A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Michael I. Jordan
ISBA President, 2011
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My final turn on the ISBA Presidential stage will be a brief one, as the stagehandlers are already sweeping and mopping the stage, preparing for La Grande Epoca Ruggeriana.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank some of the people who I've had the honor and the pleasure to work with during the past year.

My most heartfelt thanks are reserved for Merlise Clyde, ISBA Secretary extraordinaire, and soon to be ISBA President Elect (extraordinaire a.s.). Merlise is an amazing talent, someone who is at home in the Web 2.0 world as she is in Bayesian theory and practice. After putting the kids to bed she appears to enjoy unwinding with a bit of Drupal and CiviCRM programming. She is an unusual statistician in that she is aware that an "RSS feed" is probably not a dinner in London. She has been behind many of ISBA's initiatives this year, most notably those that have led to significant improvements in the ISBA website, which provides an ever-increasing range of services to the Bayesian community.

I also wish to recognize and thank the other members of the ISBA Presidential triad during 2011—President Elect Fabrizio Ruggeri and Past President Peter Mueller.

Fabrizio has the shortest response time distribution to email of any academic I have ever known, despite the fact that he is a grand traveler. I have been puzzled by how this could be, and therefore I have engaged in some Bayesian modeling of response times. One point to note is that some of the response times have been negative, which I luckily allowed in my prior. After fitting a number of models and using the JIC criterion to choose between models, I have been able to uncover the truth, which is that "Fabrizio Ruggeri" is not a single individual, but rather five different individuals.

A similar model fits my data on "Peter Mueller." There was a period of six months over 2010-11 in which I encountered "Peter" six times in six different locales, an event with vanishly small (Bayesian) p-value under the null model. In any case, however many Peter Muellers there are, they're all charming. Emails from Peter are unfailingly humorful and wise.

Among the many other people who I could thank, I'd like to single out Igor Pruenster, Judith Rousseau and Mike Daniels. One of the toughest jobs of the ISBA President Elect is to nominate the person who will serve as Chair of the ISBA Program Council during one's presidentship. It is one of ISBA's most challenging positions and I was quite unsure as to whether I'd be able to convince someone to do it. I asked Igor and, amazingly, he didn't wince ...

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, *Continued from page 1. . . .*

Igor has been wonderful. Similarly, Judith has been splendid in another of ISBA's most important positions, that of chairing the Awards Committee; I've been grateful to her for all her hard work. I'm also grateful to Mike Daniels for bringing his skills and energy to the ISBA Treasury.

Perhaps I'd better also thank the Editor of the ISBA Bulletin, Manuel Mendoza, because if I don't he may add in such thanks during the copy-editing phase (as he has done here). Seriously, thanks to Manuel for his kind tolerance of my "give me a few more days" responses to his requests for material, and for his superb steward-ship of the Bulletin.

And thus I turn over the reins to Fabrizio, and to the other newly elected officers from this fall's election (in addition to the aforementioned Merlise Clyde as President in 2013, I'd like to welcome Kate Calder, Maria de Iorio, Wes Johnson and Igor Pruenster to the ISBA Board of Directors starting in 2012).

It has been a great pleasure to participate in the great endeavor that is ISBA and I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the ISBA membership for having given me the opportunity to serve the community. I look forward to seeing all of you in Kyoto in June 2012 for the World Meeting.

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From the Editor

Manuel Mendoza
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Once more, the year is almost gone and many of us feel that we must review the result of our work in 2011 as well as the plans for 2012.

This feeling is, in a way, synthesized in this issue of the Bulletin. Mike Jordan's reflections on the year he contributed to the Society as President, the results of the elections process as well as the reports on the COBAL III and the OBayes meetings, among other pieces of information, reveals a very busy 2011 for our society. Looking ahead, the arrival of Fabrizio Ruggeri as President of ISBA, the renewal of several other officers of the society, the ongoing plans for the ISBA 2012 meeting in Kyoto and many other initiatives of our community suggest that 2012 will be even more active and successful.

