The Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences started in 1999, with funding from the University Initiatives Fund. It is the first center in the nation devoted to this interface, with the triple mission of galvanizing collaborative research between social scientists and statisticians, developing a menu of new graduate courses for social science students, and putting together an innovative case-based undergraduate statistics sequence for the social sciences.

Luncheon for Ross Matsueda, thanking him for serving as Associate Director for CSSS since its inception. He is on sabbatical leave at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during this academic year.
Math Camp   September 12 – 16, 2005

Math Camp is an intensive one-week introduction to fundamental concepts of mathematics and probability designed to help prepare social science graduate students for advanced courses in statistical methodology in general, and CSSS courses in particular.

This was again taught this past year by Rebecca Nugent, graduate student in the Department of Statistics, and Christine Fountain, graduate student in the Department of Sociology. We had 42 graduate students from various disciplines who registered for the camp. These include Sociology, Political Science, Social Work, Anthropology, School of Nursing, and Health Services.


Funding for Math Camp was provided by the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, the Department of Sociology, the Department of Political Science, and the School of Social Work.

Visitors to CSSS

Visiting Faculty

Marijtje Van Duijn is employed as an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of Groningen, in the Netherlands. She is collaborating with UW Professor Mark Handcock on some research work and is also teaching CSSS course CS&SS 560 Hierarchical Modeling for the Social Sciences during Wtr. Qtr. 2006. She received a Fulbright Senior Scholarship and is visiting during the 2005-06 academic year.

She presented her recent research on “Random Effects Models for Social Network Analysis and their Goodness-of-Fit” at the CSSS Seminar on October 19, 2005.

Visiting Scientist

Luiz Koodi Hotta is employed as an Associate Professor at Universidade Estadual de Campinas in Brazil. He is visiting CSSS during Wtr. Qtr. 2006 and is collaborating on research work with UW Professor Adrian Raftery.
CSSS's graduate training comes of age this year with the graduation of several PhD students who have been involved with CSSS and who become assistant professors at other universities. These include sociologists Christine Fountain, Beth Hirsch, Jennifer Hook and Derek Kreager, who are taking positions at the University of South Carolina, Cornell and Penn State, and statistician Adam Glynn, who will be assistant professor of Government at Harvard. This milestone was marked by the wonderful Blalock Fellows celebration seminar in January.

CSSS graduate training is expanding this year under the leadership of CSSS graduate chair Darryl Holman. One of Darryl's goals is to help departments set up new specializations based on CSSS courses, to join the Political Methodology field, the Social Statistics PhD minor in the Sociology department, and the Social Statistics PhD track in the Statistics department. The Anthropology department has just set up a new PhD-level Statistics Concentration, and discussions have started with the Geography department, the Evans School of Public Affairs, and the School of Social Work.

This builds on our work to improve CSSS's graduate training and make it more responsive. Sociology students form the biggest group in CSSS classes, and two years ago they did a survey about CSSS courses. It found that close to half of Sociology graduate students had taken at least one CSSS course, and that they found them useful. However, most students felt that they weren't well enough prepared, and some felt that the courses involved too much work.

We have worked hard since then to provide better preparation, mainly in probability, calculus and matrix algebra. The Math Camp provides a week of intensive full time training in September to prepare students for CSSS courses. It has happened twice now and has been a great success. We have continued to develop the Math Review course (CS&SS 505) offered each Spring. I will teach this again in Spring 2006, and Peter Hoff will teach it in Spring 2007. CSSS has also improved coordination with the first year graduate statistics sequence in Sociology; we are grateful to Lowell Hargens for his leadership on this. The results are clear: students in CSSS courses are better prepared and so need less time to complete course requirements.

Can we make CSSS graduate training more truly interdisciplinary? The mission of CSSS includes promoting interdisciplinary research and providing a rich menu of quantitative courses for social science graduate students. These goals have been achieved: there is now an active CSSS faculty research community, and CSSS is offering about 20 graduate courses each year. But graduate students are not as involved as faculty in the kind of interdisciplinary interaction that CSSS exists to foster.

