Statistical Events

The 6th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Georgia State University (GSU)

The 6th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics was held on the Georgia State University campus on May 4-6, 2018, with great success. The goal of this workshop was to stimulate research and to foster the interaction of researchers in Biostatistics and Bioinformatics research areas. The workshop provided the opportunity for faculty and graduate students to meet the top researchers, identify important directions for future research, facilitate research collaboration.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Hongyu Zhao, the Ira V. Hiscock Professor of Biostatistics and Professor of Statistics and Genetics at Yale University and the recipient of the Mortimer Spiegelman Award. Moreover, there were additional 15 invited talks by distinguished researchers. The workshop was sponsored by the National Science Foundation, Georgia Chapter of the American Statistical Association, Lifetime Data Analysis (LIDA) Interest Group of the American Statistical Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, International Chinese Statistical Association, Chapman & Hall/CRC Press, International Press of Boston, the Neuroscience Institute, the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience, and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the GSU.
Kennesaw State University - R Day

R Day 2018, November 16 had about 250 people registered with about 100 external guests. Nearly 50 students presented their posters. KSU R Day introduces the students to analytics practitioners, allows them to begin building their professional network, and gives them a look at real-world careers available to them in statistics and analytics. This event provides organizations with a platform to meet students at all levels who are considering careers in statistics and advanced analytics. Students have the opportunity to discuss collaborative projects with local businesses and R users. Website: http://ccpe.kennesaw.edu/rday/
In 2018, the Analytics and Data Science Institute launched the “Women in Data Science” initiative at Kennesaw State University (KSU). The objective of this initiative is to engage and support undergraduate and graduate females (and brave males) in navigating the path to becoming an analytics professional. The initiative at KSU is part of a larger global Women in Data Science Conference that started out of Stanford (widsconference.org).

“We are working to promote women in computational disciplines at KSU at the undergraduate, masters and Ph.D. levels. We regularly host events which bring together analytical leaders from the Atlanta business community and local universities to network with women interested in pursuing a career in analytics and data science. We hope to see you on campus!”
The first annual Biostatistics, Epidemiology, & Research Design (BERD) Research Forum held at Morehouse School of Medicine was sponsored by Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance’s (Georgia CTSA) BERD program, and organized by BERD Director John Hanfelt with planning committee members Nancy Murray and Amita Manatunga. The Research Forum focused on pragmatic clinical trials with the theme “Advances and Challenges in Pragmatic Clinical Trials”. The BERD Research Forum brought researchers together from Emory University, University of Georgia, Morehouse School of Medicine, regional colleges and small businesses. The goal of this Research Forum was to facilitate new collaborations on the methodology or application of pragmatic trials.

Georgia Tech

The 2018 Spring ASA Travel course, An introduction to the analysis of incomplete data, was held during 8:30am-5:00pm on Saturday, March 24, 2018 in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) of Georgia Tech. The instructor was Professor Ofer Harel, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut.
Georgia Tech partners with Atlanta colleges on Data Science education - Sep 11, 2018,
See the link below for more details:


In October 2018, TRIAD, the Transdisciplinary Research Institute for Advancing Data Science at Georgia Tech, hosted a Workshop on the Theoretical Foundation of Deep Learning for over 100 participants from both academia and industry.

Poster Session at the TRIAD workshop
https://www.isye.gatech.edu/news/triad-hosts-deep-learning-workshop
http://ideas.gatech.edu/triad-hosts-deep-learning-workshop

The conference “Recent Trends in Discrete and Continuous Probability,” co-organized by Professors Michael Damron and Christian Houdré, took place June 18, 2018-June 21, 2018 at Georgia Tech, see the link
http://pwp.gatech.edu/rtip/
The Georgia Statistics Day 2018 – University of Georgia