In addition to this promising evaluation, and as part of the regular sections, in this issue our Annotated Bibliography Editor, Beatrix Jones, invited Tyler H. McCormick to write an article on the Bayesian Analysis of Social Network Data. The analysis of social networks has been a relevant topic in the Sociology literature for a long time. On the other hand, the impact of the Bayesian approach in that field is, in my perspective, only at an initial stage. This review provides us with an interesting account of the most recent developments and challenges in the area.

As always, I want to encourage all members of ISBA to contribute to the Bulletin with their suggestions, manuscripts and announcements. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Editorial Board. Finally, I would like to wish you all an splendid 2012!

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Update on Dues

Mike Daniels
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There have been changes in the structure of dues for ISBA membership. After extensive discussions and a vote, the Executive Committee has decided to modestly increase regular dues from $35 to $50. The Executive Committee has also decided to increase dues for Lifetime membership. Lifetime members dues have been tied to the regular dues with the Lifetime rate being approximately $15 \times$ annual rate. (equivalent to 15 years of membership). With the new annual dues this would bring the Lifetime dues to $750. However, we will also now include "age indexing" so that members under age 50 would pay an additional

$50/year for each year of age under 50. This formulation is used by both ASA and IMS for Lifetime members and provides a fairer dues structure for senior and junior members who wish to pay a lifetime's worth of dues at once as a convenience and commitment to the organization while preventing a loss of income from junior members. Note the indexing would have no change for members over 50 who will pay a flat amount.

While the overall financial health of ISBA is quite strong and we have been building an operational reserve from all sources of income (dues,

conferences, advertising), there are some areas that still need financial attention. One is the increased costs due to enhanced membership services and the ISBA journal, Bayesian analysis. The second is the the fact that our endowments for the various prizes are not large enough to fund the Prizes, and we are having to fund them in part through general revenue.

Note that the dues changes outlined above are effective *January 1, 2012* and that student and reduced rate dues will remain at $15.

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FROM THE PROGRAM COUNCIL

ISBA 2012

Igor Pruenster
Chair, 2010-2012
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Call for Posters
The Program Committee of ISBA 2012 invites proposals for posters presentations, which are always a major highlight of ISBA meetings! Proposal should submitted through the online form available at http://bayesian.org/node/add/isba-abstract by February 28th, 2012.

Decisions will be notified soon after the deadline. All accepted posters will be eligible for the Lindley Prize (for further details on the prize see http://bayesian.org/awards/LindleyPrize.html). Details about support for junior presenters will be finalized in late 2011. Please check the conference website for updates.

Travel Support for New Researchers
Applications for limited junior travel funding to attend the ISBA 2012 World Meeting are invited.

- *Eligibility*

  Eligible candidates are talk or poster presenters who are either Ph.D. students with graduation expected not later than June

2014 or researchers who received their Ph.D. after July 2005. Applications are to be submitted not later than February 28, 2012.

- *Funding*

  Support will be possible thanks to ISBA, ASA-SBSS, Google, Microsoft and the Japanese Ministry of Education, Science, Sports, Culture and Technology. We are also anticipating additional support from other US and Japanese funding agencies. We expect awards ranging from 200 US$ to 1000 US$, depending on location (based on the relative cost of travel to Japan).

- *Deadline*

  Applications have to be submitted before February 28, 2012 through http://bayesian.org/node/add/isba-junior-support. An abstract must be submitted before you may apply for travel support. To submit an abstract go to http://bayesian.org/node/add/isba-abstract.

- *Decisions*

  Decisions will be made in several stages, and expect to be completed in Spring 2012.

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2011 ISBA ELECTION

RESULTS

The Executive Committee of ISBA is pleased to announce the results of the recent ISBA elections:

President 2013, (President-Elect 2012, Past President 2014)

Merlise Clyde
(Duke University)

Board of Directors (2012-2014)

Igor Pruenster
(University of Torino)
Maria de Iorio
(University College London)
Kate Calder
(Ohio State University)
Wes Johnson
(University of California Irvine)

BNP Chair 2013 (Chair Elect 2012)

Steve MacEachern
(Ohio State University)

BNP Program Chair (2012-2013)

Michele Guindani
(University of Texas,
MD Andersen Cancer Center)

BNP Treasurer (2012-2013)

Thanasis Kottas
(University of California Santa Cruz)

OB Chair (2012-2013)

Ed George
(University of Pennsylvania)

OB Secretary (2012-2013)

Marilena Barbieri
(U Roma 3)

We congratulate all those named above, thank them for their willingness to serve the profession in these positions, and look forward to their leadership contributions in coming years!

