

# Recent Grads

**Elizabeth Hansen earned her Ph.D. in Statistics under the direction of Kung-Sik Chan.**



**Elizabeth Hansen**

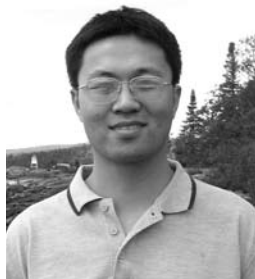
Getting a Ph.D. was a long, sometimes frustrating, but gratifying process. There were plenty of times when I questioned my ability to finish a Ph.D. I was fortunate that I had the support system that was available with the Statistics and Actuarial Science department at Iowa. My advisor, Kung-Sik Chan, was so encouraging and so patient with me. I would often call myself an idiot, but he assured me that I wasn't; there are just some things that come with experience. The other professors at Iowa were always willing to answer questions and lend me an ear. The graduate students were always friendly to me and were more than happy to work with me in the classes that we took. I became close to some of them, and they were crucial in pushing me

to finish my doctorate.

It was while I was here at Iowa that I discovered that I had a passion for teaching. I was given the opportunity to teach my own class for three semesters, and I really enjoyed it. That is why I decided to go into academia as a profession. I think that Western Illinois is a good fit for me; teaching is the most important thing, but we are expected to do some research and service.

I hope the best for everyone at Iowa, and I hope to come and visit soon.

**Rui Qin earned his Ph.D. in Statistics under the direction of Michael P. Jones.**



**Rui Qin**

I have just begun my job at Mayo Clinic, Division of Biostatistics as a Research Associate (still in orientation though). My responsibilities are providing statistical support and

consulting for Phase I/II cancer clinical trials and the Department of Surgery at Mayo Clinic.

The seven years of graduate study at Iowa had put a Hawkeye mark on my life. I've started to miss the UI campus and all the professors, classmates and friends already when I type now. I am very grateful for the department providing the first-class education and nurturing me to become a researcher in Statistics. My thesis advisor, Prof. Michael P. Jones, had been a great mentor with constant encouragement and support. I am also indebted to the professors in our department who had enthusiastically educated me during these years. In particular, Prof. Jian Huang for invaluable assistance with my dissertation research, Prof. Dale Zimmerman for being my graduate advisor, and Prof. Russ Lenth for advising me when I was an RA in the Statistical Consulting Center. The teaching and research experience at Iowa benefited me right away here.

**Noelle Samia earned her Ph.D. in Statistics under the direction of Kung-Sik Chan.**



**Noelle Samia**

From the first day I entered the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Iowa, I felt welcomed and at home. Thank you Professor Jim Broffitt!

The University of Iowa has provided me with an excellent education for my future endeavors. The faculty was always very knowledgeable, helpful, encouraging, and friendly. I was very fortunate to have Professor Kung-Sik Chan as my thesis supervisor; he was able to offer me great insight, personal attention, and excellent mentorship. I also would like to thank the departmental staff for their tremendous help and support.

The great education along with the hospitality that Iowa City has to furnish, leave me with many precious memories. I will miss the department and Iowa City!

IT IS ALWAYS  
GRATIFYING to  
see our students  
succeed in  
their academic  
programs and  
then move on  
to rewarding  
careers. It is  
interesting to  
hear about  
academics and  
future careers  
from students  
who just  
graduated.