



The Zodiac Forms a Recurring 12-Year Cycle — 2018 is a Year of the Dog.



Inside This Issue

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 2-6 | STATISTICAL EVENTS |
| 7-12 | FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS |
| 13 | STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS |
| 14-16 | UPCOMING EVENTS |
| 17-18 | NEW FACULTY INTRODUCTION |





STATISTICAL EVENTS

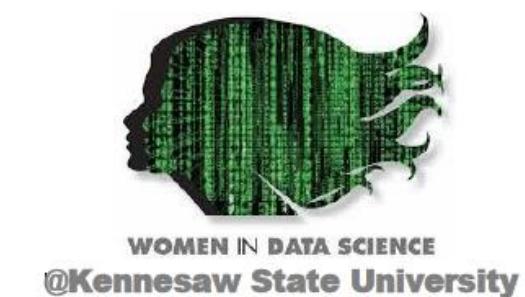
❖ KSU R Day on November 17 was a success!!

- Over 240 people attended KSU R Day 2017 on November 17 with students, faculty, staff, and external guests from over **45 companies** and **4 other universities**. There were 45 students that presented, from the Applied Statistics and Data Analysis minor, Master of Science in Applied Statistics degree program, and Ph.D. in Data Science.
 - <http://csm.kennesaw.edu/news/2017/111717.php>
 - <http://ccpe.kennesaw.edu/rday/>



❖ KSU's Analytics and Data Science Institute organizes and hosts a series of "Women in Data Science" events.

- **January** session was held by Vickie Chang, VP -- Global Analytics, Equifax Data and Analytics, and included a panel discussion with two recent MSAS graduates from KSU -- Tara Bryant, Lead Statistician at Equifax and Stephanie Krutick, Commercial Analytics Leader at Equifax. Women students and a brave man from the Ph.D. in Analytics and Data Science program, the MS in Applied Statistics program, Applied Statistics and Data Analysis Minor program, MS in Computer Science, and MS in Healthcare Management and Informatics joined the discussion and learned about what it takes to be a successful woman in an Analytics career.





STATISTICAL EVENTS

❖ Emory: StatFest 2017

- **StatFest 2017**, an initiative of the ASA Committee on Minorities in Statistics, took place on September 23, 2017 at Emory University, hosted by the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Rollins School of Public Health. Throughout the day, 150 participants were able to listen to engaging speakers and panelists share their experiences as statisticians in academia, government, and industry. In addition, there were many opportunities to network via a competitive activity, lunchtime small group discussions, a poster session, and welcome and closing receptions. Of the 150 participants, approximately 7% were high school students, 60% undergraduate students, and 10% graduate students. The goal of StatFest is to encourage underrepresented students to consider careers and graduate studies in the statistical sciences. The ASA Georgia Chapter sponsored the travel of one student to attend StatFest. StatFest was also supported by ASA, the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics of Emory University, the Great Young Society II, South Big Data Hub, and Bank of America. Many students have shared personal testimonies of the impact of StatFest that have resulted in applications to summer experiences (e.g. SIBS), graduate school applications, and finding employment in the statistical sciences.
- More details about StatFest 2017, including a downloadable program with agenda and speaker biographies, can be found at
 - <http://community.amstat.org/cmis/events/statfest/statfest-2017>
- StatFest 2018 will be held at Amherst College:
 - <https://nhorton.people.amherst.edu/statfest/index.html>



Honoring Dr. Nagambal Shah who founded StatFest. From Left to Right: Dr. Reneé Moore of Emory University, Dominique McDaniel, statistics PhD student at Purdue University, being honored Dr. Nagambal Shah, founder of StatFest and professor emerita Spelman College, Raphiel Murden, biostatistics PhD student Emory University, Dr. Sastry Pantula of Oregon State University, Dr. Brian Millen of Eli Lilly.