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BAYESIAN ANALYSIS - A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

UPDATE FROM BA

Herbie Lee
Editor-in-Chief
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The December issue of BA features a paper on multiple changepoint models by Jason Wyse, Nial Friel, and Havard Rue. The integrated nested Laplace approximation is employed for computational efficiency. Additional perspective appears in discussions by Paul Fearnhead and Gary Koop. This issue is unusually large because the previous issue was the special issue on papers from the 2010 International Meeting, and so we have two issues worth of regular submissions that we are putting into the December issue.▲

ISBA SECTIONS

OBJECTIVE BAYESIAN SECTION

Jim Berger
Chair
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This is my last contribution to the Bulletin as chair of the O-Bayes section. The section is only a bit over a year old, but has had a great year. The highlight was the 2011 International Workshop on Objective Bayes Methodology, held from June 11-15, 2011 at East China Normal University in Shanghai, China, organized by Yincai Tang and Dongchu Sun; see the accompanying photo.

Also ending his term as an officer of the section is our Secretary, Jaeyong Lee; thanks Jaeyong for all your contributions to the founding and first year of the section! The Program Chair (Dongchu Sun) and Treasurer (Brunero Liseo) have also done great stuff - for which I am very grateful - but they are continuing in their roles for another year and so will get the official sendoff later.

It is with great delight that I welcome the two new O-Bayes section officers, the new Chair, Ed George (what a great guy!), and Secretary, Marilena Barbieri (what a great gal!). The section is in great hands!!

As I'm writing this, I just received my copy of the Valencia 9 proceedings. The conference, of course, covered all of Bayesian analysis, but there are wonderful O-Bayes articles in the book. It is sad that this series of stunning conferences is over (thanks Jose!), but the upcoming ISBA conferences look to be wonderful!

A final comment: recall that **O-Bayes 2013: Celebrating 250 Years** will be held December 15-19, 2013 at Duke University, Durham North Carolina USA, sponsored, in part, by the Department of Statistical Science at Duke. In my last contribution to the Bulletin, I talked about the fact that this is a 250 year celebration of Bayes (the first O-Bayesian) and a nearly 200 year anniversary of Laplace (the primary O-Bayesian) making this a historically memorable anniversary for the conference.

Details will be forthcoming at a later date, but please add the dates to your calendar!

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NONPARAMETRIC BAYES SECTION

Stephen G. Walker
Chair
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The ISBA Bayesian nonparametrics section has elected a new set of officials. We are pleased to announce and welcome Steve MacEachern (BNP Chair elect 2012, BNP Chair 2013-2014), Michele Guindani (Program Chair 2012-2013) and Thanasis Kottas (Treasurer 2012-2013). We would like to wish them a happy and successful time officializing. Bayesian nonparametric methods are now a part of the statistical fabric and its position as an ISBA section confirms its popularity within the Bayesian community. Long may it last. For those of you who have not joined, we invite and encourage you to do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ramses Mena and Maria Kalli for their roles as Program Chair and Treasurer in this first period of the BNP/ISBA section.

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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

BAYESIAN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL NETWORK DATA

Tyler H. McCormick
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Network analysis explores relationships, known as edges, between interacting actors or nodes. Social network analysis is the area of network analysis where the actors in the network are individuals (or groups of individuals such as families) and the links represent a type of relationship (being acquaintances or having asked for advice, for example). Social network analysis is most commonly used to understand social structure, such as transitivity (a friend of a friend is likely to be your friend). Recent work also uses social networks to reach individuals difficult to capture on traditional surveys (individuals who are homeless, for example) and to explore possible contagion of ideas or behavior.

I begin by introducing three classic papers which describe the social context and importance of network analysis, then continue by describing papers which present Bayesian models for social network data. A unifying theme across many of these models involves proposing a low dimensional representation for the (likely) high-dimensional dependence structure in the network. The complexity of network data make collecting complete network data difficult or financially impractical in many applications, leading to the methods I describe for incomplete or partially observed data. I end with a series of papers related to outstanding or newly discovered issues in social network analysis.

