Interface

CASD

Interface Foundation of North America, Inc.
9748 Thorn Bush Drive
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-2537

19 July 2015

SUBJECT: Conference on Applied Statistics in Defense

Dear Colleague,

The Executive Board for the Conference on Applied Statistics in Defense (CASD), formerly the Army Conference on Applied Statistics, is pleased to announce that this year's conference will be held from October 19-23, 2015 at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. CASD is a conference of the Interface Foundation of North America and a forum for the presentation and discussion of theoretical and applied papers relating to the use of probability and statistics for solving problems of national importance, with an emphasis on defense and national security. CASD provides valuable opportunities for constructive interaction among academic, industry, and government agency scientists. CASD also serves a nurturing role in the elevation of statistical proficiency among researchers in other disciplines who find themselves statistical practitioners because of the compelling benefits statistical science brings to research, development, and testing.

CASD is the successor conference to the Army Conference on Applied Statistics (ACAS), which was established in 1995 by six sponsoring activities within the national defense community. In the ensuing years, the organization has broadened its mission to include context areas of national importance and has attracted more industry, academia, and other government agencies. CASD is also the successor to the Conference on the Design of Experiments in Army Research, Development, and Testing, a historic series of meetings that began in 1955 and formally concluded in 1994.

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:

• Catherine Warner, keynote (Office of Director, Operational Test and Evaluation)
• Bradley Jones (SAS/JMP)
• Sallie Keller (Virginia Tech)
• Edward Wegman (George Mason University)

This year's conference will also feature four special sessions on the following topics: Bayesian Statistics (organized by Shane Reese, Brigham Young University), Design of Experiments (Tom Donnelly, SAS/JMP),

Statistics in the Acquisition Process (Laura Freeman, Institute for Defense Analyses) and Veterans Affairs Studies (Kousick Biswas, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).

CASD technical sessions will feature contributed papers by government, academic and industrial scientists, including investigators under contract to government agencies. Contributed papers can range in content from new research to well-posed problems in which statistical methods are applied to solve specific national 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 CASD, 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 16, 2015 to allow sufficient time for panelists 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 CASD is also pleased to announce that Prof. Bobby Gramacy of the University of Chicago will present a short course for registered conference attendees prior to the conference on October 19 & 20. Entitled "Bayesian Methods Illustrated with R", this course will cover the basics of the Bayesian approach to practical and coherent statistical inference. Particular attention will be paid to computational aspects, including Markov chain Monte Carlo methods. Examples/practical hands-on exercises will the run gamut from toy illustration to real-world data analysis from all areas of science, with R implementations/coaching provided.

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 11. 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 Wendy Martinez, Martinez.Wendy@bls.gov.

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. Telephone number of the author(s).
5. 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 Interface Conference on Applied Statistics also marks the occasion when the Army Wilks Award is presented for significant contributions in statistical research or applications relevant to national defense. This year the Board is accepting open nominations for award candidates. Letters of nomination should include the nominee's vita relevant to national service, and should be mailed by August 22, 2015 to U.S. Army Research Laboratory, ATTN: RDRL-HRM-B (Jock Grynovicki), APG, MD 21005-5425.

This year's conference and short course will take place at George Mason University, in Fairfax, VA. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia, Fairfax offers the best of both worlds: proximity to Washington, DC, but with a unique history all its own. Among the many tourist attractions in Fairfax County are Manassas National Battlefield Park, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Gardens, and the National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. Combined with adjacent Arlington and Alexandria, Fairfax County offers dining and entertainment options to rival the most sophisticated American cities—and that's before even considering what is immediately available nearby in the District of Columbia. Of course, the nation's capital is unmatched in its assortment and quality of fantastic free attractions, from the magnificent memorials and monuments on the National Mall to must-see sites like the National Gallery of Art, the Library of Congress and the museums of the Smithsonian Institution. If you are planning to see some of the area when you arrive, be sure to visit the official travel websites of Fairfax County and Washington, DC, www.fxva.com and http://washington.org.

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, including information regarding registration fees, lodging, agenda, etc. Any additional inquiries concerning the conference may be directed to David Jakubek by email (djakubek@masonlive.gmu.edu), or phone (703-475-7548).

Sincerely,

David W. Webb
Army Evaluation Center
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