

Steven Roberts:

As you know, I am extremely grateful to have had you as my supervisor and now friend. You are probably the most interesting person I have ever met - and my first impressions of you were as wrong as I have ever been about anybody! My first thoughts of you were that you were extremely conservative!



Paul rowing

Havard Rue:

Dear Paul,

Happy retirement; hope to see you soon!

Best wishes,
Håvard

Bard Storvik:

I was a visiting scholar at Stanford in 94/95. During the stay Paul really helped me through a tough period of my life. I cherish the time we spent together and I'm for ever grateful for the kindness he showed. When I think back at the time at Stanford, what I remember most was his ability to challenge my views on a broad specter of life. On the many occasions we spent together I had to ask myself what is this guy really thinking, is he serious or is he merely making fun of the whole situation.



Jason Matherly:

wow, congratulations on your retirement! what in the world are you going to spend your time doing???? i loved the photos. snowing in denver. -jason

Etienne Gabel:

Congratulations on your retirement!! You'll soon be spending more time relaxing by the beach in Hawaii, I presume.

We unfortunately don't have any pictures of us together but I'm attaching a picture of me back in France.

On my side everything is going very well but definitely not in a relaxed fashion. I received just last week a temporary employment offer from the government of Chile, to work as part of their Center for Renewable Energy with mission to help the country develop its green energy industry. I since decided to accept the position, which lasts for 4 months, and I am leaving London for Santiago in a month's time. That has kept me very busy as I organise the move.

With this change ends about 4 years of my life as manager within the London team of ICF International, a consultancy where I focused on European power and carbon markets. I was a well-paid busy manager at that, and now I will be paid peanuts in exchange for an adventure in Latin America, hehe. Life is better that way.

I assume you're no longer travelling to Paris every year with Stanford students? Are you heading to Europe sometimes for leisure? If Chile sounds tempting as a travel destination let me know, although granted their recent earthquake doesn't make matters easier for tourism.

I hope all is well with you. Congratulations again on your retirement, I hope you will greatly enjoy the added free time. Speak to you in the near future I hope.



Ilya Gluhovsky:

Sorry for a delayed reply. I hope you have already begun enjoying your retirement and the change was discontinuous!

Ilya.

Paul was my Ph.D. thesis advisor (graduated in '99). He introduced me to variograms and other complicated words as well as to the back wall of SF Opera in the upper Standing Room and to some fine dining. Thank you very much for making my grad school experience less stressful and more enjoyable! Your warm friendship and support mean a lot to me.



Patrick Perry:

I have known Paul as a professor and a friend for roughly five years. When I met him late into the first year of my Ph.D. at Stanford, I was surprised that he already knew me. It's alarming when someone you don't recognize knows who you are and where you're from. I had forgotten that he was chair of the admissions committee one year prior, and we had met previously when I visited the department. I would later learn that Paul takes all of his teaching and committee responsibilities seriously, and he had likely spent hours poring over my application file and the files of the rest of my classmates.

After that re-introduction. I got to know Paul better during commutes between Stanford and San Francisco. We both lived in the city, and would sometimes run into each other on CalTrain. During those hour-long trips, we talked about research, academia in general, life in San Francisco, life in general, and whatever else was on our minds. Paul's activities on the committee for undergraduate admissions was a recurring topic.

Paul caused trouble in his courses, too. Commonly, the only work required for STAT 319 (Literature of Statistics) is a short talk about your research. When Paul taught the course, he forced you to present on a topic unrelated to your research, and then required you to submit criticisms and reviews of every other talk. For STAT 390 (Consulting), instead of grading based on your attendance, Paul asked you to write short reports about all of your clients. I took both of these courses, and I probably learned more because of Paul's changes, but I was not happy with them at the time.

Paul is generous with his time and his stories, and I always enjoy our meetings. I am happy for him in his decision to retire, but for selfish reasons I hope he doesn't spend too much time in Hawaii now. I'd still like to see him at statistics conferences and on visits to California.

