Another successful year has gone by and it is time to once again report to you on the many exciting developments over the past year.

Qihe Tang was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Joe Cavanaugh was promoted to full professor. Jerome Pansera was hired as an Assistant Professor.

This year we graduated seven Ph.D. students: Kwang Woo Ahn, Xiangming Fang, Dai Feng, Xiaoli Gao, Bangwon Ko, Yeok Ok Lee, and Jung-Eun Song. Bangwon, Jung-Eun, Kwang Woo, Xiangming and Xiaoli have all taken academic positions, Yeok Ok has taken a position in medical research, and Dai has taken a position in industry. We also awarded 12 M.S degrees and 4 B.S degrees in statistics last year. Our actuarial science program awarded 19 M.S. degrees and 7 B.S degrees. Our students’ pass rates on the SOA exams continue to be exceptional. In addition, 19 alumni became Fellows and 21 became Associates of the Society of Actuaries.

We are very grateful for the generous donations from alumni, friends, and companies who allow us to attract and support the best students. During the 2007-2008 academic year we spent more than $101,000 on our students, the vast majority in the form of scholarships, actuarial exam fee reimbursements, and prizes. This is a big investment, but having the best students makes it worthwhile. Thank you for helping to make our programs successful!

As you have probably heard, the University suffered serious flood damage this June. While the department itself remained unscathed, a number of our students and faculty, like many in Iowa City, were directly or indirectly affected. We have included a section on the flood in this newsletter.

A very important way to support the department’s efforts in hiring and retaining the best faculty is the establishment of endowed chairs in the department. We recently instituted the Robert V. Hogg Professorship at the Foundation to fund a chair in the department in Bob’s honor.

I hope you will enjoy reading the news about the department, students, faculty, and alumni on the following pages. We would be happy to include any news you would like to share with former classmates in next year’s newsletter. Please send us an email with alumni news.

Best wishes,

Luke Tierney
Chair, Statistics and Actuarial Science
Ralph E. Wareham Professor of Mathematical Sciences
(319) 335-0712
luke-tierney@uiowa.edu
A snow-laden Iowa winter combined with a wet and soggy spring created “Iowa’s Katrina” and the Flood of 2008. In early June most of the rivers in eastern Iowa began to swell and rise and many filled the Coralville Lake and Reservoir. By June 14th the water began to flow over its emergency spillway and was headed down the Iowa River to Iowa City. Fortunately the University had time to prepare and was successful in moving its valuable art and library collections as well as clearing out the lower levels of many University buildings. The campus was shut down for a week and only the essential employees were asked to come to work. Thousands of employees took this time to fill millions of sandbags to better protect the campus building. The river crested about two feet lower than predicted due to many breaches and levees failing all along the river’s length. But by the week’s end nearly 20 University of Iowa buildings were under siege with the river flowing into their lower levels. President George W. Bush toured the flood damage on June 20th with University of Iowa President Sally Mason noting how the Arts Campus was particularly affected. Hancher Auditorium took floodwater over the stage level and into the middle of the main floor seats. The Voxman Music Building and the Art Museum were filled up to the first floor level. The Iowa Memorial Union, the Adler Journalism Building, the Becker Communications Building, and the Mayflower residence Hall all had significant water damage. Even the power plant and miles of utility tunnels crossing under the Iowa River were severely damaged. Months and millions of dollars later many of the campus buildings are now open or are in the planning stages for futures openings.

The University has a great website on the UI Flood Recovery: http://www.uiowa.edu/floodrecovery/index.html#relief.

A Message from UI President Sally Mason

If you spent the summer in the Iowa City area, you saw record floods threaten The University of Iowa. If you are new or returning to campus this fall, you’re joining a university community that has emerged from this historic event tested yet inspired.

Parts of our campus continue to recover. Progress has been faster than anyone predicted, but we ask your help and your patience as we build a revitalized University of Iowa that’s stronger than ever.

For the most part, UI life continues as normal this fall, but from time to time, each of us may notice unexpected changes or challenges. Even if you don’t regularly use any of the facilities directly affected by the flood, you may discover the occasional inconvenience getting around campus, notice temporary equipment in place, or even experience minor disruptions in utilities or communications.