The Georgia Statistics Day is an annual event, designed to promote interdisciplinary statistics research among the three flagship academic institutions in the State of Georgia. The venue of the conference rotates among UGA, GT and Emory on a three-year cycle. In 2015, the inaugural Georgia Statistics Day was held at UGA. The 2016 and 2017 Georgia Statistics Days were held at Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University, respectively. In Fall 2018, it was UGA’s turn to host it again. Professor David Dunson from the prestigious Duke University delivered the keynote lecture. Apart from the keynote lecture, faculty from the several institutions presented their research. There were 36 students posters, among which Chen Feng, Zizi Li and Shixiang Zhu got the best three poster awards. The industry session was very well attended. There were 173 registered participants, and a handful of unregistered ones. Of those 164, 114 were students. UGA received generous funding from the UGA Office of Research, UGA Graduate School, UGA Franklin College, State Farm, Lexis-Nexis, Wells Fargo, and Dr. Allawati Enhancement Fund.
NOGGINS Workshop – University of Georgia

The functional magnetic resonance imaging data analysis group at the University of Georgia (UGA) mainly consists of faculty and graduate students from the Departments of Statistics and Psychology. The group meets each week to discuss general problems in neuroimaging data analysis. The diversity, talent, and eagerness in this group have brought forth solutions that are creative and innovative. The group has hosted the NOGGINS (Network of Greater Georgia Institutions for Neuroimaging and Statistics) workshop every other year since 2008, and NISS has co-sponsored the event since 2010. The workshop provides a forum for scientific communication and collaboration between researchers in the area of neuroscience and neuroimaging. Its sixth NOGGINS workshop was held on April 13 in 2018 at the UGA Special Collections Library. There were 8 speakers and around 30 faculty members and graduate students from UGA and Emory University participated in the workshop. This time, the keynote speaker was Dr. Timothy Johnson from the University of Michigan. The group would like to invite everyone who is interested in neuroscience research to the future workshops.
Bradley Event - University of Georgia

In order to recognize the professional accomplishments of late Professor Ralph Bradley, Department of Statistics of UGA has been organizing an annual “Bradley Lecture” since 1993. The first Bradley Lecture held in 1993 featured Professors C. R. Rao and Ralph Bradley as speakers. Since then, each year internationally renowned statisticians have been invited to give the Bradley Lecture. The 2018 Bradley Lecture was given by Professor Larry Wasserman from Carnegie Mellon University, on April 20, 2018. He spoke on “Local Minimax Testing” and gave an after dinner talk on “Should Statistics Be More Like Computer Science?” Afterwards, guests enjoyed an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. Next day there was the Bradley Picnic at Sandy Creek Nature Center.

UGA-Clemson Joint seminar - - University of Georgia

A colloquium series, jointly hosted by the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia and the Mathematical Sciences Department of Clemson University, was established in 1973. Dr. Daniel Apley, Professor of Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL gave the 70th joint UGA/Clemson colloquium lecture on March 29, 2018. His presentation topic was, “Understanding the Effects of Predictor Variables in Black Box Supervised Learning Models”. Students from both UGA and Clemson participated in a poster presentation during this event.
Georgia Chapter of the ASA Fall Meeting 2018

Emory University Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics (BIOS) hosted the 2018 fall meeting of the Georgia Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA). Over 40 participants attended the BIOS hosted meeting. The keynote speaker was Michael Kosorok, Chair of the Department of Biostatistics at UNC. Michael Kutner received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Jose Binongo received the Chapter Distinguished Service Award. Tianwei Yu was elected as Vice-President of the Georgia Chapter of the ASA.

Updates on New GA Chapter Website!

The Georgia ASA Chapter is happy to announce the launch of its new website (www.amstatgeorgia.org). Launched in January 2018, it was developed by Riad Elmor, currently serving as Information Technology Officer, and put together by the other chapter officers. News, history, events, photos, and more will be posted on the above link and on our social media handles below. Give us a like or retweet!

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AmStatGeorgia/
Contest for GA ASA Logo
The Georgia ASA Chapter will be launching a contest for a new logo. The contest will be open to undergraduate and graduate students of statistics, biostatistics, and mathematics throughout Georgia with a cash prize for the winning design. Stay tuned for details!