Several recent review papers provide overviews of the network literature (see, for example Vivar and Banks, 2012; Goldenberg et al., 2010), often discussing modeling advances arising from network data outside the social sciences (protein interaction networks, for example) which I do not discuss here. I have also chosen not to emphasize a line of literature on exponential random graph models, which are methods that use probability distributions over graphs based on specific network summary measures. Finally, there are a number of papers in various stages of the review process (a number of which were facilitated by the 2010-2011 SAMSI Complex Networks Program), which I have left for a future edition of the Annotated Bibliography.

Network data and social structure

- Granovetter, M. 1973. "The Strength of Weak Ties." *American Journal of Sociology* 78 (6): 1360–1380. This paper poses fundamental questions about the value of social network analysis. The emphasis is on the cohesive power of weak ties (such as being acquaintances) in contrast to strong ties (such as trusting or loaning money) in shaping macro-level social phenomena such as social mobility, political structure and community organization.

- Marsden, P. V. 1990. "Network data and measurement." *Annual Review of Sociology* 16: 435–463. Focuses on collection and description of network data. This paper gives a review of the ways that social scientists go about collecting network data, issues with data quality, and some discussion of incomplete or sampled data.

- McPherson, M., Smith-Lovin, L. and J. M. Cook. 2001. "Birds of a feather: homophily in social networks." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27: 415–444. This paper presents literature on the homophily principle ("similarity breeds connections") in social networks. The paper presents evidence that many individuals' networks are homogeneous with regard to sociodemographic, behavioral, and intrapersonal characteristics. It also discusses the implications of this tendency on the attitudes people develop, information they receive, and types of experiences they have.

Modeling network structure

- Snijders, T. A. B., and K. Nowicki. 1997. "Estimation and Prediction for Stochastic Blockmodels for Graphs with Latent Block Structure." *Journal of Classification* 14 (1): 75–100. Presents the conceptual framework for an adaptation of mixture modeling for relational data, known as latent blockmodeling. Each node belongs to a cluster (block) and the relationship between two nodes is governed by the corresponding pair of clusters. Unlike previous related work (e.g. Wang and Wong, 1987), the blocks are not known *a priori* but are estimated as part of a hierarchical model.

- Nowicki, K., and T. A. B. Snijders. 2001. "Estimation and prediction for stochastic blockstructures." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 96 (455): 1077–1087. The previous paper provides a series of estimation strategies with two latent classes. This paper extends the previous work to multiple latent classes and resolves a number of computational issues from the previous work. An extension of this paper which relaxes the finite cardinality assumption of the latent clusters using a Dirichlet process prior was proposed in Kemp et al. (2006).

- Hoff, P. D, A. E. Raftery, and M. S. Handcock. 2002. "Latent space approaches to social network analysis." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 97: 1090–1098. The latent space model accounts for dependence structure in a network by modeling the propensity between two actors to form a tie as conditionally independent given positions in an unobservable social space. The propensity of forming a tie is proportional to the distance between actors in the social space with the geometry of the space being used to encode particular types of relationships (the triangle inequality in a Euclidean geometry captures transitivity, for example). The method provides a visual, model-based representation of the social relationships present in the network.

- Hoff, P. D. 2008. "Modeling homophily and stochastic equivalence in symmetric relational data." In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems* 20, 657–664. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. The author presents a model which represents the relationship between two nodes as the weighted inner-product of node-specific vectors of latent characteristics. The model proposed in this paper, based on the idea of eigenvalue decomposition, generalizes other popular latent variable models, such as latent class and distance models (described above in Snijders and Nowicki, 1997 and Hoff et al., 2002., respectively). The paper shows mathematically that any latent class or latent distance model has a representation as an eigenmodel, but not vice-versa.

- Handcock, M. S., Raftery, A. E., and J. M. Tantrum. 2007. "Model-based clustering for social networks." *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A* 170: 301–354. Presents the latent position cluster model which can be used to find clusters of actors or ties in a network using a latent distance model framework. The propensity of a tie depends on the distance between actors in a latent social space where each actor's position in the space arises from a mixture of distributions, each corresponding to a cluster.

