This has been a very eventful year for the department. With sadness we relate that three retired professors of our faculty passed away this year: Professor Eugene Hellmich died in January, Professor Merlyn Behr died in February, and Professor Harvey McKenzie died in May. Our deepest sympathies go to their families, friends, and former students. On a much brighter note, Professor Anton Zettl was named a Presidential Research Professor, Professor Bernard Harris was recognized by being named as a recipient of the Excellence in undergraduate Teaching Award, and Professor Linda Sons was honored by the Illinois Section of the Mathematical Association of America with its 1995 Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

The administration of the department is undergoing major changes this year. After serving almost 25 years as assistant chair of the department, Professor Stan Trail is retiring at the end of June. The new assistant chair will be Professor John Wolfskill. Professor Bob Kuller is also retiring at the end of June; Bob has served as director of undergraduate studies for 12 years. The new director of undergraduate studies will be Professor Joseph “Buck” Stephen. Professor Robert Rodine is also retiring at the end of the summer. Professors Trail, Kuller, and Rodine all joined Northern’s faculty in the late ’60s and played a major role in the development of our department. We wish Stan and both Bobs a happy and healthy retirement, and we wish John and Buck great success in their new jobs.

The big mathematical news of the last two years has been the announcement by Andrew Wiles of Princeton University of a proof of Fermat’s Last Theorem. About 350 years ago, in a marginal note of his copy of Diophantus’s *Arithmetic*, Pierre de Fermat wrote that “...it is impossible for a cube to be written as the sum of two cubes or a fourth power to be written as the sum of two fourth powers, or, in general, for any number which is a power greater than the second to be written as the sum of two like powers. I have a truly marvelous demonstration of this proposition which this margin is too narrow to contain.” In symbols this says that for any integer $n \geq 2$ there is no solution in the integers to the equation $x^n + y^n = z^n$ unless $xyz = 0$. From the late 1630s until now, other mathematicians have not succeeded in finding a proof of this seemingly innocent claim. In fact, most believe that Fermat was probably mistaken in his belief that he had a proof. There have been many claims over the years, but gaps always emerged. After the initial announcement in June 1993, a similar fate appeared to be in store for Wiles’s proof when a gap was found in the argument in late 1993, but with the help of Richard Taylor, Wiles was able to complete his proof. A 108-page paper by Andrew Wiles and a second 19-page paper by Taylor and Wiles appear in the May 1995 issue of the *Annals of Mathematics*. 
Several of the best known open problems in mathematics have fallen in the last fifteen years, the most notable being Bieberbach’s Conjecture, the Poincare Conjecture for \( n = 4 \), the Four Color Theorem, and the classification of finite simple groups.

(continued)

This is our fourth annual Alumni Newsletter. They have all been edited by Professor Linda Sons, and I wish to thank her and Melinda Connin for producing another superb issue.

Let us hear from you. If you are in DeKalb, please stop by Watson Hall 320 and say hello.

Professor William Blair

Congratulations to the New Doctoral Recipients

Applied mathematics, probability, and numerical analysis describe the topics for the 1993 dissertations. Howard Dwyer defended his research on ‘Eigenvalues of Matrix Sturm-Liouville Problems with Separated or Coupled Boundary Conditions’ under the direction of Professor Anton Zettl. Professor Mohsen Pourahmadi supervised Radhagobinda Mohanty’s study of ‘Estimation of Prediction Error Variance of a Multivariate Time Series.’ Professor Gregory S. Ammar advised Santash Mohanty on ‘Efficient Algorithms for Eigenspace Decompositions of Toeplitz Matrices.’


Three students are completing their Ph. D. work in 1995. Guogiang Huang studied ‘Problems in the Theory of Block Induction’ under the direction of Professor Harvey I. Blau. Frank Marzano and Susan Talarico both studied topics in ordinary differential equations under Professor Bernard Harris. Frank wrote about ‘Periodic Differential Equations with Singularity’ and Susan about ‘Asymptotics of Right-Definite Sturm-Liouville Equations.’

Congratulations are also in order to other degree recipients and winners of special awards.
## Master's Degree Recipients

### Mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1993</th>
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<th>1995</th>
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<tr>
<td>Depeng Bi</td>
<td>Lori Jones</td>
<td>Jinghua Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samar Choudhary</td>
<td>David Klanderman</td>
<td>Olivia Qaba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Diamantopoulos</td>
<td>Tracey Kozubowski</td>
<td>Elisabeth Schuster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conrad Fernandes</td>
<td>Greg Manning</td>
<td>Jon Sundberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ning Guo</td>
<td>Santosh Mohanty</td>
<td>Prakash Upadhyayula</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Heddens</td>
<td>Cynthia Musser</td>
<td>Craig Whittinghill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Henning</td>
<td>Lance Rudolf</td>
<td>Hui-Shu Yen</td>
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<td>Chandanie Hetti</td>
<td>William Trunkhill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kejia Ho</td>
<td>Guosheng Wang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guoqiang Huang</td>
<td>William Herrod</td>
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<td>Jenny Jones</td>
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### Applied Probability and Statistics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1994</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jinghua Chen</td>
<td>Ishita Majumdar</td>
<td>Jinghua Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Creech</td>
<td>Joy McMahon</td>
<td>Gregory Held</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Haas</td>
<td>Hyung Park</td>
<td>Netti Herawati</td>
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<td>Joelle Johnston</td>
<td>Qiping Shen</td>
<td>Shiao Hong Ran</td>
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<td>David Kloth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manju Mallela</td>
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<td>Margaret Mamoun</td>
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<td>Sanjay Muni</td>
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## Departmental Awards

### D. R. Ostberg Award

The D. R. Ostberg Award is given for academic achievement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1993</th>
<th>1994</th>
<th>1995</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guoqiang Huang</td>
<td>Wei Yao He</td>
<td>Svetlana Butler</td>
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### Dean’s Award

The Dean’s Award is given for academic excellence and service.

