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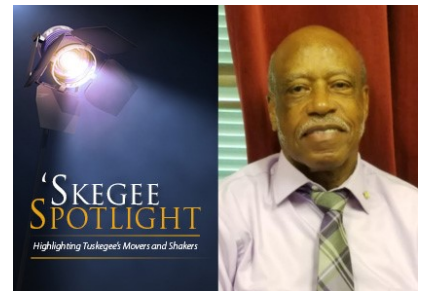
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Leo T. Upchurch

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Biosketch on Dr. Leo T. Upchurch

The Office of Communications, Public Relations and Marketing regularly shines its "Skegee Spotlight" on employees, students and alumni who help make Tuskegee University "the Pride of the swift-growing South."

Dr. Leo T. Upchurch (Master's and Ph.D. University of Michigan) joined the faculty of the College of Business and Information Science in the Fall of 1990 after spending the previous twenty-five-plus years in various capacities as high school science and mathematics teacher(2-yrs.), analytical microbiologist (Dawe's Laboratories, 4-yrs.), biostatistician (Armour-Dial Corporation: 3-yrs.). Following the Armour-Dial years and moving to Ann Arbor, Dr. Upchurch accepted the position, engineering statistician, at General Motors Corporation (GM Proving Ground, Safety Research and Development Laboratory [SRDL] where he worked on issues relating to automotive safety, particularly restraint systems (L/S belts and airbags). He subsequently assumed positions of engineering statistician and Instructor at the Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute [IITRI and IIT], spending 2-years there. During these two years, he did statistical consulting on a small scale. He then moved to Florida, accepting the position, associate professor of statistics and management science, at Florida A&M. In the summer of 1989 Dr. Upchurch was visiting professor in the department of statistics at Pennsylvania State University. Prior to commencing the 25-plus years leading to the Tuskegee years, Dr. Upchurch earned his B.S. Degree in Natural Science at Paul Quinn College, where he was President of Student Council and was selected for Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

During his nearly three decades at Tuskegee, Dr. Upchurch has immersed himself in the life of the University, chairing several important University committees, including, academic affairs, grievance, and academic personnel services. He has served on many other college-level committees. Among several defining moments here at Tuskegee University, two stand-out above the others: the Bioethics Training Program at Georgetown University, (attendance arranged through Tuskegee's own, renowned NCBRHC), and the visit to South Africa and Botswana as a part of a team of HBCU academics whose mission it was to participate in an exchange of ideas and experiences that could (would) be useful in the emergence of the new system of government and social intercourse following the dismantling of apartheid and shortly after Mandela's tenure as President of South Africa.

Dr. Upchurch has been active in the American Statistical Association (more than 3 decades), the American Mathematical Association, and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma (currently local Chapter Officer).

As a testament to his commitment and longevity in the field of statistics, the American Statistical Association included Dr. Upchurch among those honored as longtime members of the ASA (more than 35 years) at its JSM2018 Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

During this period, and continuing to this very day, his efforts to reach students needing to gain statistical competency and literacy in a variety of disciplines (biological sciences, social sciences, including economics, the 'queen of the social sciences', the physical sciences, engineering and architecture, education, and a few other areas), have been tireless. Over the years, Dr. Upchurch has given statistical support to more than a few (at least a dozen) who earned doctoral degrees at top universities.

Just the right fit

Upchurch came to the university to teach statistics, analytics, quantitative methods and some of the usual subjects students tend to dislike. He says his primary goal has always been to help students appreciate the power and usefulness of statistics.

“I’ve taken it all in stride and feel great pride and satisfaction in (and for) contributions I’ve made to the program,” Upchurch said. “Had we not had a program set in place like the College of Business and Information Science, we would not be able to take credit for the countless students that have found their way in life.”

The most rewarding part for Upchurch has been watching young people grow into aspiring, successful professionals in their respective fields of endeavor. “I’ve seen students catch fire and become incredible corporate professionals,” he noted, explaining that it may not be until they begin their careers that they fully appreciate the benefits of classroom concepts. “I’m almost certain that within 10 to 15 years, they’ll come back looking for me and give credit to our program.”

Numbers don’t lie

Upchurch’s interest in statistics really intensified after encountering some facets of early works of R.A. Fisher, a British statistician and geneticist (among others, like Francis Galton and Karl Pearson) whose ideas were used to support views regarding ‘race and intellect’.

