

Seminar Notice

Statistical Laboratory
Iowa State University

DATE AND TIME: Monday, January 30, 2006, 4:10 p.m.

PLACE: 1213 Hoover

SPEAKER: H. A. David
Former Head, Department of Statistics
Iowa State University
Ames, IA

TITLE: The Origins of the ISU Statistics Department

ABSTRACT

Statistics at Iowa State University started seriously with the appointment of George Snedecor in 1913. A pivotal event was the series of ten Saturday afternoon lectures in 1924 by Henry A. Wallace, resulting in the well-received bulletin *Correlation and Machine Calculation* by Wallace and Snedecor. With increasing recognition of the importance of statistics to agricultural and biological research workers, a Mathematics Statistical Service was established in 1927 under the direction of Snedecor and A. E. Brandt. Snedecor was one of the first in the U.S. to appreciate the value of Fisher's ideas on the design and analysis of experiments and was able to bring him here for the summer of 1931. The Statistical Laboratory was founded in 1933 with Snedecor as director. In 1937 Snedecor published his famous *Statistical Methods*. A cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1938 made possible a sharp increase in size. In 1939 W. G. Cochran joined the faculty and a Ph.D. program was instituted. The Master Sample of Agriculture was begun in 1943, a major project which further consolidated the Laboratory's standing as a leading statistical center. Snedecor retired from administrative duties in 1947, but all was in place for the immediate formation of the Statistics Department. In addition to those listed above, the following important persons will be mentioned: Gertrude Cox, T. A. Bancroft, Oscar Kempthorne, and H. O. Hartley.

COFFEE: 3:45 p.m., 104 Snedecor Hall

Seminar schedules and abstracts are available via WWW: <http://www.stat.iastate.edu/>