

THE BIOSTAT NEWS

August, 2004

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Volume 2, Issue 1

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ New alumni updates: Find out what's going on with your fellow alums on page 2.
- ◆ Construction continues at SPH! Look inside to find out more.
- ◆ Exciting new job opportunities at UM Biostatistics! Visit our website at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/jobs/> for more details.

Greetings from the Chair

The summer seems to have gone very quickly and fall will soon be upon us. One very nice aspect of working in a University environment is the renewal that occurs each September as new students arrive to begin their studies in masters and PhD programs. We are looking forward to welcoming the incoming class of 2004 as well as welcoming back the returning students. As in the past, many of our masters and PhD students found opportunities to work as interns at various pharmaceutical or research organizations over the summer, whereas others have continued work on their research here or found some time to get home or see the world.

We have a very large and talented class joining us in September. We expect to have about 40 new students in the residential program, with about 15 joining our PhD program. Our overall student numbers will stay about the same as last year with perhaps a slight increase. We expect to have about 135 students in the Fall term, with 40 in the On Job/On Campus (OJ/OC) professional MS program, 50 in the residential masters programs and the balance studying for the PhD. The job market continues to be very good for our students with very nearly full employment of this year's graduating class.

As in many jurisdictions, the budgets in the state of Michigan are not as robust as they were a couple of years ago, and the University has taken at least its share of the cuts. The School of Public Health and the Department

have managed to do relatively well in this environment with an expanding presence in research as well as strong student interest in our programs. Even in these times, SPH has been able to begin a new program of expansion with a plan to recruit fifteen new assistant professors over the next two years to the various Departments. Thus, all Departments in the School will be very active in recruiting. Biostatistics is no exception and this year, we have openings for a senior professor as well as at least two junior positions in the tenure track. We expect also to have opportunities for research positions associated with various projects.

The School of Public Health is seeking a new Dean to replace Noreen Clark who will complete her term in June of 2005. Mike Boehnke is a member of the search committee and they have begun meeting and getting input and suggestions. Any comments, suggestions, nominations or applications from alumni are welcome. They can be addressed directly to the search committee, sph.dean@umich.edu, or communicated to Mike. The School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins and at the University of North Carolina are also seeking Deans, so if you are looking for a new career....

We hope that you find this newsletter to be enjoyable and informative. We want this to become a useful vehicle for communication both between us and the alumni and also between alumni. We would welcome any letters or comments and any personal or professional information about yourselves that you would be willing to share.

With best wishes,

Jack Kalbfleisch



Jack Kalbfleisch addresses Biostat alumni at the reception held at ENAR in March, 2004.

Alumni Updates

Responses from our online alumni survey are slowly trickling in, but we still need to hear from more of you! Please contact our Student Services office if you would like to be included in this section of the newsletter. You can either do so online at www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/alumniupdate.html or you can contact Amanda Ring directly at 734-615-9817 or cummingsa@umich.edu. We would like to hear about job changes, research projects, marriages, births, moves, awards, promotions, etc. Or just let us know what you are doing



The Henry Vaughn School of Public Health Building I

Departmental Awards

There have been several recent awards to faculty, staff and students in the Biostatistics Department.

Robert Wolfe, PhD, along with Frederick Port and Philip Held, was awarded the Scribner Award for 2004. The Scribner Award is presented annually to one or more individuals who have made outstanding contributions that have a direct impact on the care of patients with renal disorders or have substantially changed the clinical practice of nephrology.

At the annual American Association for Public Opinion Research Innovators Award (AAPOR) conference **James Lepkowski**, PhD was awarded the 2004 Innovators Award, citing his invention of list-assisted telephone sample designs. James Lepkowski, with his collaborators Robert Casady and Clyde Tucker, invented "list-assisted" sample designs as an antidote to the huge cost ineffi-

ciencies that were threatening the continued existence of the telephone sampling method.

Terry Gliedt was awarded the 2004 Excellence in Staff Service Award. This annual award is made to staff members that excel in their job within the School of Public Health. Terry has been a Senior Programmer Analyst in the Biostatistics Department for the Center for Statistical Genetics and the FUSION group for more than four years.

Robert has been working as a Professor at the University of Miami (Ohio) for the past 25

2004 Graduating Student Gift Campaign

This year's Graduating Student Gift Campaign, titled "It's Your Choice - Make It", was a huge success! With the help of our student champion, Lu Wang (MS '04), our participation rate was 80%, with 23 out of 29 graduates participating. Graduates made donations to both the Cornell Scholarship Fund and the Biostatistics Gift Fund. The Cornell Scholarship Fund helps future students reach their educational goals through the development of a stronger scholarship program, while the Biostatistics General Gift Fund provides

financial backing for student awards and other student support, upgrades to computer labs, and development of our alumni programs. Both funds are extremely important and donations received enhance the educational and research environment. Thank you to everybody who helped make this year's campaign a huge success and congratulations to the Class of 2004!!

years. He plans on retiring after he's rounded out his tenure at 30 years. In the meantime, he's staying busy keeping up with all his work including being editor of his Department's newsletter.

Molly just received her DrPH in Biostatistics from the University of North Carolina in December, 2003. She is now working part-time at Yale University in Program on Aging, which is in Internal Medicine. She is currently involved in a study looking at the correlation between delirium and psychoactive drugs in an elderly ICS population.

at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/honors.html> to find out more about these award winners.