How can we foster this kind of interaction? CSSS provides opportunities, in the courses themselves, in the group projects that are part of many CSSS courses, in the seminar series, and in research projects that have RAs from several departments, and at CSSS social events. But we should do more. We have just launched an email list for the graduate students involved in CSSS, csssgrads@stat.washington.edu. We are also considering creating a new position of graduate student liaison, who would be a member of the CSSS team. We would be very interested in your suggestions: please email me with your ideas at raftery@u.washington.edu.
**Faculty News**

**Chris Adolph, UW Political Science/CSSS:** His dissertation entitled “The Dilemma of Discretion: Career Ambitions and the Politics of Central Banking” was awarded the 2005 Mancur Olson Award for the best dissertation in political economy, given by the Political Economy section of the American Political Science Association. It has also won Harvard University's Charles Sumner Award.

**Darryl Holman, UW Anthropology** was appointed as the new Graduate Chair for CSSS.

**Ross Matsueda, UW Sociology** served as Associate Director for CSSS since its inception in 1999. He is currently on sabbatical leave at the University of Wisconsin-Madison during the 2005-06 academic year.

**Adrian Raftery, UW Statistics/Sociology** was the most cited mathematician in the world for the period 1995-2005, according to the Institute for Scientific Information. Also, he has been appointed as the Blumstein-Jordan Professor of Sociology.

**Thomas Richardson, UW Statistics** was appointed as Associate Director for CSSS during the 2005-06 academic year.

**Sibel Sirakaya, UW Statistics/Economics/CSSS:** Her paper on “Recidivism and Social Interactions” was accepted for publication in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*. Also, she has been appointed as the first Arthur J. Gresh Faculty Career Development Fellow, for the 2005-06 academic year. The $10,000 award supports research and educational activities for faculty in the Department of Economics at the beginning of their academic careers.

**Katherine Stovel, UW Sociology** was awarded the 2005 Roger Gould Prize for her recent article in the *American Journal of Sociology*, “Chains of Affection: The Structure of Adolescent Romantic and Sexual Networks,” joint with Peter Bearman and James Moody.

**New CSSS Faculty Affiliates**

**Matthew Barretto, UW Political Science.** Received Ph D in Political Science from the University of California –Irvine. Currently an Assistant Professor in the UW Department of Political Science.

**Sam Clark, UW Sociology.** Received Ph D in Demography from the University of Pennsylvania. Currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology here at the UW.

**Brian Flaherty, UW Psychology.** Received Ph D from the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, with a minor in Statistics, from Pennsylvania State University. Currently an Assistant Professor in the UW Department of Psychology.

**James Kitts, UW Sociology.** Received Ph D in Sociology from Cornell University. Currently an Assistant Professor in the UW Department of Sociology.

**Gary Segura, UW Political Science.** Received Ph D in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Currently an Associate Professor in the UW Department of Political Science.
The CSSS working paper series aims to encourage the use of statistical methodology in solving social science problems and includes research papers on a wide range of social science problems.

One example is Elaina Rose’s paper titled “Education and Hypergamy, and the Success Gap.” As recently as 1980, the more years of post-high school education a woman had, the less likely she was to marry. Rose, a CSSS affiliate and a faculty in the Economics Department, terms the tradeoff that women make between education and marriage the success gap.

However after examining the 1980, 1990 and 2000 Census, Rose found that while the success gap, defined as the difference between the percentage of women with 12 years of education who were married and the percentage with more than 16 years of education who were married in a given year, still exists, it is shrinking fast. She finds that the success gap was 9.3%, 5.1% and -0.7% for 1980, 1990 and 2000, respectively. Rose also tracks whether highly educated women have fewer children. She finds that, while there is still a significant “motherhood success gap,” that gap is shrinking, too. So good news for women! They can have a career and children too!

Another CSSS working paper titled “Recidivism and Social Interactions” by Sibel Sirakaya, core faculty of CSSS, and faculty in the Economics and Statistics Departments, identifies the risk factors for recidivism among Female, Male, Black, White and Hispanic felony probationers in the United States. Among other factors, she finds social interactions as one of the most significant determinants of recidivism among all gender, race and ethnicity groups.