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<tr>
<th>1993</th>
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<th>1995</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Hulse</td>
<td>Roger Steffan</td>
<td>Phillip Hallstrom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Dale</td>
<td>Kaisone Chanthavong</td>
<td>Mark Jaros</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Chairman’s Award
The chair’s award is given for academic achievement and service to the department.
1993  Yu Shi
1994  William Viitala
1995  Glen Embertson
       Tammy Kunkel

Director’s Award
1993  Christine Wells
1994  Alicia Howell
1995  Paul Perry

Certificates of Merit
Certificates of Merit are based on academic achievement.
1993  Michelle Detry
       John Diamantopoulos
       David Heddens
       Kejia Ho
       Jenny Jones
       David Klanderman
       Heather Mickelson
       Lance Rudolf
       Elisabeth Schuster
       Laura Stenlund
1994  Svetlana Butler
       Ayrin Calachan
       Steve Kifowit
       Lauren Grubb
       Shiaohang Ran
       Gina Lap
       Ela Patel
       Daniel Foster
1995  Tamara Barosko
       Suzanne Fisher
       Patrick Gorman
       William Harrod
       Wei Yao He
       Carrie Helmig
       Mary Rita Lareau
       Kimberlie Logston
       Hongwu Wang

Honorable Mention Awards
Honorable Mention Awards are based on academic achievement.
1993  Monique Dillard
       Jerome Litto
       Terri Martin
1994  Julie Caluwe
       Daniel Gahan
       Daniel Hollowell
       Tanya Considine
       Christine Spera
       Gregory Held
       Qiping Shen
       Jiangang Zhou
1995  Carol Dyslin
       Sean Miller
       David Rhodes
       Joshua Vantassel

M. M. Wheeler Scholarship
1993  Gina Lap
       Christine Loos
1994  Tammy Kunkel
1995  Ann Colgan
       Thomas Daugherty
       Robert Gammelgaard
       Laura Jenkins
M. M. Wheeler Teaching Award

1993
Tammy Batdorff
Linda Hansen
Terri Martin
Heather Mickelson
Steven Urosevich
Steven Wilson
Patti Wragg

1994
Clayton Ames
Renee Anliker
Daniel Bohn
Megan Dipietro
Stephanie Jensen
Christian Spera

1995
Sharon Gabert
Megan Grady
Michelle Hoffmeyer
Tammy Kunkel
Sheila Yocum

A special student teaching award was given to Melody Moy in 1995.

M. M. Wheeler Teaching Award -- Honorable Mention

1993
Audra Chabucos
Vincent Zaccardi

1994
Laura Abernathy
Daniel Foster
LeAnn Harbaugh
Koren Komala
Julie Ladwig
Mary Sprengnether

1995
Christopher Davis
Sean Gschwind
Tamra Ropeter

Certificate of Teaching Excellence

1993
John Broadman
Samar Choudhary

1994
Frank Marzano

MAA Membership Award

1993
Daniel Gahan
Alicia Howell
Tammy Kunkel
Terri Martin
Heather Mickelson
Ela Patel
Roger Steffen
W. Topi Viitala

1994
Daniel Gahan
Alicia Howell
Ela Patel
Roger Steffen
William Viitala

1995
Philip Hallstrom
Kimberlie Logston
Craig Ortiz

Stelford Prize

Awarded to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average

1994
Roger Steffan

1995
Craig Ortiz
Awarded for the first time this year (1995) is the Merlyn Behr Research Award - an award honoring the contributions of Professor Behr to the department and recognizing excellence in research in mathematics education by a graduate student. This year’s recipient is David Klanderman, who teaches at Trinity Christian College and who was also named a recipient of a dissertation completion award for 1995-96.

One month’s support for summer 1995 as a research assistant were given to John Diamantopoulos to work with Professor Harris and to Shiaohong Ran to work with Professor Ahmad. Qiping Shen also received a dissertation completion award for 1995-96.

