IISA

International Indian Statistical Association

Hyderabad, India

IISA Newsletter Autumn 2016

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Message from Amarjot Kaur, President of IISA

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the IISA Fall Newsletter!

As I am writing my final column for the newsletter, I am filled with gratitude to have had the opportunity to serve as the president of the IISA for the past year. It has been my honor to serve our association in various roles. Thank you all for all your support and encouragement. Together we have accomplished several milestones this year.

I am also very optimistic about the future of our organization as Sujit Gosh takes on the responsibilities of the IISA president starting next year. I am convinced of his dedication and energy to move our organization forward. Please join me in offering our support as he moves our objectives forward.

Looking Back

We had a very successful IISA Conference this year on "Statistical and Data Sciences: A Key to Healthy People, Planet and Prosperity" at Oregon State University, Corvallis. The conference attracted over 200 leading statisticians worldwide from across academia, industry and government and featured presentations from internationally acclaimed statisticians, with plenary addresses by Kanti Mardia and Xiao-Li Meng. The conference provided a platform for statisticians to collaborate across diverse areas of interest, foster partnerships across various statistical organizations, and nurture the needs of young statisticians. It also provided several opportunities to mingle during the wine and cheese networking reception, banquet dinner, and award ceremony. Many thanks to Sastry Pantula and Debashis Mondal for their hospitality and leading efforts in hosting this excellent conference at the beautiful campus.

At the Joint Statistical Meetings at Chicago this year, IISA organized several activities including scientific sessions, a mixer, and a general body meeting. The mixer was very well attended where I shared the current and future activities of the organization and looked for the feedback. The ASA President-Elect Barry Nussbaum also paid a visit to the mixer and shared his vision of collaboration across various statistical societies including IISA, the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA), and the Korean International Statistical Society (KISS). He also outlined his presidential initiatives for next year. I am very excited about IISA being a part of the collaboration taskforce designed to understand the needs of Asian statisticians. This collaborative outreach effort is very important and relevant for our organization and we are looking forward to making contribution in this direction.

Amarjot Kaur at the IISA conference in Oregon
(courtesy of Debbie Farris)

The work of our organization is sustained through the voluntary efforts of many of YOU. Many congratulations to H. N. Nagaraja and Subrata Kundu for receiving the well deserved 2016 IISA Service Award for all their dedicated and outstanding services in advancement of the association. Congratulations also to the winners of the Young Researcher and the Student Paper Awards. I encourage you all to actively participate in the award nomination process and help recognize all those who deserve to be recognized for their impact on the organization and the field of statistics.

Moving Forward

Preparations for the 2017 IISA conference in Hyderabad, India are going well. The conference will take place in the last week of December and the Executive Committee will continue to share details as soon as they become available.

Several of the IISA Committees have continued to make concerted efforts and will continue to expand and refine their objectives in the future. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to thank all committee chairs and members for their efforts. We highlighted the work of several committees in the last issue of the newsletter and we will continue to do so in the future.

The membership committee is working to conduct the first membership survey to get feedback from you! We will be sending the survey later this year and we ask that you participate. We as statisticians know better than anyone about the value of high quality data, so please be a part of the change you would like to see.

Thank you again for this unique opportunity to represent IISA.

- Amarjot Kaur (President, IISA)

Congratulations!
We would like to offer our best wishes to Rhiannon Sheaparé, our newsletter designer, on her new baby, Octavia Rose. We wish her and her family a lifetime of happiness.

New IISA Secretary

Soutir Bandyopadhyay will be the new IISA secretary starting in January 2017. He will be taking over for Sowmya Rao. We would like to both thank Rao for her service since 2013 and welcome Bandyopadhyay to the IISA Executive Board. Bandyopadhyay is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Lehigh University. Prior to joining Lehigh, he obtained his PhD in Statistics in 2010 under the supervision of Soumendra N. Lahiri at Texas A&M University. His research interests include spatial and environmental statistics, time series, bioinformatics, resampling methods, and large sample theory. His research is currently supported by the National Science Foundation.
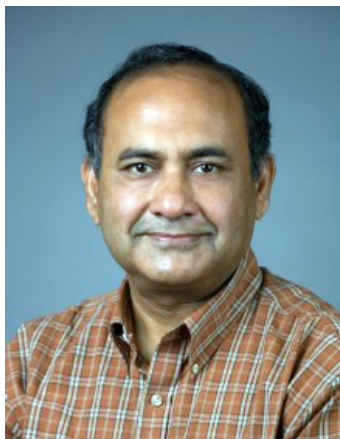
Soutir Bandyopadhyay, new IISA Secretary

2016 IISA Election Results

Our President-Elect is Somnath Datta, University of Florida. He will begin his term beginning January 1st, 2017 and will serve as IISA President from January 1st, 2018 through December 31st, 2018. We also have a new member of the Board of Trustees, Nandini Kannan. Kannan will replace J. Sethuraman on the IISA Board starting January 1st, 2017 for a 3-year term.

