

International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) Newsletter, Spring 2008

Dear Members,

Greetings! I hope this finds you all in the best of health and spirits. It is my pleasure to present a brief issue of the IISA Newsletter focusing mainly on items concerning the upcoming conference at the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

The success of this newsletter depends on contributions (of news/tidbits/ideas) from you, for sharing with all IISA members. We had to skip the last issue (Fall '07) due to lack of items, which we hope not to repeat. Please send your contributions to me (kaushik.ghosh@unlv.edu) or to Nandini Kannan (nandini.kannan@utsa.edu). As always, your feedback is very important and I look forward to your comments and/or suggestions.

With best wishes,

Kaushik Ghosh
Newsletter Editor, IISA

kaushik.ghosh@unlv.edu

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1 From the President



I welcome all members of the International Indian Statistical Association (IISA) in this new issue of IISA Newsletter. IISA is thriving, and is thriving very well. On behalf of the executive committee, I offer my sincerest thanks to all members of the IISA who have contributed so much to the well-being and nourishment of our association.

There are a few exciting news which I would like to share with you all:

1. The next IISA international conference entitled “Frontiers of Probability and Statistical Science” will be hosted by the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut during May 22–25, 2008. The program committee has put together a wonderful program covering diverse areas of statistics and probability. Other than the plenary and specially named lectures, there will be several invited sessions. Each session will consist of three invited talks, each of 30 minutes duration. You can include yourself as a speaker even if you are an organizer as long as you are not speaking in another session. But the **absolute deadline is MARCH 30, 2008** after which NO new proposal, title or abstract can be accommodated. Please visit the conference website at <http://merlot.stat.uconn.edu/~nitis/IISA2008/index.htm> for further details. I thank Nitis Mukhopadhyay for the countless hours that he has spent in preparing this beautiful website.
2. The local committee chaired by Nitis Mukhopadhyay and comprising of Nitis, Dipak K. Dey and Nalini Ravishanker has been performing a tremendous job for the past several months. I thank them in advance for their tireless efforts. I also thank all members of the program committee for their continuing efforts in arranging sessions on topics of both current and historical importance.
3. For the first time in the history of our association, the American Statistical Association (ASA) has volunteered to contribute some money to our conference. I thank Dr. Ronald Wasserstein, Executive Director of the ASA for taking the initiative in this regard. I also thank Dr. Sastry Pantula, one of our very active members for setting up this link between IISA and ASA.

4. Ronald Wasserstein has come up with another wonderful suggestion. He has encouraged IISA to apply to become a partner at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) starting in 2009. This needs approval of the majority of the five sponsoring societies (ASA, IMS, ENAR, WNAR and SSC), of which ASA has to be one. Subir Ghosh and I are working on a draft of the letter to be submitted to the ASA for this purpose. If we get the approval, this will possibly amount to getting two guaranteed invited sessions at each JSM. Isn't this an exciting opportunity for IISA? In the past, we have always competed (and so far with 100% success) for one invited non-guaranteed slot. Our visibility will only enhance if we can put together more invited sessions at the JSM with many excellent speakers.
5. Finally, I urge all IISA members (who are also ASA members) to vote in the ASA election. ASA is, by far, the largest professional society in statistics, and we all should exercise our franchise in electing officials of this very important society.

Hope to see many of you in Storrs, Connecticut. With best wishes.

Malay

2 IISA Conference

The Department of Statistics of the University of Connecticut-Storrs will host the IISA conference 2008. Two plenary lectures will be presented by Jayaram Sethuraman and Marvin Zelen. Also arranged are six specially named presentations honoring R. R. Bahadur, D. Basu, V. S. Huzurbazar, P. R. Krishnaiah, S. K. Mitra, and P. V. Sukhatme. The six special lectures will be presented by Barry C. Arnold, Krishna B. Athreya, Evarist Giné, Glen Meeden, Sanat Sarkar, and Lee-Jen Wei. The rest of the technical program will be made up of only invited paper sessions covering most of the areas of probability and statistical science including student-paper presentations and competitions. Plans are underway to organize a number of interesting panel discussions on topics including teaching, editors forum, and young researchers needs. Invitations are extended to all colleagues to participate. For more information, visit <http://merlot.stat.uconn.edu/~nitis/IISA2008/index.htm> or contact Nitis Mukhopadhyay, Chair of the local organizing committee at nitis.mukhopadhyay@uconn.edu.

We hope you will be able to attend and make the conference a resounding success. Please note that the **deadline for registration and abstract submission is March 30, 2008**. Here are a few related announcements that you may find interesting.

2.1 Young Researcher Award

IISA is seeking nominations for the two Young Researcher Awards for 2008. The awards will honor one outstanding researcher in theory and one in applications. The recipients will have date of birth on January 1, 1963, or later, and will have significant contribution in high quality research (theory, methodology or applications), and education. In order to be eligible for the award, the candidates must be a member of IISA.

Nominations should contain (a) a cover letter explaining the significance of the research contributions of the candidate, and specifying the area to be considered (theory or applications) (b) the latest CV, and (c) three letters of support. They should be sent to Professor H.N. Nagaraja **by March 31, 2008** (hnn@stat.osu.edu). Electronic submissions are strongly recommended. The awards will be presented at the May 22–25 meeting of IISA at University of Connecticut, Storrs, USA.

