

NEWSLETTER
Spring 2010



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From the Editor's Desk

by Veera Baladandayuthapani

April 15th 2010

Dear IISA Members:

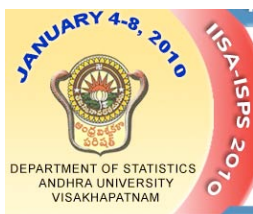
It is my pleasure to present the Spring 2010 issue of the IISA Newsletter. I hope you will find many interesting and useful items as you browse through it. Highlights in this issue include:

- Vizag Conference report
- IISA Award winners
- 2012/2013 IISA conference announcement
- Latest news about our members and much more...

If you have any news to share, please do forward them to me. As always, your feedback is very important and I look forward to your comments and/or suggestions.

Have a great summer and year ahead!

Best regards,
Veera Baladandayuthapani
(veera@mdanderson.org)



Vizag Conference Report

by *K.S. Rao (Chair, Local Organizing Committee), S.Rao Jammalamadaka (Chair, International Organizing Committee), Sastry Pantula, (President, ASA) and R.C. Tiwari, (President, IISA)*

The International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) held its 8th annual joint statistics meetings (January 4-8, 2010) at Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, India. For the first time, the meetings were jointly held with the Indian Society for Probability and Statistics (ISPS) and this International Conference on “Statistics, Probability, Operations Research, Computer Science and Allied Areas” was sponsored by a host of other organizations, including the ASA and the IMS. The meetings were very well attended by statisticians and probabilists from all around the world, and especially attracted many young statisticians. In all 512 delegates including 30 students attended the conference. There were 142 delegates from outside India. There were 6 Plenary sessions, 48 Special Invited Sessions, 39 Invited sessions (contributed paper sessions) and 4 sessions on student paper competitions. The plenary speakers were Professors C.R. Rao, S. R. S. Varadhan, S. Rao Jammalamadaka, Robert Elston, J. L. Narayana, and B.L.S. Prakasa Rao. Professors N. Balakrishnan and C. Umashankar chaired the program committees for IISA and ISPS, respectively, and put together an excellent program (<http://www.iisa-isps2010.org/PROGRAMME.php>) that not only covered theoretical frontiers of statistics and probability, but also excellent sessions that excited the next generation of scientists.

Focus on younger statisticians came across well in various sessions of the conference. Professor J. L. Narayana made a passionate plea for appropriate critical thinking and statistical training for the next decade. These themes were continued in sessions such as “Some emerging issues in clinical trials,” “Accelerating pharmaceutical development,” “Use of Statistics in pharmaceutical industry,” and two sessions organized by ASA, “Statistics in Agriculture” and “Statistics as a profession.” The ASA has its good presence at the conference, represented by Professor Sastry Pantula (ASA President), Professor Wasserstein (ASA Executive Director), and Dr. Bob Rodriguez (ASA past VP).

There were also competitions for Nair Young Statistician Award and M.S. Project presentation award. IISA also presented Young Researchers Awards to Dr. P.G. Sankaran, Cochin University of Science and Technology in “Statistical Theory” Category and to Dr. Ranjan Maitra, IIT Bombay, in “Methods and Applications” Category. The best student paper presentation awards for “Theory” was given to Rejeesh John of Cochin University of Science and Technology, and for “Methods and Application” to Ms. C.L. Usha of Al-Ameer College of Engineering and IT, Vizag.

A general body meeting of IISA was held at the conference site on January 5, 2010, where IISA recognized Professors N. Balakrishnan and Kirti Shah with IISA Service Awards, and Professor J.K. Ghosh with IISA Life-Time Achievement Award. Proposals from several universities for hosting future conferences of IISA jointly with ISPS and ISA (Indian Statistical Association) in India were discussed and the Department of Statistics, University of Pune, is being considered as a possible host for the IISA-ISPS-ISA joint meeting at Pune in December 2012 or January 2013.

