At the close of another year, we are pleased to send you news of alumni, faculty and students.

Chair’s Note

Greetings from the Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research! The year 2013 turned out to be a very busy and exciting year, with so many things happening.

Thanks to the efforts of Jane and Erin, in the fall of 2013 we had one of the largest entering student cohorts in MSAS in recent years with 18 new students. Add to that 15 second year students and 13 MSAS students housed in the mathematics and Statistics Department, for a total of 46 MSAS students. This is the largest enrollment in the program history and a 40% increase from just 3-4 years ago. The new Master of Science in Analytics degree was approved by the Ohio Board of Regents in March and by the BGSU Board of Trustees in May. The new program anticipates that the first cohort will begin in the fall of 2014. Our department will be a major player in this new master’s program.

At the undergraduate level, the Business Analytics and Intelligence Specialization continues to grow. Currently, there are 33 students in the specialization, an approximate 20% growth from earlier this year. Interestingly, the freshman class and senior class account for the highest number of students in the specialization. The first small batch of graduates from the specialization have found jobs in companies such as Cooper Tire, Marathon Petroleum and Owens Corning.

The Center for Business Analytics (formerly the Statistical Consulting Center) has had a very busy year. On April 26, 2013, the Center hosted the first Best Practices in Business Analytics Symposium (the first at the University as well as the region). There were presentations from industry leaders in analytics and a discussion by a panel of experts. The event attracted over 100 participants and the feedback was very positive. The plan going forward is to make the symposium an annual event and use it as a venue for promoting analytics and showcasing what ASOR and BGSU can offer in programs related to analytics. The next Best Practices in Business Analytics Symposium is scheduled for October 2014.

As many of you are already aware, the year 2013 is the United Nations designated international year of statistics. As BGSU joins thousands of organizations around the world in celebrating the 2013 international year of statistics, the Center for Business Analytics and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics co-hosted an event on Friday, October 4, 2013, titled “Celebrating the 2013 International Year of Statistics.” Thanks to funding support from various departments and units on campus, we were fortunate to have New York Times columnist Alan Schwarz deliver the keynote presentation. The celebration was attended by over 100 students, faculty, staff and a dozen students from an area high school.

This past year, the Center has been actively engaged with external clients. It has worked on a number of
projects for several area companies such as Owens Corning, Marathon Petroleum and Six Disciplines NW Ohio. There has also been talk with other external clients about project opportunities that may happen as early as spring 2014.

In the fall of 2013, the Ralph St. John Speaker Series featured Joel Waldman from Performant Systems Group. Mr. Waldman gave a lively presentation on how his company helps clients develop various analytics tools and integrates these tools into apps that the clients can access on mobile devices. He demonstrated a number of these apps.

We are really grateful to those who have made financial contributions to the ASOR Foundation or assisted the department in other ways during the past year. Your tax deductible contributions support a variety of departmental activities, including the Robert A. Patton Book Scholarship, the James A. Sullivan Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, and the Ralph St. John Guest Speaker Series. For those of you who wish to make a financial contribution this year, a form is included at the end of this newsletter or use the link to our foundation account with the MiletAlumni Center. Please also check to see if your employer has a contribution matching program.

We always love to hear from you about your personal news and take great pride in your professional accomplishments. If your employer has an internship or other employment opportunity for our current students, please drop us an email. We are always ready to assist our alumni and friends wherever possible. We would also be delighted if you could return to BGSU to share your career experiences with current students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can do for you.

Don’t forget to check out the department’s Facebook page (just search Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research at BGSU on Facebook and link to the department Facebook page) and follow ASOR on twitter @asoratbgsu! This is a great way to stay connected with the department and share your news with all the ASOR alumni, faculty, students and staff.

Best wishes to you all!

Arthur Yeh, Professor and Chair (419) 372-8386, byeh@bgsu.edu

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**Faculty Update**

**Nancy Boudreau** (nboudre@bgsu.edu) has been busy implementing a new large lecture format for STAT 2110 that began in the spring. Along with her teaching load, she supervises graduate students in the Center for Business Analytics. As director of the Center, Nancy and several MSAS students have been assisting students, faculty and programs across campus on their statistical analysis. Last spring they worked on a project that tried to predict risky behavior in college students. They used multilevel ordinal logistic regression as well as Poisson regression in this project. Also last spring, they studied the success (as measured by college GPA) of different programs within the Student Support Program at BGSU. This project tried to determine which of the programs were most effective. Beginning in the spring and continuing to this fall they have been working on a project to determine what characteristics or activities best predict the college success of veterans. Also this fall, they have a project attempting to predict whether there are certain characteristics/activities of a student which indicate they will drop out of school.

**Jane Chang** (jchang@bgsu.edu) has been very successful in her role as graduate coordinator for the MSAS program. This fall marks the largest incoming class in the cohort in years and already applications are up this year from last. Jane works tirelessly on recruiting and also ensuring the students we currently have are staying on track. She also ensures the ASOR Facebook page is up to date with pictures and information about our students’ activities.

