



## 2005 ASOR ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research  
Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0267

December 2005

### Season's Greetings

*Holiday Greetings* from the Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research (ASOR). As we look forward to the arrival of 2006, we are pleased to send you news of alumni, faculty and staff.

There have been some departmental personnel changes in the past year. The biggest change came about when Jim Sullivan, former Dean of the College of Business Administration and former Chair of the department, retired July 1, 2005, after 33 years of service to BGSU. This fall Jim agreed to come back and serve as Acting Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Business Administration. We wish to thank Jim for his

loyal service and many contributions to the university, college, and department over the years.

Danny Myers returned this summer from a one-semester faculty improvement leave spent at the University of Paderborn, Paderborn, Germany.

We are again recruiting for an Assistant Professor of Applied Statistics since we were not able to fill the open position last year. The application deadline was December 1, and we expect to start interviewing early next year. We hope to have a new Assistant Professor on board in the fall of 2006, to add to the areas of time series analysis, forecasting and data mining.

### College of Business Administration News

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs John Folkins announced the appointment of Dr. Nancy J. Merritt as Interim Dean of the College of Business Administration, effective May 23, 2005. Dean Merritt is a professor in the Department of Marketing and has served as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies in Business from 1995 - 2001 and 2002- present. Dr. Robert Edmister, former Dean, will return to the Department of Finance as a full-time faculty member in Spring 2006 after a one-semester administrative leave.

The College of Business Administration has established the Center

for Executive Studies in Business. The Center joins Graduate Studies in Business under the leadership of Dr. James McFillen, Associate Dean for Graduate and Executive Studies in Business. The Center for Executive Studies in Business will oversee the Executive program and other executive education developed by the College. Center goals include assisting the College in further development and delivery of executive education and programming.

A national search for a Director of the Dallas Hamilton Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership is being conducted and a Director should join the college in the spring.

Visit us on the web at  
[www.cba.bgsu.edu/asor/](http://www.cba.bgsu.edu/asor/)

#### Special points of interest:

- *Jim Sullivan retires after many years of service to BGSU.*
- *ASOR presented another data analysis and decision support workshop in May.*
- *An unplanned ASOR "reunion" takes place in Boston in July.*
- *The Sullivan Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award was established.*
- *Scholarships were awarded to our students.*
- *Departmental program review takes place during the fall.*

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## Department Personnel News

*Nancy Boudreau* (nboudre@bgnet.bgsu.edu) continues as Director of the Statistical Consulting Center, had one journal article published, and serves as Graduate Coordinator in charge of recruitment for the M.S. in Applied Statistics program.

*Jane Chang* (changj@bgnet.bgsu.edu) is co-investigator on two NSF grant proposals, received a NSF scholarship to attend the 2005 NSF—Microarray Research Coordination Network workshop, had two monographs published, had a journal article published, and had a journal article accepted for publication.

*Diane Conway* (dconway@bgnet.bgsu.edu), M.S.A.S., continues as an Instructor, is serving as Assistant Director of the Statistical Consulting Center, and attended the US Conference on Teaching Statistics in Columbus, Ohio, in May.

*Leigh Devine* (ldevine@bgnet.bgsu.edu), M.S.A.S., continues as an Instructor, is serving as the STAT 211 Coordinator this academic year, and attended the US Conference on Teaching Statistics in Columbus, Ohio, in May.

*Neetika Kapani* (nkapani@bgnet.bgsu.edu), M.S.A.S., accepted another one-year contract and continues as an Instructor.

*Herb McGrath* (rnmcgra@cba.bgsu.edu) received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this spring, had one journal article published, served on the Scholarship Committee of the Toledo Section of ASQ, is Faculty Advisor for the Student Section of the Toledo Section of

ASQ, is Vice President of the NW Ohio Chapter of ASA, and presented a paper at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Minneapolis in August.