In addition, the conference had two excellent cultural programs and also felicitated Professors C.R. Rao, S. Rao Jammalamadaka, J. L. Narayana, Sastry Pantula, P. Rajasekhar Reddy and R. C. Tiwari. Professor

K.S. Rao and his colleagues at Andhra University were wonderful hosts, and the conference went smoothly in spite of some minor unrest in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Participants enjoyed the beautiful sceneries of the beach on one side and Kailasagiri hills on the other. 965 photographs covering all talks and functions were taken by professional photographers and are available at the Conference Website: <http://picasaweb.google.com/ksraoau>

The 9th annual IISA conference will be held April 21-24, 2011 at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. Please contact Professor Ghosh (ghosh@stat.ncsu.edu) with any of your suggestions, and make it also a very successful conference!.

IISA Awards

by Haikady N Nagaraja

These awards were presented at the IISA General Body Meeting during the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings held at Visakhapatnam, India.



IISA Lifetime Achievement Award Winner 2010: Professor Jayanta

Kumar Ghosh

Professor Jayant Kumar Ghosh, Department of Statistics, Purdue University, is an outstanding statistician and a long-term mentor of IISA. He has made a significant impact on the international statistical community through his research in many areas of theoretical and applied statistics including asymptotic theory, sequential methods, Bayesian inference, foundational issues, and environmental statistics. A recent overview of his work is given in *Pushing the Limits of Contemporary Statistics: Contributions in Honor of Jayant K Ghosh*, pp. 1-18, Ed. B. Clarke and S. Ghosal, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, 2008. Professor Ghosh has authored and edited several books. He is a prominent researcher from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata and served as its Director before moving to Purdue U, and currently shares his time between the two institutions. He has served as a catalyst for the growth of IISA in India and served on many IISA committees in leadership positions. IISA is proud to present its Lifetime Achievement Award to Professor J.K. Ghosh for his outstanding contributions as a researcher, an educator, a mentor, and a leader dedicated to the welfare of the Association



Dr. Arijit Chakrabarti, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, receives the Life-Time Achievement Award on behalf of Professor J. K. Ghosh from IISA President Dr. Ram Tiwari.



IISA Service Award Winners 2010:

1. Professor N. Balakrishnan

Professor N. Balakrishnan, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, well-known as 'Bala' all over the globe, is also well-known for his legendary role as a researcher, editor, collaborator, teacher, and mentor for numerous statisticians and other scientists, young and old. Bala's longterm outstanding service and his dedication to IISA and its activities are commendable. Here are some highlights: The first major IISA conference (with 40 sessions and over 220 participants) was held in autumn 1998 on the campus of McMaster University; it was organized by Bala and his colleague Professor Sri Gopal Mohanty (another IISA Service Award Winner). This conference has served as an excellent role model for the organization of our later conferences. Since then, Bala has served IISA in various capacities in formal and in numerous informal ways. He was the Vice-President of IISA during 2001-2003 (under our old constitution), and was its President during 2004-2005 (under our current one). Most recently, he was the Program Chair for the successful IISA Joint Statistical Meetings held at Visakhapatnam in January 2010. IISA thanks Professor N. Balakrishnan for his outstanding support and wishes for his continued support and involvement in its prosperity.



2. Professor Kirti R. Shah

Professor Kirti R. Shah, another Canadian, has helped IISA from its formative years in various capacities. He is a Professor Emeritus at the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Waterloo. He has generously provided service to IISA in several roles since its inception and during its infancy. His generosity extends to several other charitable and educational missions. He was the IISA President during 2001-2003 and has served on many committees including on the Board of Trustees and nominating committees. Professor Shah is prominent for his outstanding contributions in numerous areas of experimental designs including the theory of optimum designs. He is well-known for his philanthropic work in Canada and India. IISA thanks Professor Shah for his outstanding support and wishes for his continued support and involvement in its prosperity.