Sirakaya uses the term social interactions to refer to social effects that arise when choices made by an individual are affected, not through market transactions, but by actions of others. She suggests social learning, conformity and sanctions as some of the mechanisms giving rise to social interactions. From a policy-making perspective, the paper’s finding is important as social interactions generate social multipliers, causing a singular change in one individual’s decision to culminate in a multiple change in the population behavior. Preventing one person from recidivating may then help reduce the future recidivism rates by more than what that single individual would have committed. Thus, a policy that targets, and operates through social interactions will have a very different effect on recidivism than a policy that changes only the exogenous determinants.

In another CSSS working paper titled “Will the Market Bear Your Asking Price?,” Elena Erosheva, core faculty of CSSS, and a faculty in the Statistics department and School of Social Work, shows how one could use statistical modeling in estimating the market value of a real estate. The current practice for determining market price of real estate often relies on selecting a list of comparable sales and does not use modern statistical techniques. The paper illustrates a real estate market analysis via a statistical modeling case study which allows one not only to estimate the market value of a real estate but also to learn some characteristics of the market.

Mark Handcock, CSSS core faculty, and faculty in the departments of Statistics and Sociology, coauthored no fewer than four working papers in 2005 on two main themes: social networks, and the combination of social science data on different scales. He developed a new approach to model-based clustering of social networks with Adrian Raftery and Jeremy Tantrum and new methods for assessing the goodness of fit of social network models with David Hunter and Steve Goodreau. He proposed new methods for synthesizing survey and census data with Sanjay Chaudhuri and Michael Rendall, and a new approach to combining ecological data with subsample data in joint work with Adam Glynn, Jon Wakefield and Thomas Richardson.

The CSSS working paper series is freely available for download at http://www.csss.washington.edu/Papers/
2004 – 2005

Leontine Alkema holds an M.S. in Applied Mathematics from Delft University of Technology, Netherlands (2003) and is a second-year statistics graduate student. She is working with Sam Clark and Adrian Raftery on probabilistic population projections in demography.

Tyler Corwin holds a B.A. in Mathematics from Point Loma Nazarene University, CA (2004) and is a second-year sociology graduate student.

2003 – 2004

Amanda Cox holds a B.A. in Mathematics and Economics from St. Olaf College. She graduated with an M.S. in Statistics in 2005 and is now a Graphics Editor at the New York Times.

Krista Gile holds a M.S. in Science and Technology Studies from Virginia Tech (2000) and also a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rensselar Polytechnic Institute (1998). She is a third-year graduate student in the Statistics Department and is working with Mark Handcock on social network analysis. She is also the CSSS Statistical Consultant.

2002 – 2003

Ryan Admiraal holds a B.S. in Mathematics and English from Calvin College and is a fourth-year graduate student in the Statistics Department. He is working with Mark Handcock on constrained maximum likelihood estimation.

Eric Aldrich graduated with an M.S. in statistics in 2005 and is now an economics Ph.D. student at Duke University.

Rachel Kuller entered the Sociology department as a graduate student in 2002 after obtaining a B.S. in Engineering from Harvard University. She graduated with an M.A. in Sociology in 2004, and now works as a senior analysis for Doxus, a market research consultancy specializing in the high tech market.

Nicholas Pharris-Ciurej holds a B.A. in Sociology from Seattle University and is a fourth-year graduate student in the Department of Sociology.

2001 – 2002

Susan Shortreed holds a B.S. in statistics from the University of Michigan and is a fifth-year graduate student in the Statistics Department. While in Michigan she worked on statistical methods for ensuring confidentiality in social science data at the Institute of Survey Research with Professor Trivellore Raghunathan. At Washington she has worked on social network analysis with Mark Handcock and is now working on cluster analysis methods with Marina Meila.

Jason Thomas holds a B.A. in sociology from the University of Washington (2000), and is a fifth-year graduate student in the Department of Sociology.
This fellowship honors Hubert M. Blalock, who was a leading sociological methodologist and social statistician at the UW, a former President of the American Sociological Association, and one of the founding faculty members of the Statistics department here, as well as a longtime Professor of Sociology at the university. CSSS provides this award to entering graduate students who have a strong interest in furthering their studies in statistics and the social sciences.