Our community met the flood head on, stacking sandbags, rescuing equipment and materials, and helping friends weather the storm. By staying informed, adjusting to challenges, and looking forward, you become part of this unprecedented effort.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we write what’s sure to be a remarkable chapter in University of Iowa history.

Sally Mason, President
The University of Iowa

Professor Jim Broffitt reports...The floods of 2008 brought our community together in an extraordinary way. It was great to see hundreds of people volunteering their time to fill sand bags and build dikes in an attempt to hold back the waters. Our son Dan and his family live close to the Iowa River -- near lower City Park. Their home flooded, so in June they moved in with us. We enjoyed having them and especially getting to see our granddaughter every morning. She was one year old on Thanksgiving Day. I call her little Miss Sunshine because she is always smiling and brightens my day. They were with us for about four months, but have now moved back home. Dan, together with family and friends, did most of the restoration work. At one point they counted more than fifty people who had volunteered to work on their home!
In Memoriam

Class of 1932
Evelyn B. Kittlesby (BA in Mathematical Sciences, with an interest in Statistics and Actuarial science) died in January 2007.

Class of 1934
Catharine Mueller Wegner (BA in Mathematical Sciences, with an interest in Statistics and Actuarial Science) died in December 2006.

Class of 1938

Class of 1945
Winifred A. Asprey (PhD in Mathematical Sciences, with an interest in Statistics and Actuarial Science) died in October 2007.

Class of 1958

Charles F. Pestal (BA in Mathematical Sciences, with an interest in Statistics and Actuarial science) died in July 2007.

John Joseph Birch of Eastham, MA. died on November 9, 2008 of bile duct cancer. He was born on June 10, 1923 and raised in Brockton MA where he graduated from Brockton High School in June 1941. He served in the Navy during World War II where he was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal with 2 stars, the Victory Medal, the American Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He survived the D-day mission, landing first on Omaha Beach and then on Utah Beach.

After receiving a B.S. in Physics from Brown University in June 1950, he worked as an engineer in Electronics Research at Melpar Inc, and Operations Research at A.D. Little Inc. He left industry in 1954 to attend the University of California, Berkeley, where he received a Ph.D. in Mathematical Statistics in 1960.

He joined the faculty of Mathematical Statistics first at the University of Nebraska (1960-1964) and then the University of Iowa, from which he retired in 1988.

He married Eleanor Mansfield on February 3, 1951. In addition to his widow, he is survived by two daughters Dr. Joanna M. Birch, D.V.M., a veterinarian in Snellville GA., and Dr. Laura E. Birch, an associate professor of biology at Clarke College, Dubuque, IA., and two grandchildren, Siobhanna L. Brown and Jonathan P. Brown of Snellville, GA. He is also survived by his sister-in-law Irene Berzinis of Chatham, MA.; nephew Stephen M. Berzinis (Mary) and children Kyra and Kevin of Brewster MA.; nephew Barry Berzinis (Mary) of West Townsend, MA.; and niece Sheila T. Congdon (Richard) of Providence, R.I., and great nieces Sarah C. Barr and Dawn C. Lovelace.

Mr. and Mrs. Birch retired to Eastham in 1992, where they were members of the board of Nauset Newcomers Yacht Club since 1994. Mr. Birch’s woodworking hobby led to his participation in Hollyberry Bazaars during the past eighteen years.

At his specific request, no public service is planned. As a final gift to his alma mater, he donated his body to be used in the research and teaching programs of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: VNA of Cape Cod Hospice (434 Rt. 134, Suite G1, South Dennis, MA 02660), or the American Cancer Society (New England Division, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701).

Katherine Furgol, MS Statistics 2008. Katherine won the University of Iowa L.B. Sims Outstanding Master’s Thesis Award. The title of her thesis was “Trend Estimation Under UCLB: A Novel Method for Estimating Trends from Censored Assessment Data.” Her advisor was Dale Zimmerman and Andrew Ho.

Daniel S. Nettleton, PhD Statistics 1996. Dan is a professor of statistics at Iowa State University and has been named an American Statistical Association Fellow for 2008.