Best Student Paper Presentations

The session number H-4, set for the IISA student paper presentation, had 9 participants. A judging committee consisting of Professors J.L. Narayana, Bo Ranney, and S.R. Jammalamadaka (Chair) judged the contest and declared the 2 winners one in "Theory and Methodology" and the other in "Methodology and Application" categories. The winners are:

1) Theory and Methodology: **Mr. Rejeesh C. John**

Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology

2) Methodology and Application: **Ms. C.L. Usha**

Department of Statistics, Sri Venkateswara University

Awards: Each winner will get a certificate along with a \$100 cash award (with Rs. 1500 deducted for the life-time membership fee, making them life member of IISA- India Chapter). These names of the winners were also announced at the Valedictory function of the conference.

IISA Young Investigator Awards

By M. B. Rao

The awards committee consisted of the following scientists. M B Rao (Chair) – University of Cincinnati, Mani Lakshminarayanan – Pfizer, Ravi Khatteree – Oakland University, Arup Bose – ISI, Calcutta, Jayant Deshpande – University of Pune, Rajeshwari Sridhara – FDA



Two awards are to be made, one in 'Theory' and the other in 'Methods and Applications.' Nominations have been submitted to the Chair within the stipulated deadline. Information about the nominees has been circulated among the members of the committee via internet. Each member is requested to score each nominee on a scale from 1 to 10 with respect to research and 1 to 5 with respect to service. If there is a conflict of interest between a committee member and a nominee, the committee member has been requested to refrain scoring the nominee. Communication among the members about scores and final choices has been effected via internet. The choices were finalized a week before the IISA meeting at Visakhapatnam (January 4 – 8, 2010). The committee as a whole was unable to meet in person at Visakhapatnam to iron out any differences about the choices. Only three members of the committee were present at the Visakhapatnam meeting.

Winner of the 'Theory' award

Dr. P G Sankaran, Cochin University

Dr. Sankaran obtained M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Cochin University. His main area of specialization is Survival Analysis, especially multivariate lifetime data. Currently, he is a reader at Cochin University. He has published over 50 papers in refereed journals. He has guided 5 Ph.D. students. He was a visiting scientist at ISI, Calcutta and New Delhi, University of Waterloo, and University of Dalhousie. As for service, he played a pivotal role in organizing IISA conference in Cochin, 2007. He organized a workshop on Statistical Genetics in December, 2009 roping in Professors Verghese George, Robert Elston, and Saurabh Ghosh.



Winner of the 'Methods and Applications' award

Dr. Ranjan Maitra, Iowa State University

Dr. Maitra obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, and bachelors and masters degrees from ISI, Calcutta. Prior to joining Iowa State University, he was with Bell Communications Research and University of Maryland at Baltimore County. His principal area of research is analysis of massive data sets. Currently, he is an associate professor. He has won a number of awards. The notable ones are the following. He was the recipient of National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award in 2003. In 1998, he was awarded the American Statistical Association (ASA) Best Contributed Paper in Statistical Computing. The theme of the paper was clustering of massive data sets and judged to be the best out of over 80 entries submitted in this category. In 1996, ASA gave Student Paper Competition award and was one of four selected for presentation at the Joint Statistical Meetings held at Chicago. He has published over 30 papers in peer-reviewed journals.



At the general-body meeting held at Visakhapatnam, a question was raised by the chair about the protocol to be followed informing the awardees about the awards reasonably well-in-advance of the IISA conference. Dr. H. Nagaraja of OSU said that he followed the ASA etiquette about the awards. The awardees have to be informed well-in-advance. If this is to be followed, finalization of awards has to be made well-in-advance.

Concratulations to all winners!