Jay Devore:

My strongest memory is of the story you once told me about how you acquired the one suit you owned during the time I was at Stanford. You and Gail went to look at a used tv. When you hesitated to purchase, the seller offered to throw in a suit he thought would fit you. Voila! When I saw you more recently, you seemed to have progressed (or maybe regressed) in the sartorial world.

I also want to express my appreciation for the encouragement you gave me while I was working on my Ph.D. thesis. Even with the relatively large number of faculty in the department at the time, it was not necessarily easy for a grad student to find an adviser with the right interests and temperament -- some of the more established folks were pretty intimidating. I was very lucky to have you take me on. Interestingly, several papers that came out of my thesis used the thesis title "Noisy Markov Chains", so when more recent work in a similar vein went under the name "Hidden Markov Models", my work was not referenced. I guess it deserves to languish in obscurity! After a few years of research, I focused my professional efforts on writing textbooks. My success there has been gratifying -- I think that over the years I've helped many students turn on to statistics.

Tilmann Gneiting:

My first interaction with Professor Switzer was in the mid 1990s, when I was a PhD student working with Peter Huber at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. To guide my initial work, Peter Huber showed me a number of past dissertations, including the thesis of Jean-Paul Tacier on the statistical analysis of geomagnetic reversals. While I don't recall the details, it believe that it was in this context that Peter Huber introduced me to Paul Switzer.

Subsequently during my PhD studies, Paul Switzer's publications in environmental, spatial and geo-statistics had a profound influence on my work. To give just one example, I very well recall my excitement when I discovered and studied Paul Switzer's 1965 Annals of Mathematical Statistics paper on "A random set process in the plane with a Markovian property". Evidently, I was much delighted and very grateful when Paul Switzer agreed to serve on my PhD committee at the University of Bayreuth in 1997.

We had several occasions to see other thereafter in Stanford, in Seattle at the University of Washington, and at conferences, including TIES meetings and the XXVI European Meeting of Statisticians in Torun, Poland in 2006. I very much look forward to staying in touch with Paul, and hope that he will be able to visit in Heidelberg, Germany, where I have moved to this last fall.



Andre Cabannes:

it's great to hear from you. I'll get back at the end of the week with the kind of material you ask from us. But this morning, I must catch my train to go and teach in Paris, tomorrow and the next day - I live on the French Riviera, between Marseille and Toulon.

Just one comment: you must have "photoshopped" your pictures; except for the beard, on and off, you haven't changed over the years!

The time I spent at Stanford is one of the best memories I have in life. Paul, the director of my doctoral work in the late 70's, participated in it. I had left the French schooling system and all its rigid, formal aspects, for the freedom offered by one of the best American universities. It was a time of renewal, of discovery and of maturing.

Paul also introduced me to a guy who became one of my best friends, Cyril, another Frenchman, who left us too soon.

I remember that Paul once said that life is like a Markov chain: the future depends only on where you are now. Perhaps this is only his scientific way to say that life begins today ? I've had many opportunities to verify how right - as always - he was.

So it's my turn to tell you, Paul: life begins today, and I'm sure you'll make the best of it.

With best and fond memories.



Andre / Paul

Khosrow Dehnad:

It is such a pleasure to hear from you and congratulations on your retirement. This is Kosrow Dehnad, and you were my advisor more than 25 years ago. I really enjoyed being your student and advisee. After I got my Ph.D., I joined Bell Labs and after that I went to Wall Street. Where my last position was a Managing Director at CITIBANK. Then I moved overseas and currently I am in Riyadh Saudi Arabia, heading Quantitative trading at Saudi American Bank. During this time I have kept my contact with academia and for the last 14 years I have been Adjunct Prof. of Operation Research and Columbia University. By the way, Nihua Duan is also at Columbia University. I am heading back to the US in a week for two weeks and will send you some pictures when I was at Stanford and had hair and now that I have very little! By the way, I am attaching a short oped that I wrote a month ago for FundFire, a Financial Times publication for the Hedge Fund community. By the way what is Herb Solomon doing these days and professor Johns? How is Brad Efron and Prof. Stein and Moses? I know that Prof. Byron Brown Passed away since a Christmas card that I had sent him was answered by his wife informing me of his death. How is Tom Cover? Duan told me that you live in San Francisco now. Best wishes upon your retirement and let us get in touch.