Joshua M. Tebbs, BS Statistics 1995 and MS Statistics 1999. Josh was promoted to Associate Professor of Statistics at the University of South Carolina.
Invited SPEAKERS

Spring 2007

Huiliang Xie
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
University of Iowa
“Extending SCAD-Penalized Regression to Accelerated Failure Time Models”

Jiafeng Sun
Department of Actuarial Science, Risk Management, and Insurance
University of Wisconsin-Madison
“Heavy-Tailed Longitudinal Data Modeling Using Copulas”

Arka Ghosh
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
“Optimal Buffer Size for a Stochastic Processing Network with a Drift”

Kate Cowles
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
University of Iowa
“Parallelizing MCMC for Bayesian Spatiotemporal Geostatistical Models”

Rong Chen
NSF Program Director for Statistics
Professor of Information and Decision Sciences
University of Illinois-Chicago

“A Sequential Monte Carlo Methods and Their Applications: An Overview and Recent Developments”

“Extending SCAD-Penalized Regression to Accelerated Failure Time Models”

“Consistent Model Selection and Data-Driven Smooth Tests for Clustered Data”

Iowa State University
“Using Accelerated Tests to Predict Warranty Returns”

Wei Chen
Principal Financial Econometrician
SAS Institute, Inc.
“Tail Tales - Topics on Portfolio Risk Management”

Duke University
“A Statistical Inquiry into the Plausibility of Recursive Utility”

CLAS Alumni Fellow
Department of Actuarial Science
University of Iowa
“Optimal Buffer Size for a Stochastic Processing Network with a Drift”

Heike Hofmann
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
“Scagnostics for Projection Pursuit”

Xuming He
Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science
Chinese Academy of Sciences
“Some New Risk Measures and Their Representations in Terms of Choquet Integrals w.r.t. Distorted Probabilities”

Max Morris
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
“Composite Response Surface Designs for Factors with Jointly Symmetric Effects”

Fall 2007

A. Ronald Gallant
Fuqua School of Business
Duke University
“Incorporating Neighborhood Estimates in Non-parametric and Semiparametric Models”

Robert V. Hogg
CLAS Alumni Fellow
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
University of Iowa
“Small Steps and Giant Leaps”

Nancy Reid
Department of Statistics
University of Toronto
“Weighting the Likelihood Function”

Xia Zhou
Department of Applied Mathematics
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
“Survival Analysis with Long-term Survivors”

Jia-An Yan
Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science
Chinese Academy of Sciences
“Some New Risk Measures and Their Representations in Terms of Choquet Integrals w.r.t. Distorted Probabilities”

Li-Shan Huang
Department of Biostatistics
University of Rochester
“Incorporating Neighborhood Estimates in Non-parametric and Semiparametric Models”

Gideon Zamba
Department of Biostatistics
University of Iowa
“A Bayesian Analytical Tool for ILI control and Detection of Intentional Release”

Rodney Strachan
School of Economics
University of Queensland
“Divergent Priors and Well-Behaved Bayes Factors”

Gary Russell
Department of Marketing
University of Iowa
“Predicting Product Purchase from Inferred Customer Similarity: An Autologistic Model Approach”

John Geweke
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
Department of Economics
University of Iowa
“Hierarchical Markov Normal Mixture Models with Applications to Financial Asset Returns”

Kwang Woo Ahn
PhD Candidate in Statistics
University of Iowa
“Bayesian Inference with Incomplete Multinomial Data - Assessing the Spatio-Temporal Variation in Pathogen-Variant Diversity”

Philip Dixon
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
“Combining Multiple Sources of Information to Better Estimate the Probability of a Rare Event”

Heike Hofmann
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
“Scagnostics for Projection Pursuit”

William Meeker
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
“Using Accelerated Tests to Predict Warranty Returns”

Wei Chen
Principal Financial Econometrician
SAS Institute, Inc.
“Tail Tales - Topics on Portfolio Risk Management”

Nancy Reid
Department of Statistics
University of Toronto
“Weighting the Likelihood Function”

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Department of Applied Mathematics
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
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“Incorporating Neighborhood Estimates in Non-parametric and Semiparametric Models”

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Academy of Mathematics and Systems Science
Chinese Academy of Sciences
“Some New Risk Measures and Their Representations in Terms of Choquet Integrals w.r.t. Distorted Probabilities”

Max Morris
Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
“Composite Response Surface Designs for Factors with Jointly Symmetric Effects”

Gideon Zamba
Department of Biostatistics
University of Iowa
“A Bayesian Analytical Tool for ILI control and Detection of Intentional Release”
Our department welcomed a new Assistant Professor, Jerome Pansera, in August 2008. Jerome earned his PhD in Applied Mathematical and Computational Sciences under the direction of Elias Shiu at the University of Iowa. He also spent the past three years working in the financial industry. We are very happy to have him join our actuarial faculty!