- Airoldi, E.M., D.M. Blei, S.E. Fienberg, and E.P. Xing. 2008. "Mixed-membership sto-

chastic blockmodels." *Journal of Machine Learning Research* 9: 1981–2014. A limitation of the latent stochastic blockmodel is that each actor must belong to only one cluster when in reality individuals may act according to multiple latent roles or cluster-memberships that influence their relationships to others. This paper proposes a mixed-membership model where each actor is associated with multiple clusters via a probability-like membership vector.

- Chang, J., and D.M. Blei. 2010. "Hierarchical relational models for document networks." *The Annals of Applied Statistics* 4 (1): 124–150. The authors propose a method which models both link structure and node attributes simultaneously using a strategy based on latent Dirichlet allocation (Blei et al. 2003). Each actor is endowed with a set of attributes assumed to be a realization of a distribution over attributes. Then, connections between actors are modeled as binary variables whose distribution depends on the attributes associated with each actor. Jointly modeling attributes and network structure facilitates description and link prediction in higher dimensional data.

- Gormley, C., and T.B. Murphy. 2010. "A mixture of experts latent position cluster model for social network data." *Statistical Methodology* 7 (3): 385–405. Under the latent position cluster model described above, the latent location of an actor is assumed to be drawn from a finite mixture of multivariate normal distributions. The 'mixture of experts' latent position cluster model proposed in this paper extends the latent position cluster model by modeling the mixing proportions as functions of actor covariates, allowing the characteristics of an actor to influence both propensity to form links with another actor and cluster membership.

- Westveld, A. H., and P. D. Hoff. 2011. "A mixed effects model for longitudinal relational and network data, with applications to international trade and conflict." *The Annals of Applied Statistics* 5 (2): 843–872. Provides a model for multiple observations of a network over time using an approach which builds on a model commonly used in the psychology literature, the Social Rela-

tions Model. The article represents the network and temporal dependencies with random effects, leading to a stochastic process defined by a set of stationary covariance matrices.

Sampled and incomplete data

- Zheng, T., Salganik, M. J., and A. Gelman. 2006. "How many people do you know in prison?: Using overdispersion in count data to estimate social structure." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 101: 409–423. The authors fit a multilevel overdispersed Poisson regression model to infer some aspects of network structure using data collected through standard surveys. The paper demonstrates that simple data collected using non-network survey mechanisms can recover valuable information about respondents' and the population social network structure.

- McCormick, T. H., Salganik, M. J., and T. Zheng. 2010. "How many people do you know?: Efficiently estimating personal network size." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 105: 59–70. Proposes a method for estimating both the degree (personal network size) of an individual respondent and the population distribution of network sizes. The paper also provides guidelines for designing future surveys which allow practitioners to estimate degree using the simple (and commonly used) scale-up method while still enjoying the bias-reducing properties of the full hierarchical model proposed for existing data.

- Handcock, M. S., and Krista J. Gile. 2010. "Modeling social networks from sampled data." *The Annals of Applied Statistics* 4 (1): 5–25. The authors develop a conceptual and computational framework for sampled network data. The paper proposes a likelihood-based inference strategy which is generally applicable to many of the most commonly used network sampling designs. The paper also provides a detailed review of these designs.

- Gile, K. J. 2011. "Improved Inference for Respondent-Driven Sampling Data With Application to HIV Prevalence Estima-

tion." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 106 (493): 135–146. This paper is the most recent in a series of papers focusing on models for estimating population proportions for traditionally hard-to-reach groups (the fraction of injection drug users in an area that are living with HIV, for example) using a form of link-tracing design known as Respondent-driven Sampling (RDS). The author presents a successive-sampling based estimator and demonstrates the performance of the estimator under a variety of situations often encountered in RDS data collection.

Selected Additional Papers

- Blitzstein, J., and P. Diaconis. 2006. "A sequential importance sampling algorithm for generating random graphs with prescribed degrees." preprint: 1–35. Provides a sequential importance sampling algorithm for generating a random labeled graph with a given degree sequence. The paper also gives a means of estimating the number of graphs with a given degree sequence.

