A Word from the Editor

As part of an ongoing effort to make the *Mathematics Exchange* a forum of mathematical ideas among an ever expanding undergraduate student readership we have enlarged the editorial board to include faculty from other colleges and universities that have strong commitment to undergraduate mathematics education. It is hoped this would enable us to bring to the reader a wide range of high quality articles on diverse mathematical topics. The articles in this issue of the *Exchange* are reflections of this change.

Andrea Zentz's article is on the finite Radon transform, a discrete version of the well studied continuous Radon Transform that has found wide applications in medical imagery.

The next two articles pertain to statistical methods. An article of Eugene Tan provides a nice introduction to General Linear Model, a useful statistical tool that is widely employed in the analysis of applied and social research. This is followed by an article by Jiayi Ni which introduces some basic theoretical and modeling methods in survival analysis. Stock survival times for the Shanghai Security Market are analyzed by applying the Cox Proportional Hazards Model.

Three undergraduate students, Mark Burek, Brian McDonough, and Spencer Roach report on a student project they undertook under the direction of Professor Rick Gillman of Valparaiso University. In this article they investigate whether a randomly changing configuration of three different individual types, where each individual prefers neighbors of their own type, leads to isolation or not. Their work extends a similar investigation carried out for two individual types.

Katherine Davis, Alex Hutchison and Audra White share their internship experience at Towers Perrin, Milwakee, Towers Perrin, Ohio, and Western and Southern Finanial Group, Ohio, respectively.

Finally this issue carries a Problem Section. We encourage readers to send their solutions to the editor no later than December 11, 2009.

Following each issue the editor, in consultation with the editorial board, selects an article for an award of a prize. The selection is based on clarity of exposition, appeal of article to a wide undergraduate audience, and/or originality of content. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Wolfram Research for their continued support in providing a Mathematica software prize that we award to the author of the best article of each issue.

Ahmed Mohammed