Somnath Datta - IISA President-Elect

Somnath Datta received his Ph.D. from the Statistics and Probability Department at Michigan State University in 1988. He joined the Department of Biostatistics at University of Florida as a full professor in September of 2015 as a preeminent hire in Genomic Medicine. He has held faculty appointments at the same rank in the Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics at University of Louisville and in the Department of Statistics at University of Georgia. He is a founding and life member of IISA. He has been an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, and a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Datta has served on the editorial boards of numerous peer-reviewed journals in Statistics and Bioinformatics. He is presently serving as

Somnath Datta, IISA President-Elect

the founding Editor-in-Chief of a Springer book series. Datta has varied research interests in the theory and methods of statistics, biostatistics and bioinformatics, as well as collaborative research in spinal cord injury rehabilitation, dentistry, cancer informatics, plant science and materials science. Over the years, he has published over 135 research papers in these areas. He has received PI level research funding from NIH, CDC, NSF, and NSA. Datta has a solid track record as an educator and a mentor of graduate students.

Please visit *http://biostat.ufl.edu/about/people/faculty/datta-somnath/* and *http://www.somnathdatta.org/uf/* for more information on this candidate.

Nandini Kannan – Member of IISA Board of Trustees

Nandini Kannan is a program director in Statistics within the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS) at the National Science Foundation. Her program responsibilities include Mathematical Sciences Workforce, NSF-NIH initiatives related to biomedical big data, Foundations of Data Science, and the NSF-wide BIGDATA Initiative. She received a Ph.D. in Statistics from The Pennsylvania State University. Prior to joining NSF, Kannan spent 22 years at the University

of Texas at San Antonio in a number of capacities, including chair of the Department of Management Science and Statistics. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and served as the President of IISA in 2012-13.

For more information, please visit: *https://www.nsf.gov/staff/staff_bio.jsp?lan=nakannan&org=DMS&from_org=DMS.*

Report on IISA Conference at Oregon State University

By Debashis Mondal, Oregon State University

The 2016 annual conference of the International Indian Statistical was held at Oregon State University, Corvallis, August 18-21. The theme was, "Statistical and Data Sciences: A Key to Healthy People, Planet and Prosperity." Hosted by OSU's Department of Statistics in the state-of-the art Learning Innovation Center (LInC) on campus, the conference was attended by 200 statisticians worldwide, including participants from Japan, China, the United Kingdom, Nigeria and Egypt. Statisticians hailed from a broad spectrum of academia, industry, government and research institutes.

The Conference kicked off with a lively and convivial wine and cheese reception at the Hilton Garden Inn in Corvallis. On August 18, graduate students from OSU and other universities participated in four short pre-conference courses taught by statisticians from Columbia University (Richard Davis), Northwestern University (Ajit Tamhane), the University of California at Los Angeles and SAS Institute. The courses covered topics on multiple testing procedures, statistical computing with Julia, Bayesian computation using PROC MCMC and modeling time series. National Science Foundation (NSF) funding/grants supported a number of participants (students and young researchers) attending the conference.

The conference featured plenary addresses by Kanti Mardia ("Some Societal High Impact Studies from Statistics on Manifolds"), an award winning statistician from the University of Leeds and Oxford University, and Xiao-Li Meng ("Statistical Paradises and Paradoxes in Big Data"), Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science, statistics professor at Harvard University and winner of the COPPS award.

The four keynote talks were delivered by ASA Vice-President Katherine Ensor from Rice University, Debashis Ghosh from the University of Colorado, Kannan Natarajan, senior VP and global head of biometrics and data management at Novartis Pharmaceuticals, and Ajit Tamhane from Northwestern University.