Treasurer's Report

New Members – USA Chapter

Dr. Khandaker Abul Mansur	Census Bureau
Dr. Robert Rodriguez	SAS Ins.
Dr. Suresh Kadaru	Syngenta Seeds Inc.
Dr. David R. Bristol	Stat Con. Services
Dr. Moulinath Banerjee	U. Michigan
Dr. Rajeshwari Sundaram	NICHHD
Mr. Shubhabrata Mukherjee	UW- Seattle

New Members – India Chapter

Dr. Sampath Kumar Kanthala	Telengana U.
Dr. Sridevi G.	VITAM college
Mr M P Rajan	IIT Guwahati
Mr. Rejeesh C. John	Cochin Univ
Ms. C.L. Usha	Sri Venkateswara University
Dr. Jitendra Kumar	Allahabad
Dr. Prem Narain	IASRI, PUSA
Shri Ravendra Singh	ICAR, Ghaziabad
Ms. Chhaya Sonar	Dr. BAM Univ.
Mr. Hareesh G. Kurup	ISSA (DRDO)
Dr. N. Balakrishna	Cochin Univ
Mrs. Dulumoni Das	MBB College, Tripura
Dr. Vijay Kumar Gahlawat	Sharada University

New Website and Facebook presence

We are glad to announce that very soon we are going to have a redesigned webpage. Our address is <http://www.IntlIndStat.org>. The new webpage will have a (moderated) discussion board (forum) to share ideas and suggestions. An e-mail will be sent after the new webpage becomes available. We also created a facebook group for IISA. Currently it is open to all and contents are visible to all. All members are invited to join the IISA group on Facebook @ <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=115798731770279>

Credit Card options

We opened a new bank account and a merchant services account with the PNC bank. As a result we now have the ability to accept credit card payments (in US dollars only). This information will be added soon to the website. Stay tuned. Current balances are as under in Wachovia Bank. vMain Checking - 6817.85; Operating A/C - 470.00; Money Market A/C- 42,773.65; AIMSCS - 23,433.91 and PNC Bank – 500.00

IISA – India Chapter – Financial Statement

The collection of Membership of IISA INDIA CHAPTER started at the IISA Cochin Conference held at Cochin (India) in January, 2007. The balance is definitely more than Rs. 1,00,000/- (The statement of exact balance could not be taken from the Bank). Since then the total number of members of IISA India Chapter enrolled in all categories has been 108 and the current membership, as on today, is as given below: Life members - 67, 3-year - 6, 2-year – 1, Total- 74



Vizag Conference - Financial Report

An interim report/statement showing the receipts and expenditures was submitted to the IISA executive committee by Prof K S Rao. Total expected revenues is INR 2446000.00 (subject to realization) and total expenditure was INR 2383746.00. An estimated surplus of Rs. 62254.00 will be distributed equally among the IISA, ISPS and Department of Statistics, AU.

Congratulations Prof K S Rao for organizing a successful conference!

IISA Indian Chapter News

New President: Dr. M. B. Rajarshi

M B Rajarshi received his Ph.D. in Statistics from University of Pune (1978). His areas of interests are inference for stochastic processes, applied probability and stochastic modeling. He has published about 35 papers, some of which have appeared in Annals of Statistics, Journal of the American Statistical Association, Annals of the Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Naval Logistic Quarterly, Statistics and Probability Letters, Communications in Statistics, Ecology and Theoretical Population Biology.

He taught at the University of Pune until 2009 when he retired as a Professor of Statistics. He has held visiting appointments at Penn State University, University of Waterloo and Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada). He was elected as Member of the International Statistical Institute (1998). He was the Chief Editor of the Journal of the Indian Statistical Association (2000-2006). At present, he is the Vice-President of the Indian Statistical Association.

New Treasurer: Dr. N. Balakrishna

With immense pleasure I join the IISA working team as the treasurer of its Indian Chapter. I am greatly honored with this appointment and will try my best to discharge my duties. I take this opportunity to thank the President and the Executive Committee of IISA for providing me with an opportunity to work with them. I will continue the good work initiated by my predecessor Prof. Kanwar Sen, in association with Prof. M. B. Rajarshi, the president of IISA Indian Chapter to strengthen its activities in India. One of my objectives as the treasurer is to launch membership campaign in India to enroll a good number of life members of IISA. I think that the IISA should continue its collaboration with the leading Academic Societies in India



such as ISPS, ICAR, IAQPR, ISA, etc. to promote Statistics research and its applications. We need to organize workshops to create awareness of the advantages of University – Industry interactions with respect to our subject. I welcome suggestions and advise from the President and the Executive Committee of IISA to promote its activities in India.