STATISTICAL EVENTS

❖ Kutner Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony

- On October 23, the department of biostatistics and bioinformatics in the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health presented the **2016 Kutner Distinguished Alumni Award to Scott Clark**, senior director of statistics at Eli Lilly & Company, and the **2017 Kutner Distinguished Alumni Award to Brent Blumenstein**, founder and president of TriARC Consulting. The award, given annually to a former graduate of the department, is for distinguished service to the discipline. The event also honored the 40+-year exemplary Emory career of Kutner, Rollins professor of biostatistics. Lance Waller, Rollins professor and chair of the Emory Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, served as the master of ceremonies. Invited speakers in addition to Waller included Rollins School of Public Health dean, James Curran; former department chair E.C. Hall; and senior executive associate dean for academic affairs Richard Levinson. John Neter, professor emeritus of the University of Georgia, and Fadlo Khuri, president of American University, Beirut, Lebanon, sent congratulatory letters.
- Kutner, in his closing remarks, thanked all the speakers and attendees for their participation. He then gave a brief account of his most important and influential research projects while at Emory University and when he chaired the department of biostatistics and epidemiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation (1994–1999).



2016 and 2017 Kutner Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

From left: Scott Clark, 2016 award recipient; Michael Kutner; Brent Blumenstein, 2017 award recipient; and Lance Waller



STATISTICAL EVENTS

❖ The Georgia Statistics Day 2017

- The Georgia Statistics Day 2017 was held on Oct 9th at **Emory University**. The one-day conference on theoretical and applied data science was well attended by faculty and students from the state of Georgia flagship institutions such as Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Georgia, and Emory University. Several local universities such as Georgia State University also attended the event. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Xihong Lin from Harvard University, and featured speakers included Dr. Koltshinskii (GA Tech), Dr Datta (UGA) and Dr. Chang (Emory). Parallel sessions were organized to accommodate a large number of contributed talks from several faculty hailing from esteemed institutions. A poster session was organized for students to showcase their research, and as many as eight awards were given, including three cash prizes. The event was sponsored by the Georgia chapter of the American Statistical Association, and Chapman and Hall publishing. Overall, the conference was very successful and it fostered inter-disciplinary collaboration between faculty and students from the flagship institutions in Georgia.





STATISTICAL EVENTS

❖ Launching the GA Chapter Webinar Series !!!

- On December 1, 2017, GA Chapter organized a kick-off presentation of the ASA GA Chapter Webinar Series.
- Dr. Suprateek Kundu from Emory University, Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics gave the presentation, entitled “Introduction to Graphical Models and Application to Brain Networks”.
- The recording from this presentation is available via the following link:
 - <http://emory.adobeconnect.com/p0i7szvysien/>



❖ Launching the GA Chapter Website !!!

- Georgia ASA Chapter Website (www.amstatgeorgia.org) has launched in early January 2018. It was developed by Riad Elmor (riad.elmor@gmail.com) , who is the Communication Officer of the ASA GA Chapter, along with the other GA Chapter officers. The domain is publicly available:
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmStatGeorgia/>
- Twitter: @AmStatGeorgia



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WELCOME TO THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION GEORGIA CHAPTER

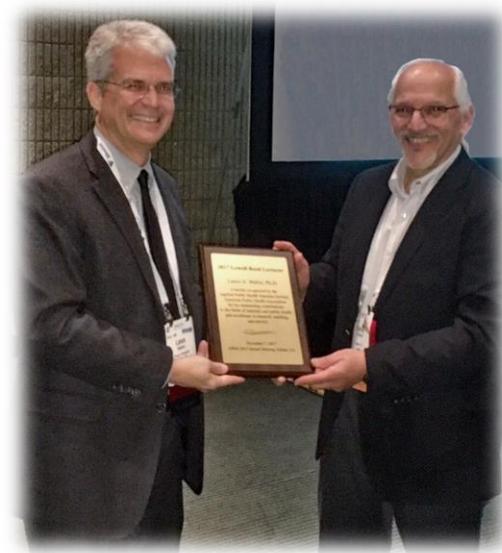
Our goal is to promote statistics and to bring together students, faculty, and industry professionals in the fields of statistics and biostatistics from all across Georgia. This website serves as the hub for news, events, and discussion for our members. We invite you to join us and support the field of statistics here in our state!



