WCU WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

Applied Statistics Newsletter

Fall 2017

Welcome Alumni!

by Randall Rieger, PhD

Greetings from 25 University Ave.! I hope that this first alumni newsletter finds you all doing well. The Applied Statistics faculty members are always thrilled to be in contact with our very talented and unique group of alumni. We take pride when we hear about your successes, are always eager to hear about your new endeavors, and are excited to see you at local professional events, on-campus events, or informal meetings. We hope that you feel that you can count on us for advice or help whenever you need it.

The Spring Alumni Event was a great success, and it was great to touch base again with alumni from throughout the 15 years of our Program. In particular, I want to recognize April Taylor, Sophie Siek, Thao Nguyen, Asha George, John Bragger, Mouloud "Moe" Hanafi, and Amos Odeleye for their contributions to this event. It was also super to have a WCU Applied Statistics event at the Joint Statistical Meeting in Baltimore this summer.

On campus, the Applied Statistics Program continues to thrive. We welcomed our largest incoming class ever this fall, and have approximately 90 students currently in the Program. In order to better prepare our new students, we now host an annual New Student Orientation event and a Resume Writing Workshop each Fall Semester. Last week, at our annual Intern Day Presentations, fifteen students presented about their internship experiences at a variety of regional companies and institutions. It was inspiring to see the important and complex work that our students are doing.

On the curricular side, we will soon gain approval to offer tracks in Biostatistics and Business and Financial Statistics within our MS Program. We also will now be able to offer our Post-Master's Certificate, designed specifically for alumni of our program. (See page 2!) The following new courses will be part of that new Certificate (also available to our current students):

- STA 538 Statistical Programming Using R
- STA 539 Applied Bayesian Methods
- STA 540 Statistical Consulting
- STA 541 Categorical Data Analysis II
- STA 542 Statistical Methods for Observational Studies
- STA 543 Statistical Methods in Business and Finance
- STA 544 Applied Marketing Analytics

We also now offer an accelerated degree program, where advanced undergraduate WCU students can get both their Bachelor's in Mathematics and Master's in Applied Statistics in five years.

There is lots of news to share about our faculty also. As many of you know, last year, Dr. Tom Short joined us as a new faculty member. In addition, we recently gained approval to conduct a national search for our 6th Statistics faculty member. Dr. Gallop was awarded the prestigious 2017 West Chester University Trustees Achievement Award. This award *recognizes distinguished scholarly and creative work by a current West Chester University faculty member: specific, original contributions to a discipline (as in a research study, monograph, scholarly paper, literary work, musical composition, or work of art), or a significant collective body of work. Emphasis is on the national and international contribution of the scholarly work*. All of our faculty members have also been actively publishing their research in peer-reviewed journals, and many have presented our research at the Joint Statistical Meeting in Baltimore and/or the ENAR International Biometric Society Meeting. Dr. McClintock is currently serving as the President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association. His initiatives have included the very successful Big Data Symposium held in October at the University of Pennsylvania.

Once again, I hope that you enjoy this newsletter, and I invite you to stop by campus for a visit anytime. I look forward to seeing many of you in the upcoming year!

Spring Networking Event Recap

By Amos Odeleye, Class 2011

On Friday April 7, 2017 more than 75 alumni, students and faculty came together with overwhelming response to celebrate the WCUPA Applied Statistics program.

We were honored to have Dr. Peter Glidden, Chair of Mathematics Department provide opening remarks followed by Dr. Randall Rieger and an alumni spotlight from Dr. Mat Davis (class of 2009) who shared his career journey and industry prospective with us. The event was a great success attended by alumni from different years and it was a great opportunity to learn from our alumni about their journey after they graduate from the program.

Here is the link to the photos (courtesy of alumni Class 2011):

https://www.wcupa.edu/sciences-mathematics/mathematics/gradstat/untitled.aspx

Thanks to everyone that assisted in making the occasion a success - the professors (we are forever grateful!), alumni, students, and Debbie Naughton, WCUPA Director of Alumni Relations.

We look forward to seeing you at the next event.

Post Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in Applied Statistics

We are excited to announce our Post Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in Applied Statistics which will begin in the Spring Semester of 2018. This Certificate is an official West Chester University degree. It has been created for students who have already successfully completed a Master's degree in Statistics. This degree will benefit those Master's degree holders who are looking for a way to competitively differentiate themselves or for those who simply wish to stay up-to-date with our rapidly evolving profession and learn some new advanced topics and skills.

To complete this Certificate, students are required to take 12 credits of elective courses above and beyond what was used to complete their Master's degree. Elective courses that have been completed since completing a Master's degree can also be counted towards completion of this Certificate.

If you have any suggestions for elective course content, or would like more information please contact Professor Rieger at rrieger@wcupa.edu.

Alumni Spotlight: Nelson Afanador, MS, PhD

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Connect with Nelson via LinkedIn at https://www.linkedin.com/in/nelsonleeafanador/

Nelson Lee Afanador is a proud graduate of West Chester University's Masters in Applied Statistics program (2009). His decision to pursue a Master of Science degree in applied statistics began while he was working as a Project Scientist in Merck's Laboratory Technical Support group (LTS). While in LTS he had the opportunity to collaborate with statisticians in Merck's Center for Mathematical Sciences (CMS) and the rest, as they say, is history. After completing his master's degree, Nelson moved into the CMS organization as a Project Statistician.