Richard Callahan receives the Blalock award from Ms. Ann Blalock Lenski.

Gail Potter receives the Blalock Fellowship Award from Ms. Ann Blalock Lenski.

We were honored to have Ms. Ann Blalock Lenski (widow of Hubert M. Blalock) join us for this year’s award presentation. Two students received the CSSS –Hubert M. Blalock Fellowships this year. This year’s graduate student award was for $3,000 per individual.

Richard Callahan holds a BA in Mathematical Social Science from Dartmouth College and is entering the Sociology graduate program.

Gail Potter holds a BA in Mathematics from Oberlin College and is entering the Statistics graduate program.

Photos by Mary Levin, UW Photography
Marijtje Van Duijn's children came to embody the research she was involved in.

Marijtje, who is spending this academic year on a Fulbright Scholarship at CSSS, has been working on how gender and ethnicity affect how friendship networks are formed among youth.

Marijtje and her family arrived this summer from the Netherlands, and her children didn't speak English well enough to enroll at a traditional, English-speaking school in Seattle. So Aafko, 9, and Maggie, 7, started school at John Stanford International School in Seattle, an elementary school for recent immigrants who don't speak much English.

Marijtje's children were thrown into a mix of Brazilians, Mexicans and Asians, among many others.

"Where they came from didn't matter at all," she said. "My daughter liked to be sitting next to the boy from Luxembourg because he was very shy, which gave her confidence. But otherwise, the big similarity there was that nobody spoke English."

Her children's experience didn't exactly match the youth she and her sociologist colleagues are tracking. First off, her children are younger than the teenagers she's examining. Also, the children at John Stanford are all immigrants, waiting to be proficient enough in English to make the next step.

Still, their experience fits into the question the group is investigating - once stripped of variables such as neighborhood and economic disposition, could youth befriend any other youth, no matter their race?

Marijtje's colleagues are interested in high school friendship networks. They want to find out whether high school students break off into cliques largely based on their ethnic background. Their theory is that given enough time with each other, high school students from various backgrounds might shake off their presuppositions about each other and form lasting friendships.

"Where they came from didn't matter at all," she said. "My daughter liked to be sitting next to the boy from Luxembourg because he was very shy, which gave her confidence. But otherwise, the big similarity there was that nobody spoke English."

In the Netherlands, Marijtje said, "We have a lot of immigrants from Morocco and Turkey. That means there is a huge difference in background. In that sense, race is more than the color of one's skin."

After the first batch of data came in, Marijtje and her colleagues didn't come up with a satisfying answer. In some schools, ethnic background didn't seem to matter at all. In others, ethnic background defined how friendships formed.

Marijtje's job in the project was to apply new, and not yet well-known, methodology to deal with the complex data. The complex network data comes from their interdependence: all students report about each other.

"The analysis is difficult because choosing the correct or best model is hard," Marijtje said. "We wanted to combine estimates from the different school networks, and had to develop new models to do that."

At the University of Groningen, Marijtje is one of few statisticians among many sociologists and psychologists. CSSS is refreshing, she said, because she can work with other statisticians who also find the job of applying out appropriate models to questions fascinating.

"I'm very happy to be among people who know more about statistical modeling," she said.

This isn't Marijtje's first time in the United States. After high school in the Netherlands, she spent a year of school at Sweet Briar, a women's college in Virginia. Then, after receiving her Ph. D, Marijtje returned to the United States, this time to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to do her post-doctoral work.

"It's even more special now to come here and bring my whole family and have a good time," she said.

Plus, the Pacific Northwest is a scenic change from Holland, where the terrain is flat.

On clear days, her family wakes to see the mountains, Mount Rainier in particular. Even in the winter, her two children and husband are eager to venture on hikes. They've been enthusiastic about hiking ever since the CSSS hike this summer, which has encouraged them to mount other peaks.

Story by Isolde Raftery, Contributing Writer/Editor
To say that baseball player Ichiro Suzuki's batting average is middling because his teammates' averages weren't so hot last year would be considered blasphemy to any Mariners fan. In truth, Ichiro had the highest batting average in the American League.