There was a highly successful session on "Women in Statistics" organized by Ellen Snyder from Merck & Co., Inc. The session featured Amanda L. Goldbeck from University of Arkansas, Lisa Lupinacci from the biostatistics division of Merck and Bhramar Mukherjee from the University of Michigan. A panel on "Career Development Skillsets for a Successful Statistician" featured participants Mousumi Banerjee from the University of Michigan, John Eltinge of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Sastry Pantula, College of Science Dean at Oregon State University, among others.

IISA Conference attendees (courtesy of Debbie Farris)

Debashis Mondal, Ginny Lesser, and Amarjot Kaur at the 2016 IISA conference

There were 2 sessions each sponsored by the International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) and the Korean Institute of Statistical Sciences (KISS) sessions. The conference featured 53 special invited sessions, plus two memorial sessions on Peter Hall and Emanuel Parzen. Iain Johnstone of Stanford University and Soumen Lahiri of North Carolina State University offered reminiscences on Hall and explored his varied invaluable research contributions. The Emanuel Parzen memorial session featured talks by Richard Davis of Columbia University and Deep Mukhopadhyay of Temple University.

In addition to the technical talks, the conference offered sessions on early career development; collaborations across academic, industry and government organizations; and funding opportunities in industry and federal agencies through three panel discussions. Sessions at the conference ranged from statistical innovation and applications in big data, biomedical sciences, network analysis, high dimensional data, genomics, climate sciences, public health and ecology to probability theory and advances in Bayesian techniques, biostatistics and spatial statistics.

There was also a student paper competition featuring presentations by doctoral students from a wide variety of universities, including Courant Institute, NYU, University of California at Davis, North Carolina State University and University of Minnesota. Fritz Scheuren, Senior Fellow and Vice President of NORC at the University of Chicago and former ASA president, chaired

Opening ceremony at the IISA conference in Pune (courtesy of Debbie Farris)

the student paper session. The awards went to Subhabrata Majumdar, University of Minnesota and Minjie Fan, University of California at Davis in the Theory category. Isabelle Beaudry, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, was the winner in the Applications category.

IISA also gave out its Young Researcher Awards. The Theory and Methods award went to Antar Bandyopadhyay, Associate Professor at ISI, Delhi, India. The Applications award went to Saonli Basu, Associate Professor of biostatistics at the University of Minnesota and Swati Biswas, Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas.

IISA 2016 was generously supported by NSF, Merck, TEOCO, Cytel, ASA, GCE Solutions, Elsevier, SAS, Oregon State University's Division of International Programs and Ecampus, ICSA, KISS. Dean Sastry Pantula's office in the College of Science at Oregon State University supported the conference in vital aspects of marketing, outreach, logistics, funding support and sponsorship.

The conference came to an end with a sumptuous and delicious dinner banquet catered by Chennai Masala, one of Portland's best Indian restaurants.

For more information on IISA 2016, please visit: *http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/iisa/*.

IISA Conference attendees (courtesy of Debbie Farris)

Kanti Mardia and Sastry Pantula at the IISA Conference (courtesy of Debbie Farris)

Young Researcher Award Winners

The Young Researchers Awards were presented at the IISA Conference in Oregon. The winners were Saonli Basu and Swati Biswas in the Applications category and Antar Bandyopadhyay in the Theory & Probability category. Please join us in congratulating these candidates on their research accomplishments!

Applications

Saonli Basu, Associate Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Minnesota, is a winner of the Applications Award. She received an MS in Statistics from the Indian Statistical Institute and a PhD in Statistics from the University of Washington. Her methodological research, dissertation advising and teaching activities focus upon statistical modeling of correlated data, computational statistics, nonparametric inference and their application in different areas of statistical genomics. Basu's collaborative work involves addressing statistical issues in pedigree-based or cohort-based genome-wide association studies for a variety of diseases, including type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's, kidney allograft rejection, substance abuse and venous thromboembolism. She is also a member of the University of Minnesota Masonic Cancer Center.

Saonli Basu

Swati Biswas, Associate Professor of Statistics at the University of Texas, Dallas, is a biostatistician and is a winner of the Applications Award. She received her doctoral degree at The Ohio State University and her research interests span statistical genetics, genetic epidemiology, cancer genetics, risk prediction models, and Bayesian clinical trials. She develops novel statistical methodologies for mapping disease genes responsible for complex traits and has applied them to data on cancers, asthma, Alzheimer's disease, and age-related macular degeneration among others. Biswas' research also includes enhancing BRCAPRO, a widely used genetic risk prediction model for breast cancer, and adapting it for primary care settings. Presently, she is involved in developing a risk prediction model for contralateral breast cancer. Several of her research projects have been funded by the National Institutes for Health and other agencies.

