

The Mu Sigma RHOVER

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News From the Chapters

Oklahoma Alpha Chapter -- Oklahoma State University

- Our new members from last year are: **Laura Coombs** (Ph.D. student at OSU who is still working on degree); **Krista Crenshaw** (graduated with MS in December, moved to Dallas, with her husband and is currently looking for a position in that area); **Jinger Davis** (graduated with BS in May and is now working on an MS in Industrial Engineering at OSU); **Becky Johnson** (working to complete MS at OSU); **Rebecca Moore** (Graduated with MS in May and is now working in Oklahoma City for the State Department of Mental Health); **Francisca Richter** (graduated with MS in May, had a son during Spring Semester while finishing her degree and is now working on a PhD in Agricultural Economics at OSU); **Jason Skoch** (expects to complete BS in May); **Kijoung Song** (completed MS and returned home to Korea); **Lisa Wester** (expects to complete BS in May).

- OSU conducts a one month residential summer academy for Native American 7th to 9th grade students in June. The academy covers an exposure to Math, Computing & Statistics, Biology, and Chemistry. Last summer, 31 students from Oklahoma, Kansas, Arizona, and New Mexico attended, and a similar number are expected in June, 1998. The academy is sponsored by NASA through the American Indian Science Technology Education Consortium (AISTEC) of which OSU is a member.

OSU conducted a 3 week residential summer academy in July for minority students 8th and 9th grade students from the State of Oklahoma funded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. This academy had 40 attendees last summer, and covered Mathematics and Computing, Statistics, Zoology, and Biology. This academy has been expanded for the summer of 1998 to cover Senior High (10th and 11th grade) students in June as well as Junior High (8th and 9th grade) students in July.

South Carolina Beta Chapter -- University of South Carolina

- The SC Beta chapter had a record graduating year, which was great for the students but has depleted the ranks of the chapter's active membership! The following members finished graduate degrees in calendar year 1997, and their

first job is shown at the right in each case. Every graduate who sought employment found it within two months of graduation; most had jobs waiting for them beforehand.

Those completing the doctorate degree are:

Aparna Merchant	did not seek employment (husband finishing degree)
Jason Owen	University of New Hampshire (tenure track)
W. Scott Street	Georgia Southern University (tenure track)
Wanzhu Tu	Indiana-Purdue at Indianapolis Med.School (post-doc)

Those completing the master's degree are:

Dena Beatty	Scoring Solutions, Inc. Atlanta, GA
Trevor Craney	Instructor, USC Statistics Department
Jesse Cunningham	A.C.Nielsen, Schaumburg, IL
Jennifer Lasecki	SC State Budget and Control Board, Columbia, SC
Zsolt Lengvarszky	Lander College, Greenwood, SC (tenure track)
Yuan Lu	M.S. program in Computer Science, USC
Claudia Moise	Abbott Laboratories, Chicago, IL
Clark Rothrock	Physicians' Health Plan Corp, Columbia, SC
James Surles	Ph.D. program in Statistics, USC
Beth Walters	Loyola College, Baltimore (permanent instructor)

- Since the Joint Meetings were so far away last summer (in Anaheim [1997]), we could not afford to send a College Bowl team. . . no wonder Iowa eked out a victory!

- The Chapter did take the annual trip to Charleston in February. The Chapter also sponsored picnics and an excellent talk by graduate Leslie Jones (MS'91), who is currently Chief Actuary for Life and Accident Insurance for the State of South Carolina. The Chapter inducted two new members, **Jim Gleaton** and **Michele Nichols**.

Utah Beta Chapter -- Brigham Young University

- The MSR chapter sponsored a Statistics Department opening social in early September. The social was very well attended with about 50 students, spouses and children, and about a dozen faculty and staff. Everyone had a great time and it got the year off to a good start.

The regular fall meeting was held at Brick Oven Pizza in November. In addition to a good meal, the new initiates were introduced and the Department Administrative Assistant, Shauna Kuykendall talked about the growth of the department over the last 10 years.

The annual department Christmas party was organized by Mu Sigma Rho and hosted by G. Rex Bryce at his home. A wonderful way to mark the close of the fall semester and the beginning of the holiday season!

- The BYU chapter inducted 18 new members this fall. **David Clinton Draper** was inducted as a graduate student. The seventeen undergraduates were: **Sally Allen, Susan M. Allen, Channing Badurek, Justin P. Bleazard, Arthur Todd Bushman, Brian James Carini, Chad Alan Crawford, Marcie Fillmore, Lance Lomond Jolley, Brett Jay Mendenhall, Dallan R. Moody, Russel W. Oslund, Kristen Piggott,**