Jiehua Chen:

Here is the picture that we took when I was graduating. I wish you could smile more in the picture, but I could interpret it as you were sad that I was going to leave. Enjoy your life, and I cannot wait to retire already!



Tuanfeng Zhang:

Sorry for the late reply. It took me some time to dig out these two pictures (see the attachment).

The retirement after running as professors at Stanford for 45 years is really an accomplishment. Congratulations! All of your students and friends will miss you. We wish you all the best and enjoy your retired life. Your plan for preparing a scrapbook and writing biographic materials (or books?) is great. I am looking forward to read them.

I really enjoyed the time I spent with you at Stanford. Thank you very much for your supervising, guidance and encouragement during the course of my PhD work. I learned a lot from you on your insights, vision and scientific thinking.

Keep in touch.



Zongming Ma:

I still remember the first time I met Prof. Switzer. It was a September day in 2005, and we were at the department new Ph.D. student orientation lunch. The third day after my arrival at the U.S., I was still a shy newbie at that time. Prof. Switzer was the first faculty member I talked to after my arrival, and he was extremely kind, and very willing to give advice. Though we did not chat for a long time that day, I still remember the hospitality I received from him.

Since then, we have got to know each other more. I have worked as his TA for two courses, and have also taken one of his classes. All have been great experiences. Compared with a lot of other people I have met at Stanford, Prof. Switzer is very calm, and willing to listen. Except for Iain, my advisor, he is the only faculty member in the department that I am willing to talk about my subtle thoughts and feelings. And most of the time, he shares with me how he thinks of them.

I truly believe that his retirement is a pity for the future students. However, I support his decision to pursue a different life after over forty years at Stanford as professor, mentor and friend to many other people. I wish him all the best for many exciting years to come!

By Zongming Ma

Ph.D. Student at Department of Statistics, Stanford University, 2005-2010

Zepu Zhang:

Congrats on your retirement! The scrapbook idea was a surprise at first, but is consistent with your interest in gadgets!

Just found two pics as a start. Enjoy your new life!



Kjartan Rimstad:

I visited Stanford University from September 2009 to June 2010, and I am very thankful to Professor Paul Switzer for letting me stay at Stanford. Paul and I worked on local uncertainty estimation. We had a lot of helpfully discussions and Paul shared his vast knowledge. I had a great stay at Stanford and I especially remember Thanksgiving when Paul invited me to his apartment to celebrate thanksgiving together with his family and friends.

Mike Crager:

I hope you enjoy your retirement! Forty-five years is a long time, so get some rest! I am very grateful to you for working with me as my advisor. Thanks for putting me into the SIMS program and connecting me with the folks at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. It was a great introduction to using statistics in the “real world”, and it gave me faith there was a place for innovative statistical methodology in industrial applications. I’ve been working in the pharmaceutical industry since graduating in 1982 and feel as though I’ve been able to make a contribution to the world. So thanks very much for a great start!



Glen Galfond:

I really enjoyed studying under you (you were my thesis advisor back in 1982). You were also the department chair back then and really helped me. I was fortunate enough to be able to graduate a year early, but there was a hurdle that you overcame for me. Stanford required students to pay for a minimum number of classes to graduate, and although I had fulfilled the academic requirements I hadn't fulfilled the tuition requirement. (I thought it was strange that the school required \$\$\$ as opposed to completed courses, but that's the way it was.) You came up with the tuition funding and I graduated a year early. Thank you!

On a personal note, I'm still married to Laurie (it will be 30 years this August) and I have three children. My oldest, Phil, is 25 and put his statistical skills to better use than I did at that age--he's one of the top poker players in the world (try googling "Phil Galfond"). My second son, Jeff, graduated college last year last year and unlike many kids his age is employed and living on his own (Yeah!). My third child, Emily, is a high school junior. Laurie is a nursery school teacher, and I work at IBM as a consultant (I came to IBM when they bought PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting).