Swati Biswas

Theory & Probability

Antar Bandyopadhyay, winner of the Theory & Probability Award, is an Associate Professor in the Theoretical Statistics and Mathematics Division of the Indian Statistical Institute with a joint appointment between two of its centres at New Delhi and Kolkata, India. Bandyopadhyay received his doctoral degree from the University of California, Berkeley and since then he is working on probability and related fields. His main research interests are in theoretical and applied probability mainly focusing on discrete problems arising out of combinatorics, statistical physics and computer science. Furthermore, he has received the MSR Young Faculty Award from Microsoft Research, India and is currently an Associate Editor of the Journal of Statistical Planing and Inference (JSPI).

IISA Service Award Winners

During the IISA conference in Oregon, Service Awards were given to Subrata Kundu and H.N. Nagaraja for their contributions to IISA over the years. Congratulations to both winners!

Subrata Kundu, Associate Professor of Statistics at George Washington University, is a winner of the IISA Service Award. He is a life member of IISA and has been serving as the Treasurer since August 2008. Kundu grew up in India and got his B. STAT and M. STAT from the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta. He completed his PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and joined George Washington University in 2001. His research interests include sequential analysis, software reliability, shape analysis, and joint modeling. He is grateful to IISA for giving him the opportunity to serve the association, but we would like to thank him for his dedicated service.

Subrata Kundu (Courtesy of Debbie Farris)

H.N. Nagaraja, Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics at the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University, is our second IISA Service Award winner. He completed his PhD at Iowa State University and spent his career at Ohio State, first in the Statistics Department, and then in the College of Public Health with a joint appointment in the College of Medicine. Nagaraja's research interests range from order statistics to biostatistics and he continues to work on these topics. He is a Fellow of both the American Statistical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Over the years, Nagaraja has performed many roles for IISA. He was Secretary (1999-2001), maintained the website (1999-2009), and was also President (2011). Among other activities, he has also been heavily involved in organizing IISA conferences (in Cochin in 2007, at North Carolina State University in 2011, and in Chennai in 2013).

H.N. Nagaraja

IISA at JSM
By Moulinath Banerjee,
University of Michigan

ASA President-Elect, Barry Nussbaum, speaking to members at IISA mixer.

IISA sponsored two invited sessions in two different topical areas at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle, 2016, with both sessions featuring high visibility scholars.

One of the sponsored sessions dealt with recent developments in the study of social networks and was organized by Sanjay Chaudhuri from National University of Singapore. Carter Tribley Butts from UC, Irvine spoke on mixtures of random graphs, a notion analogous to that of mixtures of random variables that proves particularly useful in the analysis of social network phenomena. Mark Handcock from UCLA talked about alternative models to the ubiquitous Exponential Family Random Graphs which retain many desirable properties of such graphs while addressing some of their limitations. Sofia Olhede from University College, London, lectured on the construction of efficient nonparametric summaries of networks (in many cases sparse) that can be computed with scalable algorithms.

The other session, organized by Gourab Mukherjee from University of Southern California, featured four speakers. The first speaker, Ya'acov Ritov, then from Hebrew University of Jerusalem (now at University of Michigan), spoke on complex empirical Bayes models for Gaussian data with applications to archaeology. The second talk by Samuel Kou from Harvard University addressed the problem of optimal shrinkage in heteroscedastic hierarchical models with non-Gaussian data where a class of shrinkage estimates that are asymptotically optimal can be constructed by minimizing an unbiased risk statistic. Eitan Greenshtein from Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel talked about a general method of improving common estimates of a Gaussian mean vector using empirical Bayes techniques. The final talk of the session was given by Lawrence Brown from the University of Pennsylvania and concerned empirical Bayes methodology for a modern `big-data' incarnation of the so-called news-vendor problem where the goal is to develop a data-driven policy that minimizes total inventory and lost sales costs.

