

Fall 2016

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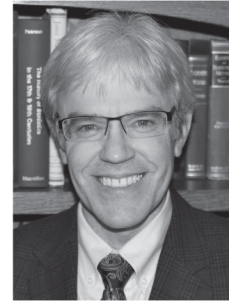
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from the CHAIR



Another successful year has gone by and it is time once again to report to you on the many exciting developments over the past year. Let me begin by sharing the good news that Professor Joyee Ghosh has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Congratulations, Joyee! Let me also congratulate Professor Emeritus Russ Lenth on being recognized as the 2015 recipient of the American Society for Quality Statistics Division's Lloyd Nelson Award. You can read more about our award-winning faculty in this newsletter.

We welcomed many new faces this fall. The halls and offices are bustling with our many new undergraduate and graduate students. The main department office also includes a couple new faces. We are delighted to have Heather Roth and work-study student, Angela Fiore, join our extraordinary staff duo, Tammy Siegel and Margie Ebert. Heather took over for Irina Bassis, who is enjoying a new adventure with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Last fall I wrote to you about the significant growth in numbers of undergraduate majors and pre-actuarial interest students. This growth continues in step with the explosion of interest in data science. Reflecting this increased interest, our department is happy to report that two new courses are being introduced this year. Professor Sanvesh Srivastava is teaching our new Statistical Learning course this fall and Professor Luke Tierney will introduce a Data Visualization course this spring.

This has once again been a successful year for our students. Three Ph.D. students, Feiran Jiao, Ziqian Zhou and Harsimran Somal, graduated from our program. Feiran received her Ph.D. in May 2016 and has taken a position as a Statistician with the US Food and Drug Administration in Silver Spring, Maryland. Ziqian successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis in the spring and graduated in August 2015 and is now working as a Senior Biostatistician at Gilead Sciences. Harsimran also defended his Ph.D. in June and graduated in August 2015. We also awarded 15 MS degrees and 16 BS degrees in Statistics last year.