Chair of Statistics Search Committee
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Winona State University
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Chair,

Information is being collected, stored, retrieved, and analyzed thousands of times each day throughout the world. It is an exciting time to be a statistician because it creates many opportunities for our discipline to be applied to an ever-growing set of interesting problems. In an effort to continue my interest in the teachings of statistics and mathematics, I would like to be considered for your department's tenure-track assistant professorship in statistics. My resume and a statement addressing my teaching experience and excellence were included with this letter. In addition to these materials, you should have received all necessary transcripts and three letters of reference.

Currently, I am a Ph. D. Student and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of Statistics at Kansas State University (KSU). I will graduate in July 2002. Throughout my academic career I have actively participated in the continual improvement of our discipline on a variety of fronts.

I believe that a degree in statistics from KSU is somewhat unique. In a typical semester, a student takes three courses -- one theoretical course and two applied courses. This results in a degree which is applied in nature yet carries with it a strong mathematical foundation. Not only does our department offer a wide variety of applied classes, but I discovered early on that other departments offer classes with close ties to statistics. For example, I've taken a geostatistics course from the Department of Agronomy and two genetics courses from the Department of Animal Science. These classes were interesting in their own right, but more importantly these classes allowed me to view statistics from a practitioners point of view. Experiences gained from classes like these have helped tremendously in my teaching and consulting work.

As a KSU graduate teaching assistant, I have complete responsibility for the teaching and administration of the courses I teach. These courses include the first two semesters of introductory business statistics, introductory course for social science students, introductory course for education majors, and an introductory biometry course for biology students. Having complete responsibility has permitted me to excel and innovate in the teaching of introductory statistics. As evidence of such excellence, I received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at Kansas State University for 2001. This award is university-wide and given annually to three faculty members and to one GTA. I was the recipient of the award given to the GTA. This award is highly recognized across campus. In addition to the recognition each recipient receives $2,000. I believe that I won this award because of my philosophies and innovations in the classroom. My philosophies have been discussed in detail in the enclosed philosophy of teaching statement. One example of the innovations brought to the classroom is my extensive course web site for my second semester business statistics course. The course web site permits me to hold virtual office hours in a chat room, provide a discussion board for students to communicate at a central location, create individual on-line accounts for each student, develop 3-D virtual reality models for teaching multiple linear regression. My statement of teaching experience and excellence expands on other innovations being used in the classroom.

Consulting plays a significant role in the Department of Statistics at KSU. Most students begin doing consulting work at the beginning of their second year. At first, students work along with faculty and as one gains experience he/she is allowed to work alone. In the last three years, I have worked predominantly alone in my consulting work. I have had the opportunity to work on a wide-variety of problems. This past summer I consulted with a nurse from outside the university with issues related to nurses' perceptions to using technology in the work place. Another recent example was with a student from the Department of Geography. His dissertation involved fitting gravity models to data collected by the Census Bureau. I knew nothing about gravity models

when I started, but after doing some reading I was able to help this individual complete the necessary research. My most recent endeavor in consulting has involved the technical development of the Statistics Teaching and Resource (STAR) Library. STAR Library is an on-line (www.starlibrary.net) peer-reviewed journal consisting of resources for the teaching of statistics. Duxbury Press provided the funds for this work. An important aspect of being a good consultant is your ability to clearly interpret and explain results to non-statisticians. Many of the characteristics exhibited in my teaching allow me to communicate difficult concepts and explain detailed results to a person with little or no statistical experience.

Finally, I would like to briefly discuss my research interests. My dissertation involves work in the area of 2^k unreplicated experiments. This work is concentrated around the correct specification of location and dispersion effects in such experiments. Recent advancements in literature predominantly deal with the disjoint analysis of these effects. Our hope is to make a significant contribution to the joint analysis of such effects. Outside of my dissertation research, I have an evolving interest in statistics education. Evidence of such work is supported by a recent paper (co-authored with Christopher R. Bilder) in the Journal of Statistics Education (2001) entitled, “Statistics Course Web Sites: Beyond Syllabus.html." I have also participated as an anonymous referee for the Journal of Statistics Education. In addition to my work with the Journal of Statistics Education, I have given contributed talks at the Joint Statistical Meetings in the area of statistics education over the last two years.

After reviewing the qualifications for your position and completing an extensive review of your departmental web page, I’m very interested in what Winona State has to offer. I would enjoy talking to someone about the opening in your department. If have any questions or need additional information my email address and phone number are listed below.

Sincerely,

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