George Hinton  
B.S. in Mathematics ’71
When I finished my master’s degree in 1972, I went to study in Edinburgh for a year. At the suggestion of Dr. Harris, I visited Gaudí’s La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona and it was one of the most remarkable things I saw during the year I spent in Europe. On my way back to Tallahassee, where I was accepted to study statistics, I stopped by my father’s ranch for the summer in the State of Nuevo León, in NE Mexico. As time went by thoughts of postgraduate work in math faded and I have been living here for the past 37 years. I spend my time collecting plants, mounting herbarium specimens, imaging them and working on the herbarium database. If you were so inclined you could look up the images on the Missouri Botanical Garden’s web page; for example http://www.tropicos.org/Image/100015728 is an image of the type collection of Geohintonia mexicana, a new genus of cacti I discovered in 1991, 70 km from my house. Now I have a herbarium that houses over 16,000 specimens of the nearly 29,000 collected by my father and grandfather.

Michael Flynn  
M.S. in Mathematics ’71
I’ve been working for the past 25 years as a quality management consultant in statistical methods, etc. It took me around the world, even across the Napier Bridge in Chennai. Quality control methods basically consist of testing whether a data point is sufficiently far from a mean or standard to warrant special investigation for a cause; and now and then I’ve wondered about defining a proximity space using Student’s t as a measure of “closeness.” I’ve often considered statistics to be topology, but with actual numbers.

I started selling science fiction stories around 1984 or so, and now have about 70 stories and ten novels. Some of them have received good reviews. I recently heard that the French translation of Eifelwein won a prize over there, which is always nice; and even nicer when it has Euros attached to it! Getting good sales is another question, alas.

For more information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_F._Flynn

2009 MSCS Faculty
Back row, left: Francis Pastijn, Paul Bankston, Praveen Madiraju, Doug Harris, Mike Slattery, Wim Ruitenburg, Anne Clough, Peter Jones, Marian Manyo
Middle row, left: Marta Magiera, Hossein Hamedani, George Corliss, Kim Factor, Dan Rowe, Karl Byleen, Steve Merrill
Front row, left: Mary Utzerath, Elaine Spiller, Marie Schwerm, Sherry Scott, Rong Ge, Iqbal Ahmed, Naveen Bansal, Gary Krenz, Dennis Bylow
Not pictured: Jack Moyer, Rebecca Sanders, Craig Stubble

Where in the World is Dr. Jones?
This feature makes its return appearance while he is editing this newsletter. Once again, correct identification of the locality earns a prize! If the hat looks Australian, it is … but where is the gorge?

Colloquia-Fall 2009
September 11 – Michael Slattery, Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, Marquette University: Classification of Finite p-Groups.
October 9 – Gary Thuerk: IT and Disruptive Technology.
October 23 – Agit Tamhane, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois: Testing a Primary and a Secondary Endpoint in a Group Sequential Design.
November 6 – J. Douglas Harris, Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, Marquette University: Top-Bottom Spaces.
November 20 – Irina Seculeanu, Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio: Zero-one Laws in Hypercyclicity.
December 4 – Melody Ghahramani, University of Winnipeg: On the Combined Estimating Functions Method with Applications in Finance.
December 11 – Fei Liu, Statistics Department, University of Missouri: Bayesian Analysis of Functional Data in Computer Experiments.

Congratulations on 175 Years of Service to Marquette
Left to Right:
Dr. Jack Moyer 35 Years
Dr. Francis Pastijn 25 Years
Mr. Joseph Hughes 15 Years
Dr. J. Douglas Harris 40 Years
Ms. Marian Manyo 30 Years
Dr. Wim Ruitenburg 25 Years
Dr. Rebecca Sanders 5 Years

We would like to know where you are and what you are doing. Please send news and current address updates to:
newslet@mscs.mu.edu
Summer 2009
Undergraduates Experience Research with MSCS Faculty

By Dr. Kim Factor

“When, I didn’t know I would get this opportunity at Marquette”, exclaimed undergraduate student, Alex, when asked if he would like to get paid to do some research over the summer. Other students had similar reactions. They didn’t know there was a Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Marquette for students interested in computer science, mathematics and/or statistics. To be perfectly honest, until the summer of 2009, the opportunity did NOT exist. However, backed by funding from Marquette’s College of Arts & Sciences, MSCS was able to involve 15 undergraduate students in a variety of computational research projects, where each student put in over 300 hours during the 12 weeks of summer. These students were mentored by 10 faculty members on projects involving knowledge in areas such as computer science, imaging, graph theory, applied mathematics, and mathematics education.

During the course of the summer, undergraduates were able to share what they were doing by keeping a log on a special REU Wiki. They also participated in working lunches where they presented what they had done to that point in time. It was stimulating to see the enthusiasm and dedication the students evidenced during these sessions. As mentors, we could see the progress they were making on the research, and also on a personal level. These students were beginning to believe that they had the ability to do research, to do what other people had not done before, and to do it well. As mentors, we were able to see this transformation and revel in it.