“It was the study of scientific racism during a course that made me aware of what I was being taught in the classroom,” he recalled. “And based on statistics, which is a tool that science depends on to help demonstrate the validity, reliability, efficiency and accuracy of what is done in science, I began to see how to put some ideas and concepts about race and intellectual ability in a balanced and reasoned context.” Upchurch says, “Statistical tools and methodology provide powerful aids to refutation, and are unmatched.”

“For me, the world is a collection of random variables, and we learn how to extract insight from what appears to be randomness to other people, and those who learn how to operate amongst these variables will be successful,” said Upchurch.

Upchurch says when students take his course(s), he wants them to remember that statistics is the science of knowing through data, and in today’s world, data is being generated at faster and faster rates. Concurrent with the data thereof, is information that MUST be extracted using the machinery of statistics, arguably the most important course ever to be taken.

“Brimmer College programs prepare students to be successful, and we want them to always keep that in mind. We train them for the future. I explain to them that statisticians take the time to do what others often don’t.”

Education

Ph.D.	1982	Rackham Graduate School, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Field of Specialization: Statistics & Urban, Technological, Environmental Planning (UTEP)
Masters Degree	1974	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Biostatistics
Graduate Study	1968 – 1970	ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IIT) (Evening School) Applied Statistics (Coursework equivalent to a Masters Degree)
Graduate Study	Summer 1965	NORTH TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY (UNIV OF NORTH TEXAS) Analytical Microbiology
B.S.	1964	PAUL QUINN COLLEGE Natural Science

Recent Scholarly Endeavors

- Leo T. Upchurch, and Fan Wu, A Temporal Appraisal of Profitability in the Fortune 500: 1955 - 2016, the 2017 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), Baltimore, MD, July 29 – August 3, 2017.
- Leo T. Upchurch, and Fan Wu, Assessing Profitability of Fortune 500 Firms Using Moving Averages and Linear Models (Linear in the Parameters), the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), Seattle, WA, August 8 – 13, 2015.
- Leo T. Upchurch, and Fan Wu, Characterizing Professors and Courses Based on Student Perceptions, the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), Boston, MA, August 2 – 7, 2014.
- Leo T. Upchurch, On Another Form of Price Asymmetry: Detection at a Popular Restaurant Chain, the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), Vancouver, British Colombia, August 1 – 5, 2010.
- TS Sara, FH Jackson, and LT Upchurch, Role of Innovation in Hi-Tech-Exports of a Nation, International Journal of Business and Management, 7(7), 2012.

Work Experience

1990 – present Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL

	Position: Associate Professor
Summer, 1989	Pennsylvania State University, Department of Statistics Position: Visiting Scholar
Aug 1982 – May 1989	Florida A & M University, School of Business and Industry (SBI), Tallahassee, FL Position: Associate Professor of Statistics and Management Science
Jan 1980 – Aug 1982	Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), Chicago, IL Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute(IITRI), Chicago, IL Position: Senior Statistician and Assistant Professor
Jan 1976 – Jan 1980	General Motors Proving Ground, Milford, MI Position: Engineering Statistician
Summer, 1974	Michigan Dept. of Health, Lansing, MI
Apr 1970 – Aug 1973	Armour-Dial, Inc. Chicago, Illinois (now Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona) Position: Biostatistician Research Testing Laboratories, Inc., Little Neck, NY Served as a consultant on statistical problems
Jun 1966 – Apr 1970	Dawe's Laboratories, Inc. Chicago Heights, IL Position: Analytical Microbiologist/Biostatistician
Aug 1964 – Jun 1966	Milford Independent School District, Milford, TX Position: High School Teacher (Science and Mathematics; doubled as tennis and track coach)

Honors

- Selected for Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, 1963.
- Selected to appear in Outstanding Young Men of America, 1972.
- President of Student Council (Paul Quinn College), 1963 – 1964.
- Outstanding MBA Professor (School of Business & Industry), 1987.
- Faculty of The Year: College of Business, Organization and Management, April, 2000
- Outstanding Faculty Performance Award for Research, 1999 – 2000

Societies and Professional Affiliations

- American Statistical Association
- Biometric Society
- Society of the Sigma Xi
- Mathematical Association of America
- Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society