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ On November 7, **Prof. Limin Peng (Emory University)** was presented with the **2017 Mortimer Spiegelman Award** recognizing her as the top biostatistician under the age of 40. In addition to receiving the award at the Applied Health Statistics Section of the American Public Health Association luncheon, Prof. Peng also presented her research “Accounting for Dynamics in Association Assessment” at the APHA annual meeting. Dr. Peng provided an overview of quantile regression and associated statistical methods and their application in biomedical research. Dr. Peng will be giving her presentation at a special celebration in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Rollins School of Public Health, at Emory University on Wed, February 7 at 4pm.

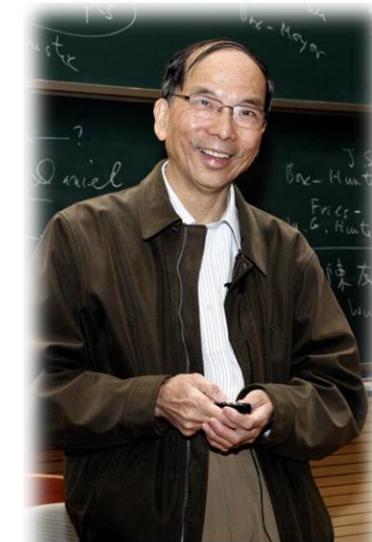
- ❖ On November 7, **Lance Waller (Emory)** presented the **2017 Lowell Reed Lecture** entitled “Maps and Medicine: Spatial Statistical Thinking in Public Health” to the Applied Health Statistics Section of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Waller provided an overview of the role of maps and geography within public health with examples including Valentine Seaman’s 1798 map of yellow fever in New York and (naturally) John Snow’s 1854 maps of cholera in London. These historical examples provided a setting for discussion spatial statistical analysis of spatially referenced public health data including assessments of clusters of cancer around environmental hazards, spatially varying associations of alcohol sales and illegal drug arrests with neighborhood violent crime rates, and local assessments of model fit.





FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **Georgia Tech's Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering (ISyE)** announces that Coca-Cola Chair in Engineering Statistics and **Professor Jeff Wu** has received the 2017 Box Medal Award from ENBIS, the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics, see the link
 - <https://www.isye.gatech.edu/news/isye-professor-jeff-wu-receives-2017-enbis-box-medal-award-achievements-statistics>
- ❖ **Professor Jeff Wu**, Coca-Cola Chair in Engineering Statistics in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) at the **Georgia Institute of Technology**, won the **Brumbaugh Award in 2017**. Brumbaugh Award recognizes the best paper among papers that appear in the seven journals sponsored by American
- ❖ **Society of Quality (ASQ) in a given year Award** given to **Professor Jeff Wu and Heng Su** is for their paper “CME Analysis: a new method for unraveling aliased effects in two-level fractional factorial experiments” in J. Quality Technology, 1-10, 2017. The paper is based on Heng Su’s thesis written in ISYE of GT.
- ❖ **Professor Roshan Joseph Vengazhiyil** from the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) at the **Georgia Institute of Technology** received the **Quality Engineering & System Assurance Award, U.S. Army ARDEC, 2017**.



Coca-Cola Chair in Engineering
Statistics and Professor Jeff Wu



Professor Roshan Vengazhiyil



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **Professor Vladimir Koltchinskii** in the School of Mathematics at the **Georgia Institute of Technology** is an invited speaker in Probability and Statistics for the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM), to be held on August 1-9, 2018 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The ICM is held once every four years and is one of the world's premier forums for presenting and discussing new discoveries in mathematics. An invitation to speak at the ICM is a major honor. Also see the announcement

- <https://www.math.gatech.edu/hg/item/595296>

- ❖ **Georgia Tech** will direct a new cross-disciplinary institute established with a \$1.5 million NSF award. The new Transdisciplinary Research Institute for Advancing Data Science (TRIAD) will bring together statistics, mathematics, and theoretical computer science to further develop the foundations of data science.