Faculty Achievements and Research Highlights

Prof. Limin Peng (Emory University) won the prestigious American Public Health Association’s Mortimer Spiegelman Award for outstanding Biostatistician under the age of 40.

Prof. Ying Guo (Emory University) was named an ASA Fellow at the 2018 JSM meeting in Vancouver.

Prof. Lance Waller (Emory University) was elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Lance Waller and Christina Mehta will lead a Bioinformatics Resource Core for the newly funded NIH U54
Prof. Michael Kutner (Emory University) received ASA’s prestigious Mentoring Award.

Prof. Roshan Joseph Vengazhiyil from Georgia Tech’s Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) has been named editor-elect of Technometrics beginning in Jan. 2019. He will then serve as editor-in-chief from Jan. 2020-Dec. 2022.

https://twitter.com/GeorgiaTechISyE/status/9974901634725504

Prof. Jianjun “Jan” Shi, Carolyn J. Stewart Chair in Georgia Tech’s Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE), has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering’s (NAE) Class of 2018. Election to the NAE is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.


Prof. Xiaoming Huo (Georgia Tech’s H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) has been appointed as the A. Russell Chandler III Professor.

https://www.isye.gatech.edu/news/xiaoming-huo-appointed-russell-chandler-professor
Prof. Arkadi Nemirovski, John Hunter Chair and Professor at Georgia Tech’s H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE), is a recipient of the 2019 Norbert Wiener Prize. The societies cited Nemirovski’s “fundamental contributions to high-dimensional optimization and his discovery of key phenomena in the theory of signal estimation and recovery.”

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has selected Georgia Tech Prof. Branislav Vidakovic, who holds a joint appointment in the Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) and the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME), as a Program director in the Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS).

Three data science projects in the National Science Foundation’s Transdisciplinary Research in Principles of Data Science (TRIPODS) program have been awarded to Georgia Tech investigators. The awards were designed to expand the scope of the TRIPODS cross-disciplinary institutes established last year, including Georgia Tech’s Transdisciplinary Research Institute for Advancing Data Science (TRIAD).
Dr. Yichuan Zhao (Georgia State University) co-edited a book "New Frontiers of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics" jointly with D.G. Chen, published by Springer in December 2018.  


Augusta University

The Division of Biostatistics and Data Science in the Department of Population Health Sciences in the Medical College of Georgia and the Department of Mathematics in the College of Science and Mathematics at Augusta University established an accelerated BS/MS degree in mathematics/biostatistics. Students will receive a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Master of Science in Biostatistics within five years. The program is accepting students now and will officially kick off in the fall 2019 semester.

The Division of Biostatistics and Data Science in the Department of Population Health Sciences in the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University is organizing a workshop entitled “Emerging Data Science Methods for Complex Biomedical and Cyber Data” on March 29-30, 2019. The workshop is financially supported by the Augusta University Office of SVP for Research and the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), and co-sponsored by ASA Georgia Chapter, CWS, IMS, ISI, JCW-Math and SRCOS. For more details, please see the attached flyer and please visit https://www.augusta.edu/mcg/dphs/workshop.

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

Data Science Major
Starting this Fall, UGA’s Departments of Statistics and Computer Science in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences will offer a new Bachelor of Science degree in Data Science. There is an interesting article about this on the Red and Black (UGA's independent weekly student newspaper).