Lauren Grubb’s master’s thesis, “On the Growth of Groups” under the direction of Professor John Beachy, received NIU’s Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award chosen over other theses nominated by departments at NIU. She was awarded $300 and her thesis was forwarded to the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools for their annual Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award Competition.

\[\text{\textit{\pi M E} Members}\]

**1993**
- David Black
- Audra Chabucos
- Timothy Dalton
- Michelle Detry
- Monique Dillard
- Paul Gardner
- Laura Gaughan
- William Harrod
- Sharon Hulsey
- Gina Lap
- Jerome Litzo
- Ann McGouey
- Heather Mickelson
- Diane Nelson
- Yu Shi
- Michael Uhlhorn
- Steven Urosevich
- Karen Voss
- Christine Wells

**1994**
- Stacy Ambrozich
- Renee Anliker
- David Black
- Daniel Foster
- Daniel Gahan
- LeAnn Harbaugh
- Jeanette Horn
- Alicia Howell
- Koren Komala
- Gina Lap
- Robert Matz
- Jennifer Patton
- Christine Spera
- Roger Steffen
- Alex Van Winkle
- William Viitala
- Kevin Walz

**1995**
- David Burner
- Eden Carpenter
- Alma Contreras
- Kenneth Dentino
- Amber Fox
- Jason Geary
- Philip Hallstrom
- Grady Irey
- Mark Jaros
- Laura Jenkins
- Tammy Kunkel
- Sean Miller
- Craig Ortiz
- Sheila Yochum
Professors’ Awards

In 1994, Professor Linda Sons was named a Presidential Teaching Professor. Recipients of this award have been nominated by students and faculty for their commitment to and success in the many activities associated with outstanding teaching over time. Not only do they provide excellent instruction in the classroom, but they also make a profound impact on their students’ personal and professional development outside of the classroom.

In 1995, Professor Anton Zettl was designated a Presidential Research Professor.

The Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award went to Professor Harvey Blau in 1993, Professor Henry Leonard in 1994, and Professor Bernard Harris in 1995.

Congratulations are in order for faculty members Alan Zollman and Greg Ammar, who have just been promoted. Professor Zollman is now an associate professor and Professor Ammar is now a full professor.

Professor I. Ahmad was awarded the prestigious Fullbright Scholar award, and he spent the academic year 1994-1995 in Syria and a few other countries in the Middle East lecturing on various aspects of statistics.

Math Club Activities 1994-1995

The Math Club became a Student Association-recognized organization in fall 1994, complete with a constitution, bylaws, and a slate of officers. The current officers are Jacob Heidenreich, president; Liz Cohen, vice president; Wendy Parker, secretary; and Andy Geary, treasurer.

The "Math Clubhouse" was initiated in October. This is a corner of the Math Assistance Center (DuSable 306A), furnished with a bookcase, magazine rack, couch and coffee table, and supplied with magazines and newsletters of particular interest to undergraduate students. We hope to expand both the facilities and uses of the clubhouse in the future.

Two new student-run activities were started during the past year. A periodic math contest was organized in the fall by Scott Craver, Wendy Parker, and Mike Timm, and three rounds were completed. In the spring, a weekly undergraduate seminar was led by Glen Emberton and Jacob Heidenreich, where students spoke on mathematical topics of their own interest.

Program meetings included lecture by guest speakers S. Brent Morris, Ph.D., of the National Security Agency and Professor Phil Kutzko of the University of Iowa; John Selfridge and student Phil Hallstrom; and a mathematical software demonstration by Professors Anders Linner and Peter Waterman. There were two Video Nights ("The Mathematics of ID Numbers" in the fall, and "Fractals, Chaos and Dynamics" in the spring). A "Student Teaching Report from the Real World" provided an interesting program last November, thanks to the panel of student
teachers Dave Burner, Eden Carpenter, Chris Davis, Sharon Gabert, Liam Keigher, and Tammy Kunkel.

Our other activities included a Post-Halloween Party in November, and an insider's tour of Fermilab, led by Peter Lucas, Ph.D., the head of accelerator controls. The annual Used Book Sale, held this year in March and chaired by Liz Cohen, was the most successful ever, as we raised $800. Part of these funds enable four of our students to attend the ISMAA meeting at Monmouth College at the end of March. Scott Craver, Glen Embertson, and Jacob Heidenreich gave talks there, and Glen, Jacob, and Wendy Parker participated in math contest.

The Math Club hopes to keep widening the scope of its activities in 1995-96. We plan to begin by participating in the Friday Fest of student organizations just before classes begin in the fall. Faculty advisers for the past year were Professors Harvey Blau, Harold Ellers, and Alan Zollman.

Departmental Mathematics Contest Winners

The Eighth Annual (1993) Mathematics Contest had two ties for awards, an unprecedented result! Scott Craver, a junior computer science and mathematical sciences double major, and Yu Shi, a senior mathematical sciences major tied for first place. Sophomore Jacob Heidenreich and junior Roger Steffen, both mathematical science majors, each tied for third place. In 1994, the Scott Craver and Roger Steffen tied for first place and Jacob Heidenreich placed third. The winners of the Tenth Annual Contest were: Jacob Heidenreich, Glen Embertson, and Keith Roller receiving prizes of $75, $50, and $25, respectively. The 1993 Mathematical Modeling Team was Kris Baker, Jacob Heidenreich, and Joshua Van Tassel.

In order to be fair to entrants of differing class ranks in the department’s Mathematics Contest, problems are written at a number of levels and those contestants with greater experiences have restrictions placed on them regarding their choice of problems. A sampler of problems from this year’s contest follows. You may wish to try your hand at them.