Xiaoming Huo, Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering (ISyE) and principal investigator, will serve as the executive director of TRIAD. See the announcement

- <https://www.scs.gatech.edu/news/595019/nsf-taps-georgia-tech-foundational-data-science-project>

A color portrait photograph of a middle-aged man with light brown, curly hair and a prominent dark brown mustache. He is wearing a dark blue t-shirt and is looking slightly to his left with a neutral expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS)**, the leading international association for professionals in operations research and analytics, has selected a team of researchers from the **Georgia Institute of Technology** in partnership with the American Red Cross as finalists to the 46th annual Franz Edelman Award for Achievements in Operations Research and Management Science in 2017. The Red Cross partnered with a team from Georgia Tech's Stewart School of Industrial & Systems Engineering (ISyE), which includes George Family Foundation Assistant Professor Turgay Ayer, Schneider National Chair in Transportation and Logistics Chelsea White III, Professor Roshan Vengazhiyil, and ISyE Ph.D. student Can Zhang, on their project "American Red Cross Uses Analytics-based Methods to Improve Blood Collection Operations." See the announcement
 - <http://www.manufacturing.gatech.edu/news/isye-and-american-red-cross-teams-project-finalist>



- ❖ **Dr. Jennifer Priestley**, professor of Statistics and Data Science, and associate dean of The Graduate College of **KSU** received \$98,000 from ERMAS for the Center for Statistics and Analytical Research to research banking and insurance customers in anti-money laundering and fraud analytical models.
 - ERMAS Consulting has been a leader in business intelligence solutions and data integration since 1990. Its consultants specialize in databases, data warehousing, analytics and risk management, and marketing automation solutions.
 - <http://graduate.kennesaw.edu/newsletter/articles/csar-receives-research-funds.php>



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Dr. Yichuan Zhao (**Georgia State University**) co-edited a book ‘*New Advances in Statistics and Data Science*’ joint with D.G. Chen, Z. Jin, G. Li, Y. Li, A. Liu published by Springer New York in December 2017.
 - Details: <http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319694153>



- ❖ UGA’s Scientists **Wenxuan Zhong** and **Ping Ma** of the UGS’s Franklin College, with Zhong’s graduate student Xin Xing, set out to identify and sequence the DNA of virtually all the microbes in the healthy and diabetes-affected human gut. Working with XSEDE Extended Collaborative Support Service expert Phil Blood of PSC, they used advanced DNA sequencing technology and PSC’s Bridges supercomputer to assemble DNA from many microbial species in human fecal samples at once. In this method, called “metagenomic assembly,” researchers use massive computation to sort the DNA-sequence fragments into their proper species at the same time that they assemble each species’ total DNA sequence—its genome.” – published in PSC’s Science Highlights.

- Read more:
- (1) [@ Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center web page](https://www.psc.edu/gutcheck)
- (2) <https://news.uga.edu/microbiome-analysis-tool-will-help-scientists-understand-chronic-disease-environment/>
- (3) <http://www.scientia.global/professor-wenxuan-zhong-new-statistics-smelling-disease/>



Department of Statistics
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

❖ Professor Wexuan Zhong – New Statistics for Smelling Out Disease

Sep 13, 2017 | [Engineering and Tech](#), [Health and Medicine](#)

- Cutting-edge scientific techniques are generating a wealth of details about biological systems. This information could enable the rapid detection of disease and toxic substances, and provide insights into the mechanisms behind complex diseases. However, teasing out elusive signals in these biochemical datasets can be complicated, so statistician **Professor Wexuan Zhong** and her team at the University of Georgia are developing new numerical methods to unlock their secrets.

UGA TODAY
TODAY'S TOP NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Campus News Business & Economy Science & Technology Arts Health & Wellness Society & Culture

Science & Technology

Microbiome analysis tool will help scientists understand chronic disease and environment

December 20, 2017 • by Jessica Luton



Wexuan Zhong, professor of statistics and director of the UGA Big Data Analytics Lab