IISA mixer at JSM

IISA dinner at Chicago Curry House during JSM

IISA dinner at Chicago Curry House during JSM

IISA dinner at Chicago Curry House during JSM

A Very Brief History of the Beginning of IISA: 1991-1994

By Kanti Mardia, University of Leeds

First of all, let me thank the organizers of the IISA 2016 Annual Conference in Corvallis, and in particular Debashis Mondal, for inviting me to give the opening plenary talk. This gave me a great opportunity to look back to the very early history of IISA including its formation. The following slide, which was presented at the conference on 19 August from archival material I have, gave a timeline. After my talk I was asked by various Committee members to prepare an expanded version of this slide for the Newsletter, and this is the result.

This in particular reminded me that I was elected as the first Vice President with the intention of also having an IISA base in the UK.

There is quite a lot of original archive material of five files which accompanies this summary (please visit the IISA website), and I passed these on to the Editor for archiving, while giving some highlights from each below:

Source 1:
Brief history (very likely prepared circa August 1994 by Dr Dwivedi?)

Source 2:
Un-numbered Newsletter, November 18, 1993

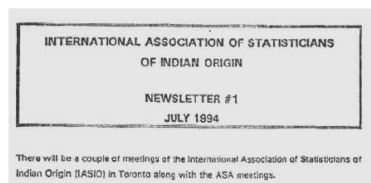*Source 3:*
General letter by Dwivedi

Source 4:
First Newsletter, July 1994

Source 5:
Proposed constitution

A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF IISA: 1991-1994

- **1991–** A Conference in Montreal: Committee formed with the objective of creating an Organization of Indian Statisticians (Chairman: T.D.Dwivedi).

- **1992–1993**: Nominating Committe formed (S.R.Dalal, J.N.K.Rao and M.S.Srivastva) for Office Bearers.

- **August 1993– Proposed Constitution of**
  " INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATISTICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGINS."

- **18 November 1993–** The elected office-bearers: **President: J.N.Srivastva, Vice-President: K.V.Mardia, Secretary: T.D.Dwivedi, Treasurer: Y.S.Chaubey**

- **July 1994–First Newsletter**

> INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATISTICIANS
> OF INDIAN ORIGIN
>
> NEWSLETTER #1
> JULY 1994
>
> There will be a couple of meetings of the International Association of Statisticians of Indian Origin (IASIO) in Toronto along with the ASA meetings.

The first 4 bullet points in the slide are based mainly on Source 1 but a few details are from Source 2. I personally think that Source 1 is very important, so it has been retyped and re-formatted from the original. This in particular emphasizes the constitution and the election process.

Source 1 - (Fax dated 4 August 1994, from J.N. Srivastava) "International Association of Statisticians of Indian Origin"

Brief History

During the past several years, suggestions had been made from time to time by various individuals concerning the need of an Association of Statisticians from the Indian sub-continent. In view of that, during a conference in Montreal in May 1991, Professor Dwivedi called a meeting of Indian Statisticians who were present there. It was unanimously and enthusiastically agreed that steps should be taken to create an organization which would look after the interests of Statisticians of Indian Origin all over the world. A steering committee consisting of seven people was formed with Dwivedi as chairman. This committee contacted many people in North American and elsewhere.

A second meeting of Indian Statisticians was held in Atlanta in August 1991. This meeting was attended by more than fifty people. A good deal of constructive discussion took place. It was suggested that the steering committee be expanded to about 25 people. The current name of the association was agreed upon. Next, a couple of meetings of Indian Statisticians took place in Cairo, Egypt, in September 1991 (along with ISI meetings) to further discuss this matter. Some of the people who took specially active part include:

Asit Basu, Nikhilesh Bhattacharya, J.V. Despande, J.K. Ghosh, Subir Ghosh, Gopa Kanji, Sati Mazumdar, Anis Mitra, Vijay Nair, Prem Narain, J.S. Rao, P.S.S. Rao, J.S. Rustagi, P.K.Sen, J.Sethuraman, J.Singh, Murari Singh, B.K. Sinha, and J.N. Srivastava.

In this meeting the Atlanta resolution was further upheld. It was decided to develop a constitution in consultation with the Indian statistical community, and develop bylaws. This was accomplished during 1992, 93. A nominating committee consisting of S.R. Dalal, J.N.K Rao, and M.S. Srivastava was appointed and suggestions were invited for office bearers. As a result of this, the following people were elected:

President:
J.N. Srivastava, Colorado State University, USA
Vice President:
K.V. Mardia, University of Leeds, England
Secretary:
T.D. Dwivedi, Concordia University, Canada
Treasurer:
Y.S. Chaubey, Concordia University, Montreal

Source 2 - (Un-numbered Newsletter, November 18, 1993)

This document, in particular, gave the addresses of the elected office bearers of the Executive Committee with the following important statement:

"You will recall that we had requested the membership to send their suggestions to the nominating committee. As no nominations for any positions have been received by the nominating committee, the above people are declared duly elected for the suggested respective positions.