Level I:
A six-place number is formed by repeating a three-place number; for example 256,256 or 678,678. Prove that every number of this form is divisible by 143.

When the polynomial \( x^{500} + 2x^{49} + 3x^5 + 4 \) is divided by \( x^2 - 1 \), what is the remainder?

Level II:
For what value of \( c \) will the graphs of \( y = cx^2 \) and \( y = ln \ x \) meet at a point where they do not cross?
Suppose that $f'$ is continuous on $[a,b]$, $f(a) = f(b) = 0$ and $\int_{0}^{b} (f(x))^2 \, dx = 1$. Find 
\[
\int_{a}^{b} x f(x) f'(x) \, dx.
\]

Level III:
Suppose that $A$ is a $2 \times 2$ real matrix with $0 < \text{trace } A < 2$ and $A^2 = A$. Prove that $A$ has rank 1 and that trace $A = 1$.

The plane $x + y + z = 24$ intersects the paraboloid $z = x^2 + y^2$ in an ellipse. Find the highest and lowest points on the ellipse.

1994 Putnam Exam

Four undergraduates participated in the 1994 William Lowell Putnam Mathematics competition. This nation-wide exam, held every December, lasts for six hours, and emphasizes problem solving ability. This year there were 2,314 participants from 409 institutions. Our first place NIU finisher was Glen Emberton. Glen will begin graduate school at the University of Illinois next year and plans to concentrate on number theory. Second place for NIU went to Jacob Heidenreich, who will be a senior here next year. Michael Timm and Greg Freadhoff also participated. We wish to thank all four students for their hard work and devotion. The Putnam team was coached by Professors Richard Blecksmith and Yinning Xia.

High School Math Contest

Professor Helen Khoury coordinated the ICTM Regional High School Mathematics Contest that was held at NIU Saturday, March 18, 1995. Eleven highly competitive high schools with a total of about 330 students participated in 11 separate events during the day. As always, it was interesting, encouraging, and rewarding to observe the relatively high mathematical levels at which such a large and an elite group of pre-college students can operate and excel in, both individually and in teams. The eleven participating schools were: Barrington High School, Cary-Grove High School, Conant High School, Downers Grove South High School, Elk Grove High School, Fremd High School Hinsdale Central High School, Hinsdale South High School, Illinois Math/Science Academy, Naperville Central High School, and Schaumburg High School. Professor Khoury was assisted by the spring '95 student teachers, office staff, graduate students, and faculty.
MRL Project

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at Northern Illinois University hosted this year two extensive in-service institutes for middle school teachers as a part of the project: Mathematical Reform Leadership Among Middle School Teachers in Northern Illinois, which is directed by Professor Helen A. Khoury. This project is funded by ISBE through the Scientific Literacy Program.

The first institute took place at NIU and in the schools over a three-month period with a selected group of 16 teacher-leaders during spring 1995. The second institute took place during two weeks in June 1995, with a group of 31 middle school teachers from 15 different rural towns of northern Illinois. A team consisting of mathematics educators, mathematicians, mathematics education graduate students, and a selected group of experienced teacher-leaders participated in leading the training, development, and leadership experiences.

The learning experiences during the above two Institutes were positive, engaging, challenging, and supportive to all involved. On the last day of the two-week Summer Institute, one teacher summarized her experiences by saying, "We have been living mathematics, classroom activities, problem solving, communication, connections, and reasoning during these last two weeks, and guess what? 'We love it!'"

NIU Department of Mathematical Sciences Hosts TI Graphing Calculator Workshop

From June 13 through June 16, NIU hosted a College Instructor Network (CIndiana) Summer Short Course entitled "Enhancing the Teaching and Learning of Collegiate Mathematics Using Texas Instrument Graphing Calculators." The purpose of the short course was to educate university, community college, and secondary school instructors on various methods for using the latest Texas Instrument graphing calculators to teach selected college mathematics topics. Thirty-one mathematics instructors, 19 from the high school level and 12 from the collegiate level, including one professor from Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington, participated in the short course, which was organized by Professor Donald Porzio of the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

The instructor for the workshop, Professor Al Stickney of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, addressed a myriad of mathematics topics during the week, including the solving equations and inequalities numerically and graphically, parametric graphing, differential calculus, integral calculus, and matrix algebra. Many of the activities demonstrated focused on how the graphing calculator can make many real-world applications more accessible to teachers and students. Along with seeing various techniques for using TI graphing calculators to teaching mathematics, participants discussed practical issues such as implementation of technology in the schools, convincing colleagues of the desirability of the use of technology, and assessment and testing.
One of the highlights of the short course was the opportunity for the participants to use the new TI-92 graphing calculator, which is not due out on the market until late 1995. The TI-92 incorporates a graphing calculator, a computer algebra system, interactive geometry software, a spreadsheet, a word processor, and a program editor all into one calculator that is slightly less than twice the size of the TI-82 graphing calculator. This calculator also has a standard QWERTY keyboard, an 8-directional cursor, and pull-down menus similar to the ones used on Macintosh computers. Some people would argue that the calculator is a computer, albeit a pocket version, but a computer nonetheless.