- Robins, G., Snijders, T., Wang, P., Handcock, M. and P. Pattison. 2007. "Recent developments in exponential random graph (p*) models for social networks." *Social Networks* 29 (2): 192–215. Presents new specifications for the exponential random graph model (ERGM). These models represent a probability distribution across graphs on a fixed set of nodes where the probability of observing a graph is dependent on a set of

graph statistics (such as the number of triangles, or three mutually connected nodes, for example). The authors demonstrate that the newly proposed specifications for this class of models improves fit and help avoid issues with degeneracy which often afflicts previous model specifications.

- Hunter, D. R., Goodreau, S. M., and Handcock, M. S. 2008. "Goodness of Fit of Social Network Models." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 103: 248–258. This paper presents a means of measuring model fit using an exponential random graph model (see above). Though not presented in the Bayesian framework, this paper brings to light issues of model choice and model fit which are, to some extent, still open in Bayesian methods for social networks.

- Raftery, A. E., Niu, X., Hoff, P. D., and Yeung, K.Y. 2011. "Fast inference for the latent space network model using a case-control approximate likelihood." *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* Forthcoming. The authors demonstrate that the computational cost of the latent space models referenced in the previous section is $\mathcal{O}(N^2)$ where N is the number of nodes, making computation difficult for large networks, which are increasingly available. Using a case-control idea from epidemiology, the authors construct a case-control likelihood which, when used as an unbiased estimator of the full likelihood in the MCMC, reduces the computational cost to $\mathcal{O}(N)$.

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III LATIN AMERICAN MEETING ON BAYESIAN STATISTICS

COBAL III

Francisco J. Torres

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From the beginning, the Latin American Meeting on Bayesian Statistics was designed to allow discussion and interaction among researchers, academics and students, with the aim to fur-

ther strengthen scientific exchange within the Bayesian community in Latin-America.

Also known as COBAL (COngreso Bayesiano de América Latina) this meeting was held the first time in 2002 in Ubatuba, Brazil, and later, in 2005, the COBAL II took place in Los Cabos, México. This year the University of Santiago led the organization of the COBAL III in collabora-

tion with other Chilean universities and the event was organized jointly with the Chilean National Meeting of Statistics during October 23 - 27.

We enjoyed the sessions of COBAL III in the beautiful city of Pucón, 780 km to the south of Santiago. All activities were scheduled at the University of La Frontera within a nice and warm environment.

The Scientific Committee of the event included Rosangela Loschi as president, as well as Alicia Carriquiri, Carlos Alberto de Braganca Pereira, Dani Gamerman, Manuel Mendoza, Eduardo Gutiérrez-Peña, Reinaldo Arellano-Valle and Víctor Hugo Salinas.

There was an opening talk on Bayesian Methods Applied to Clinical Trials, and 8 different invited speakers, who addressed topics related to Spatial Statistics, Nonparametric Bayesian Statistics, Computational aspects in Machine Learning, Bayesian Estimation in Population Ecology, Advanced Topics in Time Series, Approximate Bayesian Computations and Restricted Regression Models. The invited speakers were Peter Muller (University of Texas, Austin), Jean Michel Marin (Université Montpellier II), Alexandra Schmidt (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), Ramses Mena (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Trevor Hastie (Stanford University), Wilfredo Palma (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), Heleno Bolfarine (Universidade de Sao Paulo), Fabrizio Ruggeri (CNR-IMATI) and Fernando Quintana (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile).

The event included several invited sessions one of them sponsored by ASMBI. Also a session for young researchers was organized, where three papers selected by the Scientific Committee were presented by the corresponding PhD students: Jorge Figueroa (PUC), Andrés Felipe Barrientos (PUC) and Gustavo Rocha (UFMG). These students received partial funding from the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA). A number of contributed papers were also presented as oral communications or in the poster sessions. Finally, two short courses were delivered. *Diagnostic Inference and Measurement Error Models*, by Manuel Galea (Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile) and *Bayesian Modeling and Inference in Item-Response Models* by Marcia Branco (Universidade de Sao Paulo).

At the end, 125 participants, researchers, professionals and students, attended the meeting. They came from different countries, such as, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, France, Peru, Spain and Chile.

