



## The National Research Center for Statistics and the Environment

The University of Washington  
September 30, 1998

### RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

#### Loveday Conquest is New Director of Teaching Academy

Loveday L. Conquest has been chosen as the first Director of the newly formed Teaching Academy at the University of Washington. Consisting of winners of UW Distinguished Teaching Awards, the Teaching Academy will seek new ways "to enhance student learning, to foster and enhance the relationship between teaching and research activities, and to improve interaction and understanding between the UW and the community regarding teaching activities". The new Teaching Academy will be located at EEB, Room 211C.

Conquest is a full professor in UW's School of Fisheries/Center for Quantitative Science and former Associate Dean of the College of Ocean & Fishery Sciences (she left the associate dean position in order to assume her new directorship). She is the recipient of two College teaching awards in addition to the UW Distinguished Teaching Award and has long been associated with campus-wide issues pertaining to teaching and learning in a number of areas.

#### June Morita Chair-elect for ASA Council of Chapters

June Morita is the recipient of this year's American Statistical Association Chapter Service Award. She will serve as the Chair-elect of the American Statistical Association Council of Chapters Governing Board, effective January 1999.

#### Alison Cullen Receives Young Investigator Award

Dr. Alison Cullen was honored this month at the annual meeting of the International Society of Exposure Analysis in Boston as the recipient of the Outstanding Young Scientist award. This is a new award, first offered in 1998, to recognize achievement by a researcher who is not more than 10 years beyond the PhD. It recognizes the significance of an individual's research and his/her potential for making future contributions to the science of exposure analysis.

#### Education Proposal Funded

Ashley Steel (QERM) and Kathryn Kelsey (Forestry) (with P.I. June Morita) were awarded matching funds from the Discuren Foundation and NRCSE to create and teach a 10 week curriculum for 6th/7th graders about the process of scientific research (from hypotheses and research design to statistical analysis and presentations, through structured activities and long-term independent research projects). They will be piloting the curriculum materials at two of Seattle's schools, Alternative Elementary 2 and Summit K-12 this fall and the implementation will be this spring.

#### Samantha Bates Wins Student Award at Society for Risk Analysis

Graduate student Samantha Bates will receive a \$500 student travel award. Her abstract was accepted by the organizers of the SRA meeting that will be held in December 1998 in Arizona. The abstract is co-authored by Alison Cullen and Adrian Raftery and titled, "A Bayesian Synthesis approach to Assessing Exposure to PCBs in New Bedford Harbor."

## WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

### Particulate Methodology Workshop, October 19-22, 1998

The NRCSE will be sponsoring a "Particulate Methodology Workshop" at the University of Washington in October. The workshop will bring together statisticians, scientists and regulators to discuss statistical problems associated with studying the health effects of air pollution particles or "particulate matter". Detailed information on the agenda, the principal invited speakers, and instructions for applying to participate in the workshop (limited to approximately 50 people) are posted on the web site at <http://www.stat.washington.edu/NRCSE/events/pm-workshop.html>.

The workshop is being co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with additional support provided by the Health Effects Institute ([www.healtheffects.org](http://www.healtheffects.org)) and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences ([www.niss.org](http://www.niss.org)). The Center organizers are Gerald van Belle and Paul Sampson.

## NEW PEOPLE AT THE CENTER

### Postdocs

**Eun Sug Park** received her Ph.D. in December, 1997 from Texas A & M Department of Statistics, working with advisor Dr. Clifford Spiegelman. The title of her thesis was "Multivariate Receptor Modeling from a Statistical Science Viewpoint." She has a M.S. in Statistics from Seoul National University in Korea and a B.S. in Computer Science and Statistics also at Seoul. Her research interests are environmental statistics, generalized linear and nonlinear models, multivariate analysis, experimental design and resampling methods. Dr. Park is currently teaching at Texas A&M as a Visiting Assistant Professor and will begin working at the Center in late December, 1998.

**Kevin Brand** will receive his Sc. D. in Environmental Health Management at the Harvard School of Public Health approximately in mid-November, 1998. The theme of his thesis work is on "The limited power of animal bioassay evidence to resolve projections of human health risk." He received his SM(1) in the Environmental Science and Engineering Program at the same school, and received a M.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Carnegie Mellon. His approximate arrival date in Seattle is mid-November. He will be working with Elaine Faustman, Adrian Raftery and Alison Cullen.

## VISITORS

**Merlise Clyde** will be visiting the Center from the end of September until the end of June, 1999. She is from Duke University and will be working with Paul Sampson and Gerald van Belle on particulate matter.

**Dianne Cook** comes from Iowa State University, and will be in Seattle for six weeks, starting October 12. She has developed a variety of approaches to dynamic graphics, including virtual reality approaches to interfacing GIS with data analysis.

**Allan Marcus**, from the EPA, visits from September 28 to December 19, 1998. He will work on advanced methods for causal inferences from correlated data, with applications to particulate matter epidemiology studies.

**Eric Smith**, from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, arrives in Seattle on October 17 and will stay for a week. He will be working with several Center members (Raftery, Karr, Hughes and van Belle).

**Per Settergren Soerensen**, from the Polytechnical Institute in Denmark, is visiting from Sept 8 until November 6, 1998. His visit is part of a Ph.D. study at the Danish Technical University (DTU). At present he is working on a European Union project called BioSonar (<http://biosonar.vki.dk>) concerning the elaboration of spatial methods on hydroacoustic measurements of benthic communities. While at NRCSE he will be working with Paul Sampson and David Ford.

## 1998/99 Particulate Matter Year at NRCSE

One of our main themes during the coming academic year will be research on particulate matter (PM) air pollution. The 1997 National Ambient Air Quality Standards included suggested new rules for regulating particulate matter pollution, changing the focus from the old PM-10 (particles 10 $\mu$ m or smaller) to a new PM-2.5 standard. This will be implemented in 2002, and research on health effects, monitoring network design, and the spatial distribution of PM-2.5 will have profound effects in the setting of the new standard.

Among the activities planned for the year are:

- PM workshop October 19-22 (see separate story below).
- PM focus on Autumn Quarter seminar series.
- A directed research program involving researchers from North Carolina, Ohio State, Iowa State, Duke, Washington, Chapman, and the EPA, aiming first at a series of articles for a special issue of *Environmetrics*.
- Two long-term visitors with PM focus: Merlise Clyde from Duke and Allan Marcus from the EPA (see separate story).
- A panel discussion on research directions for PM work at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Baltimore next August.

## NRCSE Newsletter Number 1, Volume 1

Last spring a seminar review committee at the NRCSE, consisting of Mary Lou Thompson (chair), Paul Sampson, David Ford, Kris Ryding, Ashley Steel and Marianne Turley, recommended a series of improvements in Center communications. This newsletter is one of these improvements. Another is the theme-based seminar series. In addition, regular brown bag lunches are being planned at the Center, as well as the return of the popular seminar coffees. We hope that this will help everyone involved with the Center to feel more of a part of what is going on.

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Newsletter editor

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NRCSE director