



Bio Trends

Biostatistics and Computational Biology

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall 2008

Department Bulletin Board

- Jane Long celebrates 25 years with Biostats
- Set the clocks back - Nov. 2

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Friday, July 18th, 2008 brought together the department for our Annual Family Picnic. This year's picnic was held at Seneca Park in the Wegman Lodge. The weather was hot (very hot), the food was delicious (very delicious), and a good time was had by all. Some folks enjoyed the zoo, others enjoyed a vigorous game or two of volleyball, and yet others played a Frisbee game called Can Jam™. The younger crowd enjoyed playing with bubbles. The Dinosaur Bar-B-Que catered and desserts were provided by Genesee Bakery.

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 University Holiday	2 Start of Fall Classes	3	4	5	6 Clothesline Festival
7 Clothesline Festival	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Yakovlev Colloquium Yi Li	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Jane-Ling Wang Colloquium	26	27
28	29	30				

Grant Awards

- **Hua Liang** - NSF "Development of Model Selection for Semiparametric Models in Analysis of High Dimensional Data".
- **Ollivier Hyrien** - NIH R01 "Statistical Inference on Chemotherapy Effects from Flow Cytometry Data".
- **Hongyu Miao** - Provost Multidisciplinary Award - \$70K (the highest amount possible!)
- **Dongwen Wang** - Clinical Education Initiative NYS DOH Technical Education, 7/1/08.
- **SPORE NGA** - Dr. Richard Fisher- \$11.5M over 5 years - several Biostat members are involved in this.
- **Sally Thurston** writes that together with several universities that hold CTSA awards, the University of Rochester's Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology is a recipient of a CTSA Administrative Supplement to expand CTSpedia, an online resource for Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) consulting (see www.CTSpedia.org). This resource was piloted by investigators at UCLA, who also head the CSTA BERD supplement. **Rui Chen** recently contributed a SAS macro to CTSpedia, and University of Rochester personnel will be contributing more SAS macros and R functions to CTSpedia for the CTSA supplement.

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Alex Pearson defense	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Faculty Meeting/ Provost Kuncl	15	16 Meliora Weekend	17 Meliora Weekend	18 Meliora Weekend
19 Meliora Weekend	20	21	22	23 Kung-Sik Chan Colloquium	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Obituary

Alexander V. Zorin

March 21, 1947 - July 19, 2008

Born in Leningrad, Russia and known as "Sasha" to his close friends, Alex was laid to rest after his brief battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Tamara and son, Maxim. Most of his research was concerned with stochastic modeling and its application to cell biology and cancer screening. He came to the US in 2001, working with Andrei Yakovlev at the Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah. He moved to Rochester in 2002 to join the Department of Biostatistics and Computational Biology.

Pictured at left - a young Alex Zorin

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Set Clocks back
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends	3	4 Dept/ Faculty Meeting	5	6 Douglas E. Schaubel Colloquium	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Jeff Morris Colloquium	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Jean Opsomer Colloquium	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 University Holiday Thanksgiving	28 University Holiday	29
30						



Yan Ma successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, titled "Inference for instrument reliability and rater agreement within a multi-rater and longitudinal data setting", on June 23, 2008. Yan joined the Department of Public Health as Instructor of Biostatistics at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and Instructor of Biostatistics in the Research Division at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Yan can be emailed at: yam2007@med.cornell.edu



December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Dept/ Faculty Meet- ing	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Last Day of Classes	12	13
14	15 FINAL ←	16	17 EXAM	18	19 PERIOD →	20
21	22	23	24	25 University Holiday Christmas	26	27
28	29	30	31			



A farewell reception was held for Hongwei Zhao on August 11th. Hongwei joined our department in 1998. Her primary research interest was in the analysis of quality of life and cost effectiveness data from survival studies. Hongwei accepted a position as an Associate Professor at Texas A&M, College Station, Texas, where she will continue with her primary research interests as well as teaching, methodological research, and collaboration with other investigators from the School of Rural Public Health and other schools in the Health Science Center.

We are deeply thankful for Hongwei's contributions to the Department and School and wish her every success in her future career.

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Faculty News

- Starting this year, and each year thereafter, the first Fall Colloquium will be designated the **Yakovlev Colloquium** to honor Andrei Yakovlev.
- **Sally Thurston** participated in a panel on the Clinical and Transitional Sciences Award, "Responding to New Challenges: Statistics in Clinical and Transitional Science" at the JSM in Denver, CO in August.
- **Xing Qiu** is looking for Brown Bag Seminar speakers and topics.
- **Peter Salzman** tied the knot over the summer.
- **Guohua Zou** writes that he arrived in Beijing safely and can be reached at ghzou@iss.ac.cn.

Cube Notes

- **Linlin Chen** successfully defended her thesis, "The Correlation Structure of Microarray Data and Its Statistical Implications" on August 13. **Linlin** was supervised by **Andrei Yakovlev** and **Anthony Almudevar**.
- **Miranda Lynch** presented her poster titled "Using Semiparametric Varying Coefficient Models to Investigate Interactions of Toxic Exposure and Nutritional Covariates in a Study of Neurodevelopmental Outcomes" at the JSM meeting in Denver, August 6, 2008.
- Please welcome post docs **Yeonok Lee** and **Arun Kumar**, both are at the Lattimore office.
- We have new grad students this fall. They are as follows: Doctoral: **Juo-Fan (Iris) Chen**, **Matthew Conomos**, **Katie Evans**, **Pan Wu**, **Yao Yu**; Masters: **Andrea Berry**, **Elizabeth Hickey**, **Hongyu Miao**.
- **Mike Hazard** joined us as an Associate with **Dongwen Wang**.

From Keith's Computer Bench...

I get asked a lot about the famous .docx Word files which were created using Microsoft Office 2007. The solution to being able to read these files is either to:

1. Upgrade your Office Suite to 2007 or,
2. Run the Compatibility Pack from Microsoft which will allow you to open the newer style files using older versions of Office.

The Compatibility Pack resides on our Windows Server here: \\RANGER\Central\FileFormatConverters.exe. Simply launch this file and you'll be reading .docx's in no time.

Two years after Red Sox management hired sabermetrician Bill James, the Sox won their first World Series in 86 Years. Three years later, they won again.

Coincidence.....

June 2008
AMSTAT News

And speaking of winning...

The **Black Sox** with team mates **Mike McDermott**, **Keith Bourgeois**, and **Arthur Watts** are the winners of the **2008 University of Rochester Softball Championship**. In a come from behind victory the **Black Sox** beat the **Bombers** 15-14.
Congratulations, Black Sox!!!