Faculty Updates

This Fall, we will have two changes in faculty. Unfortunately, we will be losing Valen Johnson to M.D. Anderson in Houston. It has been great to have Val as a member of the Department over the past two years, and we will be very sorry to see him leave. Val contributes a lot in all aspects of the Department's activities, and we shall certainly miss his ideas, perspectives and enthusiastic involvement. At the same time, we are happy to welcome Randall Pruim who will be joining our Department as a Visiting Professor for the 2004-2005 academic year. Randy will be coming from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Calvin College where he is an Associate Professor. We welcome him to our Department and look forward to working with him.

The following students received travel awards for the papers they submitted to the 2004 Eastern North American Region (ENAR) Conference held in Pittsburgh, PA:

Lei Liu - Shared Frailty Models for Recurrent Events and a Terminal Event.

Paul Hsu - Survival Analysis Using Auxiliary Variables Via Nonparametric Multiple Imputation.

Menggang Yu - Joint Longitudinal-Survival-Cure Models and Their Application to Prostate Cancer.

Please visit our Departmental News webpage

Upcoming Events

*The UM Biostatistics and Statistics Departments will be holding a joint alumni reception at the upcoming Joint Statistical Meetings conference. The reception will be held on **Monday, August 9, 5:30-7:30** at the Intercontinental Toronto Center, Oakville Room. UM Biostatistics and Statistics alumni, faculty, students and friends are welcome to attend. RSVP is not required. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served.

*The annual Biostatistics Department Fall Picnic will be held **Saturday, September 11,**

2004 at Burns Park in Ann Arbor. This is a potluck event with the Department providing the burgers (veggie too!), hot dogs, and soda/water. Alumni and their families are more than welcome to attend. Please stay tuned to the Department's website for more details in early September.

*The School of Public Health will be hosting Prospective Student Day on **Saturday, October 23, 2004**. This event is intended to provide students who are interested in Biostatistics with a chance to hear from faculty, stu-

dents and alumni about the program and the important research that takes place within the Department. More information about the event can be found at http://www.sph.umich.edu/students/information_day.html. If you know of anyone who would be interested in Biostatistics be sure to let them know about this event! Also, if any alumni would be willing to present a short 5-10 talk on what they are doing with their degree please be sure to let us know!

Construction Update

The deconstruction and reconstruction of SPH is now in full swing. During the winter, a dinosaur-like creature came and devoured the south wing of the old SPH I building. Since then, a great deal of time has been spent in clearing the area and assembling the infrastructure for the new building.

Protective waterproof siding is being installed where the SPH I wings were demolished and excavation and foundation work are ongoing. With much of this type of site preparation work finishing up, the actual building will begin to take form. Structural

steel begins in August and we will continue to see and hear activity: trucks coming and going, backup beepers, etc. In early August, a large construction crane will be erected on Washington Heights. A total of 22 trucks will deliver parts for the crane, which will be assembled on site. It will stand more than 300 feet tall—about the same heights as the length of a football field.

It is expected that the construction will be completed in about two years and the new facilities should be very pleasant indeed. Biostatistics will obtain additional space, but most

of its activities will stay in SPH II, although we hope to have some space adjacent to our present location in the new facility. Architects' drawings for the new face of Public Health at Michigan can be seen at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/about/renovation/>.



Out with the Old, In with the New

This year's graduating class continues to infiltrate many universities across the country. For example, our graduates from the past year have taken positions as Assistant Professor at the University of Virginia, Emory, University of Alabama, University of Iowa, Georgetown University, University of California, Northwestern University, University of Arizona, University of Pennsylvania, and Indiana University. Our graduates also continue to be

employed by industrial leaders such as Merck.

The Department is happy to welcome the incoming class of 2004, which is our largest ever. We will be welcoming sixteen students to our doctoral program and our Master's class of 2006 will be energized with 28 new students. Each year we continue to attract the brightest and best students from all over the country and world. Our students come

from varied backgrounds and are dedicated to working hard to fulfill the mission of the Department of Biostatistics.

If we have received any applications due to a referral from one of you, thank you for your efforts in helping us in our quest to attract the best students possible. One of our best resources for recruitment is our alumni and we ask that you continue these much appreciated efforts to help us in that capacity.

Obituaries

Betty Michelson Meyer, born February 22, 1924 died peacefully January 29, 2004 in Placerville, California where she lived with her husband Ruben Meyer, on the same property as her daughter Ruth Michelson and her family. She received her PhD in Biostatistics at the University of Michigan during the 1950's and then served on the faculty here as an Associate Professor. In

1976, she moved to Texas where she was the Director of Research for the Aerobics Institute and then later became a full professor at the Texas Women's University. Betty is survived by her husband, Ruben Meyer, four children and step-children, six grandchildren, and three siblings.

Jane Olson (December 6, 1952–May 2, 2004) left a rich legacy in the field of Genetic Epide-

miology. She obtained her MS in Biostatistics from the University of Michigan in 1988 and her PhD in Biostatistics in 1991. She worked as an Associate Professor with tenure at Case Western Reserve University where she was instrumental in developing a new PhD curriculum in genetic and molecular epidemiology. Jane is survived by her three sisters and three brothers.

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Be sure to check us out on the Web at:

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/>

to keep up-to-date with

- *Departmental Awards
- *The Prime Number Club
- *Faculty Research Updates
- *And MUCH, MUCH MORE!

Also be sure to check out the School of Public Health's
Alumni pages at

<http://www.sph.umich.edu/alumni/index.html>