

Mathematical Methods in the Social Sciences

Alumni Newsletter

Northwestern University

December 2007

From the Director ...

This is our first newsletter since the loss of Professor Michael Dacey, co-founder and dedicated steward of the MMSS program. We devote the majority of the space here to honor him on the upcoming one-year anniversary of his passing. A memorial service was held last January at Alice Millar Chapel here on campus with many colleagues, former students, friends and family in attendance. Through the many tributes paid to him that day, a big beautiful picture was painted of his life and work, especially his contributions to WCAS and its students. We now adjust to life without his guidance, but I am glad to report that his wife, Jeanette, has insisted that both the MMSS Welcoming and Graduation Parties continue to be held at the Dacey residence. So our tradition lives on, and we keep Michael's memory alive by continuing his important work of training and encouraging students to reach high levels of academic achievement.

Other news includes the successful launch of the Kellogg Undergraduate Certificate in Finance Economics this fall. Of the 44 students enrolled in the program, 26 of them are MMSS students. They will take four courses to complete the certificate this year: Principles of Finance, Investments, Derivatives and Topics in Financial Economics. So far, students report that it is a challenging program, but that they feel well-prepared by the rigor of their MMSS experience. The program's facilities, including Kellogg-style classrooms, study rooms and lounge space, are located in the newly renovated ground floor of 555 Clark St on the south side of campus.

I'd like to thank those alumni who have taken the time to come back to campus and meet with our students during our Career Options events. Over the past 4 years, we have hosted a number of these events and students are always so grateful for the opportunity to listen and talk to alumni from a variety of career paths. We appreciate your support!

Best wishes to all of you in the coming year,



Prof. Bill Rogerson

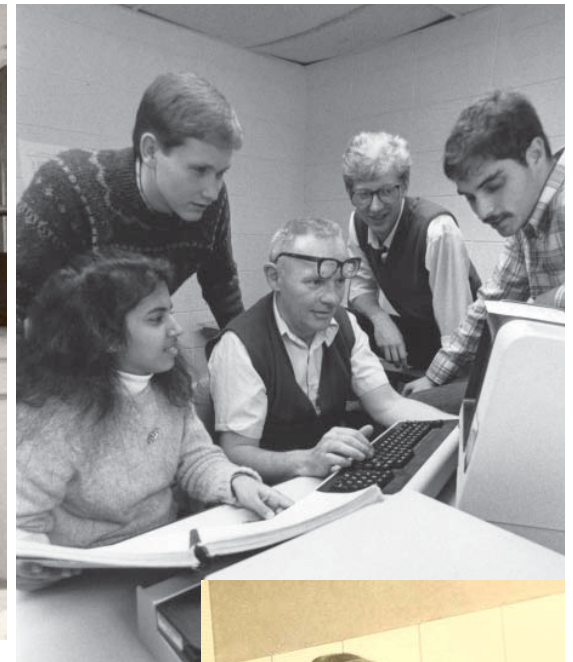
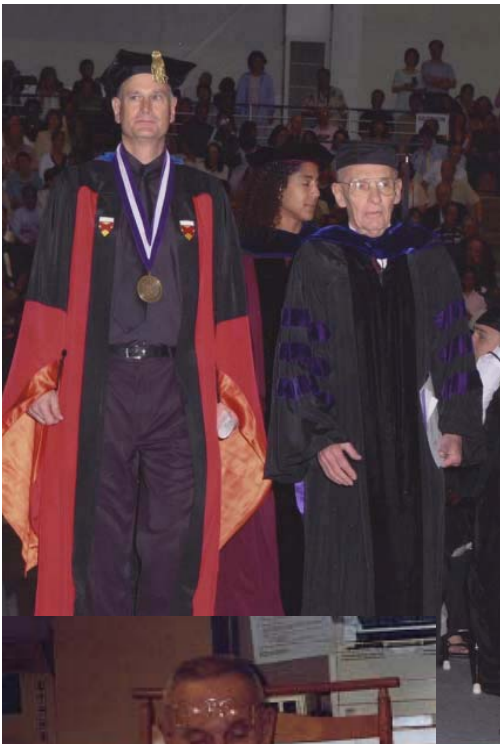


PROF. MICHAEL F. DACEY
1932-2006

Michael F. Dacey, senior associate dean at the Northwestern University Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, died at Evanston Hospital after a short illness. Michael, 74, who also served as professor of anthropology and geological sciences, joined the Northwestern faculty in 1964. He served as chair of the department of geography from 1976 to 1982 and was named associate dean at the Weinberg College in 1987 and senior associate dean in 1993. He founded the MMSS program in 1978 and taught in the program every year. Michael, who received a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1981, was the author of books, papers and reports in geography, geology, regional science, statistics, operations research, mathematics, urban planning, water resources and anthropology.