**Mohammad Khoshneshin** (mkhosh@bgsu.edu) completed his first full year as an assistant professor in the department this year. In January of 2013, he won a $10,000 BGSU Building Strength Major Research Project Award. The objective of this project was to develop a family of novel scalable statistical LSMs for multi-network analysis based on a single approach and is titled “A General-Purpose Platform for Large-Scale Relational Learning.” Mohammad also had a paper accepted and presented at the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) Workshop in Atlanta, GA in June 2013, titled “A Graphical Model for Multi-relational Social Network Analysis.” Mohammad has taught Regression and Database Management and will be teaching Elementary Statistics and Time Series in the spring.
Herb McGrath (rmmcgrath@bgsu.edu) continues in his role as Associate Dean in the College of Business. This fall, he and Tim Chambers, Director of Undergraduate Student Development in the college, met Mingsheng Li, Associate Professor of Finance who is on faculty improvement leave, in Tianjin, China. The main purpose of the trip was to discuss a “3+1” program with Tianjin Polytechnic University (TPU). In this unique program, students would attend TPU for three years taking BGSU’s BSBA curriculum. TPU faculty would teach our courses there and some BGSU faculty would travel to Tianjin to teach. The fourth year of study would be spent at BGSU taking some general education courses as well as courses in the Business Analytics and Intelligence specialization. After four years, students would receive a degree in MIS from TPU and a BSBA from BGSU. Approximately 100 students per year are expected to join this program.

Minsheng Li, Herb McGrath and Tim Chambers from BGSU during their visit to Tianjin Polytechnic University in Tianjin, China.

Chris Rump (cmrump@bgsu.edu) has experienced a year of service to the department as well as the university. Along with his regular teaching load and advising for the Business Analytics and Intelligence undergraduate specialization, Chris has served on numerous college and university committees. In the spring he completed his tenure as chair of the CBA Faculty Council only to be named to the Faculty Senate this fall. Also this fall Chris was asked by the dean to chair a special CBA task force on assessment.

Arthur Yeh (byeh@bgsu.edu) has had a busy and very productive year. In the spring of 2013, he and Nancy Boudreau began teaching large-lecture style sections of STAT 2110 (Elementary Statistics) and he also was the lead on a team of faculty to develop a new master of science in analytics program (MSA) which hopes to enroll students in the fall of 2014. Along with organizing the Best Practices in Business Analytics Symposium in April and Celebrating the 2013 International Year of Statistics Symposium in October, he also supervised students working on external projects for the Center for Business Analytics with Owens-Corning, Marathon Petroleum Company, Six Disciplines of NW Ohio and Randall-Reilly Business Media and Information. Arthur also submitted four papers for publication, all except one being a new submission, started three new research projects with professors from various universities in China and became an associate editor for the journal Statistical Papers.

Robert A. Patton Book Scholarship

This year the Robert A. Patton Book Scholarship was awarded to two graduate students who have maintained the highest GPA in their first year of the MSAS graduate program. The recipients of this scholarship are Huijun (Haley) Qian, and Gideon Van den Broek who both maintained a 4.0 GPA. Congratulations to Haley and Gideon!
Meet the MSAS Class of 2014-2015

Top row from left: Craig Hazen, Chen (Max) Yang, Chengong (Ricky) Han, Noah Williams, Neil Nanisetti, Mosab Alqurashi, Yan (Ivan) Shi, Tianyi (Terry) Xie, Zach Bourdon, Calvin Bosumbrah, Holden Smith, Brian Jaffee, Karen Kerr, Nick Grzebienik, Hong (Tim) Xu. Bottom row from left: Qiusi (Lyra) Sun, Wanruo Gan, Jianing (Jenny) Min, Mangrong (Mango) Zou, Yue (YuYu) Zhang, Zhijia Zhang, Huijun (Haley) Qian, Efua Agape Arthur, Jing-Yi Wu, Pei-Chun (Ruby) Yu, Yang Yu, Aihong (Stella) He, Kyle Moninger, Gideon Van den Broek. Missing: Colleen Grant, Zhen (Jane) Liu, Hamden Alhamdin and Chen Shen.
Alumni News

Robert Qiansha Abeku, M.S.A.S (2013) is an Instructor of Mathematics at the University of Ghana.

Yang Cao, M.S.A.S. (2011) is working as a statistician in the Quality Assurance/Regulatory Affairs Department at Instrumentation Laboratory located in Bedford, MA.

Qiansha Ding, M.S.A.S. (2010) now works for Microsoft in Seattle (she worked for Amazon from 2010-August 2013).

Robert Green, M.S.C.S./O.R. (2007) is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at BGSU. His first son was born 1/22/13.