Matt Bognar went to France in July to present at the International Workshop on Applied Probability (IWAP 2008). The talk was called “Bayesian Inference for Discretely Sampled Diffusion Processes: A New MCMC Approach.” The paper was published with Osnat Stramer.

Osnat Stramer had a busy year traveling and participating in many conferences, including the 30th Midwest Probability Colloquium at Northwestern University in October; the Workshop on Likelihood Methods in Finance at Princeton University also in October; the NBER-NSF Time Series Conference at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, in September; the Graybill Conference at Colorado State University in June; the 2008 Seminar on Bayesian Inference in Econometrics and Statistics (SBIES) at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business in May; and the Workshop in Inference for Partially Observed Diffusion Processes at the University of Warwick in January.

Russ Lenth wrapped up many months of activity as chair of the program committee for the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver. This was the second largest JSM ever, with about 5,600 attendees. The meeting went quite smoothly and Denver was a nice venue. Of the 450 technical sessions on the program, some particularly successful ones included a panel discussion on steroids in baseball that included two statisticians and two outside “sabermeters;” another panel on the recent book The Black Swan that included the author, Nassim Taleb; and a great session on missing and coarse data chaired by our own Dale Zimmerman. Especially timely and important were several sessions related to elections and polling; these have already fostered some volunteer efforts of ASA members to help design and improve post-election audits of the voting system.

Aside from JSM, Russ has been developing a StatWeave program, which integrates code and output for all kinds of statistical software with word processors. Russ was also elected the 2010 chair of the ASA section on Statistics in the Physical and Engineering Sciences (SPES).

Dale Zimmerman was awarded a research grant of $64,358 from the National Institutes of Health. His grant proposal was titled “Enhancing the Utility of Geocoding Accuracy Assessments via Regression Modeling of Accuracy on Geographic Characteristics and Feature Size.” This grant helps support one graduate student in our department.

Jian Huang was awarded the prestigious NIH ROI award from the National Cancer Institute. The grant is titled “Regularized Classification & Survival Analysis for Expression Profiling of Cancer” and it is for four years. He also was awarded a National Science Foundation grant for “Efficient Bi-Level Variable Selection in High-Dimensional Models.”

Last summer, Elias Shiu and Qihe Tang presented papers at the Twelfth International Congress on Insurance: Mathematics and Economics in Dalian, China, and attended the subsequent symposium at Tsinghua University, Beijing, held in honor of Professor Hans Gerber’s 65th birthday. A highlight of the 12th I: M&E Congress was a plenary address by Shirley Shao, who obtained her M.S. degree in actuarial science from Iowa in 1979 and is now Chief Actuary of China Life, the largest life insurer in China.

Qihe also presented a paper at the Second International Workshop on Gerber-Shiu Functions, Johannes Kepler University, Austria, and taught a three-day short course on “Subexponential Tails in the World of Dependence” which is part of the Fifth Conference in Actuarial Science and Finance, University of Aegean, Greece.

Congratulations to Qihe Tang, who was promoted to Associate Professor, and to Joe Cavanaugh, who was promoted to Full Professor!

Effective January 2008 Tammy Siegel became our Department Administrator taking over from Jessie Trepanier, who held the position for two and a half years, and Dorothy Kelley, who took care of us for 19 years before that. We’re glad Tammy remains in our department, and this new role presents welcome challenges that she has embraced with the same enthusiasm and efficiency that has always been her way.

Margie Ebert joined our staff in March 2008. Margie has revitalized our office and wears many hats, including Actuarial Science Coordinator, Department Webmaster, and Project Assistant. Margie and her husband, Jim, have four children. Welcome Margie!

Faculty Books

Dale Zimmerman co-authored his first book. It is called “Geocoding Health Data: The Use of Geographic Codes in Cancer Prevention and Control, Research and Practice,” and was published by CRC Press in late 2007. The co-authors are G. Rushton, M.P. Armstrong, J. Gittler, B. Greene, C. Pavlik, and M. West, all of whom are colleagues from various other departments at the University of Iowa.