*Danny Myers* (myers@cba.bgsu.edu) had one journal article published and continues as Graduate Coordinator for the M.S.C.S./O.R. program.

*Patricia Prezkop* (prezkop@cba.bgsu.edu) continues as department secretary. Please feel free to contact her to update your information, or use the enclosed envelope to send your business card to her, or complete the form on the website at [www.cba.bgsu.edu/asor/](http://www.cba.bgsu.edu/asor/).

*Madhu Rao* (rao@cba.bgsu.edu) continues as Chair of the department and spent the greater part of the summer and fall working on the program review document.

*Chris Rump* (cmrump@cba.bgsu.edu) was awarded a Summer Research Award by the College of Business Administration, had one journal article published, had one journal article accepted for publication, has three articles in press, and presented a paper at the INFORMS meeting in San Francisco in November.

*Arthur Yeh* (byeh@cba.bgsu.edu) received promotion to Professor this spring, continues as Associate Editor of the *American Statistician*, is President of the Northwest Ohio Chapter of ASA, serves on the Board of Directors of the Toledo Section of ASQ, had two journal articles published, and continues as Graduate Coordinator for the admitted students in the M.S. in Applied Statistics program.

## Data Analysis Workshop Presented

In May, the department presented a one-day workshop “Data Analysis and Decision Support using Microsoft Excel” to executive MBA students and decision makers from BGSU and area businesses. The sessions presented by Herb McGrath, Madhu Rao, Chris Rump and Arthur Yeh were

- Gathering and Organizing Data for Analysis
- Using Statistical Regression to Improve Forecasting

- Allocation of Scarce Resources through Linear Programming
- Simulating Business Scenarios with Spreadsheets

The workshop was well received and we plan to offer another one in 2006-2007. We will start planning for a Six-Sigma workshop that we hope to offer in 2007.



## Department Alumni News

*Zenia Agustin*, M.S.A.S., continues as an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Illinois. Her husband, Marcus (Ph.D.-BGSU), is also an Associate Professor in that department. Zenia and Marcus have two children—Matthew and Katrina.

*Carmelita Alvero*, M.S.A.S., accepted a position in January of this year with the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research at the Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, Massachusetts, (and joined the BGSU group there!).

*Antonis Antoniou*, M.S.A.S., is a Junior Consultant at Mercer HR Consulting.

*Susan Scholl Avanesian*, M.S.A.S., is Research Director with Nielsen Media Research in Florida.

*Suman Bhattacharya*, M.S.A.S., is a Senior Statistician with the Immunology II Group at Biogen Idec, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

*Steve Borga*, M.S.A.S., graduated in December 2004 and started the Ph.D. program in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at BGSU this spring.

*Qixuan "Minnie" Chen*, M.S.A.S., continues in the Ph.D. program in Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

*Xiaomin "Sammie" Chen*, M.S.A.S., is a financial associate with a capital management company in Palm Springs, California.

*Becky Clemons*, M.S.A.S., is a General Supervisor—Quality at Delphi in Sandusky, Ohio.

*Jennifer (Sponseller) Collister*, M.S.A.S., is a consultant for Towers Perrin in Cleveland, Ohio. Jennifer and Matt Collister were married in January of this year.

*Adrian Cuc*, M.S.A.S., is with Allstate Insurance Company in Chicago, Illinois.

*Pedro de Araujo*, M.S.A.S./M.A.Econ, continues in the Ph.D. program in Economics at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana.

*Chia-Jen "Charles" Ding*, M.S.A.S., is in the Ph.D. program in Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

*David Drain*, M.S.A.S., is an Assistant Professor with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, Missouri.

*Gregory Guo*, M.S.C.S./O.R., is a Tech Lead for a

firm in Silicon Valley, California.

*Teri Hansen*, M.S.A.S. is Project Coordinator in the Decision Support Department with a firm in NW Ohio.

*Todd Hardgrove*, B.S.B.A., is with Champion Sparkplug in Cambridge, Ohio.