The remaining five positions of Directors at Large will be filled by the above executives. The Steering Committee having fulfilled its mandate, is declared to be dissolved."

It is signed by Secretary Y.S. Chaubey and Chairman T.D. Dwivedi of the Steering Committee.

Source 3 – General letter by Dwivedi (November 22, 1993)

This was a letter to Members and Friends of thanks from Dwivedi as Chairman of the Steering Committee, summarizing the work done so far in setting up the International Association of Statisticians of Indian Origin (IASIO), as it was then known, and expressing his hopes for its future, while dissolving the Steering Committee. I would like to point out the following two extracts:

"I am quite confident that, with your support and help, the present executive will be able to develop our association so that it achieves its objectives and the goals and aspirations of its members."

"In the end, I would like to request you all to make a serious effort to make our association a success."

Source 4 - First Newsletter, July 1994

The first newsletter mainly gives details of the meeting of IASIO at the ASA meeting in Toronto. In particular, there was a panel discussion on clinical trials, which as we know is becoming a major part of big data.

Source 5 - Proposed constitution (Fax dated 18 June 1993)

I am not sure how far this Constitution differs from the current one, except that of course the name of the Association has changed.

The Aims and Objectives mentioned in this Constitution are as follows:

"**2.1** The Association shall bring together individuals of Indian origin and other individuals and institutions interested in promoting and advancing the discipline of Statistics throughout the world.

2.3 The Association shall foster the exchange of information and scholarly activity (particularly amongst students and other scholars) between various countries (particularly involving India) as well as among other nations/international organisations pertaining to the development of Statistical Science.

2.3 The Association shall establish national/regional chapters to promote its aims."

Note that these have changed in the current Constitution as follows:

"The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) is a non-profit organization. Its objectives are:

- *to promote education, research and application of statistics and probability throughout the world with a special emphasis on the Indian subcontinent;*

- *to foster the exchange of information and scholarly activities between various countries as well as among other national/international organizations for the development of Statistical Science;*

- *to serve the needs of young statisticians;*

- *to encourage cooperative efforts among members in education, research, industry and business."*

Note that the last two bullet points mark a very important development, and this feature is also reflected in the conferences and in awards.

Also note that in particular the Constitution in Section 5.4 said the following:

"**5.4.** There shall be two kinds of meetings of the members of the Association: (i) general body meeting and (ii) chapter meeting. These meetings may necessarily be held in conjunction with the meetings of other statistical organizations or with various International conferences and Symposia. Meetings held with organizations such as International Statistical Institute, or with conferences and symposia which are explicitly called "International" will be considered as "general body meetings" All other meetings will be considered as "chapter meetings" pertaining to the chapter in whose geographical jurisdiction the meeting is held."

Some Observations

Of course since then IISA has made tremendous strides, due to the continual dedication and vision of various members, and I am sure that, in particular, the late Jayant Srivastava would have been proud of the way it has striven to achieve his dream. I have just covered the beginning years, but maybe we have some similar historical write-up for subsequent years.

One important question is what was the start date of the IISA. As the first committee office bearers were "elected" in November 1993, in my opinion, this was the beginning of IISA. If so, we will have its Silver Anniversary in 2018. Perhaps it is worth pondering on how best to celebrate. Could there be a bigger conference, more awards of recognition, a souvenir issue of some form…? Lots of questions to think about!

Past and Current Presidents of IISA and IMS at 2016 IISA Banquet, Corvallis, Oregon

Member News

Malay Ghosh

Malay Ghosh, Distinguished Professor at the University of Florida, was elected a Fellow of the International Society of Bayesian Analysis in June.

Amanda Golbeck

Amanda Golbeck, Professor in the College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, won the 2016 E.L. Award granted by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies (COPPS) for her achievements in supporting diversity in the statistics community, including in leadership positions.

Prem Narain

Former Dean & Joint Director of the Indian Agriculture Institute in New Delhi, Prem Narain, was profiled by the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he completed his PhD (1969) and DSc. in Statistical Genetics (1984). Please visit *http://www.ed.ac.uk/ alumni/services/profiles/graduation/1960s/prem- narain* for the full article.