Ravi Kandikonda, M.S.C.S./O.R. (2003) is now VP of Marketing & Intelligence & Insight at Comcast Corp., responsible for end-end measurement and optimization of marketing effectiveness. Ravi and his wife Pranathi now live in Mainline, PA with their two little boys. Ravi recently joined the Advisory Board for The Center for Business Analytics and was able to attend the October 2013 symposium.

Steve Long, M.S.A.S. (1983) is now mostly retired from his marketing research consultancy and is now working on a side business with his wife Kim. They call the endeavor LongMemories and the goal is to help people “make, capture, condense and share memories!” You can check out some details at www.LongMemories.info.

Mark Sembower, M.S.A.S. (2002) is currently the Director of Data Management and Analysis for a public-health consulting firm, Pinney Associates. He is currently residing in the Pittsburgh, PA area.

Tiger Shen, M.S.A.S. (2003) and his wife Meggie Jiang, M.S.A.S. (2005) have 2 1/2 year-old twins, Merlin and Emma. Tiger changed his job this year and is now a pricing manager at Nationwide Insurance. He started at Nationwide in 2003 but moved to Grange Insurance in 2010 and is now back at Nationwide. Meggie also changed her job at Nationwide and is a reserving actuarial specialist. They are all doing great.

Andrew Trapp, M.S.C.S./O.R. (2006) and Natasha Trapp, M.S.C.S./O.R. (2006) are both doing well in Worcester, MA, where Andrew is currently an Assistant Professor of Operations and Industrial Engineering in the School of Business at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. They are the parents of two wonderful boys, ages 5 and 2 1/2, and recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary.

Ralph St. John Lecture Series

On November 1, 2013, the department welcomed Joel Waldman to speak on the Ralph St. John Speaker Series in Applied Statistics & Operations Research.

Joel is a Business Analyst and Developer at Performant Systems Group, a technology company headquartered in Farmington Hills, MI that specializes in data integration and business intelligence solutions.

Joel presented some statistical dashboard solutions that he has designed for his clientele, including apps for displaying these attractive solutions on iPad and iPhone. He also offered career advice to current students in the business analytics specialization.
Students Attend SAC Dinner

On Tuesday, November 12, 2013, the Student Alumni Connection hosted an etiquette dinner to teach students social skills in a professional environment and give them the opportunity to interact and network with prospective employers who are also BGSU alumni. 30 of our MSAS students attended the dinner held at the Union. In the past this has been two different events; an alumni connection and an etiquette dinner. This year they combined the two events and enjoyed a great meal as well as gained insight from the various speakers.

2013 ASOR Opening Week Picnic and Annual Fall Picnic

Left: Jianing Min, Siliang Zhao, and Wanruo Gan.

Below: Alums Amy Peplinski and her father Bill Herald, as well as Amy’s son.

Second-year students and a few alums were able to join the faculty and staff at City Park on August 22nd to welcome one of the largest incoming classes in the program history!

Above: MSAS students arriving for the SAC dinner. Top: Chen Yang, Siliang Zhao, Jianing Min, Chen Shen, Calvin Bosumprah, Hong Xu, Mosab Alqurashi, Gideon Van den Broek. Bottom: Zhen Liu, Yan Shi, Huijun Qian, Tianyi Xie, Efua Arthur.

The clean-up crew from the Fall Picnic held at The Rotary Center at Wintergarden Park on Saturday, September 9, 2013. Faculty, students, and their families were able to enjoy delicious food provided by our 2nd-year students and the department! We had a very enjoyable evening together.
Local and national business leaders from as far away as Arkansas, Texas and North Carolina convened at BGSU for the first annual Best Practices in Business Analytics Symposium on April 26, 2013. Ashwin Patil, Director, Business Analytics & Information Management of Deloitte Consulting, LLP was the keynote speaker. A panel of experts consisting of Mike Hoskins, CTO, Actian Corporation, Jim Albert, BGSU Professor in the Mathematics and Statistics Department and author of “Curve Ball, Baseball, Statistics and the Role of Change in the Game,” Ed White, BGSU Executive-in-Residence and former CFO at Owens-Illinois and Joe Gottron, Senior Vice President, CIO, Pharmaceutical Segment, Cardinal Health.

Celebrating the 2013 International Year of Statistics

Alan Schwarz, New York Times Pulitzer Prize nominated reporter was the keynote speaker for the Symposium co-sponsored by The Center for Business Analytics and The Department of Mathematics and Statistics and attended by BGSU students, faculty and also area high school students. Mr. Schwarz’s presentation centered on the use of statistics in his reporting about head injuries in professional football players. The Symposium also consisted of a panel of BGSU faculty including Jim Albert Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, Andrew Schocket, Associate Professor of History and American Culture Studies and Miriam Krause, Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders.
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This form can be emailed to cmathis@bgsu.edu or printed and mailed to:

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