Here's a family photo (it is a few years old, but I like it).

Wishing you all the best in retirement!



Paul Kohn:

Sorry for my tardiness in this. Prepping to chair a Ph.D. oral, my income tax and a stack of grading got in the way.

I remember first meeting you when we took a computer course together at Harvard in the Fall of 1961. We were grad students at the time, you in Applied Math and Statistics and me in the Social Psych program in the then Department of Social Relations. We both had rooms in Perkins Hall.

We became friends and hung out, pub crawling and philosophizing in the age-typical way. It actually was an important support for me, because, of my four courses at the time, I hated one, tolerated two and loved only one.

One interaction I particularly remember: I'd been Dr. Richard Alpert's TA. (He later morphed into Baba Ram Dass.) He and his friend, Dr. Timothy Leary (celebrated in a song of the Moody Blues) got fired for feeding LSD to undergraduates. The timing was unfortunate for me in Dick Alpert's case, because we'd just given the final exam in his course. Our agreement was that we'd each grade half the exams (three-hour essay exams) and half the term papers with an enrollment of 75. A phone call from some administrator stated the obvious: I'd have to do all the grading. When I said that, of course, they'd extend the usual 48-hour deadline, the reply was a cough plus the statement that, unfortunately, that wouldn't be possible. So I did it all with the predictable disruption of my usual sleep habits and retired in the wee hours of the second day with the plan to hand in grades that afternoon. You woke me to go to lunch with loud, repeated knocking and found me in some state of dishevelment and residual drowsiness. Anyway, I recall us having a good lunch followed by my submission of the grades.

We each got married in the Summer of 1963 and, with the combined preoccupations of settling into married life and finishing up on graduate work, we kind of lost track of each other.

Anyway, congratulations and best wishes on your retirement. My own is not that perceptible as I still teach on a contractual basis and keep trying to complete unfinished research and writing. Also, the only other things I feel qualified to do is drive cab or tend bar. Please apprise me of your website when it comes up.

Paul M. Kohn, Ph. D.
Professor Emeritus & Senior Scholar
Dep't. of Psychology
Faculty of Health
York University

Scott Ogawa:

Paul, okay here goes (and also look for the pictures in the mail):

I first got to know Paul as a student in his two week Sophomore College seminar 'Randomness, Uncertainty, and Risk.' This was back at the end of the Summer of 1999. Hard to believe it was that long ago now. Paul not only introduced to us (most of which had never taken a proper probability class) the more interesting ideas from probability. He also invited all of us to his beautiful home in San Francisco and took us out for food in Chinatown. While I never had a chance to take another class from Paul, he did become my undergraduate advisor for the next year and a half.

We have stayed in touch since, and even had a chance to have dinner up in the city. We talked about Hawai'i (where I am from and where he visits frequently) and probability puzzles. The one I remember best involved waiting times at a bus stop: Even if busses come every 10 minutes on average, any time you show up the average wait between the last bus and the next bus is 20 minutes. Took me forever to get my head around that one.

As Paul showed in Sophomore College, he loves to teach, so I am having a hard time imagining him away from Stanford. Nevertheless I wish him the best in his retirement and hope he has lots of chances to lie on the beach in Hawai'i.

Ned Glick:

You have had a great career at Stanford. Wherever and however your retirement from Stanford evolves, I hope that you will be happy and fulfilled – and that you will give me some tips.

And thank you for coming to the statistics department at Stanford 45 years ago (really that long?). You mattered a lot to me soon after you arrived there. I think Lincoln Moses pointed me toward you, but you were easy to admire and to enjoy as a teacher (first, in a graduate nonparametrics course) and then a friend. (You gave me a cheesecake recipe, as well as anecdotes from exotic Winnipeg and Harvard.)

I am proud to have been your first Ph.D. student (as I recall). I began not only without a topic, but with no concept of mathematical research. You introduced and coached me into such activity, which then and subsequently throughout my life I found richly satisfying (however infrequently I practiced in recent decades). I have exhilarating memories of the months that included my dissertation work with your supervision, in 1968.

