

THE BIOSTAT NEWS



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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Greetings from the Chair

Greetings and welcome to another edition of the *Biostat News*. It seems that we say it every year, but this year again, we have welcomed our largest incoming class ever. We have 39 new residential students bringing our total residential numbers to 107 with 53 Masters and 54 Ph.D. We have also welcomed Cohort 12 of our OJ/OC program in Clinical Research Design and Analysis; with 48 new students it is also the largest ever.

This has been a time of big changes for the School of Public Health. Noreen Clark completed her eleven years as Dean of the School and is now enjoying a well deserved sabbatical leave. Noreen was very supportive of Biostatistics throughout her tenure. She recognized the importance of the discipline in Public Health, and we grew substantially in numbers and in research activity. Ken Warner became Dean in July. Ken is also very supportive of Biostatistics and we look forward to working with him. Ken comes from the Department of Health Management and Policy and has been a faculty member in the School of Public Health since 1972.

I am very pleased to report the creation of a new Collegiate Chair in honor of Dr. Richard G. Cornell, a former Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Interim Dean of the School of Public Health. Many of you will know Richard from his long tenure in the Department. He is still very well and continues to live in Ann Arbor. Richard was a key person in developing Biostatistics from what was primarily a service department to a strong department in both collaborative and methodological research; this honor is most fitting. I am also very pleased to report that the appointment of Professor Michael Boehnke as the first Richard G. Cornell Collegiate Chair of Biostatistics will be considered by the Board of Regents at its December meeting. Mike's appointment will bring to four the number of Collegiate Chairs in the School. The other three are held by Noreen Clark, Ken Warner and Rod Little.

The Department is undergoing a facelift, partly in response to a student survey held last year. We have renovated and greatly improved the Department's Common Room, Conference Room, Computer Lab, and Student Offices with a fresh coat of paint and new furniture. These changes were badly needed. We are continuing with planned renovations of the staff and faculty offices over the next while. Some photographs of the new space are shown to the right of this column.

These are exciting and challenging times for Biostatistics at Michigan. Your participation and support are more important than ever. Please stay in touch with us by visiting our web site and by stopping by or calling if you can. We value your connections to the Department, your suggestions and comments, and your past and future support.

With best wishes for the holiday season and 2006,



Jade Kalbfleisch



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Biostat Events



The Biostatistics Student Activities Committee did their part to get the students into the holiday spirit by hosting a Pumpkin Carving event on October 27. Here are examples of their handiwork.



On October 28, Jeremy Taylor, Brenda Gillespie, and Debashis Ghosh hosted a lunch for students to find out more about BIOSSTAT 699 and the Qualifying exam. Students really enjoyed the opportunity for gathering information on these two important components of the program.

Faculty Openings

The UM Department of Biostatistics is continuing its search for additional faculty this year. We have open rank and assistant professor positions in the tenure track to begin Fall 2006 or earlier. The Department seeks applications from outstanding individuals with interests in the development of statistical methodology, collaborative scientific research and teaching. The Department has particular interest in candidates with research interests in bioinformatics, clinical trials, cancer, and imaging, but applications from individuals in all areas of biostatistical research are encouraged. We welcome applicants interested in taking a leadership role in existing areas or in developing new initiatives.

In addition, there are openings for Research Assistant Professors (non-tenure track). Requirements include a Ph.D. or equivalent in a statistical science and a strong interest in clinical trials. Duties include independent research, collaborative research and possibilities for teaching. Candidates with an interest or experience in clinical trials are encouraged to apply.

For more information, about tenure track or non-tenure track positions in the Department, please visit our job openings webpage at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/jobs/>.

Alumni Receptions

The Department's next Alumni Reception is scheduled to coincide with the 2006 Eastern North American Region (ENAR) Conference in Tampa, Florida. The event will take place at the Hyatt Regency Tampa on Monday, March 27, 6:00-7:30 P.M. All UM Biostatistics alumni, faculty, students, and friends are welcome to join us for hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and great company. Please visit our website at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/events.html> to view photos from our last reception which took place in conjunction with the 2005 Joint Statistical Meetings in Minneapolis. The JSM reception was a joint event with the UM Statistics Department and we had a fantastic turn out of approximately 80 attendees. For additional information regarding alumni events, please contact Amanda Ring at cumminga@umich.edu or 734-615-9817.

Construction Update

Construction continues on the new SPH building and much progress has been made. New students arrived in September to see the 7-story building that will house offices and laboratories take shape with the installation of windows and brick. The connector building, also known as The Crossroads, will contain the main entrance to the school and will house classrooms, offices, community lounges, a cafe and cybercafe, and reading rooms. Curved windows over the road are scheduled for installation as part of the ongoing framing and glazing of windows. Much of the construction can be seen from the webcams found at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/about/renovation/index.htm>. Interior construction and planning has also begun. For a complete construction update go to <http://www.sph.umich.edu/scr/renovation/updates.cfm>.





Faculty Updates

Our Department continues to have an eventful year in terms of gaining and losing faculty. Wei Wei has accepted a position with Amgen Incorporated in Thousand Oaks, California. She resigned her position as Assistant Research Scientist in the Department effective the end of October. Wei had been an assistant researcher for the Department for almost four years, and we were sorry to see her leave. We will miss her contributions to the GCRC, BIRC and the Department.

Effective November 1, Laura Scott was promoted from Research Investigator to Assistant Research Scientist. This new position recognizes Laura's important involvement in the research and teaching activities of the Department.

To read more Departmental news, please visit our website at <http://www.sph.umich.edu/biostat/news.html>.

Alumni Updates

In this issue of *The Biostat News*, we are featuring two recent graduates of our residential programs: Terri Scott (MS, '03) and Leslie McClure (PhD, '04). We want to continue hearing from more of you! If you're interested in being featured in our next newsletter, please contact our Student Administration Office at 734-615-9817 or cummings@umich.edu. We would love to hear about job changes, research projects, marriages, births, moves, awards, promotions, etc.

Theresa Scott (Daigneault) is currently a Masters level Biostatistician at Vanderbilt University's Department of Biostatistics in Nashville, TN. Her time is formally split between providing statistical support for the residents and physicians in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and generating reports for the Data Safety and Monitoring Committee of a clinical trial. She has also been able to informally pursue her love of

teaching by helping other statisticians and clinical investigators learn the R statistical programming language. She runs a weekly "R Clinic", and has repeatedly given an introductory seminar series on the programming language.

Since completing her PhD in May of 2004, Leslie McClure has been working as an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is involved in several different studies, including a large clinical trial evaluating prevention of secondary strokes, and a large epidemiological study interested in determining the reasons for racial and geographic differences in stroke mortality (REGARDS: http://www.soph.uab.edu/regards_home.asp?id=1049). In her "free" time, Leslie enjoys trying to keep up with her very active two-year-old daughter Lillian.

Student Awards

Each year the Department bestows several different awards on a few of its very best students. These awards recognize excellence in performance for the previous academic year. Please join us in congratulating the following outstanding students.

-This year the Outstanding First Year Master's Student Award goes to Jessie Gu and William Frame. Congrats!

-The Best Performance on the Qualifying Examination Award goes to Yun Li, or Mable as she is also known. Great job, Mable!

-This year's outstanding GSI award goes to Laura Roede for her work as a GSI in BIO-STAT 503 and 523 last year. She is now assisting various faculty teaching in our OJ/OC program for Cohort 12.

Congratulations to all of our recipients! Check out photos from our Award Ceremony held on October 31.



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Season's Greetings
From All of us
At
The University of Michigan
Department of
Biostatistics