Further details of the organization and program can be revised in http://cobal2011.usach.cl/. Finally, the authors of the papers presented in the event are invited to submit their work for possible publication in a Special Issue on Bayesian Statistics of the Chilean Journal of Statistics. Deadline for submissions is December 27, 2011. The invited editors are Alicia Carriquiri and Dani Gamerman. More information can be found in http://www.usach.cl.

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NEWS FROM THE WORLD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2012 ISBA World Meeting Planning for the 11th ISBA World Meeting, to be held in June 2012 in Kyoto, Japan is now in progress. See the *Program Council* Section in this issue for information on the poster sessions and travel support. Full details can be obatined from the conference website http://www2.e.u-tokyo.ac.jp/?isba2012/.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

8th World Congress in Probability and Statistics, Istanbul, Turkey. 9-14th July, 2012. Jointly organized by the Bernoulli Society and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and scheduled every four years, this meeting is a major worldwide event for statistics and probability, covering all its branches, including theoretical, methodological, applied and computational statistics and probability, and stochastic processes. It features the latest scientific developments in these fields. The program will cover a wide range of topics in statistics and probability, presenting recent developments and the state of the art in a variety of modern research topics, with in-depth sessions on applications of these disciplines to other sciences, industrial innovation and society. It will feature several special plenary lectures presented by leading specialists. In addition, there will be many invited sessions highlighting topics of current research interests, as well as a large number of contributed sessions and posters. The venue of the meeting is Grand Cevahir Hotel & Convention Center located in Istanbul which is a vibrant, multicultural and cosmopolitan city bridging Europe and Asia. Istanbul has a unique cultural conglomeration of east and west, offering many cultural and touristic attractions, such as Hagia Sophia, Sultanahmet, Topkapõ Palace and Maiden's Tower. Additional information can be found at www.worldcong2012.org.

OPEN POSITIONS

University of Connecticut

The Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut, Storrs invites applications for a tenure track assistant professor position beginning Fall 2012. The new faculty is expected to demonstrate excellence in methodological research in Statistics or Biostatistics, teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels, and supervision of students. Minimum Qualifications: Candidates must hold a doctoral degree in Statistics or Biostatistics. Equivalent foreign degrees are acceptable. Preferred Qualifications: Candidates with strong focus on interdisciplinary research, and strong interpersonal and communication skills are preferred. The preferred candidate will demonstrate the ability to contribute through research, teaching, and/or public engagement to the diversity and excellence of the learning experience. Salary is competitive based on experience and qualifications. Please use Husky Hire: http://jobs.uconn.edu to submit a cover letter, curriculum vita, statements of research and teaching agenda, and copy of transcript. Three letters of recommendation in pdf files must be sent by email to tracy.burke@uconn.edu, or by regular mail to Tracy Burke, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, 215 Glenbrook Road, Storrs, CT 06269-4120. Inquiries may be addressed to Nalini Ravishanker, search committee chair, at statsearch1@gmail.com. Applications will be considered until the position is filled.

University of Connecticut

The Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, invites applications for a tenure track assistant/associate professor beginning August, 2012. This appointment is within the Department of Statistics, with joint appointment involving research collaboration at the Center for Health, Intervention, and Prevention (CHIP) at UConn (www.chip.uconn.edu). Responsibilities will include methodological and interdisciplinary research in biostatistics with applications in behavioral and social sciences. It will also include teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels, and supervision of MS and Ph.D. students in statistics. Candidates must hold a doctoral degree in statistics, biostatistics or a closely related discipline. Equivalent foreign degrees are acceptable. An established research record in the area of biostatis-

tics is required as well as strong interpersonal and communication skills. Expertise in factor analysis, meta-analysis, missing data, multilevel modeling, and structural equation modeling is desirable. Salary is competitive based on experience and qualifications. Please use Husky Hire: http://jobs.uconn.edu to submit a cover letter, curriculum vita, statements of research and teaching agenda, and copy of transcript. Three

letters of recommendation in pdf files must be sent by e-mail to ming-hui.chen@uconn.edu. Applications will be considered until the position is filled. Inquiries should be addressed to Professor Ming-Hui Chen, Chair, Search committee, Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, 215 Glenbrook Road, U-4120, Storrs, CT 06269-4120.

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