Biosketch: Dr. N. Balakrishna, joined as a lecturer in the Department of Statistics, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) in April 1992, after completing his Ph.D. from the University of Poona and an M.Sc from Mangalore University. He was promoted as Reader in November 2000 and appointed as Professor of Statistics in November 2006. Presently Dr. Balakrishna is the Head of the Department of Statistics, CUSAT since March 2008. His research areas include Time series analysis and Inference for stochastic processes. He won the Commonwealth Post-Doctoral Fellowship in 1999 and worked as an Honorary Research Fellow for one year at the University of Birmingham, UK. He was also selected for the UKIERI (UK India Education and Research Initiative) Fellowship in 2007, which helped him to do post-doctoral research at the University of Warwick, U.K. during May- July, 2007. He also worked as a post-doctoral fellow at Technical University, Dresden, Germany from January 2003 to April 2004. He has worked as a visiting professor at University of Waterloo, Canada during the summer in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2006 and 2009. Dr. Balakrishna is an Elected member of the International Statistical Institute since 2006 and an Associate Editor of the Communications in Statistics since 2009. He has participated in several national and international conferences in India as well as in England, Canada, Germany, France and South Africa.

Welcome on board!



Statistical Methodology

Special Issue on Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences

Honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences at the University of Washington, founded in 1999 to galvanize research and teaching on the interface between statistics and the social sciences, we are happy to announce the 1st Statistical Methodology Special Issue on Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences. The Special Issue is Guest edited by Adrian E. Raftery and Michael Ward and features articles on multivariate categorical data, continuous outcomes, missing data, and social networks, by, among others, Stephen Fienberg, Robert Franzese, Jr., Andrew Gelman, Adam Glynn, Claire Gormley, Bryan Jones, Brendan Murphy, Adrian Raftery, Donald Rubin, Tamas Rudas and Jon Wakefield. For more information please visit www.elsevier.com/locate/stamet or contact: G. Jogesh Babu <babu@stat.psu.edu> or Adrian Raftery raftery@u.washington.edu



IISA Executive Committee Approves 2012/13 IISA Conference proposal by Department of Statistics, University of Pune

The IISA Executive Committee has approved the proposal from the Department of Statistics, University of Pune to organize IISA-ISPS-ISA Joint Statistical Meeting in December 2012 or in January 2013 at Pune. This conference will be a Joint Statistical Meeting of IISA, ISPS and ISA. The details of the conference is being developed, but it is very likely that the conference will be a 4-day event starting the registration and inaugural function on a Tuesday evening, Plenary and Technical sessions of the conference on Wednesday, Thursday Friday and Saturday. The conference dates will be finalized by

December 2011. The number of conference participants including accompanying guests and local participants is expected to be around 300. The proposed venue of the conference is: YASHODA HOTEL/UNIVERSITY OF PUNE

(*: Participants need to directly arrange and pay for their accommodation. However, assistance will be provided by local organizers. No Travelling or Daily Allowance will be paid to the participants.)

A committee consisting of representatives of IISA, ISPS, IISA (Indian Chapter) and the Department of Statistics, University of Pune will be formed. This committee will finalize the list of invited and plenary speakers and will scrutinize the contributory talks. The final list of all speakers is expected to be finalized by September 2012.

IISA Member News

Dr. P.K. Sen wins Samuel Wilks Award



Professor Pranab K. Sen is chosen as the 2010 winner of the Samuel S. Wilks Award of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The Samuel S. Wilks Award, one of the ASA's most prestigious, was established in 1964 to honor the memory and distinguished career of Samuel S. Wilks. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to statistics that carry on in the spirit of his work.