North Carolina Alpha Chapter - North Carolina State University

- At the April banquet, we inducted six undergraduate and 20 graduate student members. Our speaker was Alan F. Karr, Associate Director of National Institute of Statistical Sciences and Professor of Statistics and Biostatistics at UNC-Chapel Hill.
- The new undergraduate members are **Carey Marlow Hill, Khristine Marie Westfall, Daniel Scott Wilkins, Kimberley Watson Evans, Robert Joseph Morris, and Lea Angela Truman.**
- New graduate students are **Mandy Lee Bergquist, Chris H. Bodily, Di Chen, Jianfeng Ding, Jimmy Akira Doi, Joel Fenner, Peter Allyn Frechtel, Eric Anderson Grau, Buffy Lynne Hudson-Curtis, Hyon-Jung Kim, Yuntae Kim, Jared Kenneth Lunceford, Dahlia Michelle Nielsen, Steven Jon Novick, Mindy Jean Roeder, Jennifer Lynn Shannon Gauvin, Carlos Henrique Silva, Darren Edward Stewart, Ye Sun, and Li Yang.**

Virginia Alpha Chapter -- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- The Chapter had two sponsored colloquia in 1997. They were: "Data Mining and Cluster Analysis" presented by Dr. John Kettenring, president of the American Statistical Association; and "An Overview of the Graphical and Analytical Capabilities of JMP" given by Dr. Herbert Kirk, Vice President of Profession Services at the SAS Institute.
- To promote success in statistics among students in all fields, our chapter organized a list of available tutors to assist students with their statistics coursework. The list was distributed to all faculty and graduate students teaching statistics courses. We plan to compile an updated list of available tutors each fall.
- To make our organization more visible to Virginia Tech and the world, our chapter recently developed a web page with the help of the department Internet coordinator and newest faculty member, Dr. Christine Anderson-Cook. The page gives a general overview of Mu Sigma Rho, and information about our chapter and its activities. It also contains a list of our members as well as contact information for our officers and tutors. We invite you to visit our page at <http://www.cas.vt.edu/statistics/msrho.html>.
- Our new initiates are **Kenneth Keane and Jason Thomas Lee** (undergraduates), **Shelia M. Fulk, Kimberly Gimbert, Li Guan, Susan Harris, Stephen Kathman, Jr., Shannon C. Lang, Gurong Ma, and Samuel P. Wilcock** (graduate students), Dr. Christine Anderson-Cook (faculty), and Drs. John Kettenring and Herbert Kirk (honorary).
- Current officers are Jennifer W. Huffman, president; Patrick F. Darken, vice president, and Yew-Haur Lee, secretary-treasurer. Dr. Jeffrey B. Birch is the faculty advisor.

President's Column

Mark Payton, Oklahoma State University

It's indeed an honor to be given this opportunity to provide a column for the **Mu Sigma Rho**VER. Since becoming MSR president last August [1997], I have learned much about what it means to hold this position.

First of all, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Don Edwards of the University of South Carolina for all that he contributed to MSR as my predecessor and for all he continues to do in guiding me through my first year as president. I'm sure Don is tired of my pesky email messages. All told, the Society greatly benefited from Don's presence and we will miss his leadership. Under the Edwards's Administration, MSR inducted a new chapter at the University of Florida and many other potential chapters were identified. It will be up to me to follow through on these promising new leads. Don was the primary force in reviving College Bowl after the dissolution of the Winter Meetings. The College Bowl now seems to be a semi-permanent and popular fixture at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Getting College Bowl up and running was no small accomplishment and Don should be applauded for his efforts. Thanks for all you've done, Don!

Last year's College Bowl was again successful. The team from Iowa was quite impressive in dominating the field. Seven teams participated (Iowa, Iowa State, Nebraska, BYU, Cal-Riverside, Baylor, and Cal-Northridge). BYU showed a lot of team spirit with their t-shirts. Newcomers Riverside performed quite well, defeating defending champ Iowa State on the last question of their match! George Cassella (Cornell) and Linda Young (Nebraska) entertained us as the moderators of the two sessions.

Currently, all of the MSR officers are learning their new positions. J.L. Madrigal from Brigham Young University is the new Vice President. J.L. brings enthusiasm and vision to this office and I look forward to utilizing these assets. Golde Holtzman from Virginia Tech is our new Secretary/-Treasurer. Golde has been successful in creating MSR certificates with a **laser printer**. This eliminates the calligrapher, saves the Society money, and frees us from some of the minutiae formerly associated with these documents. Golde's great work in this area is to be commended.

Most of the work being done presently has been associated with the College Bowl at the upcoming Dallas Meetings. As in years past, the quarterfinals will be held on Tuesday morning of the meetings. Wayne Woodward of Southern Methodist University will be the moderator and will add local flavor to our tournament. The semifinals and finals will be on Wednesday morning with John Boyer of Kansas State University serving as moderator. As of press time, a lot of work remains in securing sponsors and teams, as well as the preparation of the questions. Wish us luck!

What does the future hold for Mu Sigma Rho? I think there are three important issues for us to reconcile. First of all, there are chapters that are inactive for the most part. We need to identify these chapters and **get them kick-started**. Secondly, the number of viable statistics programs without Mu Sigma Rho participation is staggering. This I consider my biggest challenge. Thirdly, what is the future of MSR College Bowl at JSM? This year's competition will be my third, and preparation for these events takes its toll. For this reason, the Society will need to clearly identify what goals it wishes to accomplish and focus on them. I hope to discuss these items in greater detail at our Executive Council Meeting at JSM in Dallas. Hope to see you in Dallas.