*Bill Herald*, M.S.A.S., is Research Director at MORPACE International in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

*Paul Hurd*, M.S.A.S., is an Assistant Actuary at Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio.

*Hong Jiang*, M.S.A.S./MAcc, completed the Master of Accountancy at BGSU in August and accepted a position with an accounting firm in the Cleveland area.

*Mei "May" Jiang*, M.S.A.S., is a senior programmer with a high tech company in the Bay area of California. She and her husband have two daughters, 9 and 5 years old.

*Yin "Meggie" Jiang*, M.S.A.S., graduated in December 2004 and accepted a position as an Actuarial Assistant with Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio.

*Ravi Kandikonda*, M.S.C.S./O.R., is Senior Risk Analyst at HSBC North America in California. Ravi is engaged to Pranathi, who is finishing the doctoral program in genetics at Osmania University. They plan to be married on February 18, 2006. Ravi stopped in to visit when he was in BG earlier this year.

*Karen (Sullivan) Kelly*, M.S.C.S./O.R., continues with the Limited distribution center in Columbus, Ohio. Karen, husband Sean, and daughter, Erin, joined us for her dad's (Jim Sullivan) retirement dinner in May.

*Rajiv Keny*, M.S.A.S., continues with AT&T in New Jersey.

*Ying Christine Li*, M.S.A.S., graduated in May and had accepted a position earlier in the year with Progressive Insurance Company in Mayfield Village, Ohio.

*Yun Li*, M.S.A.S./M.A.Comm.Studies, continues in the Ph.D. program in Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

*Fang Liu*, M.S.A.S., and her husband, *Guangming Zhang*, M.S.C.S./O.R., both continue in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Science at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

*Yingbin Liu*, M.S.C.S./O.R., graduated in August and accepted a position as a Senior Software Engineer



## Alumni News, Continued

for Ortiva Wireless in San Diego, California.

*Steve Long*, M.S.A.S., continues with his consulting company, Long Research, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Xiaojing Lu*, M.S.A.S., continues in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at BGSU.

*Pam (Marsh) Marks*, M.S.A.S., is a graduate student with the School of Business at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

*Cindy (Musgrove) Marshall*, M.S.A.S., and her husband welcomed their first child this fall.

*Ruby Bedrejo Matejcik*, M.S.A.S., is a database manager with a firm in Rapid City, South Dakota. Her husband, Frank, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

*Roy Matining*, M.S.A.S., continues with the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research at the Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

*Joseph Mayoralgo*, M.S.A.S., continues with McDonald's Corporation in Chicago, Illinois.

*Rob McCreery*, M.S.C.S./O.R., is a Solution Designer with a firm in Sydney, Australia. He and his wife, Joanna, have two children—daughter, Aisling, and infant son, Finn Daniel.

*Karthik Meganathan*, M.S.A.S., continues as a biostatistician at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. Karthik stopped in for a visit when he was in BG this summer.

*Pavel Mizenin*, M.S.C.S./O.R., is a MIS Director in Marketing Analytics for a firm in the San Francisco area.

*Manoj Mohite*, M.S.C.S./O.R., is Senior Credit Risk Analyst at HSBC Credit Card Services in Salinas, California.

*Petronella Muresan*, M.S.A.S., continues with the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research at the Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Petronella and her husband welcomed their first child earlier this year.

*Irina Murtazashvili*, M.S.A.S./M.A.Econ, stopped in for a visit this summer. Irina continues in the Ph.D. program in Economics at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, and plans to graduate in 2006.

*Kevin O'Malley*, M.S.A.S., graduated in Decem-

ber 2004, and accepted a position with American Greetings, Cleveland, Ohio.

*Mukund Padmanabhan*, M.S.A.S., is a biostatistician with a firm in Pennsylvania.

*Mark Papalia*, M.S.A.S., is with an insurance company in Pennsylvania.