See also https://stat.franklin.uga.edu/data-science-major

**Big Data Analytics Lab – University of Georgia**

The Big Data Analytics Lab (BDAL) at the University of Georgia (UGA) focuses on the statistical methodology and theory development to face the striking new phenomena emerged under the big data regime. Over the past few years, Dr. Ping Ma and Dr. Wenxuan Zhong and have established diverse extramurally funded research programs funded by NSF and NIH, with total amount over 3 million dollars, to overcome the computational and theoretical challenges arise from the big data analysis. Under the direction of Drs. Ma and Zhong, we have developed many cutting-edge statistical researches and successfully applied the statistical methods in modern genomic, epigenetic, metagenomics, text-mining, chemical sensing and brain imaging researches. Our students have won many prestigious research awards, such as 2019/2018 GA statistics day student poster award, 2018 ICSA student paper award at New Brunswick, New Jersey, the 2019 ASA best student paper award in nonparametric section and Statistical Computing and Graphics Section at Denver Colorado. Our previous group member Xiaoxiao Sun and Yiwen Liu are now Assistant Professor and Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona, and Xin Xing is now Postdoc fellow at Harvard University.
Outreach Activities

Education is a key component of the BDAL, and other than graduate and undergraduate training, we have put a significant focus on high school classroom integration. We have always taken it as one of our priorities to participate in outreach programs targeting students from under-represented groups. For example, our lab members served as a volunteer speaker in a lecture series for encouraging high school students, especially women and minority students, to STEM careers hosted by Lambert High School in Forsyth County, Georgia and the Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology in Lawrenceville, Georgia. The lecture series is excellent and well-recognized quarterly annual scientific events that bring together researchers in the higher education community and local high school students, and the events were greatly welcomed by the high school students and teachers.
Students Achievements

At the 6th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, GSU, the GA Chapter of the ASA hosted the Student Poster Competition at the workshop. Many graduate students participate in the poster session by presenting the cutting-edge research. Committee members were Yichuan Zhao (Chair, Georgia State University) and Tianwei Yu (Emory University). Winners of the ASA GA Chapter Best Student Poster Awards: Kangni Alemdjrodo, Georgia State University; Chen Feng, Georgia Institute of Technology; Yikai Wang, Emory University; Xue Yu, Georgia State University.

KSU R-Day Student Poster competition

The first prize student poster winners. From left to right: Dr. Sherry Ni (ASA Georgia Chapter representative) and, Lauren Groover (undergraduate poster), Jonathan Boardman & Bryan Yockey (graduate poster).
2018 GA Statistics Day - Student Poster Competition Winners

There were 36 student posters, among which Chen Feng, Zizi Li and Shixiang Zhu got the best three poster awards.

Yikai Wang (Emory University) received 2018 Miichael Kutner Distinguished Doctoral Student Award. He also received the 2018 ENAR Distinguished Student Paper competition and ASA Statistics in Imaging Section Student Paper Competition.

Jeong Hoon Jang (Emory University), received the 2018 Livingston Fellow Award
Dr. Justin Strait earned his PhD in Statistics from Ohio State in 2018; prior to that, he received a dual BS in Mathematics and Atmospheric Science from the University of Utah in 2013. His areas of focus include statistical shape analysis and functional data analysis. His hobbies include running, snow skiing, and playing tennis; Georgia is the eighth state he has lived in (and first in the south).

Dr. Yuan Ke earned his PhD in Mathematics from University of York in United Kingdom in 2015; prior to that, he received MS in Statistics from London School of Economics and Political Science and BS in Physics from Beijing Normal University. Before he joined UGA, he is a visiting assistant professor in Penn State University and a postdoc research associate in Princeton University. His research interests include statistical machine learning, robust statistical methods, non/semi-parametric modelling and financial econometrics. His hobbies include jogging, hiking and cooking.
Dr. Qian Xiao earned his MS (2014) and PhD (2017) in Statistics from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Before this, he received a BA in Economics from the Central University of Finance and Economics in China. He researches on experimental design and analysis as well as stochastic modeling. He enjoys the company of his wife Yang and newborn daughter Kaitlyn.
**Upcoming Events**

**Foundation of Data Science Summer School:** The NSF TRIPODS Institute at the Georgia Institute of Technology will sponsor the Foundation of Data Science Summer School 2019 during August 5-August 8, 2019. The application deadline is Friday, May 24, 2019, see [http://pwp.gatech.edu/fds-summer-school/](http://pwp.gatech.edu/fds-summer-school/)