On the first day of the short course, Professor Bert Waits of the Ohio State University, one of the founders of the College Instructor Network and a national leader in collegiate and secondary school mathematics reform through the use of graphing calculators, gave a very well received presentation on the new TI-92. Though the presentation focused on how to use the calculator, the ramifications of having such a calculator in the classroom or lecture hall in the not too distant future were also discussed by Professor Waits and the workshop participants. Throughout the week, participants were allowed to explore the capabilities of the calculator both during the workshop and on their own after each day's session. Based on the comments of the participants, having this opportunity to "play" with and learn about the TI-92 was nearly as important to them as learning about the various ways to incorporate graphing calculators into their mathematics teaching.

Overall, the reaction to the workshop was quite positive. Most the participants came away either with new-found confidence in their ability to use graphing calculators to teach mathematics or with an greatly expanded set of graphing calculator problems and applications for classroom use. When it was all over, the participants indicated that the short course was a worthwhile endeavor and hoped they could get their colleagues to participate in similar workshops. At present, the Department of Mathematical Sciences is looking into the possibility of hosting another such short course during summer 1996.

The First Career Development and Internship Workshop (Statistics)

The first career and development and internship workshop was sponsored by the Division of Statistics in February 1995. Its purpose was to expose and inform students to various job opportunities for statisticians in industry, government, and academia, and to encourage students to take advantage of various summer internship opportunities. This was a well-attended and successful workshop. Alumni Raoul Bernal and Pat Cavanaugh, both working for SPSS, were present to share their experiences in using statistics in the workplace and answering various questions for the participants. We would like to repeat this next year. If you are interested in attending, please contact the director of statistics.
Statistics' 10th Anniversary Is Being Planned

The Division of Statistics was "born" in May 1986. We are planning for a 10th Anniversary Celebration to take place some weekend in late April or early May 1996. We hope to invite many alumni, former faculty members, visitors, and some distinguished statisticians representing areas of interest to the division so far as teaching, research, consulting, and interactions with industry are concerned. If you are interested in attending, presenting a paper, sharing your experiences as a student, or insights as a statistician in industry, please contact the director of the Division of Statistics.

Faculty Comings and Goings

Words from and about retirees
Robert Kuller, Robert Rodine, and Stanley Trail

Professor Robert (Bob) Kuller retired this summer after 27 years at NIU. Professor Kuller served the last 12 years as director of undergraduate studies in the department and was the "first" adviser for many undergraduate majors -- seeing these students during summer orientation. Among courses he enjoyed teaching was Math 360, the model building course. He was the instructor for the course the very first time it was offered in the mid-seventies. Bob loves to travel, mountain-climb, and explore. In the last year he had an opportunity to explore Portugal. And this summer he writes, "The Alaska panhandle is stupendous!" while looking forward to a week in a fish camp in Northwest Alaska.

Professor Robert (Bob) Rodine retires at the end of the summer after 27 years at NIU. Professor Rodine has steered many students through differential equations, mathematical modeling, and analysis courses. Upon reflection about his years at NIU, he notes that "the thing that comes to mind, first and more vividly than anything else, is what those of us who came to NIU in the late sixties accomplished -- building a Ph. D. granting department, almost from scratch." (The department received permission to award the Ph. D. in 1984.) Professor Rodine goes on to say he leaves with mixed feelings -- pride in what has been accomplished, but disappointment in the decline of higher education today, "due mostly to the political climate of the times."

Professor Stanley (Stan) Trail retired this summer after 28 years at NIU, of which he served as assistant chair from 1971 to 1975 and from 1978 until now. Professor Trail was the principal interpreter of a statistician to many in the department and university, a principal representative of the department in scheduling and student affairs, an adviser and problem solver for myriads of students (and faculty), and instrumental in the development of the department's Division of Statistics. For this newsletter he wrote the following:

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those alumni who were students during my stay here in the Mathematical Sciences Department at NIU. I appreciate your many notable professional accomplishments and believe that some part of these is due to your experience in the department. Some part of that part (I like to think) may in turn be due to some
of my actions over the last 28 years. This is largely why it is easy to feel good about my tenure here and I want to both congratulate you and thank you for all those successes.

Comings

Professor Mohsen Pourahmadi began his tenure as the new director of the Division of Statistics in July 1994. His phone number is (815) 753-6773 and his e-mail address is pourahm@math.niu.edu.

Greg Held (M.S. Applied Probability and Statistics, '94) was hired as an instructor in the Division of Statistics for 1994-1995 and will continue to teach in 1995-1996. Alan Polansky (Ph.D. '95, Southern Methodist University) will join the Division of Statistics this coming year as a tenure-track assistant professor. Alan is interested in computational statistics and bootstrap.

New to the faculty in 1994-1995 were mathematics education specialists Victoria LaBerge and Donald Porzio. Both completed their doctorates this past year and are assistant professors. Professor LaBerge came to us from the University of Kansas and Professor Porzio from The Ohio State University.

Professor Kitty Holland joined the faculty as an assistant professor in fall 1994, coming from time as a visiting faculty member at Carnegie-Mellon University. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Illinois at Chicago and her interests are in model theory (an area of mathematical logic).

Another newcomer in fall 1994 was Assistant Professor Jeffrey Thunder. His interests are in number theory and he came from time on the faculty at University of Michigan and most recently a year as visiting assistant professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, from which he had received his degree in 1990.

