

# StatisticsNews 2010

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## DEPARTMENT NOTES



Pictured at the 2009 JSM Reception (from left to right) are Jin-Hong Park, Abhyuday Mandal, Desele Habtzghi, Gauri Datta, Ross Iaci, Qin Wang, and XiangRong Yin.

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

FRANKLIN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## DEPARTMENTAL NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

**John Stufken**

**Professor and Head**

I hope that you will enjoy the information in this latest edition of *StatisticsNews*. The accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students during the past year make me proud to be part of this department. At a time when the financial picture remains challenging and uncertain, it is astonishing how much progress we have made as the result of the hard work of so many dedicated individuals.

Professors Gauri Datta and T.N. Sriram were honored as elected Fellows of the IMS and ASA, respectively,

during the 2009 Joint Statistical Meetings in Washington, D.C. This high level of professional recognition is well deserved based on their exceptional accomplishments in research and professional service.

Further evidence of our research prowess is that 14 of our faculty received support as Principal Investigator or co-Principal Investigator on federal research grants or contracts during the past year.

Our junior faculty had a wonderful opportunity to present their research to an international audience at the Symposium on New Directions in Asymptotic Statistics that was held at the Georgia Center here at UGA in May of 2009. Professors Basawa and Sriram are to be congratulated with organizing an extremely successful symposium.

Professor Basawa retired this spring, and based on his tenure in the department for 24 years, many of you will have had an opportunity to interact with him. Please join me in thanking him for his many contributions to the department and in wishing him well in retirement. I know that research will continue to play an important role in his life!

The department also houses some truly inspiring teachers. The only way to make progress, in statistics or any other discipline, is for the next generation of professionals to build on the knowledge of the current one. Dedication to teaching and training is a key towards accomplishing this, and many of our faculty are dedicated and talented teachers and mentors. Several have won teaching and advising awards in the past, and Professor Nicole Lazar was duly recognized this year for her outstanding teaching accomplishments as the recipient of a 2010 Sandy Beaver Excellence in Teaching Award in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences.

The Stat Club, which is the graduate students' statistics club in the department, has been very active this year. Kudos to Ashley Askew, who has done a wonderful job in organizing multiple events throughout the year, including the Bradley Lecture and Spring Picnic, to bring students and faculty closer together.

The efforts of Chris Franklin and Lynne Seymour resulted recently in the induction of our first class of undergraduate majors and graduate students in the new Mu Sigma Rho Chapter at UGA. Congratulations to the inductees! Mu Sigma Rho is the statistics honor society which was founded in 1969 at Iowa State University, and now has about 20 local chapters across the nation.

In August of 2009 we welcomed Richard Worthington as a new staff member to the department. Since Richard will collect alumni information for the website, I encourage you to write Richard with updates on your whereabouts or with anything about you and yours that you care to share with the department. You may contact him at [rkw2@uga.edu](mailto:rkw2@uga.edu).

I also encourage you to visit our website if you haven't done so recently. At the time of this writing, we are in the process of a major overhaul of the departmental pages, and I hope that you will be as impressed as I am with the product that is emerging and which will soon be visible to the outside world.

At the past JSM we held our first reception for alumni and friends. Thanks to all of you who attended. We hope to see even more people in Vancouver, where we plan to have a second reception. We cordially invite you to attend the University of Georgia Reception for Alumni and Friends taking place at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 2, 2010. The reception will be held in room CC-4 (East) of the Vancouver Convention Center.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express profound appreciation to those of you who have made a donation to the department during the past year. Your generosity has a real impact, especially with the current

state budget cuts, in supporting academic activities for our students and faculty.

I hope to have a chance to meet many of you during the next year, whether here in Athens, at the JSM in Vancouver, or elsewhere.

***John Stufken***



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