The committee consisted of Tapan Nayak, Aparna Huzurbazar, N.D. Shah, Grace Yang, Sally Morton, Daniel Zelterman (Chair), Edward Melnick, Paul Biemer, Max Morris, Pamela Craven, Robert Mee and Ram Tiwari. He will be getting the award at JSM 2010.

For more information goto:

<http://stat-or.unc.edu/news/pranab-k.-sen-wins-the-samuel-s.-wilks-award>

In addition an article on Dr. Sen appeared in a leading Kolkata newspaper:

http://telegraphindia.com/1100411/jsp/frontpage/story_12327470.jsp

Congrats Dr. Sen!

Dr. C.R. Rao gets India Science Award



Dr. C. R. Rao was awarded the India Science Award, the most valued prize in the country. It's only the second time this prize was awarded. The Government of India attaches high prestige to the India Science Prize and is given by either the President of India or the Prime Minister.

The India Science Award is envisaged to be the highest and most prestigious national recognition for outstanding contribution to Science. It will be given for a 'big' achievement and the benchmark will be "global". It will cover all areas of research in science including engineering, medicine and agriculture. The award amount will be Rs.25 lakhs.

In addition see a nice news article the latest issue of AMSTAT news on Sankhya: A meuseum of statistics

<http://magazine.amstat.org/2010/04/indiamuseum/>

Congrats Dr. Rao!

Obituary: Dr. Motilal Tiku

By Dr. Mohanty



Professor Moti Lal Tiku, Professor Emeritus in Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McMaster passed away on Thursday, March 25, 2010 in Ankara, Turkey where he was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Middle East Technical University.

Born in a village close to Srinagar, India in 1936, Professor Tiku received his B.Sc degree from Jammu and Kashmir University in 1955. Subsequently, he received M.A. in Mathematics from Panjab University, India in 1957 and M.Sc in Statistics from Patna University, India in 1960. After spending a year as a research fellow to collaborate with J. Roy at the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta India, he joined Aberdeen University, Scotland in 1962. His highest degrees Ph.D and D.Sc were awarded by Aberdeen University, Scotland in 1964 and 1984 respectively. The titles of his theses are, "Orthogonal polynomial representation of sampling distributions" for Ph.D and "Statistical inference problems" for D.Sc. He was awarded D.Sc. in recognition of "original contributions in the areas of Distribution Theory, Robust Inference, Goodness-of-Fit and Outlier Detection". He became a Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1987.

Professor Tiku migrated to Canada in 1968 to join University of Guelph as an Associate Professor, after being a Lecturer for four years at the Reading University, England. He moved to McMaster University in 1969 as an Associate Professor. In 1974 he became a Professor and in 1998 a Professor Emeritus. During these years at McMaster, he was the Director and Professor of Statistics Division at National Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, India, Visiting Professor at University of Waterloo, Canada, University of Poona, India, I.I.T. Delhi, India, I.I.T., Bombay, India, National University of Singapore, Singapore, University of Transkei, South Africa and Adjunct Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada. Since 1999, he was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. Professor Tiku has an extensive publication record which includes several books.

2010 Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS) Conference

by Dr. Subhashis Ghosal, Program chair



The 2010 Summer Research Conference (SRC) of the Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS) will take place in Virginia Beach, VA, during 6--9 June and will be hosted by the Old Dominion University. This conference is sponsored by ASA and NISS among others. The SRCOS is one of the largest statistical organizations in the United States, promoting statistical research in the southeast region spanning over sixteen member states. The purpose of SRCOS SRC is to encourage the interchange and mutual understanding of research ideas between young and established researchers, and to give direction to further research in a unique style. The SRC is held at a leisurely pace in a beautiful surrounding where participants, from graduate students to leading researchers, engage in friendly interactions. Conference program encourages ample discussion period for clarification, amplification, or argument, in large or small groups following formal presentations. Diversity of participants is a key idea in SRCOS meetings. Participation from women and minorities from various geographical areas is welcome. The program itself spans over the spectrum of statistics from theory, methodology and applications.