Jonathan D. Cryer and Kung-Sik Chan, second edition of Time Series Time Series Analysis with Applications in R Series was published by Springer Verlag.

The third edition of Applied Statistics for Engineers and Physical Scientists by Johannes Ledolter and Robert V. Hogg will be out in January 2009.

The eighth edition of “Probability and Statistical Inference,” by Robert V. Hogg and Elliot A. Tanis will be out in January 2009.
More Recent Publications


Huang, J., Horowitz, J. L., and Ma, S. G. (2007). Asymptotic properties of bridge estimators in sparse high-dimensional regression models. Accepted for publication by the *Annals of Statistics*.


Xie, H. L. and Huang, J. (2008). SCAD-penalized Regression in High-dimensional Partially Linear Models. Accepted for publication by the *Annals of Statistics*.


Congratulations to Iowa alumni who became associates or fellows in the Society of Actuaries!

**SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES Fellows (FSA)**

**September 2007**
- Haobo Li (MS 2002)
- Paul Nawrot (BS 1997)
- Guan Ting Janelle Ong (MS 2004)
- Glen Reineke (BS 2002)
- Oleg Sydyak (MS 2001)
- Yang You (MS 2001)

**November 2007**
- Aaron Ekstrom (BS 1996)
- Jennifer Jakubowski (BS 1999)
- Shuo Liu (MS 2004)
- Bryce Rosel (BS 2003)
- Bin Sun (MS 1999)
- Lu Tiffany Wang (MS 2005)
- Shufang Wang (MS 2003)
- Lilin Zhang (MS 2002)

**February 2008**
- Sara Carstensen (BS 2001)
- Yin He (MS 2005)
- Laura Heyn (BS 2003)
- Tony Langasek (BS 2003)
- Dan Li (MS 2003)
- Matthew Plothow (MS 2002)
- Greg VandeKrol (BS 2000)
- Yue Xu (MS 2004)
- Hai You (MS 2000)
- Wei Zhou (MS 2004)

**March 2008**
- Megan Heine (MS 2002)

**July 2008**
- Rong Yang (MS 2003)
- Shaowei Yang (MS 2006)

**September 2008**
- Kevin Geurtsen (BS 1993)
- Haibo Liu (MS 2005)
- Jennifer Lynn McGinnis (MS 2006)
- Cheuk Yin Andrew Ng (PhD 2007)
- Chris Alan Plucar (MS 2004)
- Lina Xu (MS 1990, PhD Applied Math 1996)

**SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES Associates (ASA)**

**October 2007**
- Kally Marks (BS 2005)
- Blake Tieman (BS 2004)
- Qian Wan (MS 2002)

**November 2007**
- Diep H. Do (MS 2005)
- Nienh Ho (BS 2006)
- Christopher Johnson (MS 2004)
- Jingyan Wang (MS 2006)

**December 2007**
- Kyle P. Hays (MS 2006)
- Krishna Kothoor (MS 2006)
- Valerie Noonan (MS 2004)

**January 2008**
- Chun-Wei Chen (MS 1999)
- Douglas Krupa (BS 2005)
- Min Luo (MS 2004)
- Emmie Munthali (MS 2004)
- Dion Salandy (MS 1999)
- Barry Wagoner (MS 2002)

**March 2008**
- Marissa Doudna (BS 2004)
- Khang-Yee Lim (MS 1997)

**SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES Chartered Enterprise Risk Analysts (CERA)**

**April 2008**
- Carl Fagenbaum (BS 1996)

**May 2008**
- Jennifer McGinnis (MS 2006)

**July 2008**
- Haibo Liu (MS 2005)
Student Awards and Scholarships

Our annual student awards were presented on May 1, 2008. The Allen T. Craig Award for outstanding teaching assistant was shared by Marcel Carcea, Dimple Doshi and Yiwen Huang. Tianyang Zhang took home this year’s Henry L. Rietz Award for best performance on the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination. For outstanding performance in the Actuarial Science program, Jun Jiang, Kent Schrad and Hing Wu won the Lloyd A. Knowler Award.

