramada Inn in Lafayette. After dinner, the graduate students entertained everyone with their annual skit. **Iounut Florescu** warmed us up with a mathematical comedy. Statistical Court was held placing **Rebecca Doerge, Katy Simonsen, Bruce Craig** and **Yiannis Kontoyiannis** on trial for crimes against statistical humanity. **Mik Black** unsuccessfully defended his clients while the prosecutor **Brian**

**Munneke** showed no mercy with the defendants. The jury's verdict was guilty on all counts and each was sentenced to statistical community service. During the evening guests voted on a King and Queen of the Holiday Party. **Rebecca Doerge** was crowned Queen and **John Deely** was crowned King. For the remainder of the evening guests enjoyed music and dancing.



*Top Left Ann Young casting her vote, Top Right. John Deely and Rebecca Dorge, King and Queen of the Holiday Party, Bottom Left. Steve and Joan Samuels.*

# Department E-mail Addresses

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## Faculty E-mail

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*"Gifts to the Department" continued from page 32*

*IBM International Foundation matching Mr.  
Daniel Roger Rand  
3M Foundation Inc. matching Dr. John W. Wetz  
Marsh & McLennan Co. Inc. matching Mr.  
Robert K. Beideman, Jr.*

### **Miscellaneous Gift Fund for Statistics**

*Eileen G. Clark*

### **Myra Samuels Biostatistics Fund**

*Yung-Pin Chen*

*Craig W. Bowen  
Joseph Gastwirth  
Donna J. Brogan*

### **Pillai Memorial Lecture Fund**

*Dexter C. and E. Jane Whittinghill III  
William T. Zink*



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The Statistics Department Newsletter is published annually for alums and friends of the Statistics Department at Purdue University.

We welcome your comments and suggestions for future newsletters. Please send a fax to 765-494-0558, send e-mail to seele@stat.purdue.edu, call 765-494-5324 or write to

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