A native of Holyoke, Mass., Michael attended Bates College and received a bachelor's degree in geography from the University of Kansas in 1954. He earned master's and Ph.D. degrees in geography from the University of Washington in 1955 and 1960, respectively. He then served as an assistant professor of regional science at the University of Pennsylvania from 1960 to 1964.

Professor Dacey is survived by his wife, Jeanette; a daughter, Rachel Ann Niemann of Evanston; a granddaughter, Kayla; and a sister, Patricia Folsom of Maine.



Michael—
for his prowess with numbers,
warm and casual
personal style,
and trademark sweater
vest, bicycle, and
Birkenstock
sandals—
will be deeply missed.



A Man Remembered

Jamie Druckman, '93:

When reflecting on what I and so many others learned from Professor Dacey, a few critical lessons stand out. First, we learned – if we wanted to get through the program – how to work together, relying on one another and building on each others' intellectual strengths. Second, we learned to have a healthy disregard for disciplinary boundaries. The MMSS program includes majors and professors from all of the social sciences. That this has been the case since the program's founding in 1978 demonstrates Professor Dacey's foresight about the direction of the social sciences. Third and most importantly, we learned how to approach a problem or question, think through it, look at it from various perspectives, have patience and generate rigorous answers that advance knowledge and understanding. To me, this epitomized the basic principle of MMSS and was intrinsic in Professor Dacey's approach to teaching and advising.

Deborah Lopez, '90:

I absolutely loved MMSS thanks to Michael Dacey. One of my favorite memories of college was watching Professor Dacey's shaky hand write "Pep Talk" on the blackboard and having the class erupt in cheers.

Jim Lamouroux, '87:

Professor Dacey was the sole reason I stayed in MMSS and didn't drop out during my sophomore year (much to my everlasting benefit, even though I don't think I was MMSS' model student). I will forever be indebted to him for that as well as much personal advice that he offered, and in my mind I will always associate MMSS with Professor Dacey (and the wearing of sandals in the middle of February). I also never worked as hard at Northwestern as I did in his classes.

Elizabeth Chen, '01:

I still remember when I first met Professor Dacey at his home in Evanston during the MMSS reception in September 2001. He made me and the rest of my class feel so welcome and was key in easing my transition from my home in NJ to a strange new place. I will always remember him and am thankful to have met such a brilliant teacher, advisor, and supporter.

Ron Graber, '89:

The thing I most remember about him is that he would spend hours in the evenings with a group of students in the MMSS lab. More than anybody I know, he demonstrated caring for his students. I remember him zipping around on his bike with the walkman on - we speculated what he could be listening to. He will be missed.

Brian Elliot, '89:

Professor Dacey was, simply put, the strongest influence I had academically at any level and that influence still plays through how I think, work, and look at the world. He challenged me in ways that I'd not been challenged before – nor since, to be blunt – to stretch myself intellectually. His excitement was infectious and his curiosity unbounded.

Marie Jones, Associate Dean, WCAS:

Data was one of his hallmarks. He had info ready before we knew we needed it. Everyone who worked with him in the DO has the indelible image of him arriving at staff meetings with a bundle of spreadsheets, settling into his chair at the foot of the table – no one else tried to sit there – ready to challenge us to analyze how well we were doing and how we might do better. If you disagreed, you had better have some data to back your position. Some pretty good data. From national ratings, to course enrollments, to CTECs and student surveys, he was interested in how things stacked up and how he could slice into the data to figure out what was going on behind the numbers. So I learned – I think all of his colleagues learned from him – how to think about the familiar in new ways, how to discipline ourselves to look at the data, and how to step back in the quiet hours and think about how to do better. Always, how to do better.