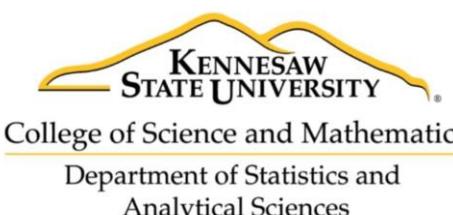
STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ **UGA:** **Xiaoxiao Sun** receives award from ASA Statistical Computing and Statistical Graphics student paper competition (January 19, 2018)
 - Xiaoxiao Sun's paper "An asymptirical smoothing parameters selection approach for SS-ANOVA models in large samples" has been selected as one of the winners of this year's student paper competition from the Section on Statistical Computing. The award was presented at the 2017 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) held in Vancouver July 28-August 2.
- ❖ **Emory:** **Ixavier A. Higgins** from the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Emory University selected for *Building Faculty* program.
 - Ixavier A. Higgins has been selected to participate in the Building Future Faculty program at North Carolina State University. The BFF program includes sessions on different faculty career paths, what is the faculty experience, what is expected of junior faculty, preparing for a job search, and skills workshops. It will also include a half - day visit to the department best matching your discipline.
- ❖ **Yikai Wang** from the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics from **Emory** receives awards from ENAR Distinguished Student Paper competition and ASA Statistics in Imaging Section Student Paper Competition.
 - Yikai Wang's paper "A novel hierarchical independent component modeling framework with application to longitudinal fMRI study" has been selected as one of the winners of 2018 ENAR Distinguished Student Paper Awards and the First-Place Winner of 2018 ASA Statistics in Imaging Section Student Paper Competition.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **UGA:** Friday, April 20, 2018, 4-5 pm | The Bradley Lecture
 - Speaker: **Dr. Larry Wasserman**, Carnegie Mellon University
 - Location: UGA Special Collections Library, 300 S. Hull Street, Athens, GA
 - Saturday, April 21, 2018 | The Bradley Spring Picnic
- ❖ **Emory:** Monday, April 9, 2018, 4-5 pm | 2018 Donna J. Brogan L at Emory University
 - Speaker: **Professor David Oaks** from University of Rochester will present “On Some Controversies in cardiovascular Clinical Trials”
 - Location: Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health, Claudia Nance Rollins Building
- ❖ **KSU:** Tuesday, March 13, 2018 4-6pm | Women in Data Science
 - Presenter: **Dr. Beverly Right**, lead of the Analytics and Data Science at Aspirent; on the Board of Directors for Business Analytics Center at Georgia Tech
 - Location: KSU, First floor Clendenin Building, CL 1009
- ❖ **KSU:** Friday, April 20, 2018 | SAS Day



KSU SAS Day

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 20, 2018
[Website »](#)

- Registration is free to participants and will be open at <http://ccpe.kennesaw.edu/sasday/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **GSU:** The 6th Workshop on Biostatistics and Bioinformatics: May 4-6, 2018
 - Event location: Georgia State University, Atlanta
 - The keynote speaker of our workshop is **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. There will be invited talks by distinguished researchers, and a poster session by young researchers and graduate students.
 - Website: <https://math.gsu.edu/yichuan/2018Workshop/> The registration is open now. Please register and submit the abstract on the website. In order to encourage graduate students and young researchers to conduct a cutting-edge research, we are currently organizing a poster session. The workshop will be providing partial travel awards to selected conference participants. Priority will be given to senior graduate students, post-graduate, recent Ph.D's, junior faculty, and under-represented groups.
- ❖ **Ga Tech:**
 - The conference “Recent Trends in Discrete and Continuous Probability,” co-organized by **Professors Michael Damron** and **Christian Houdré**, will take place June 18, 2018-June 21, 2018 at Georgia Tech.
 - Link: <http://pwp.gatech.edu/rtip/>



