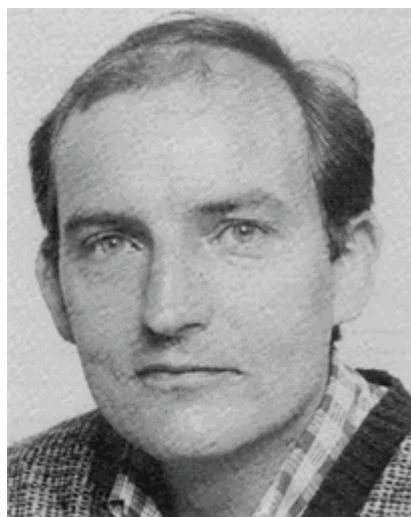


CENTREFOLD

Professor Bryan Manly



Bryan Manly is the personable, quiet, hardworking Professor of Statistics at the University of Otago. Born in London, England on May 27, 1944, he is the author of over one hundred papers and five books. These publications are both fundamental statistical research, and applications to several related disciplines. His professorial appointment was to a personal chair, and yet Bryan graduated without a higher degree!

Bryan came to Otago in 1973 by way of Papua-New Guinea, where he had spent three years. Prior to that he worked for about 18 months with Fisons Ltd., a large fertilizer and chemical company in Britain, and another 18 months at the University of Salford. While at Salford, Bryan visited George Barnard at University College for advice in doing a Ph.D., since there was no possibility of supervision in his own department. Bryan was offered a not particularly inspiring PhD topic, and the advice that it was best to just keep publishing articles. During his time at Fisons, Bryan published his first paper (in the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society) on sequential sampling. His early papers continued on this topic until he met Mike Parr from the Biology Department, who had far more interesting problems on mark-recapture sampling. Before this interest could develop into even an MSc thesis, the urge to travel surfaced, and Bryan moved on to Papua-New Guinea.

In 1973 Bryan accepted an appointment as Senior Lecturer at the University of Otago. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1982, and to a personal chair in 1986. Since the Statistics chair was vacant at that time, he was automatically moved into that position.

Bryan's research interests are, not surprisingly, broad. He lists general applications of statistics, particularly in the life sciences. Special interests include quality control and sequential testing, the construction and analysis of animal life tables, detecting and measuring natural selection, generalized linear models, and the statistics of earth sciences, education, psychology, anthropology and archaeology.

In 1985 Bryan became Acting Director of Otago University's Statistics Unit. He became Director in 1986, and has continued in that capacity since, although the unit became CASM, the Centre for Applications of Mathematics and Statistics, in 1989. Bryan nowadays tries to do less consulting than in the past, especially the more routine problems. However

"...there are people with real problems where the solutions aren't in the text books. That is the sort of consulting which is of great value to statisticians, because it then gives them some real point for doing their statistics."

Given the value of consulting, and the need many have for advice, it will be difficult for Bryan to avoid. But there is more:

"I just enjoy solving problems. I find a great deal of satisfaction working with someone who has some unusual type of data, and developing new methods of analysis."

Bryan's books have been highly successful. "The Statistics of Natural Selection on Animal Populations" is a summary of research on this topic over many years; a paperback version was published in 1987. "Multivariate Statistical Methods—A Primer" is a teaching text, published in hardback and paperback and reprinted in 1988. "Multistage Populations: Sampling, Analysis and Simulation", "Randomization and Monte Carlo Methods in Biology", and "The Design and Analysis of Research Studies" appeared in consecutive years 1990, 1991, and 1992. Currently he is working with colleagues on another book on Resource Selection by Animals. As the author of so many articles and books, one would quite correctly find that writing is a significant activity:

"I enjoy writing, that's one of my pleasures in life. I know some people don't. There is nothing more pleasant to me than to have something to write up. I think it's really nice to sit down in the morning and know that I have got the day in front of me, and I am just going to write something up."

The hosting of ICOTS 3, the third International Conference on Teaching Statistics in Dunedin in August 1990, put the New Zealand statistical community on international display. Praise for the organisation was unanimous. It was Bryan's initiative that brought the conference to Dunedin, and his hard work, organizational skills and energy that contributed to its success. But equally important was the team of willing workers that Bryan's interpersonal skills unified and directed so effectively.

Last year Bryan married Liliana Gonzalez of the Department of Finance and Quantitative Analysis. He is a keen tramper, and the father of three adult daughters, and now a grandfather. In researching this article many of his colleagues mentioned his home brewing; especially the ale and elderberry wine. A fine barbecue constructed in the back yard reflects a volume of entertaining that this most generous of hosts enjoys. There are many demands on his time, but the promotion of statistics will always be paramount:

"I have absolute faith in the future of statistics as a subject. So many people need it and will need more of it in future."

J.C.W. Rayner