*Nellie Popova*, M.S.A.S., is a statistics tutor in the Novi, Michigan, area.

*Wuxuan Quan*, M.S.C.S./O.R., is the Associate Director of the Information Center at the Haikou Local Taxation Bureau in China.

*Kumar Bharat Rajan*, M.S.A.S., is with the Youth Smoking Studies group at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington.

*Andrea Reese*, M.S.A.S., stopped in for a visit in June. Andrea continues in the Ph.D. program at the Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, Florida, and plans to graduate in 2006. Andrea had her first publication this past year.

*Lisa Booth Renaud*, M.S.A.S., is Director, North American Sales, CFI Group, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

*Heidi Rico*, M.S.A.S., is Planning and Forecasting Manager for a firm in the Chicago area.

*Maria Rizzo*, M.S.A.S., continues as an Assistant Professor with the Department of Mathematics at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio.

*Ping Katherine Ruan*, M.S.A.S., is a Research Associate in the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

*Sai Sampathkumar*, M.S.A.S., continues with Progressive Insurance, Mayfield Village, Ohio.

*Pearl Samson*, M.S.A.S., continues as Senior Biostatistician/Section Head with the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research at the Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

*Jared Schuetter*, M.S.A.S., graduated in August and was awarded a fellowship for the Ph.D. program in Statistics at Ohio State University this fall.

*Ioan Seceleanu*, M.S.A.S., continues in the Ph.D. program in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at BGSU.

*Michelle (Mongelluzzi) Secic*, M.S.A.S., is President of Secic Statistical Consulting Inc., in Chardon, Ohio.



## Alumni News, Continued

The company is involved in consulting projects with the medical industry. Michelle is working on the second edition of the book, *How to Report Statistics in Medicine*, due out in spring 2006.

*Mark Sembower*, M.S.A.S., continues as a Statistician at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

*Li-Jung "Amanda" Shao*, M.S.A.S., is Section Manager of Quality Project Development for a semiconductor foundry company, UMC, in Taiwan. She has a 7-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter.

*Qi "Tiger" Shen*, M.S.A.S., continues with Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio. (Tiger is married to Meggie Jiang.)

*Bob Sloan*, M.S.A.S., is Managing Director of Sloan Consulting Group.

*Sandy Smith*, M.S.A.S., is an Actuarial Analyst with a firm in New York.

*Haoliang "Eric" Song*, M.S.A.S., continues in the Ph.D. program in Statistics at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

*Zongli Sun*, M.S.A.S., continues with Insurance Services Offices, Inc. in Jersey City, New Jersey. His wife, *Dongzhen "Jenny" Lin*, M.S.A.S., also works at ISO.

*Patrick Thompson*, M.S.A.S., is a Lecturer with the Department of Decision and Information Sciences at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

*Sudheer Tungtur*, M.S.C.S./O.R./M.S.Biol, is a Research Associate with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas.

*Nick Turk*, M.S.A.S., is Director of Integrated Quality and Six Sigma and was selected to launch the Six Sigma process at Bridgestone Americas (a subsidiary of Bridgestone Tire of Tokyo). His oldest child will graduate from high school and his wife will graduate with a B.S. in Nursing in spring of 2006.

*Jill Van Valkenburg*, M.S.A.S., is an Instructor with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at BGSU.

*Jim Velayas*, M.S.A.S., is Founder and President of Empirical Research Solutions in San Antonio, Texas.

*Bindu Viswanathan*, M.S.A.S., and her husband, Raghav, have relocated to Austin, Texas, for a career op-

portunity for Raghav.

*Gui "Peter" Wang*, M.S.A.S./M.A.Econ, accepted a position this spring with CitiGroup in the Chicago area.

*Xiao-fu "Steven" Wang*, M.S.A.S., is with Mercer HR Consulting in New York, New York.

*Qiaoke "Franco" Wu*, M.S.A.S., accepted a position with National City Bank in Cleveland, Ohio, this fall.

