



The Y-Distribution

Brigham Young University

Department of Statistics

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See you in Seattle!

From the Chair

The Department personnel has changed and will continue to change.



Dr. Bryce has retired. He and his wife are currently serving a full-time mission at the Polynesian Cultural

Center. Dr. Howard Christensen asked for a change in his assignment and has been involved with others in attempting to export the Utah Colleges Exit Poll to another state. Finally, my assignment has changed. I want everyone to know the appreciation I have for Drs. H Christensen, Schaalje and Collings. I thank Dr. Collings for continuing to serve as undergraduate coordinator. Dr. Scott Grimshaw will be the new Associate Chair and Graduate Coordinator. Change requires energy. Not only has different energy been interjected into the department administration but also new energy has been added to the Department. We are excited that Dr. Natalie Blades joined us. (See New Faculty Section to learn more about Dr. Blades.) We are looking forward to David Engler joining us next year.

Three faculty members received University awards in August of 2005. Dr. William Christensen received a Young Scholar Award from the University. Patti Collings and Dr. Howard Christensen received the Creative Works Award for StatTutor, a computer-based tutorial that accompanies the Stat 221 text. Drs. Shane Reese and William Christensen were awarded Continuing Faculty Status (BYU's tenure designation) and rank advancement to Associate Professor in Fall 2005.

We had 172 undergraduate majors in 2005. There were 62 Actuarial Science majors and 110 Statistics majors. Seven students earned their Master's Degree in 2005. 23% of our students made the Dean's List (3.75

GPA with at least 14 credit hours per semester.)

Our students passed a total of 49 Actuarial Exams. Jeff Lingwall was awarded the Ellis R. Ott Scholarship. The announcement of his award appeared in *Quality Progress*, the ASQ Statistics Division Newsletter, and other quality-related publications. Kassandra Fronczyk (Cross Country-Track), Margaret Wright (Golf), and Andrew Stacey (Football) earned Mountain West Conference Scholar Athlete Awards.

The opportunity for undergraduates to have a mentored research or professional experience is important. We are constantly looking for ways to increase the number of opportunities in our undergraduate mentoring program. During the 2005-2006 academic year, seven different faculty members and 19 undergraduate students participated in the mentoring program. Also this year, Drs. Eggett & Fellingham expanded the mentoring role of the Center for Statistical Consultation and Collaborative Research: rather than just provide hands on consulting experiences for our graduate students, opportunities were created for Statistics 337 students to observe and help with the Center's consulting processes.

The Department Mission Statement was aligned with the University's Mission Statement prior to our six year University-mandated unit review. You can find the revised department statement at http://statistics.byu.edu/general_info/mission_statement.php.

In the unit review, the external reviewer's report stated, "We rate this Department as very strong. It inherits some of its strength from the University, a leading center of learning and research with a character that derives much from its

history of accomplishment. The Department is making important research contributions in the statistical sciences, and critical contributions to undergraduate and graduate education." The External Reviewers also made the following statement: "The Department of Statistics has the largest undergraduate major program in the country. This is a nationally recognized program;... The undergraduate program has six tracks and a wide variety of courses. The selection is comparable to some Masters programs." When the unit review report is posted on the web we hope that you will take the time to read it and share with us your thoughts on the analysis and recommendations.

The upcoming year will be interesting.

—Del T. Scott, Chair

ASA/JSM Seattle Open House

For those of you attending ASA/JSM in August 2006, we invite you to join us Wednesday, August 9th from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. for a BYU Alumni and Friends Breakfast Social sponsored by the Department of Statistics. We will meet in the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Room CC-306. A light breakfast will be served. We hope to see you there!



Summer Institute of Applied Statistics

The 31st Annual Summer Institute of

Applied Statistics took place June 21-23, 2006. Dr. Todd Ogden, from the Department of Biostatistics at Columbia University in New York presented "Essential Wavelets for Statistical Applications and Data Analysis." His presentations provided a basic introduction to wavelets and

their practical applications to a variety of real-world situations, illustrated by analysis of simulated and real data sets. This year's participants included faculty, students, alumni, and other statisticians from around the country.