We also presented several Robert H. Taylor Awards for academic achievement in Actuarial Science. This year’s recipients were XueMiao Hao, Colleen McGlaughlin, Kent Schrad, Chao Tan, Yi Wang, Yu Xu and Jun Yang.

Scholarships totaling $76,292 were awarded to 27 students in the 2007-08 academic year. Included among these were several named scholarships:

AEGON Foundation Scholarship
Kimberly M. Cessna

Aviva Charitable Foundation Scholarships
Fall 2007: Hing Wu and Yu Xu, Spring 2008: Kyle Mulholland and Yu Xu

CIGNA Foundation Scholarships
Fall 2007: Hing Wu and Colleen McGlaughlin, Spring 2008: Colleen McGlaughlin

Knowler Scholarship
Kimberly Cessna

Principal Financial Group Foundation Scholarship
Kent Schrad

Towers Perrin Scholarship
Lindsey Scott

Harold W. Schloss Memorial Scholarship
Lindsey Scott

Charles and Eleanore Wilson Scholarships


In addition to scholarships, the department refunded a total of $25,570 to students passing CAS/ SOA exams in 2007-08.

We are pleased to have so many outstanding students receiving scholarships and passing exams, just as we are grateful for the generous donations from corporations, alumni and friends that make these scholarships and exam refunds possible.

Student News

Throughout the year many of our graduate students present posters and papers at various national conferences. This is an important way to introduce student research and leadership within the department.

Jinzheng Li, MS candidate in Statistics, presented two papers at the SAE Digital Human Modeling Conference in Pittsburg in June 2008.


Jie Li presented a paper “Geocoding Accuracy: Effects of Geographic Features and Spatial Autocorrelation” at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver.

Xiongwen Tang attended the Conference on Survival Analysis and its Applications in Columbia, Missouri in October.

Xuemiao Hao attended the 12th International Congress Insurance: Mathematics and Economics, held in Dalian, China in July.
McGlaughlin shines on, off the field
by John Riehl, The Cedar Rapids Gazette, April 20

Colleen McGlaughlin loves numbers, just not the ones that calculate her batting average.

As an actuarial science major, McGlaughlin, a junior on the University of Iowa softball team, could figure out her average instantly after each at-bat if she wanted. You would think that would be the case since she was hitting (Colleen, close your eyes) .333 with six home runs and 26 RBIs.

The Hawkeyes split a twin-bill Sunday with Minnesota at Pearl Field, winning the opener 2-0 and losing the nightcap, 1-0, in 13 innings. McGlaughlin was 0-for-8 in the twin-bill, but it marked a rare bad day for the Iowa utility player.

“I've been pretty good with numbers. But I don't like to look at those,” McGlaughlin said. “It's too much pressure. I couldn't tell you (my batting average).”

She does, however, have an idea about her grade-point average. “I'm not sure exactly what it is. It's not quite a 4.3 though,” said a modest McGlaughlin, a National Fastpitch Coaches Association Academic All-America Scholar Athlete last year.

McGlaughlin earned a $400 Robert H. Taylor Award this semester for demonstrating excellence in research and academic performance in the UI’s Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science.

In addition to her fine offensive numbers, she hasn't committed an error while playing first base, third base and left field. This Morton, Ill., native is the epitome of a student-athlete. Actuarial science isn't an easy area of study, as the UI handed out only 14 undergraduate and 30 master’s degrees in 2007. Hitting Big Ten pitching isn't a walk in the park, either, with the likes of sixth-ranked Michigan and No. 13 Northwestern atop the standings with No. 25 Iowa (32-14 overall, 10-4 Big Ten).

“She's an amazing person. On road trips, she probably beats me up,” said Iowa Coach Gayle Blevins, who normally wakes up around 6 a.m. “Not even the assistant coaches are up. She's downstairs in the hotel lobby studying with her laptop. When we're traveling on the bus, she always has a book open.”

Faced with the choice, McGlaughlin would rather take an actuarial science exam than try to get a base hit off an elite pitcher.

“Hitting is more of a challenge for me, because of the confidence factor,” McGlaughlin said. “When I go into a test, I know if I've studied well and I go in confident and it's no problem. With hitting, you're constantly working to stay confident.”