This year, seven distinct topics of contemporary interest will be covered. A leading researcher will give a keynote address on each topic, to be followed by talks by two promising young researchers. Andrew Lawson will give the keynote address on *Spatial Epidemiology* along with talks by Brian Reich and Simone Gray. They will respectively talk about cluster detection, particulate matter exposure on premature birth, and measurement error. Jeffrey Morris will give the keynote address on *Functional Data Analysis*, to be followed by talks by Ana-Maria Staicu and Ciprian Crainiceanu. They will respectively address the issues of robustness, multilevel regression and longitudinal analysis in functional data. The topic of *Multivariate and Cluster Analysis* will be discussed in a keynote seminar by N. Rao Chaganty, followed by talks by Dipankar Bandyopadhyay and Nicoleta Sebran. They will respectively talk about copula models, spatial factor model and clustering of curves. The flourishing topic of *Machine Learning* is addressed by the keynote speaker Xiaotong Shen and then by Yuefeng Liu and Adrian Barbu, who will respectively talk about grouping pursuit techniques, composite least square classifiers and supervised aggregation of classifiers. *Statistical Shape Analysis* will be considered in the keynote address of Victor Patrangenaru followed by talks by Sebastian Kurtek, Abhishek Bhattacharya and Leif Ellingson. They will respectively discuss inference on Lie groups, analysis of shapes of curves and surfaces, nonparametric Bayesian methods and protein structures. Steve Marron will give a keynote address on *High Dimensional Data Analysis* followed by talks by Junyeong Park and Yichao Wu. Their topics include object oriented data analysis, Stein's method and ultrahigh dimensional feature selection. The final topic, *Design of Clinical Trials*, will be addressed in the keynote address of Feifang Hu and then in talks by Ming Tan and Joseph Warfield. They will respectively talk about response adaptive randomized clinical trials, early stage trial design and effect of link function misclassification.

The SRCOS conference is open to all, irrespective of geographical location. I warmly invite everyone, especially new researchers and graduate students, to participate in the conference and make it a great success. For more information, please visit sci.odu.edu/math/srcos2010



2011 IISA Annual Conference at NC State Announcement

Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University (NCSU, <http://www.ncsu.edu>) is planning to host the "2011 IISA Annual Conference" from April 21-24, 2011 at Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. The objective of the conference is to bring together both well established and emerging young researchers from around the world who are actively pursuing theoretical/methodological research in statistics and their applications in various fields.

The Department of Statistics at NCSU (<http://www.stat.ncsu.edu>) is among the nation's oldest and most prestigious, housed in the Sas Hall, a new state-of-the-art building on main campus. The faculty are well-known for excellence in research and teaching and the statistics graduate program is the largest in the country. As one of the three "corners" of the Research Triangle, Raleigh's (<http://www.visitraleigh.com>) academic research network begins with North Carolina State University and is enhanced by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University in Durham. All of these North Carolina Universities are within a 30-minute commute of each other and are only 10-15 minutes from Research Triangle Park, one of the nation's largest and most prestigious planned research centers. More information can be obtained at <http://www.visitnc.com>

The conference aims to provide a forum for leading experts and young researchers to discuss recent progress in statistical theory and applications, thereby provide new directions for statistical inference in various fields. The conference will include plenary, invited and topic contributed sessions. Further details regarding the conference will be made available as soon as the conference website is created. The

organizers of the symposium are Sujit Ghosh and Subhashis Ghoshal, both from the NC State University. For more information, please contact:

Dr. Sujit Ghosh, Professor
Department of Statistics NC State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-8203, USA
Email: ghosh@stat.ncsu.edu

IMS Asia Pacific RIM Meetings 2011

The second IMS Asia Pacific Rim Meetings will take place in OMIYA Sonic City conference hall (<http://www.sonic-city.or.jp/modules/english/>), Tokyo, Japan during the period July 3 (Sunday) - July 6 (Wednesday), 2011. This meeting series provides an excellent forum for scientific communications and collaborations for the researchers in Asia and Pacific Rim. It also promotes communications and collaborations between the researchers in this area and those from other parts of the world. The program covers a wide range of topics in statistics and probability, presenting recent developments and the state of the art in a variety of modern research topics and in applications. For more information, you may contact the program chairs: Byeong U. Park (bupark@stats.snu.ac.kr) and Runze Li (rli@stat.psu.edu). The website of this conference is under construction.