Next year's Summer Institute will be held June 20-22, 2007. Dr. Randall Eubank, Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Arizona State University, will present "Inference for Stochastic Processes." Make your plans now to join us! More details will be forthcoming.

New Faculty

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Natalie Blades has accepted a position as a full-time professorial faculty member, effective Fall 2006. Natalie joined the Statistics faculty in the Fall of 2005 as a visiting professor. She received her AB at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, graduating *Magna Cum Laude*, and an MSE in Mathematical Sciences and a PhD in Biostatistics, both from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. Natalie then received a Post-Doctoral Associate from the Jackson Laboratory in Maine. During her post-doctorate and graduate work, she taught Biostatistics to the medical students at St. George's University in Grenada, West Indies for a brief time, before which she was a co-instructor of Statistical Reasoning at Johns Hopkins Department of Biostatistics for four summers. Natalie also taught Biostatistical Modeling at the University of Helsinki, Finland.

Natalie's outside interests include traveling, scuba, and the cello. Thus far she has visited 4 continents—she is eager to add on Asia or Africa. Natalie recently returned from a trip to Armenia this summer.

Also joining the BYU faculty this Fall is visiting instructor Larry Bassist.



Larry and his family recently moved to Springville from Santa Clara, California, where he worked with Intel Corporation for 18 years. He received a B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an M.S.

in Statistics as well as a Secondary Teaching Certificate from BYU. Larry and his wife Carol have 10 children, including a set of triplets, two missionaries, an August wedding, 13 grandchildren, and a little girl adopted from China.

Departing Faculty

We wish to extend our thanks and well wishes to Tracey Meade as her temporary teaching assignment at BYU came to a close at the end of Spring Term 2006. In the Fall she will return to her teaching position at Davis High School in Kaysville, Utah.

Mission Call

Dr. Gale R. Bryce and his wife, Bonnie, left BYU in December 2005, to serve a full-time mission in Honolulu, Hawaii, with assignment to the Polynesian Cultural Center. There he is working with the quality assurance program and helping student teams from BYU Hawaii with quality improvement projects.

Correspondence with the Bryce's can be sent to bryceg@polynesia.com.

Chair's Outstanding Paper Award

Upon recommendation from the Department of Statistics Scholarship and Award Committee, the Chair's Outstanding Paper Award was presented to Dr. John Lawson in January 2006 for his paper, "One Step Screening and Process Optimization Experiments." This paper was published in the February 2003 issue of *The American Statistician*.

Drs. Scott Grimshaw and David Whiting received this award in August of 2005 for their paper, "Likelihood Ratio Tests for a Mixture of Two von Mises Distributions," written by Scott Grimshaw, David Whiting, and Thomas Morris, and published in the March 2001 issue of *Biometrics*. These papers were recognized for their outstanding contributions to statistical science.

Special Recognition

At the 2005 BYU University Conference in August, Patti Collings and Dr. Howard Christensen received special recognition with a Creative

Works Award for the development of StatTutor, a computer-based instructional package for introductory statistics courses. This award recognizes faculty members whose creative works have had wide acceptance and distribution nationally or internationally.

Also at the 2005 University Conference, Dr. William Christensen received a Young Scholar Award, an award that encourages and acknowledges outstanding promise and contributions by faculty in the early stages of their academic careers.

National Recognition

Our graduate student Jeff Lingwall was awarded 2nd place in the 2006 WNAR/IMS Student Paper Competition held in Flagstaff, Arizona, in June. This is especially impressive since the other competitors were PhD candidates. We appreciate Jeff for representing the BYU Statistics Department in such a favorable manner and we congratulate him on his accomplishment.

Internships

We continue to receive positive feedback from many organizations that currently employ our students as interns. If you know of any internship opportunities available and that would be of interest to our students, please email details to statsec@stat.byu.edu.

Faculty Positions

Over the course of the next few years, we expect additional openings for faculty positions due to retirements and so forth. If you would like to receive word of positions as they open, please email Ruth at ruth@stat.byu.edu, or check our website at <http://statistics.byu.edu>.

Important Web Pages

Student Resumes:
<http://statistics.byu.edu/resumes/>

Address update:
http://statistics.byu.edu/address_change.php

Faculty Positions:
<http://yjobs.byu.edu>

Department Web page:
<http://statistics.byu.edu>