*Guangjin "Jim" Xiao*, M.S.A.S., graduated in May and accepted a position with Allstate Insurance Company in Chicago, Illinois.

*Lei "Shawn" Xiao*, M.S.A.S., graduated in May and had accepted a position as a Pricing Analyst earlier in the year with Progressive Insurance Company, Mayfield Village, Ohio. (Shawn is married to Hong Jiang.)

*Yingmei Xing*, M.S.C.S./O.R. and her husband, *Yuan Zuo*, M.S.C.S./O.R., became parents of a son, Michael Yue Zuo, in July of this year. Yingmei is a consultant for Cinergy Corporation and Yuan is with Convergys Corporation.

*Jeremy Xu*, M.S.A.S., is a Data Manager with DunnHumby USA in Cincinnati, Ohio.

*Jing Xu*, M.S.C.S./O.R./M.S.A.S., has accepted a position with a company in the Research Triangle, North Carolina.

*Yining Ye*, M.S.A.S., continues in the Ph.D. program in Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

*Hongyan Zhang*, M.S.C.S./O.R., is with Merck and Co., Inc., in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.

*Yuanting Zhang*, M.S.A.S., graduated in December 2004, and continues in the Ph.D. program in Sociology at BGSU.

*Yu "Evelyn" Zheng*, M.S.A.S./M.A.Comm.Studies, continues as a Statistical Research Coordinator at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

*Bingqing Zhou*, M.S.A.S./M.A.Econ, is in the Ph.D. program in Statistics at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

*Honghong Zhou*, M.S.A.S., continues in the Ph.D. program in Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.



## ASOR “Reunion” in Boston

In July, Arthur Yeh traveled to Boston and was able to get together with a group of alumni there. We are proud that BGSU has a large presence at the Harvard School of Public Health. At last count, there are five alumni working at the Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research: Carmelita Alvero, Mae Cababasay (MA-Math), Roy Matining, Petronella Muresan, and

Pearl Samson while Ping Kathryn Ruan and Grace Montepiedra (a former faculty member) are with the Department of Biostatistics. Suman Bhattacharya, who is with a biotech company in Cambridge, also came to the “reunion”. Pictured from the left are Nella, Ping, Grace, Arthur, Roy, Carmelita, Pearl, and Mae.



## Professional Development for Students

In October, the department sponsored a visit by a group of M.S.A.S. students to the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan. The students attended the annual Open House for information about the Ph.D. pro-

gram in biostatistics. This is a good opportunity for the students, and seems to have paid off since at the present time we have five alumni in the Ph.D. program in biostatistics at Michigan.

## Program Review Report

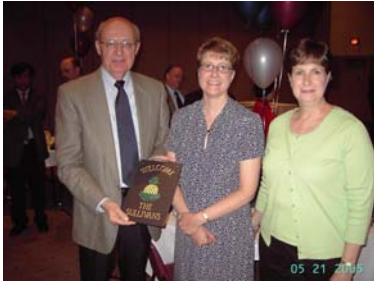
As part of the program review process, an alumni survey was conducted this summer, and we wish to thank you for responding to the survey. The results of the survey are on the department website at [www.cba.bgsu.edu/asor/](http://www.cba.bgsu.edu/asor/). Please use login: ASORAlumni and password: survey. There were several good ideas suggested by you which we will explore. Overall, we believe that you are satisfied with the programs, course work, and faculty. We intend to implement a regular course in statistical consulting, explore the possibility of adding courses such as biostatistics, data mining, and statistical computing as MSAS electives, and consider possible changes to the MSCS/OR curriculum by expanding the available electives in operations research such as

data mining and case studies in management science.