Rejoining the faculty in 1994-1995 and continuing on with us is Professor Donald McAlister. Professor McAlister had been on our staff about 10 years ago and left to serve full-time with the Episcopalian Church.

On Leave of Absence

Professor Carol Feltz was on sabbatical leave during the academic year 1994-1995. She stayed in DeKalb, but traveled to Berkeley, Rutgers, Minnesota, and the University of Iowa in pursuit of her scholarly activities.

Professor Prakash Laud was on leave at the Medical College of Wisconsin during 1994-1995. Indications are that he may join the college permanently.

Professor Joe Ibrahim was on leave in 1994-1995, studying at the Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University this year, and subsequently accepted a position at Harvard. We will miss Joe and all his enthusiasm for statistics and other things in life. We wish him luck in his new position.

Sabbatical leaves for fall 1994 were also enjoyed by Professors Biswa Datta, Ching-Tsuan Pan, and Joseph Stephen. Professor Datta took opportunity to spend some time in Australia. In spring 1995, Professor Karabi Datta had a sabbatical time away.
The News

According To You...

Dorothy E. Smith Ellis ('45) retired in 1984 after teaching math at Simmons Junior High in Aurora for 31 years. She tutored math students privately and now volunteers in the grade schools. She has been married 47 years and has 6 children and 16 grandchildren. She was the president of: American Association of University Women, Woman's Club (and committees) of Aurora, Lutheran Church Women of Redeemer Church, X. Zeta Lambda Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, and treasurer of several groups. A highlight was being Kane County Junior High Teacher of the Year in 1981-1982. Professor Storm taught her different number bases in 1941 and 20 years later she needed the information she had saved in her notes.

Dianne J. Miller ('55 and M.S.Ed. '66) is the computer coordinator for Big Hollow School in Ingleside, Illinois. She also teaches part-time at McHenry County College.

Richard E. Lindstrom ('63) is president and CEO of Columbia General Life Insurance Company, Laguna Hills, California.

Ross S. Phifer ('63 and M.S. '69) is the president of TECH FIndianaANCIowaL CORP, which is involved with reinsurance consulting and arbitration work, plus research and financial analysis regarding insurance companies. He has co-authored a reinsurance textbook and written a series of articles on measures of insurance solvency and insurance trends.

Michael R. Ristau ('65) is senior vice president and chief financial officer for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Missouri. He has been married 30 years to Patricia Green Ristau ('66) and has two children, Charles and Wendy.

Tom Kamprner ('66) is the manager of operations at Ingersoll Milling Machine Company in Rockford. His wife is an elementary teacher in Pecatonica, Illinois. Their son and daughter also graduated from NIU. Colin is an account executive for Channel 13 TV in Rockford and Kelly teaches at Freeport Junior High.

Ronald A. Kiefer ('66) is the principal of Goodwin School in Cicero, Illinois. He is also a part-time mathematics instructor at Morton College, where he served as a board member from 1983-1990.

Bill Duncker ('67) is currently coordinator of mathematics for the Midland Independent School District, Midland, Texas.

Bob Martin ('70) taught at Naperville North High School. Bob was involved in ICTM Mathematics Contests. He was killed in a private airplane crash in November 1994 near Champaign.
Tom Oswald ('71) spent 20 years flying helicopters for the U. S. Navy in active service and in the Reserves. He started his own personal financial consulting business in 1982. He lives in San Diego, California, with his wife Linda and daughter Christina.

Ronald C. Biggers ('72) is associate professor of mathematics at Kennesaw State College in Marietta, Georgia.

Marcia Tesauro-Osmundson ('72) taught junior high mathematics in Addison, Illinois, and Portland, Texas, for 12 years. Since 1984, she has been a State Farm Insurance agent in Portland. In her spare time she is involved with the local Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club.

Larry Johnson ('73) is assistant vice president of auto pricing in Libertyville, Illinois.

Bruce Keyzer ('78) has been teaching 24 years at Guilford High School in Rockford. He is the science department chair, teaches physics, and coaches the scholastic bowl team.

Daniel Pierce ('82 math and computer science, '83 M.S. mathematics) earned a Ph.D. from North Carolina State. He then joined The Boeing Company, where he is now a senior principal scientist. He works in the computer services operating division in areas including parallel processing, sparse matrix technology, advanced iterative methodologies, and developing sparse matrix rank revealing QR factorization. Pierce has organized several joint industry-government-university programs by establishing internships for Ph.D. students. He also is a volunteer teacher.

Janet L. Johnson ('84) finished her Ph.D. in mathematics education with a minor in statistics in 1992. She is an evaluation specialist for the Department of Evaluation and Research, Wake County Public Schools, Raleigh, North Carolina. Her job is to evaluate the effectiveness of school programs as they adopt the NCTM Standards.

Ed Skerke ('84) works for M&M Mars, Inc., managing a VAX cluster, 150 networked PCs, 80 terminals, and the databases residing on these machines. He completed his master's thesis in computer science at North Central College in Naperville in 1994. He and his wife, Hilary, have two children.

