

December 22, 2008

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Graduate Students

**FROM:** Michael Longnecker

### GRADUATE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN STATISTICS

The Department of Statistics has developed a program by which graduate students in the department can gain valuable practical experience in a professional setting while earning academic credit. The student spends from one semester (most often 10 weeks during the summer) off-campus working directly with industrial/biomedical/government statisticians. During this time the student is a salaried employee of the sponsoring organization. The department provides the student with a list of potential internships but it is the student's responsibility to contact the organization and apply for an internship.

*Benefits of student participation in the internship program:*

- 1) The internship program provides the student with an opportunity to interact with experienced statisticians and other industrial personnel concerning very unstructured problems. The student learns how to deal with problems in which key assumptions are violated, how to implement experimental designs in nonstandard situations, and how to communicate the results of a statistical analysis (both verbally and in technical reports) to engineers and scientist who have little or no background in statistics.
- 2) The experience gained during the internship assists the student in reaching decisions concerning career choices. After observing the employment opportunities available to industrial personnel having a master's degree in statistics, the student may be better prepared to make a decision about continuing for a PhD in statistics.
- 3) The intern gains professional experience which is very appealing to potential employers when applying for a job upon the completion of your degree. The majority of students receiving a master's degree in statistics will not have experience in statistical consulting. The internship program provides the student with the opportunity to learn the consulting process while under the direction of an experienced consultant. Thus you become aware of the techniques and factors which contribute to the development of a successful statistical consultant.
- 4) You may, **with the approval of the Associate Department Head**, obtain a portion of your required consulting experience, STAT 684 credits, during the internship. Your internship report may, **with the approval of your graduate advisor**, serve as your master's project report. Hence, you can earn STAT 685 credits during the internship.

#### Potential Sources for Internships:

An extensive list of companies can be found at <http://stat.tamu.edu/longneck/>: Internships

- **Company List for 2009**
- **ASAList09**

Other opportunities are posted at

<http://www.amstat.org/education>