From the Young Researcher Award Committee:

Sastry Pantula, pantula@stat.ncsu.edu
Gauri Datta, gauri@stat.uga.edu
Subhasis Ghoshal, ghoshal@stat.ncsu.edu
H.N. Nagaraja, Chair, hnn@stat.osu.edu

2.2 Student Paper Competition

IISA will host a student paper competition in the forthcoming conference at University of Connecticut.

Two awards will be given, one in the Theory & Methods category and the other in the Applications category. All papers of substantial statistical content are welcome. Papers should be written in English with twelve point font and at least 1.5 interline spacing. The length of the paper should not exceed fifteen pages excluding tables and figures. The primary author of an entry paper must be a graduate student at the time of the meeting. An entry should be accompanied by a cover letter and an endorsement by the applicant's major professor. Submission should be made by E-mail as PDF files to Professor Bani K. Mallick **by March 31, 2008**. The applicant needs to attend the conference for an oral presentation of his/her paper.

From the Student Paper Competition Committee:

Sudipto Banerjee, sudiptob@biostat.umn.edu
Nandini Kannan, nandini.kannan@utsa.edu
Bhramar Mukherjee, bhramar@umich.edu
Bani K. Mallick, Chair, bmallick@stat.tamu.edu

3 Other News

3.1 ASA Presidential Election



Sastry G. Pantula has been nominated as one of the candidates for the position of President-Elect of the American Statistical Association. The official statements of all the candidates can be found at:

http://www4.stat.ncsu.edu/~pantula/index_files/ASA_President_elect_statements.pdf

ASA has sent out an electronic ballot to its members and all members are encouraged to participate in the election.

3.2 C. R. Rao Institute



C. R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science has organized during the year 2007-08 six international conferences of interdisciplinary nature involving statistics, mathematics and computer science in collaboration with universities in India.

The institute is receiving a grant from the Indian Government for employing faculty members in mathematics, statistics and computer science. Anyone interested in getting a faculty position or spending sabbatical leave at the institute is requested to contact C. R. Rao (crr1@psu.edu) for details.

The institute is also planning to conduct a workshop and international conference on DATA MINING during Dec 16–23, 2008 at Hyderabad. Please send your suggestions to C. R. Rao about the topics for discussion at the conference.

Reduced Subscription Rate of *Statistical Methodology*



Statistical Methodology aims to publish articles of high quality reflecting the varied facets of contemporary statistical theory as well as of significant applications. In addition to helping to stimulate research, the journal intends to bring about interactions among statisticians and scientists in other disciplines broadly interested in statistical methodology. The journal gives special consideration to established as well as emerging applied areas and covers more traditional areas such as

- statistical inference
- multivariate analysis
- design of experiments
- sampling theory
- regression analysis
- re-sampling methods
- time series
- nonparametric statistics

Emphasis is on importance, interest, and originality — formal novelty and correctness alone are not sufficient to warrant a publication.

Statistical Methodology contains original research papers, review articles, discussion papers as well as short communications on teacher's corner and consultant's forum. It also includes papers on the development of novel methodology with potential applications, and papers on novel applications supported by statistical methodology. The journal especially encourages the submission of authoritative reviews of innovative statistical applications and noteworthy overview presentations from interdisciplinary conferences. All submitted manuscripts will undergo normal review process and the publication decision will be adjudged by quality, novelty, suitability and interest.

As a member of the International Indian Statistical Association, you are eligible to receive online access as well as the hardcopy of Volume 4 (4 issues) of the IISA official journal, *Statistical Methodology*, at a reduced rate of \$75.

In addition, you have the opportunity to support the IISA/Elsevier Sponsor-an-Indian-Library-Scheme. For a small fee you can sponsor free institutional access in print and electronic to an Indian library of your choice.

Further information on the reduced subscription rate and the sponsorship can be found on the order form from the website
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/statmet>.

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (2008-2009)

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Work phone #: _____

Home phone #: _____

Fax #: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

IISA Membership fees:

- **For Nonresident Indians**

Regular Membership:	{	\$25 US for 1 year,
		\$40 US for 2 years or
		\$50 US for 3 years
Life membership:		\$300 US
Student Membership:		\$5 US per year

Please make your check in US funds payable to: *International Indian Statistical Association*.

Return the completed form with the appropriate dues to:

Prof. N. R. Chaganty
Treasurer, IISA
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Old Dominion University
Norfolk, VA 23529
Email: rchagant@odu.edu

- **For Resident Indians (revised)**

Annual membership:	Rs. 100
2-year membership:	Rs. 150
3-year membership:	Rs. 200
Life Membership (Regular):	Rs. 1500
Life Membership (Retired):	Rs. 500

Membership benefits:

- 10% discount on IISA Conference fees
- Co-Sponsorship of Workshops (through IISA Resource persons from India and abroad, announcement in IISA newsletter and possible nominal financial support).

The membership fees may be paid by Demand Draft to *Prof. Kanwar Sen* at the following address:

Prof. Kanwar Sen
115 Vaishali, Pitampura
New Delhi 110088