Looking back to your style and patience with me at Stanford, I think that you encouraged dealing with general (rather than narrow) mathematical issues and solutions (while checking how ideas fit simple examples). And you particularly nurtured my appreciations of innovation, flexibility, and serendipity in research. Initially you guided me to problems on estimating success or error probabilities in statistical classification. That research path eventually led me to write perhaps a half-dozen publications, including the first use in print (I believe) of the term “plug-in estimate” (which now is colloquial, like “band-aid”). Post-dissertation papers produced a few interesting counter-examples and one constructive suggestion that (I think) was implemented by SAS software; but also I needed and proved an asymptotic theorem on density estimation – a general result with applications apart from statistical classification.

I left Sequoia Hall at age 25 when you found a job for me at the University of Chicago, while you went with your family for a sabbatical stay in Israel.



Ned Glick 1975 and 2003

Jo Eidsvik:

Attached are two photos: one of me around 2001, one of family (Einar, Ingelin, Solveig, Jo) in 2009.

I was a PhD student when I visited Paul in 2001. Paul taught me much spatial statistics, and, while working on a paper together, I learned a lot from him on how to write a scientific paper. Paul was the greatest host in San Francisco, at their house, out eating dim-sum or the fruit durian.



Kirk Cameron:

First off, congratulations on a career well run. It has been a great pleasure and honor to know you and work under you during my time back at Stanford. Although I have not been able to come back that often, I always tried to stop by your office to see you and catch up... it was also a pleasure to see you more recently at JSM in Salt Lake a few years back.

I also wanted to thank you for your very significant help as my thesis advisor. At that point in time, I can honestly say I was struggling at Stanford. Not so much in my coursework -- though there were clearly many brighter and more capable students than myself -- but in how I was ever going to arrive at a useful and doable dissertation topic. Coming up with a brand new idea seemed very difficult then, and I felt I was running out of time. But taking Andre Journel's geostatistics course lit an intellectual fire for me and gave me some raw material to begin. In addition, you were extremely good at helping me sort through useful ideas and possible avenues for research. Furthermore, you were always very patient with me and level-headed... I very much appreciated your demeanor and approach and your thoughtful insights. Never did I feel belittled, but always found you very easy and helpful to work with.

So again, many congratulations and may your time of retirement not only be enjoyable but productive as well...



Mike Stein:



Peter Bryant:

They're trying to see if the organs were built by the same builder or builders, in different combinations, so I naturally see a cluster analysis waiting to happen. Really messy data – great case study in designing distance measures or whatever. But only 70 organs, so small enough to handle. Seven years gathering the data so far....don't hold your breath.

I got interest in Rissanen's stuff on Minimum Description Length, and it has made me increasingly suspicious of any attempt to use probability as a basis for inference. I suppose that may provide something to think about in retirement. I am in mercifully good health, for which I am grateful. Still, it's time to reduce stress....

All best your you and yours, and congratulations on your retirement!



Joe Sedransk:

It was good to hear from you. I had received your earlier email but didn't immediately think about anything worth conveying. However, with a little greater effort I have thought of several things that may jog your memory. It's a strange collection!

I recall many trips in Massachusetts with you, Samprit Chatterjee and, for one year, with Ann Mitchell. No one of these trips stands out but all brought important relief from studies. I do recall a trip that you and I took to Montreal. First I remember your belief that all northern New England houses were white wood frame structures with dark, largely green, shutters. Second I recall, somewhat vaguely, a raucous party where the main theme was fairly virulent anti-Americanism. While not an American patriot then (and much less so now) it was somewhat uncomfortable, albeit an interesting and memorable experience.

I also recall having (with Samprit?) sent you a congratulatory telegram on your wedding - - but "signed" by Nate Pusey. This was a long time ago. What's a telegram?

Finally, and most trivially, I remember your comment about growing up in Manitoba where kids would strip to t-shirts when the temperature reached 32F. I remember this frequently because of all the years I've lived in cold places such as Madison WI, Albany NY, Ames IA and Iowa City IA -- while you have resided in sunny, warm Palo Alto CA.

Best wishes on your retirement.