Sastry Pantula

College of Science Dean at Oregon State University, Sastry Pantula, won the 2016 Paul Minton Service Award from the Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS). The award recognizes Pantula's lifelong contributions to the statistical community through teaching, research, and service and was presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Chicago.

Sastry Pantula and Michael Kutner at the ASA Presidents breakfast at JSM.

Azizur Rahman

Azizur Rahman, Senior Lecturer in Statistics at Charles Sturt University and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Public Health and Biostatistics at the University of Canberra in Australia, has written a new book with Ann Harding, *Small Area Estimation and Microsimulation Modeling*. The book takes a practical approach discussing issues with small area estimation, gives examples using real data, and provides readers with SAS code they can use for their own research. Please visit *https://www.crcpress.com/Small- Area-Estimation-and-Microsimulation-Modelling/ Rahman-Harding/p/book/9781482260724* for more information.

V. Ramaswami

V. Ramaswami, a researcher who was also a former Chief Scientist at Bellcore in the US, has written a new book, *Innovation by India for India—the Need and the Challenge*. The book addresses key challenges for businesses in India, despite the large number of scientists and engineers, and proposes solutions to motivate a new generation of entrepreneurs. Please visit *http://www.innovationbyindiaforindia.com* for more details.

Poduri S.R.S Rao

Poduri S.R.S Rao, Professor of Statistics at the University of Rochester, has published a new book, *Statistical Methodologies with Medical Applications*. A variety of practical examples are covered from hypertension to air pollution and the benefits of aspirin. Over one hundred exercises with solutions are provided for readers. The book is published by Wiley & Sons and is also available as an e-book.

Call for Nominations for C.R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize for Outstanding Research in Statistics

Nominations for the C.R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize for Outstanding Research in Statistics are being solicited by the Department of Statistics at Pennsylvania State University. The prize is awarded in odd-numbered years and the 2015 recipient was Sir David R. Cox, Honorary Felly of Nuffield College at University of Oxford. Submissions should be sent to Dr. Hunter at depthead@stat.psu.edu; please visit *http://stat.psu. edu/c.-r.-rao-prize-for-outstanding-research-in-statistics* for more information on the nomination requirements.

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

International Workshop on Clinical Data Analytics
December 23, 2016
Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad
http://www.healthanalytics.net/WCDA/
(IISA is one of the sponsors of this conference.)

International Conference on Bioinformatics and Biostatistics for Agriculture, Health and Environment
January 20-23, 2017
University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh
http://dept.ru.ac.bd/stat/bio-conference/

International Coference on Applied Statistics and Econometrics 2017
April 27-28, 2017
Epoka University, Albania
http://icase.epoka.edu.al/2017/

10th International Conference on Multiple Comparisons Procedures
June 20-23, 2017
University of California, Riverside
http://www.mcp-conference.org/hp/2017/

International Conference on Statistics: Teaching, Theory & Applications
June 30-July 1 2017
Nippon Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey
http://www.dakamconferences.org/statistics

CIMPA: Summer School on Multiscale Computational Methods and Error Control
July 10-21, 2017
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India
http://www.iitk.ac.in/math/workshop-and-conference/CIMPA-2017/

New IISA Lifetime Members

Sunil Shirvaiker, *Sunandan Divatia School of Science, India*

M.R. Sindhumol, *University of Madras, India*

Bhupendra Singh, *Chaudhary Charan Singh University, India*

S. Suresh, *University of Madras, India*

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Tenure Track Positions in Statistics and Mathematics
The University of Texas at Dallas

The Department of Mathematical Sciences within the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at The University of Texas at Dallas invites applications for up to four tenure-track faculty positions at the Assistant level in the following general areas:

- Statistics (up to two positions), and
- Mathematics (up to two positions) with a strong preference for less represented or unrepresented areas of Mathematics within the Department.

The University of Texas at Dallas is a rapidly growing University with ambitious plans to advance in education and research. The Department of Mathematical Sciences has active research programs in several areas of Mathematics and Statistics. It has 29 tenured/tenure-track faculty, and offers the following degree programs: BA, BS, MS and PhD in Mathematics; MS and PhD in Statistics; BS and MS in Actuarial Science; MS in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology; and the Graduate Certificate in Data Science.