The summer concluded with a well-attended poster session the week before the fall 2009 classes began. Intriguing, informative, encompassing posters lined the walls of the third floor in Cudahy Hall. Students discussed what they had done with passersby. Their eyes bright, the anxious researchers were rewarded with appreciation from the people who came to view their accomplishments.

Funding for an REU for the summer of 2010 has already secured, with additional, long-term funding being sought. Learn about the 2009 projects and the students by visiting the REU Wiki (http://acm.mscs.mu.edu/reu/). The participants’ photo is shown (above).
As part of a research group that included Leigh van den Kieboom, College of Education and graduate students, Ashley Zenisek and Edwin O’Sullivan, their research group poster, entitled Pre-service Elementary Teachers’ Knowledge of Relational Thinking, was selected as one of the winning presentations at the MU Graduate School’s Fifth Annual Forward Thinking Poster Session and Colloquy. Relational thinking changes the focus of problem solving from computing answers, to identifying and operating on relations between quantities. Research results will be used to conduct a large-scale study that documents ways of improving K-12 teachers’ knowledge of early algebra concepts.

**MSCS NEWS**

**Marta Magiera and Jack Moyer Receive Research Group Award**

Left to right: Marta Magiera, Ashley Zenisek and Jack Moyer

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2009 ACM NCNA Regional Programming Competition

On October 31st, Marquette fielded two teams in the ACM NCNA Regional Programming contest. The first team, “404 – Team Not Found”, consisting of Kyle Garms, Gabe Van Eyck and Andrew Varner placed 9th out of 204 teams by completing 5 of 10 problems. The second team, “Meditation Gurus”, consisting of Daniel Chrostowski, Fran Hurtado and John Leutke placed 130th out of 204 teams, completing 1 of 10 problems. Alternate team member, Wei Jin, competed unofficially and completed 2 of 10 problems, which would have placed him higher than 70th place.

Contest information and the final scoreboard can be found at: http://csalpha.ist.unomaha.edu/acmregn/

Pi Mu Epsilon
Faculty Advisor - Dr. Sherry Scott

Congratulations to our new inductees:

Bradley Arenz Andrew Genz Emma Lynch Chaitan Parikh
William Castedo Megan Goeden Kevin Muhs Sarah Reiff
Ryan Chapman Brian Hartwig Tian Newman Joseph Robertson
Ryan Conway Alexander Heaton Christie Nguyen Lexi Skibinski
Erin Copeland Kaitlyn Hill David Nowak Keri Slama
Olivia Corradin Merri Hong Dean Novalis Nicole Ward
Robert Frozena Kanissa Keadle Katherine O’Brien Patrick Welch
Jacquelyn Gast Cy Kondrick Laurie Osman Nicholas Yogerst

2009-2010 PME Officers: Emma Lee Riesterer, President; Anna Mohr, Vice-President; Kari Watson, Treasurer; Jon Wittrock, Secretary

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Report on the First Class of Computational Sciences Students

Fall 2009

by Dr. Stephen Merrill - MSCS Graduate Chair

With the start of the Computational Sciences Program, we admitted a diverse and highly qualified first class of 13 full time Ph.D. students and two full time M.S. students. One exciting aspect of this class was the world-wide nature: USA (3), Bangladesh (3), India (3), China (2), Ghana (1), Scotland (1), Tanzania (1), and Turkey (1). A second aspect of this class is that about half are coming in with Masters Degrees – in Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics Education, Statistics, and Psychology. In addition to these full time students, several part time Ph.D. and M.S. students were admitted who currently are working professionals in the Milwaukee area: the Program allows study in areas that are appealing for manufacturing, information services, and financial service industries. That the Core courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening also seems to be a popular feature for this group.

Among the goals of the program were to have students in the Program interact with each other through their common core courses, and to engage in research early on. That certainly seems to be happening with this group, where research in computing, statistics, bioinformatics, and mathematics education is rapidly attracting the attention of these new students.

Md. Endadul Hoque, MSCS graduate student, received a Student Travel Grant Award from ACM SIGSAC for presenting the paper “Trust Based Security Auto-Configuration for Smart Assisted Living Environments” in SafeConfig ’09 Workshop co-located with ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS 2009). Co-authors of the paper were Farzana Rahman and Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, Ph.D.

Mohammed Tanviruzzaman, MSCS Ph.D. student, received a Student Travel Grant Award from the National Science Foundation for presenting the paper “A Privacy Enhancing Approach for Identity Inference Protection in Location-Based Services” in the 33rd Annual International Computer Software and Applications Conference (COMPUSAC 2009). Co-authors of the paper were Chowdhury Sharif Hasan and Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, Ph.D.

December 2009

B.S. in Mathematics
Joseph Robertson

B.A. in Mathematics for Elementary Teachers
Claire Mezzanotte

M.S. in Computing
Tuan Dinh
Daniel Kroemer
Shanande Parambath

M.S. in MSCS
(Computer Science)
Scott Hopfensperger
Md. Sazzad Hossain
Mehrab Monjur

M.S. in MSCS
(Mathematics)
Brian Truka

M.S. in MSCS
(Mathematics Education)
Mary Ilggen

Ph. D. in Statistics
Ru Sheng