

September 13-14, 2017

ITEM 176-2007-R0917

Request for authorization to confer the title of Associate Professor Emeritus of Statistics upon John “Steve” Cherry, Montana State University

THAT

Upon the occasion of the retirement of Associate Professor John “Steve” Cherry from the faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Montana State University, the Board of Regents wishes to express its appreciation for his service to Montana State University and the Montana University System by bestowing the title of Associate Professor Emeritus of Statistics upon Dr. John S. Cherry.

EXPLANATION

John “Steve” Cherry received his B.S. degree in Applied Mathematics from North Carolina State University in 1972, followed by an M.S. degree in Ecology from the University of Tennessee in 1975. He spent 10 years working as a Park Ranger in Utah before returning to graduate school. He earned his MS and PhD in Statistics from Montana State University in 1990 and 1994, respectively.

Dr. Cherry then spent one year working on the Geophysical Statistics Project as a post-doc visitor at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. He returned to Montana where he became an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Montana Tech University. Then, in 1999, he joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at MSU.

Dr. Cherry’s research interests are primarily in applications of statistics in the ecological and environmental sciences. He uses “whatever statistical tools are relevant” to tackle problems and propose solutions. He has collaborated, consulted, and served on numerous graduate committees within Mathematical Sciences as well as for other departments across MSU.

He has chaired three PhD committees in Statistics. His multi-disciplinary collaborations with faculty and graduate students have led to numerous publications in statistical journals as well as ecological and environmental science journals. He is also co-author of five book chapters.

Dr. Cherry has been an important member of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team of the U.S. Geological Survey. The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team is composed of grizzly bear researchers and managers in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and charged with the task of monitoring the grizzly bear population’s statuses and trends, as well as other research needs. Dr. Cherry was a valued colleague and collaborator on the team for more than 20 years. He is author and co-author on numerous peer-reviewed publications and reports produced by the Study Team. His statistical insights and expertise, and especially his pragmatism when working with often difficult ecological problems and limited data, have been critical to the team’s success.

Dr. Cherry has devoted much time and service to MSU. In addition to serving tirelessly on departmental committees, and as the Statistics Group leader, he has also served 3 years on the CLS Promotion and Tenure Committee, and 7 years on the Faculty Senate.

Finally, Dr. Cherry has been instrumental to the instruction of statistics for 18 years at MSU. He has taught at least 16 different statistics courses covering a wide variety of levels and student audience – from introductory to upper-division to graduate level statistics classes.

For these, and other, contributions, the Board of Regents of Higher Education is pleased to confer on Dr. John S. Cherry the rank of Associate Professor Emeritus of Statistics at Montana State University and wishes him well for many years in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

None