Candidates should have a PhD in Mathematics, Statistics or a closely related field, and a strong commitment to excellence in research and teaching. To apply, candidates should submit a letter of interest, a current curriculum vita with a complete publication record, a detailed statement of research interests, a statement of teaching philosophy, unofficial graduate transcripts, and at least three reference letters via the online application form available at *http://jobs.utdallas.edu/postings/6837*.

Evaluation of applications will begin on November 15, 2016, and will continue until the positions are filled. For more information, contact Dr. Ali Hooshyar, Chair of the Search Committee, by email at *Ali.Hooshyar@utdallas.edu*.

The University of Texas at Dallas is an Equal Opportunity / Equal Access / Affirmative Action Employer committed to achieving a diverse and inclusive community.

Center for Devices and Radiological Health

!! Exciting Opportunities for Statisticians !!

The Division of Biostatistics invites applications from Statisticians with strong backgrounds in theory and applications. The Division uses a wide variety of clinical trial design and analysis techniques to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of emerging technology, ranging from LASIK and artificial hearts to genetic test kits and robotic surgery. Evaluating such a vast array of devices requires a wide variety of statistical methodologies, and therefore, candidates will easily find areas that are related to their expertise.

We are also seeking *Bayesian* Statisticians with strong backgrounds in theory and applications to help us pioneer the use of Bayesian design and analysis in clinical trials.

Statisticians in our group review and help refine protocols for medical device clinical studies and evaluate completed studies for device safety and effectiveness. We also conduct original statistical research and collaborate in the design, analysis and interpretation of laboratory and epidemiologic studies. In addition, we interact with national, international, public, and private organizations on statistical issues and develop guidance for the medical device industry and clinical investigators.

The Division of Biostatistics is currently looking for candidates with Ph.D.s, or with Masters and experience. In addition to a background in statistics and data analysis, candidates should have an interest in clinical trials and excellent communication skills, both oral and written. Since work is conducted in interdisciplinary groups, the ability to communicate statistical issues to non-statisticians is important. Salary is competitive and includes an excellent benefits package.

U.S. citizens, permanent residents and non-residents are eligible..

If interested contact Dr. Ram Tiwari at FDA, Director, Division of Biostatistics, CDRH, FDA, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD, 20993 (e-mail: ram.tiwari@fda.hhs.gov).
The FDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and has a Smoke-Free environment.

United States Department of
Health & Human Services

Leading America to Better Health, Safety and Well-Being

Chair/Associate Professor or Full Professor at Lamar University

Job Summary

The faculty and staff of the Department of Mathematics at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, are seeking a visionary and dynamic leader to be our Department Chair. Our department, which offers both bachelors and masters degrees, has been growing for the past few years and we plan to build on this success. Additionally, our service teaching mission is growing, including CORE courses for all departments and upper division courses needed for degrees in several other departments. Applicants must have proven records of leadership in academic settings, strong records of research and publications, track records of external funding, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to teach mathematical sciences courses at all levels.

Position Summary

The Chair of the Department of Mathematics at Lamar University reports to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. The position is half-time faculty and half-time administrative, with a full-time 9-month contract and additional one-sixth of the contracted salary for administrative duties during the summer. The initial salary will be commensurate with experience.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Chair of the Department of Mathematics is the face of the department within the college, university, community, and profession. The successful candidate will demonstrate understandings of the focus and challenges involved in higher education, including learning theory, instructional delivery models, curriculum development and evaluation, program development, budget control, and the practices of administration and supervision. He or she will evidence tact, patience, and courtesy in communicating with faculty, staff, and students from multi-cultural backgrounds. Additionally, he or she will understand organization and operations at the university level, and have a working knowledge of how policies, mission statements, and objectives for higher education are established. The successful candidate will be an effective communicator and planner, able to analyze situations to enact effective solutions, and meet time lines.

For more information, please visit
https://jobs.lamar.edu/postings/3909

for assistance, you may contact:
Mary E Wilkinson
Associate Professor and Chair
Lamar University
P.O. Box 10047
Beaumont, TX 77710
409-880-8376
Marye.Wilkinson@lamar.edu

Lamar University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. Lamar University is proud to provide employment preference to veteran applicants in accordance with Texas SB 805, Section 657.003. This position is security-sensitive and thereby subject to the provisions of the Texas Education Code §51.215, which authorizes the employer to obtain criminal history record information.

Thank you for reading!