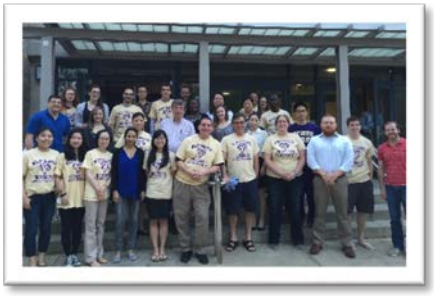
During his tenure in the Merck's Center for Mathematical Sciences he took a research interest in multivariate data analysis and data mining as applied to biologics and vaccine development. This interest led to a Merck sponsored doctoral research program into improving variable importance selection metrics in latent variable models. Nelson successfully defended his PhD thesis in 2014, and obtained his Doctorate in Chemometrics from Radboud University Nijmegen – The Netherlands.

Nelson's research has allowed him to present his work on data mining and dimensionality reduction methods at various conferences both in the US and Europe. He continues to be an active researcher with multiple publications in latent variable modeling to his credit. He is also the lead developer for the R package, "mvdalab: Multivariate Data Analysis Laboratory", which is an open-source project implementation of latent variable methods and multivariate modeling tools.

Nelson's current role as a statistician in Merck's Research Laboratories Biostatistics & Research Decision Sciences involves the use of integrated quantitative approaches, focusing on multivariate data analysis, classical statistical methods, predictive modeling and simulation in helping answer key questions in biologics and vaccine development.

He credits West Chester University with giving him the knowledge to be successful in his work and laying the foundation for this doctoral research.

Our Alumni Network - Stronger Together



Greetings,

I am pleased to introduce myself as an alumna of the Class of 2011 and the WCUPA Applied Statistics Alumni Group President. As an alumnus of West Chester University, I could not be prouder of the college's accomplishments. West Chester University, particularly in the Applied Statistics program, has successfully provided 15 years of high quality educational opportunities to the students, resulting in more than 300 alumni who excel in various careers in government, finance, pharmaceuticals and much more.

As part of a greater effort to bring all the alumni, current students and faculty together, we have created an alumni group with a mission to:

- Cultivate a mutually beneficial relationship between the WCUPA Applied Statistics program and its growing worldwide community of alumni.
- Facilitate communication to strengthen the alumni bonds of fellowship, professional association and university program affiliation.
- Leverage the resources and talents of alumni and friends to advise and guide the alumni group and our current students.

For the first time, we hosted a Spring Alumni Event and had overwhelming attendance from our alumni and current students. I heard many fascinating stories from others, but the key message was clear that the education received from WCUPA opened many doors of opportunity and the hard work during the graduate program had paid off. It was also great fun to meet our professors from our classes including Dr. Gallop and Dr. McClintock as well as new faculty to the program.

Finally, our alumni group is looking forward to welcoming our WCUPA alumni to future events to help make a difference and positive impact for our current students and community to achieve our goal to create an environment where we can all prosper from this collaboration.

Please check out our current courses offering and join us in future events.

Sincerely,

Sopheara Peoples, MS

President

WCUPA Applied Statistics Alumni

Upcoming Events & Classes

WINTER SESSION 2017/18

FREE SAS Workshops
Saturday Dec. 16, 2017 (SAS SQL)
Saturday Jan 13, 2018 (SAS Macros)
8:30am - 4:30pm

STA537: Advanced SAS Programming
Prerequisites: STA511
Drs. Gallop and Rieger

SPRING 2018

STA536: Data Mining
Prerequisite: STA511 and STA512
Tuesdays 5:45pm - 8:30pm
Dr. Crossett

SUMMER 2018

STA540: Statistical Consulting
Prerequisite: STA511 and STA512
Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00pm - 10:00pm
Dr. Rieger
SUMMER SESSION 1

STA539: Bayesian Modeling
Prerequisite: STA506, STA511
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00pm - 10:00pm
Dr. Short
June 26 – July 26

STA534: Time Series
Prerequisite: STA511 and STA512
Mondays and Wednesdays 6:00pm - 10:00pm
Dr. McClintock
SUMMER SESSION 2

Get Involved!

Want to volunteer with the Applied Statistics program or Applied Statistics Alumni Group? Consider helping out with the newsletter, planning our next networking event, offering an internship for current students, or organizing an educational session for students, alumni and faculty.

Or contribute money toward our WCUPA Applied Statistics Alumni Fund to help support student tuition scholarships, opportunities for students to present their work at national meetings, as well as alumni events.

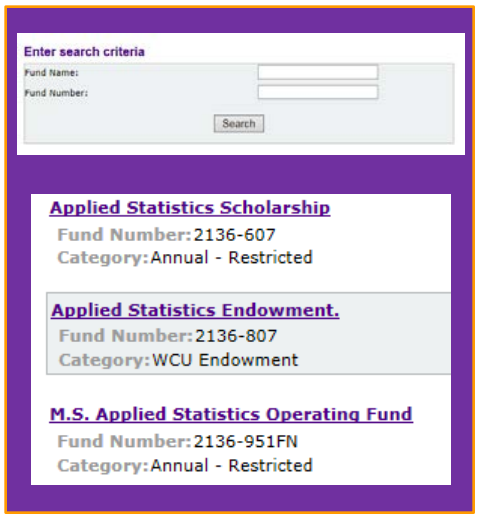
To donate, click on the link below:

https://www.wcufoundation.org/page.aspx?pid=284

Fund Name, enter "Statistics" and then select any of the funds.

If you have any question, comments or suggestions, please contact:

- Sopheara Peoples
  sopheara.siek@gmail.com
- John Bragger
  john_bragger@comcast.com
- Amos Odeleye
  statisticalliance@gmail.com



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