Ph.D. Graduates

Kwang Woo Ahn, received his Ph.D. in Statistics in August 2008 under the direction of Luke Tierney. The title of his thesis was “Topics in Statistical Epidemiology.” Dr. Ahn is currently an Assistant Professor with the Division of Biostatistics at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Xiangming Fang, received his Ph.D. in Statistics in August 2008 under the direction of Kung-Sik Chan. The title of his thesis was “Generalized Additive Models with Correlated Data.” Dr. Fang is currently an Assistant Professor at the Department of Biostatistics East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

Dai Feng, received his Ph.D. in Statistics in May 2008 under the direction of Jian Huang. The title of his thesis was “On Sums of Dependent Heavy-Tailed Random Variables and Valuation of Equity-Linked Insurance Products.” Dr. Feng is currently a Biometrician with Merck and Company in Rahway, New Jersey.

Xiaoli Gao, received her Ph.D. in Statistics in August 2008 under the direction of John Geweke. The title of her thesis was “Topics in Statistical Epidemiology.” Dr. Gao is currently an Assistant Professor at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

Bangwon Ko, received his Ph.D. in Statistics in May 2008 under the direction of Elias Shiu and Qihe Tang. The title of his thesis was “Bayesian Hidden Markov Normal Mixture Models with Application to MRI Tissue Classification.” Dr. Ko is currently an Assistant Professor in Statistics and Actuarial Science at Soongsil University in Seoul, Korea.

Yeok Ok Lee, received her Ph.D. in Statistics in May 2008 under the direction of John Geweke. The title of her thesis was “Mixture of Semiparametric Models.” Dr. Lee is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Biostatistics at University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

Jung-Eun Jasmine Song received her Ph.D. in Statistics in August 2008 under the direction of Luke Tierney. The title of her thesis was “Bayesian Linear Regression Via Partition.” Dr. Song is currently employed by Research and Development with Electrical Geodesics, Inc. in Eugene, Oregon.

Actuary of Tomorrow

Stuart A. Robertson Memorial Scholarship
Presented to undergraduate student: Colleen P. McGlaughlin

Stuart A. Robertson, FSA, MAAA, a distinguished actuary, passed away on November 4, 2005 at the age of 87. Mr. Robertson co-founded the actuarial and consulting firm Milliman & Robertson (now Milliman, Inc.) over 50 years ago, together with Wendell Milliman. Mr. Robertson served as CEO and Chairman of the firm for many years prior to his retirement in 1983. He was also active in the actuarial profession, serving on the Society of Actuaries Board of Governors and in other capacities. A scholarship fund was established in 2006 in Stuart Robertson’s name at the Actuarial Foundation to honor his dedication to excellence and to recognize his tremendously positive influence on the professional lives of many colleagues. Funding is being provided by Milliman, Inc. and by several of Mr. Robertson’s colleagues and friends.

The Actuary of Tomorrow Scholarship recognizes and encourages the academic achievements of undergraduate students pursuing a career in actuarial science. Applicants must be a full-time undergraduate student entering as a sophomore, junior or senior, must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on 4.0 scale) and must have successfully completed two actuarial exams.

John Culver Woody Scholarship
Presented to undergraduate student: Kimberly M. Cessna

The John Culver Woody Scholarship is awarded annually to college seniors who have successfully completed at least one actuarial examination, rank in the top quartile of their class and are nominated by a professor at their school.
HOW YOU CAN HELP...

Many of you have been very generous in the past by supporting our students with your charitable donations. We are very appreciative of your support as it allows us to help many gifted and talented students to achieve their academic goals. Your gift to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science benefits education and research!

To make a contribution, go the Department’s online gift web site at:

http://www.givetoiowa.org/statistics

Thank you, your gifts to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science are greatly appreciated!

Reminders:

- Gifts to the UI Foundation, the channel preferred by The University of Iowa for private support, qualify as charitable contributions to an IRC, Sec.501(c)(3) organization for federal income, estate, and gift tax purposes.

- You can become a member of the College of Liberal Arts and SciencesDean’s Club with gift support of $1,000 or more during the fiscal year July 1-June 20 to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science Development fund or any other area of the College. Gift support totaling $2,500 or more will qualify you for membership in the Patrons Circle of Dean’s Club, designated to recognize the College’s most generous benefactors.