David Fairley:

Here are a few of my memories:

I remember going into Paul Switzer's office to ask him to be my thesis advisor. I was relieved when he said yes and even more relieved when he said I didn't have to do a theoretical thesis. He had a couple of datasets that might be appropriate. Since then I've happily followed the applied statistics route after a not-so-happy stint in academia.

Paul got me involved in the SIMS seminars (can't remember what the acronym stands for-- applied math stuff anyway). I had the job of rounding up speakers. Meteorology or air pollution were frequent seminar topics.

One of those speakers was Rob DeMandel of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Through him I wangled an internship there a couple of summers around 1980. Some years later, when I was anxious to return to the Bay Area after teaching at Ohio State, I called Rob to ask his opinion about local environmental consulting firms. "How do you know we had an opening?", he replied. It turned out that the air district statistician had just announced his plans to retire. So, I landed the job and have been there since. Serendipity happens.

I have rosy-tinted memories of my time at Stanford. One of them was driving out with Paul and a couple of other graduate students to Paul's "organic walnut orchard." When we got there, I was surprised (okay, shocked) to see that it was just a bunch of trees that looked like they hadn't been visited for a year, lacking any care, including pesticides. Hence, "organic". We sweated away gathering walnuts while Paul sat in the cab drinking his mint julep (actually, can't quite remember where he was. I think he did pick up a walnut or two.) On the way back, Paul told us about the market for such products. I mainly remember being impressed by the price he was able to get, but not the product. Now, almost all the fruits and vegetables I get are "organic". Paul was way ahead of his time.

Eric Morrill:

It's quite hard to put one's relationship with an old friend into a few sentences or paragraphs. Congratulations on retirement.

It has been a source of great pleasure to spend time with you, Paul, over more than half my life now – beginning with an enlightening high school internship under your kind guidance one summer. Statistically, this was the occasion not only for me to come to terms with my lack of psychic powers, but also to appreciate the need to aerate buildings appropriately. Humanly, it was a tremendous learning experience, and our exchanges meant a good deal to me. Not to mention the fact that that summer, I learned how to run on the Stanford campus, and began, for the first time in my life, to seriously look after my own body (undoubtedly a behavior that was influenced by environmental factors). And, having appreciated your office décor, I have now taken on the permanent habit of purchasing all food items bearing the names of friends and family, in the hopes that they, too, will affix the empty wrappers to their office walls. (I can only suspect that you no longer have that on hand – and have forgotten what sort of cracker or other tasty good a "Switzer" in fact was! Yet I still can call to mind the office itself with surprising clarity for an experience of so long ago.)

Of course, we have had regular occasion to catch up since then – in many guises, including the statistically probable continuation of a Stanford internship in that is to be found in our subsequent exchanges at a cappella concerts, Parisian café breakfasts, or San Francisco "MoveOn" screenings. In particular, I remember fondly one early morning croissant near the Jardins de Luxembourg, perhaps on Rue Madame, when our paths crossed there for a brief few days in what may have been the spring of 2007.

David Seidman:

In 1962 or so, as a Harvard college sophomore, I enrolled in a graduate course in statistics for which I was about as completely unprepared as it was possible to be. I was able to enroll because the prerequisites were vaguely stated; they clarified things the next year, so that it would have taken perhaps five semesters and more mathematical talent than I possessed to satisfy the requirements. As a result of the vagueness, I met Paul.

One day during that semester, Paul telephoned me and introduced himself. He explained that someone was organizing a weekend bus trip to somewhere in Canada (Toronto?), and he wanted to go. But participation was limited to college undergraduates (and perhaps Americans). I was the only undergraduate in any of Paul's courses, and so the only one he in any sense knew, although I doubt we had ever spoken. He asked whether he could borrow my identity for the weekend, so he could join the excursion. I was dubious. I think I eventually agreed, and that Paul, after the trip weekend, told me that for one reason or another he had decided not to take the trip. To this day, I do not know whether to believe there actually was such a bus trip.