Mathematics and Statistics



UPCOMING EVENTS

❖ 2018 Spring ASA Travel Course in Georgia Chapter

ASA Travel Course Title: An Introduction to the Analysis of Incomplete Data

- Instructor: **Professor Ofer Harel**, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, Email: ofer.harel@uconn.edu Tel: (860)486-6989
- Date and Time: Saturday, March 24, 8:30-5pm Eastern
- Classroom location: **ISyE Main Building, Room #228 Georgia Institute of Technology 755 Ferst Drive NW Atlanta, GA 30332-0205**
- Parking information can be found from the website: <https://www.isye.gatech.edu/about/maps-directions>
- **Registration Fee** (the non-student fees are the same as two years ago, see the detailed cost analysis below):
 - Undergrad: \$25 Graduate (MS or PhD) Student: \$50
- **ASA member: \$150 Non-member: \$200**
- **Course Overview:** Missing data is a common complication in applied research. Although most practitioners are still ignoring the missing data problem, numerous books and research articles demonstrate that dealing with it correctly is very important. Biased results and inefficient estimates are just some of the risks of incorrectly dealing with incomplete data. In this course, we will introduce incomplete data vocabulary and present problems and solutions to the missing data issue. We will emphasize practical implementation of the proposed strategies including discussion of software to implement procedures for incomplete data.
- **About the instructor:** Ofer Harel, Ph.D. is a professor in the Department of Statistics, the Center for Public Health and Health Policy (CPHHP) and a FORMER Principal investigator (PI) at the Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy (InCHIP) at the University of Connecticut. Through his career Dr. Harel developed his methodological expertise in the areas of missing data techniques, diagnostic tests, longitudinal studies, Bayesian methods, sampling techniques, mixture models, latent class analysis and statistical consulting. Dr. Harel was part of numerous federal grants as principle investigator (PI), Co-PI and Biostatistician. He is an associate editor for Statistics in Medicine, Sankhya, the Indian Journal of Statistics, Series B and on the editorial board of AIDS and Behavior and The Open Medical Informatics Journal. Through his work, Dr. Harel has been involved with a variety of research fields including, but not limited to single-cell genomics, HIV prevention, Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes, and alcohol and drug abuse prevention.



NEW FACULTY INTRODUCTION



❖ **Dr. David Benkeser** joined the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Emory University as Tenure track assistant professor in July 2017 after completing a PhD. at the University of Washington in the Department of Biostatistics and spending a year and a half as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. He develops methods based on causal inference, machine learning, and semiparametric efficiency theory that can be applied across a wide domain of scientific areas. Much of Dr. Benkeser's work is motivated by the challenges presented in analyzing data from efficacy trials for vaccines to prevent HIV infection and malaria disease.



❖ **Dr. Benjamin Risk** joined the Department of Biostatistics & Bioinformatics in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in July 2017. He completed his PhD in Statistics at Cornell University (2015). Prior to joining the faculty at Emory, Dr. Risk was a postdoctoral associate with the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Benjamin Risk's research focuses on neuroimaging with the goal of furthering scientific understanding and medical research by developing, improving, and disseminating statistical methodology. His research includes dimension reduction, independent component analysis, functional data analysis, and the statistical impacts of MRI acquisition and preprocessing methods. Additional information is available at www.benjaminrisk.com.



❖ The Analytics and Data Science Institute at Kennesaw State University announces the appointment of **Dr. Will Hakes**. Dr. Hakes brings over 20 years of experience as an established and respected entrepreneur, speaker, and thought leader in advanced analytics, most recently serving as a Managing Director of the KPMG Global Analytics practice. He was the Co-Founder and CEO of Link Analytics, which was acquired by KPMG in 2013. His focus has been on the complex interaction between artificial intelligence and Big Data and how this creates new opportunities and unforeseen risks for enterprises – big and small. Within the Analytics and Data Science Institute, Dr. Hakes will collaborate with the Analytics and Data Science Ph.D. program and conduct seminars on emerging analytical applications to solve real-world business problems.



NEW FACULTY INTRODUCTION



- ❖ **Dr. Ban Majeed** joined Augusta University in 2017 as an Assistant Professor in the division of Epidemiology, Department of Population Health Sciences. Dr. Majeed received her PhD in Public Health (Epidemiology) from the School of Public Health, Georgia State University (GSU) followed by her post-doctoral fellowship at the Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science (TCORS) at GSU. She is interested in examining the effects of tobacco product designs, flavors, packaging and advertisement on susceptibility to use, addiction and abuse liability, experimentation, initiation, and switching of tobacco products. In addition, she is interested in developing and validating measures to study non-cigarette tobacco products especially among youth and young adults.

- ❖ This newsletter is edited by Gordana Derado @CDC (uwx8@cdc.gov) and formatted by Ganzhong Tian @Emory (Gavin.Tian@emory.edu).
- ❖ ASA Georgia Chapter members are welcome to submit news items to chapter officers (www.amstatgeorgia.org) for future chapter E-newsletters.