Interface

ACAS

Interface Foundation of North America, Inc.

P.O. Box 7460

Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7460

May 25, 2012

SUBJECT: Army Conference on Applied Statistics

Dear Colleague,

The Executive Board for the Army Conference on Applied Statistics (ACAS) is pleased to announce that its 18th annual conference will be held from October 24-26, 2012 in Monterey, CA. ACAS is a conference of the Interface Foundation of North America and leading forum for the presentation and discussion of theoretical and applied papers relating to the use of probability and statistics for solving defense- and security-related problems. ACAS and its predecessor Conference on the Design of Experiments in Army Research, Development & Testing are now in the 58th consecutive year of providing valuable opportunities for constructive interaction among academic, industry, and DoD scientists. ACAS also serves a nurturing role in the elevation of statistical proficiency among DoD researchers in other disciplines who find themselves statistical practitioners because of the compelling benefits statistical science brings to DoD research, development, and testing.

Upon its founding in 1995, ACAS moved beyond the Army to include all the services, while keeping its historical ties to the Army. ACAS also broadened the focus of its parent conference to keep pace with the expanding roles that probability and statistics can contribute to the development and advancement of defense systems. The conference has welcomed presentations on far-ranging techniques and tools such as reliability analysis, statistical computing, visual data mining, simulation, linear and stochastic modeling, and data fusion.

This year's conference program will include invited talks by prominent investigators in various branches of statistics and applied probability as well as contributed papers of a technical, applied, or clinical nature. To date, the following distinguished researchers have been confirmed:

• Jeff Wu, keynote (Georgia Tech, "Sensitivity Testing")

• Ofer Harel (Connecticut, "Multiple Imputation for Missing Data")

• Sushial Jajodia (George Mason, "Cyber Security")

• Thomas Love (Case Western, "Design & Analysis for Observational Studies")

• Ji Zhu (Michigan, "Sparse Data")

This year's conference will also feature three special sessions on the following topics: Simulation Experiments and Efficient Design (Tom Donnelly, SAS Federal), Design and Analysis of Observational Studies (Alyson Wilson, Institute for Defense Analysis), and Reliability Growth (Art Fries, IDA).

The technical sessions of the conference will feature contributed papers by DoD scientists, and academic and industrial scientists, including investigators under contract to DoD. Contributed papers can range in content from new research to well-posed problems in which statistical methods are applied to solve specific DoD problems. Speakers are strongly encouraged to present their papers in terms of the potential or real problems that motivated the work. Results that rely on relatively recent or specialized results in the theory of statistics and probability should be explained in sufficient detail to permit an audience of statistical practitioners with broadly varying backgrounds to use the results to enhance their own problem-solving capabilities.

Clinical sessions, a distinct element of ACAS, accept unresolved problems in applied statistics. A panel of experts comprised of invited speakers and other distinguished attendees offer guidance on how to proceed. Authors of a clinical paper must provide a brief description of the problem by September 17, 2012 in order that panelists have sufficient time to prepare their recommendations. We invite you to consider this opportunity to present an interesting statistical problem to some of the country's leading applied and mathematical statisticians.

The Executive Board of ACAS is also pleased to announce that Prof. Christopher K. Wikle of the University of Missouri will present a free short course for registered conference attendees, "Statistics for Spatio-Temporal Data", prior to the conference on October 22 & 23. This state-of-the-art presentation of spatio-temporal processes, bridging classic ideas with modern hierarchical statistical modeling concepts. From understanding environmental processes and climate trends to developing new technologies for mapping public-health data and the spread of invasive-species, there is a high demand for statistical analyses of data that takes spatial and/or temporal information into account. Prof. Wikle's course will

consider a systematic approach to key quantitative techniques for the statistical analysis of such data that features hierarchical (empirical and Bayesian) statistical modeling, with an emphasis on dynamical spatio-temporal models. This training will cover material from the 2011 text "Statistics for Spatio-Temporal Data, 2nd ed." by Cressie & Wikle, with additional new material from the 3rd edition currently in writing.

Participation from many activities is sought to ensure a mixture of science and application. A call for papers is hereby extended. Speakers will be notified regarding paper acceptance no later than September 7. It may become necessary to limit the number of papers, so a timely response is recommended. To submit a paper for consideration, please send the following information by September 4 to barry.a.bodt@us.army.mil (or if by mail, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, ATTN: RDRL-CII-C (Barry Bodt), Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21005-5067).

1. Title of paper, and a brief abstract.
2. Name of author(s) and exact title of the organization(s).
3. Type of paper (technical or clinical).
4. Equipment needed (digital projector, overhead projector, etc.).
5. Telephone number of the author(s) (DSN or commercial).
6. E-mail address of the author(s).

Technical papers are nominally allowed 30 minutes, to include 5 minutes at the end for audience discussion and questions. Of the 40 minutes available for clinical papers, approximately 15 minutes are recommended for the problem statement, allowing 25 minutes for panel discussion.

The Army Conference on Applied Statistics also marks the occasion when the Army Wilks Award is presented for significant contributions to the U.S. Army in statistical research or applications relevant to the Army. This year the Board is accepting open nominations for award candidates. Letters of nomination, including the nominee's vita relevant to Army service, should be sent by August 17, 2012 to jock.o.grynovicki.civ@mail.mil (or if by mail, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, ATTN: RDRL-HR (Jock Grynovicki), APG, MD 21005-5425).

This year's conference and short course will take place at Casa Munras, a hacienda-inspired boutique hotel located in the picturesque coastal town of Monterey – right in the heart of Old-Town. Step into history in Old Monterey or the world famous Fisherman's Wharf, and discover a region that has

inspired literature and legacies for generations. Casa Munras is ideally situated near many of Central California's most visited and spectacular attractions including Cannery Row, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Carmel, 17-Mile Drive and countless golf courses. If you are planning to see some of the area when you arrive, be sure to visit the Monterey County Conference and Visitors Bureau website, www.seemonterey.com.

A host letter providing more detailed information regarding registration fees, additional lodging, agenda, etc. will follow in September. After this mailing, information concerning the conference and short course will be made available at www.armyconference.org. This site will be periodically updated as details finalize. Any additional inquiries concerning the conference may be directed to Barry A. Bodt at the address noted previously, by phone (410-278-6659), or by fax (410-278-4988).

Sincerely,

David W. Webb
U.S. Army Research Laboratory
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD

Executive Board of the U.S. Army Conference on Applied Statistics		
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