Mark Gruenwald ('85) was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor of mathematics at the University of Evansville. He also co-authored a college algebra textbook published by West Publishing Company in February. He resides with his family in Evansville, Indiana.

Janet McMullin Neufeld ('85, '87 M.S.) at last word, was teaching mathematics at Mt. San Antonio College. Her husband, Carl, was the head men's tennis coach at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.
Michael Christopher Fijolek ('86) died suddenly of congestive heart failure April 8, 1993. He was employed in his hometown as a sales representative for American Flange, Inc. in Carol Stream. He is survived by his wife, Pamela, his children, Lauren, Paige, and Bryan, his parents and five siblings.

Henry Spoo ('87) married Rhonda Moore Spoo in 1986 and they have two children, Lauren and Chris. "Hello to all my fellow 1987 graduates."

Maria D. Amodeo ('88) is an actuarial examiner for the Illinois Department of Insurance.

David Delong ('89) is a mathematics instructor at Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Laura Sterling Middaugh ('91) teaches math and science at St. Clement School in Lincoln Park. She married Stephen Middaugh, an NIU graduate, in 1992.

Julie A. Satterfield ('91) taught in Chicago and just finished teaching with the Peace Corps in the Solomon Islands.


Cheryl Penn ('92) teaches math and coaches girls' soccer at West Aurora High School. She also tutors at Huntington Learning Center in Naperville.

James E. Little ('92) is teaching at St. Charles High School.

Those who had Professor John Christiano as a teacher may appreciate some recollections he shared with us recently:

Our president Les Holmes was a down-to-earth and an all-around nice man respected by all who know him. One morning, during our usual coffee break, Professor Holmes was relating what a fruitful catch of fish he had that weekend.

Professor Holmes owned a cabin on a lake in Wisconsin where he enjoyed serenity, beauty, and fishing among other things. Because I don't particularly like fishing, I asked, with tongue in cheek, of Professor Holmes:

'Les, what is so satisfying by a man with a Ph.D. in geology, the latest and best fishing equipment, and a boat, knowing that you matched wits with a fish and you won?'

'John,' he said, "you will never understand it."

I remember when, in the early sixties, use of the library was very restricted by the librarian. For example, theses were not allowed to be checked out. One had to read them only in the library under close supervision of the librarian and returned immediately.

When a student of mine informed me of this practice it surprised and angered me.

Naturally, I intervened and finally persuaded the librarian and administrators that such a practice was not useful or fruitful for anyone; and further, that particularly in mathematics, a
thesis that can be read and totally understood in a short period of time in the library perhaps 
should not be on the library shelves in the first place.

The librarian and administrators soon agreed to relax the rules to a much more liberal 
policy.

Professor Christiano and his wife Margaret retired some years ago and now live in Florida.

Professor Kenneth Duzan, who also retired some years ago, recently moved with his wife, 
Zelma, into the Oak Crest Retirement Center in DeKalb.

**ALUMS of 25 Years**

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1970. Here's a class listing of the 
Class of 1970 and their current home towns. If you can update some of the information, we 
would appreciate your help.

George E. Adderson, Villa Park, Illinois  
Michael William Baker, Vandalia, Illinois  
Patricia Klatt Baker, Harvard, Illinois  
Robert David Bakshis, Woodridge, Illinois  
Daniel Eric Bakstad, Alpharetta, Georgia

David A. Banfield, Bettendorf, Iowa  
Sharon A. Barnhart, Bellevue, Washington  
Robert Sidney Bowers, Tucson, Arizona  
Richard LeRoy Brown, Buffalo Grove, Illinois  
Charles Lewis Burke, Chicago, Illinois

Charles D. Bushroe, St. Charles, Illinois  
David Arthur Busse, Marietta, Georgia  
Benjamin F. Calvert, Jr.  
Nicholas K. Carter, Elburn, Illinois  
Dewey Oberlin Chiesle, Plymouth, Minnesota

Daniel Chuo Chin  
Dale E. Christensen  
Dennis Lee Clark, Darien, Illinois  
Edward R. Cody, Jr., Basking Ridge, New Jersey  
Donald Wayne Coleman, Glenview, Illinois

Patrick James Crowe, Louisville, Kentucky  
George Riley Crane  
Robert P. Czarnowski, Rockford, Illinois  
Linda J. Charlesworth Daiberl, Des Plaines, Illinois  
Karen L. Ulmenstine Danielewicz, Mokena, Illinois

Timothy Holland Davis, Columbia, South Carolina  
Paul Richard Day  
Keith Ira Deline, Rockford, Illinois

George Edward Dirksen, Naperville, Illinois  
James Joseph Dirksen, Crystal Lake, Illinois  
Thomas Leo Donofrio, Roselle, Illinois  
Patricia Ann Drilling, Chicago, Illinois  
Ronald James Edington, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Kathleen M. Hoffmann Elliott, Riverview, Michigan  
Sandra Lee Engstrom, Highland Park, Illinois  
Rufus A Fakuade, Akure, Nigeria  
Marsha Joseph Fiegel, Scottsdale, Arizona  
Richard John Fleck, Mokena, Illinois