Message from Hira Koul

Dear Colleagues,



Indian Statistical Association (ISA) is a registered body, under Societies Registration Act, XXI, 1860 of the Government of India. The association primarily promotes and facilitates the development of statistics in theoretical and applied fields by way of organizing various programs. It often organizes conferences on topics of current and broad research interests. Recently, the association organized an international conference on “Recent Developments in Probability and Statistics” at Pune University. The Association has been publishing *Journal of Indian Statistical Association (JISA)* on a regular basis since 1960.

I am writing this letter to personally request you to become a life member of the **ISA** and take part in the association’s activities.

The life members of ISA will receive all the issues of *JISA*, including the special issues for free. The membership application form and the other details can be found at the association web site <http://stats.unipune.ernet.in/ISA.html>.

Mostly local researchers have been contributing to the journal. Currently, the association is in the process of making the journal more visible amongst the academic community, by way of publishing articles from researchers within and outside the country. As an initiative towards expanding the authorship of the journal, I request you to submit one of your recent research papers to *JISA* for publication. Your generous support in terms of spreading a word about **ISA** and *JISA* among your colleagues and friends in the department will be greatly appreciated.

With best wishes and regards

Prof. Hira L. Koul

President, Indian Statistical Association

**THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THEORY AND APPLICATIONS OF STATISTICS
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
December 26-28, 2010
Senate Building, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh**

***Organized by the Dhaka University Statistics Department Alumni Association
(DUSDA)***

THEME: *New Challenges to Statistical Theory and Applications*

Objectives: The Department of Statistics at the University of Dhaka, one of the oldest Departments of Statistics in the world, was founded 60 years ago by the late National Professor Qazi Motahar Husain who is one of the most outstanding personalities in the history of Bangladesh. The department continues to produce statisticians who are teaching at universities or working in industries and research institutions both at home and in many countries of the world. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the department, this is the first attempt to bring statisticians together from all over the world to explore and discuss the new developments of statistical theory and applications in teaching, research, and the use of statistics in government and non-government policy making with special focus to developing countries like Bangladesh. With these in mind, we want to invite reputed statisticians from home and abroad to participate in this conference. This conference will focus on the cutting edge topics related to the recent developments in the broad field of statistics.

Invited and contributed papers will discuss such topics as Probability Theory, Survival Analysis, Longitudinal Data Analysis, Resampling Methods, Stochastic Models, Record Statistics, Official Statistics, Categorical Data Analysis, Statistics Used in Pharmaceutical Industries, Statistical Modeling, Nonparametric Methods, Semiparametric Models, Clinical Trials, Multivariate Methods, Topics in Inference, Econometrics, Random Effect Models, Sampling Techniques, Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Bayesian Methods, Statistics in Agriculture, Industrial Statistics, Model Selection Techniques, Official Statistics, Statistical Genetics, Bioinformatics, Distribution Theory, Reliability Theory, Health Surveys, Design of Experiments, Operations Research, Quality Control, Bayes Inference, Time Series Analysis, Data Mining, Neural Network and Statistical Modeling, and others.

The conference will include keynote speeches, plenary sessions, invited paper sessions, and contributed paper sessions. In addition, there will be workshops on some special topics of current research interest. The conference will be held at the University of Dhaka. The conference will be held for three days and there will be three parallel sessions for invited and contributed papers.

Conference Website: <http://www.dusdaa.org/conference2010>

Contact: Professor M Ataharul Islam, Convener, mataharul@yahoo.com (Bangladesh)
Professor Mir Masoom Ali, Chair, International Committee, mali@bsu.edu (USA)

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