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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS



**ARJUN GUPTA**  
(PROFESSOR AT BGSU FOR 39 YRS)

To read interview, see "Interview With Arjun Gupta" on page 2

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Message from the Chair
2. Interview with Arjun Gupta
3. Department News
5. Alumni News
5. List of New Phds- 2015
6. Message from the Chair (cont.)

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Hanfeng Chen	CHAIR
Diem Nguyen	ASSISTANT CHAIR
Craig Zirbel	GRAD COORD
Jim Albert	UNDERGRAD COORD

We hope to include news of many more alumni in future issues, so please tell us about you: new and updated career news, family news, and anything you would like to share. A survey is provided for your convenience on a separate card insert enclosed, or simply send an email to one of the editors.

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2014-2015 Editors



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is completely an accidental event that I took on the position as Chair in July 1, 2015, when BGSU was surrounded by exciting news and achievements. First of all, US News & World Report ranked BGSU as one of the top 100 public universities in the United States. The University admitted the best academically prepared freshman undergraduate class for the second consecutive year. The freshmen enrollment of 3400 is 12% higher from last year and the one-year retention rate increased to 77 percent. The Carnegie Foundation named the university as one of only 340 institutions to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Classification, reflecting high participation rates in service-learning.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has kept pace with the University. In May 2015, the department hosted the Spring Topology and Dynamics Conference organized by Drs. Rieuwert Blok, Elmas Irmak, Mihai Staic and Xiangdong Xie, welcoming 167 participants and research leaders in the field from all over the world. In the Fall of 2015, the department added the undergraduate Data Science specialization program. The program is supported by an NSF grant with Jim Albert and Maria Rizzo being the principal investigators. Currently we have 171 undergraduate majors (across all specialties) and 72 full-time graduate students plus 7 part time students. The Master of Science in Analytics program (jointly run by Math & Stat, ASOR, CS and MIS) completed its first cohort with 9 students and started its second cohort this semester with 36 students. A new doctoral program or specialization in Data Science and Data Analytics is under discussion.

On a note of personnel news, our Distinguished University Professor Arjun Gupta, an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association, Institute of Statistics and Royal Statistical Society of England, retired in June, 2015. During his 39 years at BGSU, he published more than 550 articles, 20 books, and graduated 26 PhD students, among his numerous other significant contributions to the department, the University, and statistical science. We all miss him and wish him the best in his retirement life. Professor Jim Albert was presented the American Statistical Association (ASA)'s prestigious Founders Award, at the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, on August 12, 2015.

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