

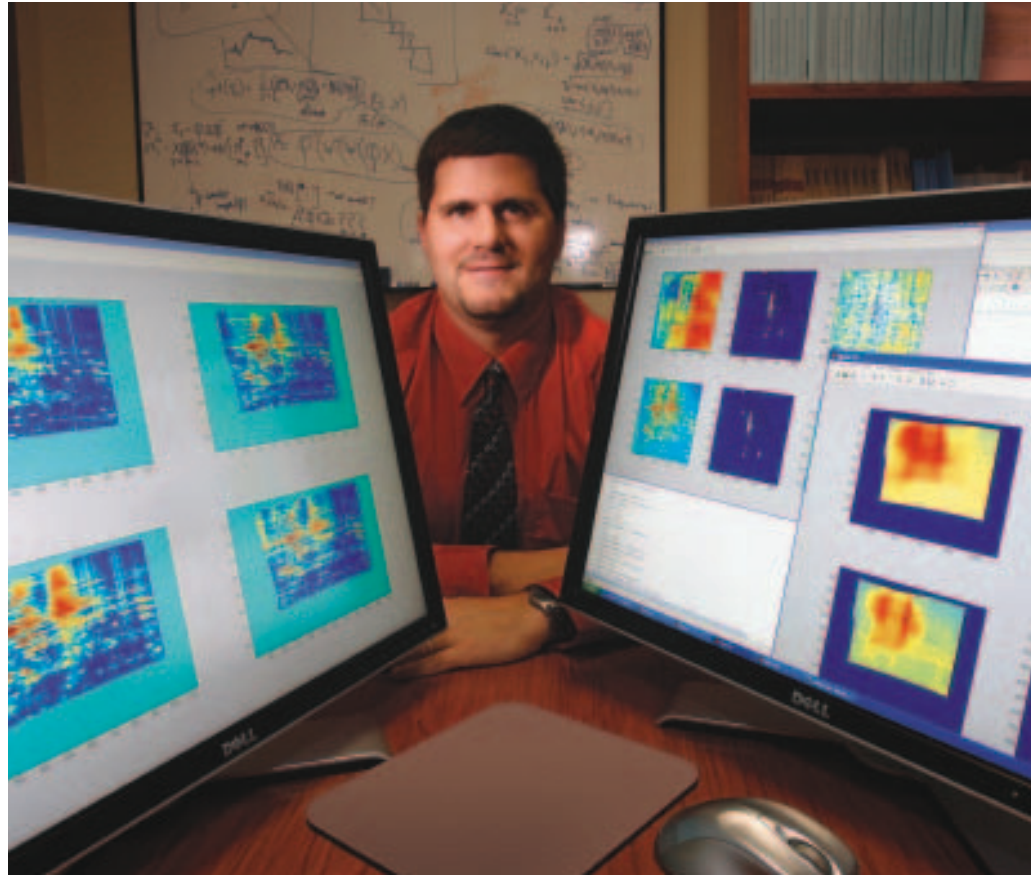
It all began in STAT 269 ...

Among biostatisticians, Jeffrey Morris is a rock star.

BIostatistician MAKES WAVES

by Mary Brolley

Jeffrey Morris graduated from Messiah College with a Mathematics with Teaching Certification Major in 1993. He earned his Ph.D. in Statistics from Texas A & M University in 2000.



JEFFREY MORRIS, PH.D.

His creation of a novel statistical method to capture and interpret biological data has made researchers all over the world take note.

In 2003, Morris, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Applied Mathematics, wrote a scientific paper explaining how a wavelet-based statistical modeling method had yielded biological insights into colon carcinogenesis, the process by which normal cells are transformed into cancer cells.

The paper won his research group two major awards. And soon after its publication, Morris started hearing from researchers in many countries who were eager to adapt his method to their research.

The primary focus of Morris' methodological research involves developing statistical methods for analyzing functional and image data, and for evaluating various types of data encountered in bioinformatics. These new models have helped users of the latest high-throughput technologies — those that can analyze or produce information at a high rate of speed — extract more information from their data.

In addition, he collaborates with researchers at M. D. Anderson on various research projects, most involving gastrointestinal cancers. Besides designing studies and analyzing data,

he tries to help them see other questions that can be addressed by the data they have collected.

Named an M. D. Anderson Faculty Scholar in 2004, Morris also received the Gottfried E. Noether Young Scholar Award from the American Statistical Association in 2005.

And he is still "tweaking and expanding" the methods he has developed — for example, to handle image data — as researchers around the world continue to ask for his help.

"I'm always thinking about ways to make it flexible enough for many applications and accessible to as many users as possible. I want my research to have an impact," he says, then pauses. "I'm confident that it'll have a long-term impact."