Russell Eugene Forrer, Aurora, Illinois  
Kenneth Walter Gabrys, Chicago, Illinois  
Eva E. Kocers Gagnon, Arvada, Colorado  
Marjorie L. Shalett Garrison, West Des Moines, IA  
Donna Susan Prenner Gerstung

Philip John Giuntoli, Palatine, Illinois  
Donilo Peter Glusac  
Stephen George Goold  
Eugenia Eva Gorowski  
David Allen Hanula

David Alan Haring  
David F. Hemminger, Chicago, Illinois  
Mary Ellen McKenna Hines, Naperville, Illinois  
Gunnar Jack Hogfelt, Batavia, Illinois  
Ronald Emery Holm, Rockford, Illinois

Robert Ennis Houston  
Donna Lynn Lacrosse Ingram, Harvard, Illinois  
Guy Thomas Inman, Woodstock, Illinois
June Florence Spitler Iverson, Monroe, Wisconsin
Randall Jay Iverson, Monroe, Wisconsin
William Robert Jeske, Sycamore, Illinois
James L. Jorgenson, DeKalb, Illinois
Cecelia Ann Maycole Kaplan

Susan Leslie Anderson Kidd, Albany, New York
Marilyn Joann Thiel Knilans, Deerfield, Illinois
James Thomas Kolder, Barrington, Illinois
Jeffrey Joseph Kollar, Brookfield, Illinois
Gregory Alan Lewis

Kenneth Francis Maas, Morris, Illinois
Robert Paul Maas, Stillman Valley, Illinois
Thomas John Madden, Aurora, Illinois
Robert W. Martin, Jr.
Joanne E. Markowski

Christine Mauro, Antony, France
Nick John Mavros, Elgin, Illinois
Linda B. Durkiewicz McCollam, Albuquerque, NM
Frank Stephen McKenna, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

George Mendez, Carbondale, Illinois
Angela Marie Heinz Miazga, Oak Forest, Illinois
Raymond A. Michalski, Streamwood, Illinois
Edward J. Miculichin, McHenry, Illinois
Henry Raymond Miller, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Jeri Susan Dipasquale Montag
Ronald Wayne Moore, Sycamore, Illinois
Bernard C. Nelson
Caroline V. Neas Neumann, Milan, Illinois
Richard L. Newton, Wayne, Illinois

Pamela Carol Lazarz Ninko
Joyce Ann Mariska North
Daniel Joseph Norton
Martin A. Ogburn, Chillicothe, Illinois
Robert Steven Ogle, Western Springs Illinois

Donald J. Partipilo, Rosemont, Illinois
Herb L. Pavey, Streamwood, Illinois
Kathleen F. O'Hagen Piehn, Freeport, Illinois
James Robert Pilson, Byron Center, Michigan
George M. Pollingue, La Porte, Indiana

Mary Jane DeSalvo Pyszka, Elkhorn, Wisconsin

Albert J. Quirin, Jr., West Palm Beach, Florida
Carol C. Tuma Rapacz, Hinsdale, Illinois
Mary Ellen Zelko Regan, Glendale Heights, Illinois
Kay L. Rekau, Deerfield, Illinois
Keith William Riddell, Batavia, Illinois

Michael Richard Riley
Kurtis John Rowe, Farmington Hills, Michigan
Paula Jo Kolberg Rowe, Farmington Hills, Michigan
James Robert Ruppel, Galesburg, Illinois
Noel Fredric Sabine, Zion, Illinois

Gabor Santa, Jr.
Gary Paul Schmidt, Schaumburg, Illinois
John Leonard Schmitz, Chicago, Illinois
George Robert Silagyi, Blue Island, Illinois
John Richard Simmons

Linda Kay Kubo Singer
Jeffrey Ray Sneed
David Allen Sparks, Downers Grove, Illinois
George David Spengler
Michael Edward Stack, DeKalb, Illinois

Robert Raymond Straub, Elk Grove Village, Illinois
Pamela Jean Yack Styka, Hinsdale, Illinois
Michael R. Tallman, Elgin, Illinois
Terry Norman Tett
Robert Warren Thoma, La Grange, Illinois

Stephen Jerome Tyler, Moline, Illinois
Carol Hoefer Urban, Glen Ellyn, Illinois
Peter Richard Vershaw, East Moline, Illinois
Diana Joan Devine Wage, Sterling, Illinois
James Roy Wais, Lake Bluff, Illinois

Bernard Joseph Ward, Glen Ellyn, Illinois
Donald Alan Whepley, Naperville, Illinois
Bruce Edward White
Irene M. Bark Whittington, Wheeling, Illinois
David Warren Wiles, Rockford, Illinois

Marion Estelle Barton Willms, Palos Park, Illinois
Michael D. Wimberly, Santa Barbara, California
Frederick J. Winker, Schaumberg, Illinois
Jeannie M. Hartford Wodarczyk, McHenry, Illinois
Thomas James Zak

Wayne Edward Zebron, Peru, Illinois

ALUMS of Fifty Years
Congratulations to the Class of 1945!
Dorothy E. Smith Ellis, Aurora, Illinois and Lois Gielow Siegert, Pontiac, Illinois

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Name

Address

Class year ______ Day phone __________ Home Phone __________

Social Security Number ___________________________

News or notes to share:

Send to Chair, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2888.

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