On November 14 and 15, the external review team of Professor Emeritus Narayan Bhat, Department of Statistical Science, Southern Methodist University and Professor Karen Kafadar, Department of Mathematics, University of Colorado at Denver, visited the department. They met with all faculty members, a group of M.S.A.S., M.S.C.S./O.R., and M.B.A. students, and Interim Dean Nancy Merritt to discuss the quality of the curriculum, uniqueness of the program, quality of faculty/students, adequacy of staff/facilities, demand for graduates, goals and future strategies. The next step will be for the team to submit their report to the BGSU Program Review Committee.



## **Sullivan Award Established**



We are very pleased to establish a new student award in honor of Jim Sullivan (pictured at left with Pat Prez kop and his wife, Jean, at his retirement dinner). The department will award the Sullivan Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award during the spring semester each year. This service award will be presented to the graduate assistant with at least three semesters of service to the department and will be judged on graduate assignment responsibilities, perform-

ance of duties, and overall quality of work. Throughout his career, Jim has served the university, college, department, programs, and students, in many capacities—Chair of the department, Associate Dean of the college, Dean of the college, Graduate Advisor for the MSAS program, and Acting Director of the Statistical Consulting Center. We felt it was only fitting to honor Jim with this award in his name.

## **Robert A. Patton Scholarship Awarded**

The department was pleased this spring to award the Robert A. Patton Scholarship to:

*Mr. Chia-Jen "Charles" Ding*  
*and*  
*Mr. Guangjin "Jim" Xiao*

In recognition of their outstanding scholastic accomplishments.

In the future, the Patton Scholarship will be awarded during the fall semester.

## **ASQ Scholarship Awarded**

We are pleased to announce that

*Mr. Guangjin "Jim" Xiao*

was awarded the Bill Ling scholarship by the Toledo Section of the American Society for Quality this spring.



## Chair's Note

Greetings from the Department of Applied Statistics and Operations Research. It is our pleasure to send you this 2005 Alumni Newsletter to update you on the professional, as well as the personal, developments of our alumni, students, faculty, and staff.

As you can see, the last year has been a busy and productive one for the department. We have started the recruitment process for an assistant professor of applied statistics, a long-time faculty member retired, a program review was conducted, and our faculty, students, and alumni continue to make exceptional scholastic/professional contributions and achievements.

During the alumni survey, we requested that you provide your contact information. This part of the survey will remain open indefinitely for you to provide/update your current information. If you did not have a chance to complete the form, you may go to the website at [www.cba.bgsu.edu/asor/](http://www.cba.bgsu.edu/asor/) and click Alumni Information. We do have plans for the future including establishing a alumni/faculty listproc (please submit your email address so that you can be part of the listproc and also let us know if you wish to receive the newsletter electronically) for research collaboration, job opening information, to locate classmates you have lost touch with, and to stay in touch with faculty and classmates, etc.

On behalf of the department, we wish to express our gratitude to all the alumni and friends for their generous contributions to the ASOR Foundation during the past year. These funds will continue to support such activities as the Sullivan Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, the Robert A. Patton Book Scholarship (both scholarships awarded to student(s) housed with the ASOR Department), and professional development opportunities for our M.S.A.S. and M.S.C.S./O.R. students. We continue with a strong enrollment in both programs with

23 M.S.A.S. graduate students and 6 graduate students in the M.S.C.S./O.R. program.

All of our students will benefit from your support of the department and its programs. Your contribution to the ASOR Foundation is tax deductible. Please also check to see if your employer is one that matches employee contributions. This is an effective way of increasing your contribution. A contribution form and a postage-paid envelope are enclosed for your convenience.

We would welcome hearing from you if your employer has either internship or employment opportunities for our students. Also, please do not hesitate to contact us if you are interested in giving a presentation to our students.

Please write, call, or email myself or any of the faculty or Pat and tell us how you are doing. We will be delighted to hear your personal news and take pride in your promotions, professional developments, and accomplishments, and to be able to share the news with other alumni. In addition, if there is anything we can do for you, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We send our very best wishes for a very Happy Holiday and a prosperous New Year!

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