If memory serves me correctly (and it probably does not -- 1962 was a long time ago), Paul and I had essentially no further contact until the day of the final exam in the course. Apparently my demeanor made it reasonably clear that I had little idea how to answer the questions. Dim memory suggests that after the exam Paul offered his sympathies, and somehow we found ourselves at a jazz joint in Boston listening to John Lee Hooker. Later that evening, a good deal less than sober, I sat on the floor of a men's bathroom in a graduate dorm while Paul and Gad Horowitz explained to me why I should drop out of school, go north, and work for the New Democratic Party. Appealing as that sounded, I declined. Could they have been serious?

That summer, Paul and I shared a flat in London. I remember one day when we stood in Hyde Park Corner listening to a somewhat right wing nationalist American speak. A Cuban in the audience explained how and why he would kill the American. Intrigued, we started talking to the Cuban. Eventually, the two of us, the Cuban, and the American went to a pub and had a drink. After the American left, the Cuban said that the American really was not such a bad fellow -- but he would still kill him. I doubt he ever did, though.

Ed Korn:

Hope retirement is treating you well.

I remember sitting in your office when we decided you should call the places I had applied for jobs, given that I had heard back from none of them after going on interviews. I asked if I should leave the room, and you said no. You called the first place (famous university, which shall remain unnamed here):

You: "Hello < >, I was call about Ed Korn <etc., etc.>.....Hmmmm..... Uh, uh.....Oh..... You don't say.....Hmmmm.... Well, thank you. <hang up>

Me: "What'd they say???"

You: "You didn't get the job. They said you didn't have a professional attitude."

My web site (which has my current picture) is <http://linus.nci.nih.gov/~brb/ekorn.htm>
You may remember me with slightly more and longer hair.

I have also attached a couple of my fun articles so that you can keep your statistical genes active. The Biometrics article was sent to the Annals first and rejected because it was "too short". I'm not kidding! Must be my non-professional attitude...



Milena Banjevic:

I am in Europe, working and tending to the baby at the same time, getting organized and finding the treasured photo from my mom's camera in Toronto took longer than I would have liked.

Please find attached a photo from my graduation in 2004, and I would like to add :

I was lucky to have Prof. Switzer as my PhD adviser. His knowledge, guidance and kindness made the whole experience more than just an academic endeavor.

After taking the class in Spatial Statistics thought by Paul, I knew I wanted to work with him in that field. He patiently guided me through ups and downs of search for just the right topic, theories and data, always having wonderful insights and suggestions. His kind advice played just as important part in crucial years of my growing up from a somewhat lost and scared student to someone passionate and confident about research and future, which in my experience is an even rarer human quality.

Dear Prof. Switzer I wish you enjoy your retirement, though I am sure this is not an end to a most interesting career and I am looking forward to hear what comes next!



Kevin Coakley:

Here's my contribution. I had one slide that fit into the no-inhibition category but it was 3 years from when you I met for the first time, so I did not include. But if you want to see it, I'll send it later.



John Petkau:

So this is the last day

Happy Retirement!

Best wishes to both you and Gail in this new phase of your lives.

Any big changes planned, or does this just mean the end of teaching/admin duties and thus more time for research-related activity?

Shannon Moffett and Mike Choy

a scrapbook is perfect, because I have two scraps of memory:

1. sitting in the living room of your house. It was nighttime, and because you and Mike were talking about things that I didn't understand at all, I had time to focus on the view, which in my memory is the kind of sweeping, sparkling cityscape you only see in the movies. Something about that view, the conversation--and, I'm sure, the wine--gave me one instant of pure comfort in the unknowability of the world.

2. sitting in the pub or whatever they called that place at Stanford where you could get a beer, sharing a pitcher while I forced you to try to answer questions on the statistical likelihood of finding the "consciousness" neurons by radomly implanting microelectrodes into the visual cortex. Which reminds me to thank you for being game for anything.

oooh, and a third: You were talking about English walnuts, and I said "oh, yeah, my dad used to throw those at me." To which you replied "No, those aren't the throwing kind. It's black walnuts that are the throwing kind." Which made me laugh, and helped me remember a differentiation I've never been able to keep straight.

