May 2003

The College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences

Department Chair Appointments

The Academic Vice President has announced the following 3-year appointments beginning summer 2003:

**Department of Mathematics**
- Chair: Lynn Garner
- Associate Chair: Chris Grant

**Department of Mathematics Education**
- Chair: Gerald Armstrong
- Associate Chair: Steve Williams

**Department of Physics & Astronomy**
- Chair: Steven Turley
- Associate Chair: Ross Spencer

**Department of Statistics**
- Chair: Howard Christensen
- Associate Chair: Bruce Schaalje

BYU Alumnus Granted a CAREER Award

Chongchun Zeng, who graduated from the Department of Mathematics with a Ph.D., was recently granted a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award by the National Science Foundation. This award is highly competitive and a very prestigious honor. Over a period of 5 years he will be rewarded about $400,000.

To learn more about Dr. Zeng’s project please visit the NSF webpage at: https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/servlet/showaward?award=0239389
Summer Institute of Applied Statistics

The Department of Statistics will host its 28th Annual Summer Institute of Applied Statistics Wednesday through Friday, June 25, 26, and 27, 2003. The featured speaker of the seminar is Dr. Bruce Weir, director of the Bioinformatics Center at North Carolina State University. His presentation is entitled “Statistical Genetics.”

Dr. Weir received his Ph.D. in Statistics from North Carolina State University and currently holds the prestigious William Neal Reynolds Chair at North Carolina State University. He has published more than 125 articles, has edited or written nine books, and holds an editorial position at five periodicals, including Genetics and the American Journal of Human Genetics.

This short course will concentrate on modern areas of statistical genetics, including the analysis of genetic data, inbreeding and linkage disequilibrium, population structure and genetic distance, disease association, and forensic applications. The methodology covered will be illustrated by a series of real-world examples.

Further information about Dr. Weir and the registration form can be found on our Web page at: http://statistics.byu.edu/summerinstitute/index.html.

A Month of Celebration in the Department of Statistics

Mu Sigma Rho held their closing social April 10, 2003 in the Wilkinson Student Center Garden Court. They hosted a potato bar with chili and all the trimmings. Faculty and students furnished additional salads, drinks and desserts. Approximately 40 people enjoyed the food and one another’s company. The new officers for Fall 2003 and Winter 2004 were introduced at the social. They are David Palmer, President; Gina Borrowman, Vice-President; Kim Mah, Treasurer; Stephanie Cardon, Secretary.

On April 16, 2003 the statistics graduates were invited to a pizza party held in their honor at the Pizza Factory. The graduates took turns telling about their immediate plans. A group of 44 made up of graduates, faculty, and staff attended the fun event.

Following an exceptionally enjoyable Convocation on April 25, 2003, the graduates and their family and friends attended an open house in their honor in the Wilkinson Student Center.
Geology Club Wins Chapter Award

The BYU Geology Club, which is also a student chapter of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), has been chosen by the AAPG to receive the Outstanding Student Chapter Award for 2003. Schlumberger supports this award by paying $500 to two chapters each year. The award is based upon the activity of student chapters over the past 2-3 years.

College Publications

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry


Department of Computer Science

D.K. Vawdrey, E.S. Hall, C.D. Knutson


Department of Geology


**Department of Physics & Astronomy**


**Department of Statistics**


Science by its very limitations can instill the humility which helps us to listen. When science serves that purpose it becomes tremendously important.