But that is, essentially, what the Republicans argued after Governor Christine Gregoire won the 2004 Gubernatorial election by just 129 votes. She won the third time the votes were counted, by a hand count. The Republicans, as had been expected, appealed using statistics as the basis of their argument.

They weren't talking about baseball, of course -- that was a metaphor that Chris Adolph invoked during the trial last summer -- but they did apply similar logic.

CSSS professors Mark S. Handcock and Chris Adolph, expert witnesses on the Democrat side, proved that the Republican argument was flawed.

The Republicans said Rossi would have won the election if 1,183 invalid ballots had been discarded. Invalid ballots include those cast by felons, who are not allowed to vote until their voting rights are restored.

"The major interest for me was to see how statisticians interact with the legal process," Handcock said. "Instead of statisticians playing a minor and technical role, statistics was a central part of the legal question."

The Republicans created a list of invalid voters and presented them to the courts. All but 11 of the invalid votes on the list came from precincts Gregoire had won, and they reasoned they could apply the same percentage of valid Gregoire votes to invalid Gregoire votes. They asked the courts to subtract the majority of invalid votes from Gregoire's total, assuming Rossi would then win.

If only it was that simple.

In their depositions, Handcock and Adolph wrote that the Republican analysis was flawed. They said it is inaccurate to assume that invalid voters vote like valid voters.

"(Invalid voters) tend to be disproportionately male, and felons, and felons tend to be of lower economic status," Handcock said. Adolph, who has researched voting behavior before, said the Republicans' list of invalid voters was "useless for answering questions about the net effect of all invalid votes on the statewide election outcome."

For Rossi's expert witness to suggest that conclusions on statewide outcomes "may be drawn solely on the basis of King County is intuitively and statistically preposterous," Adolph wrote in his deposition.

He went on to say that the experts for the Republican side had committed "an ecological fallacy."

An example of ecological fallacy would be to assume that all people in Seattle earn about $46,000 a year because that is the average income in Seattle. That sort of assumption is flawed because it doesn't acknowledge that there are people who make a little or a lot of money, who, pooled together, average $46,000.

Or, to use Adolph's example, it's an ecological fallacy to assume to know Ichiro's batting average based on his teammates' averaged score.

In his closing remarks, Chelan County Superior Court Judge John Bridges said he favored Handcock and Adolph's testimony.

"Ms. Gregoire would have prevailed under a theory of proportion deduction based on the testimony of Drs. Adolph and Handcock," Bridges said.

Furthermore, Bridges continued, "The illegal voters were disproportionately male and less likely to have voted for the female candidate."

During the trial, the Republicans had argued that about half of the invalid votes were cast by women. But Handcock, using the same data, showed that closer to 75 percent of the invalid votes were cast by men.

Now, a year and some after the election, Handcock and Adolph have held a seminar about the election process.

"The major interest for me was to see how statisticians interact with the legal process," Handcock said. "Instead of statisticians playing a minor and technical role, statistics was a central part of the legal question."

Handcock said that given how polarized politics have become, officials should take a lesson from the Rossi/Gregoire election battle.

"This is not a freak event," he said. "Officials are going to have to set policy around this, or there are going to be a lot of bitter election trials."

Story by Isolde Raftery, Contributing Writer/Editor
CSSS Seed Grants Awarded 2005-06

Theo Eicher, UW Economics  “Establishing Determinants of Economic Growth: The Effects of Priors on Regressors and Model Size”

Darryl Holman, UW Anthropology/CSSS and Mary Shenk, UW CSDE  “Analyzing Density-Dependent Birth and Death Rates in Rural Bangladesh”

Adrian Raftery, UW Statistics/Sociology/CSSS and Samuel Clark, UW Sociology  “Assessing Uncertainty in Population Projections and Linked Demographic Disease Models via Bayesian Melding”

Working Papers

Peter Hoff  January 2006. “Multiplicative latent factor models for description and prediction of social networks”


Adam Glynn, Jon Wakefield, Mark Handcock, and  Thomas Richardson.  September 2005.  “Alleviating Linear Ecological Bias and Optimal Design with Subsample Data”