Omar Davies, Geography PhD, '73:

Once you became accustomed to Michael's unique approach to teaching – it took a while before I could fully comprehend his guttural expressions – it was hard not to become equally captivated, as he obviously was, with the elegance of applying mathematics to the analysis of social phenomena. His particular interest lay in understanding activities and phenomena distributed over space and he utilized mathematics to facilitate this analysis either from a descriptive or normative point of view. However, to me, Michael's major strength lay in his disciplined approach to life and work. Whilst many persons with outstanding intellect demonstrate their brilliance in spurts of inspired activity, Michael's unique attribute was his phenomenal capacity to work extended periods and yet be simultaneously creative. From him I learnt to structure each day in a way to maximize the benefits of each hour, whether it be for work, rest or recreation. Although I have not remained in academia, this training, which was not part of any formal curriculum, has been my major asset in dealing with the challenges which I face in my job as Minister of Finance and Planning in the Government of Jamaica.

Contributions may be made to Northwestern University in the name of Michael F. Dacey MMSS Research Fellowship Memorial Fund and sent to the Office of Alumni Relations & Development, 2020 Ridge Avenue, Room 476, Evanston, IL 60208. These funds will be used to support MMSS senior thesis research projects.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alaina Kanfer, '84 is finishing a book with her husband Larry about the barns of Illinois. It is primarily photographic with ethnographic style stories to show the social and emotional importance of barns to culture and humanity. It will be published by University of Illinois Press sometime in 2008.

Peter Rehwaldt, '85, moved from CA to Kansas City MO, where he is doing freelance/interim work as a Lutheran pastor, while seeking a full time teaching position in preaching and/or worship. He completed his PhD dissertation at the Graduate Theological Union [GTU] in Berkeley CA, with the title: "Let All the People Say 'Amen!': A Multigenerational Understanding of Rite, Hymnody, and Preaching." While doing his PhD, he put his MMSS studies to good use as the Coordinator of the GTU's Office of Institutional Research.

Dave Kostelancik, '86, was selected by the Department of State for a year-long graduate study program at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He is on sabbatical from the State Department until June 2008, working towards a Masters Degree in Strategic Planning.

Sarita Dyrda, '88, recently completed the requirements to become a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

Pete Reuss, '93, is beginning his fourth year as coach of 8th grade girl's basketball at Dover-Eyota High School.

Wendy Huang, '94, co-founded the New York chapter of Team Survivor, a 501©(3) organization that fosters and promotes exercise opportunities for women affected by cancer.

Trey McAdams, '94, recently published an article for Deloitte entitled "A formula for success: Driving results with application management". It can be found at: <http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/article/0,1002,sid%253D27436%2526cid%253D171091,00.html> (sorry for the ugly URL!)

Dina Mishev, '97, published her first book entitled Wyoming Curiosities. She got married, too, to Brian Harder.

Brian Jenn, '99, graduated from Yale Law School last June.

Jessica Cardoni, '99, graduated from Loyola University Chicago Law School last May.

Emily Bouck, '00, was awarded a Spencer Foundation grant to study middle school mathematics curriculum and students with disabilities. In addition, she coordinated an education study abroad program to South Africa with her husband for a month, taking 19 undergraduate education majors to Pretoria, South Africa. They also traveled to Delhi, India in the month of May to set up a study abroad program over there for this summer. In 2007, she has three articles published, including one in The Journal of Disability Policy Studies and two more forthcoming in the Journal of Special Education Technology.

Amy Hertz, '01, is a rabbinical student and will be ordained as a rabbi in May 2008.

Jeremy Johnson, '03, has started taking classes at Kellogg. He became a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society last year after successfully passing all nine exams required to become a fully credentialed actuary.

Carolyn Kapnick Hunter, '05, got married this past June in San Francisco to LTJG Rob Hunter, an engineering officer in the US Coast Guard.

Andy Cashin, '06, has been living in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for the last 13 months. He is working in the field of microfinance (as was the topic of his thesis). He is working for small banks there that give small loans, under \$1000, to poor Cambodians to help them start small businesses, usually agricultural. He is working for a couple different companies, including one called First Home, which is Cambodia's first mortgage company.

New arrivals—congrats!!

Sarita (Dharmadhikari) Dyrda, '88: Alexandra, May 07

Ann Bruinsma, '98: James, March 07

John May '90: twins, Fiona and Deirdre, in October 07

Rodney Cruz, '99: Liliana, March 07

Becky Ready, '95: Baby number 2 coming in March 08

Resham Mendi, '99: Rian (boy), Feb. 07

Sarah (Conway) Weinberg, '02: Leora, Feb. 07

Please visit our newly updated Website at www.mmss.northwestern.edu. You can update your contact information at any time under "Alumni".
Thanks!

Questions? Suggestions? Email us at mmss@northwestern.edu or give us a call at 847-491-3574