Anne Patrikainen and Marina Meila  July 2005. “Spectral Clustering for Microsoft Netscan Data”


David R. Hunter, Mark S. Handcock and Steven M. Goodreau April 2005. “Goodness of Fit of Social Network Models”

Mark S. Handcock, Adrian E. Raftery and Jeremy Tantrum  April 2005. “Model-Based Clustering for Social Networks”

Michael D. Ward and Peter Hoff  January 2005. “Persistent Patterns of International Commerce”

Recent Research Grants Awarded

PI: Ross Matsueda
Funding Agent: NIH
Amount: $993,535
Date: September 1, 2005 - August 31, 2008
Title: “Life Course Trajectories of Substance Use and Crime”

PI: Adrian Raftery  (PI -Alan Borning)
Funding Agent: NSF
Amount: $86,395 (Sub-budget portion)
Date: January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2008
Title: “Modeling Uncertainty in Land Use and Transportation Policy Impacts: Statistical Methods, Computational Algorithms, and Stakeholder Interaction”

Recent Talks

Elena Erosheva, Emily Walton and David Takeuchi  “Self-Rated Health among Foreign- and Native-Born Individuals: A Test of Comparability” presented at the International Conference on Health Policy Research (ICHPR) on October 28, 2005 in Boston, MA.

Mark S. Handcock, “A Simple Model for Complex Networks with Arbitrary Degree Distribution and Clustering” presented at the Models of Infectious Disease Agent Study (MIDAS) Consultation on Social Networks, National Institute of General Medical Sciences, NIH on January 5, 2005 in Washington, D.C.
CSSS Travel Grants Awarded 2005-06

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<tr>
<th>Traveler:</th>
<th>Jerusha T. Achterberg (Anthropology)</th>
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<tr>
<td>CSSS Faculty or Affiliate:</td>
<td>Darryl Holman</td>
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<td>Meeting:</td>
<td>2006 Human Biology Association Annual Meeting, Amer. Assoc. of Physical Anthropologists, Anchorage, AK</td>
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<td>CSSS Faculty or Affiliate:</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Meeting:</td>
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<td>CSSS Faculty or Affiliate:</td>
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<td>Meeting:</td>
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<td>CSSS Faculty or Affiliate:</td>
<td>Peter Hoff</td>
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<td>Meeting:</td>
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New CSSS Computing Cluster “florence”

CSSS has set up a new computer cluster, in cooperation with the Statistics department, and with additional funding from the College of Arts and Sciences. Named "florence," this is a Linux cluster that consists of 21 dual-processor computers. It runs under the Mosix operating system which facilitates load-sharing; this means that a job is sent to the least busy computer. It can also run jobs in parallel.

The cluster is currently open for use to CSSS core and directing faculty, faculty with CSSS seed grants and outside grants administered by CSSS, and their graduate students and research staff. Currently, access to florence is possible only through the Statistics department server "madrid", and CSSS users need a madrid account to access the cluster. To get an account, contact Nick Ganoulis at nganoulis@u.washington.edu. Soon it will be possible to log on to the cluster from throughout the washington.edu domain.

The cluster is named for Florence Nightingale. The first female member of the Royal Statistical Society and an early Honorary Member of the American Statistical Association, she was one of the first - and most effective - people to bring statistics and social science together to solve societal problems. She was known as the "Passionate Statistician" – see http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/stats.htm. Of course she is also revered as a founder of the Nursing profession, and the links between CSSS and the UW School of Nursing continue her legacy.
Current and past Blalock Fellowship recipients, along with director Adrian Raftery, associate director Thomas Richardson, and Ms. Ann Blalock Lenski (widow of Hubert M. Blalock).

From L-R they are Krista Gile, Tyler Corwin, Richard Callahan, Gail Potter, Jason Thomas, Ann Blalock Lenski, Thomas Richardson, Susan Shortreed, Leontine Alkema, and Adrian Raftery.

Photos by Mary Levin, UW Photography

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Many thanks to Ms. Ann Blalock Lenski for presenting this year’s Blalock Fellowship awards. We were honored to have her join us for this event.

Ann Blalock Lenski