



January 1, 2018

Volume 8 Issue 1



Inside this issue:

Letter from KISS president elect	2
Annual Meeting at JSM 2017	2
KISS Officer Report	3
Awardees at JSM	4
Upcoming Meetings	4
Member's Profile	3,7,9
Asian Initiative Workshop Concludes with Sage Advice	5-6
Call for Papers: CSAM	10

President's Corner

Dear KISS members,

Happy New Year! I hope that 2018 is off to a good start for everyone. As a result of all the hard work and dedication of our KISS officers and volunteers over the past year, we continued to increase our membership (*thank you, Kiseop Lee!*), revamped our website (*thank you, Ryung Kim!*), organized scientific sessions for various conferences (*thank you, Jeongyoun Ahn!*), collaborated with the other Asian societies on a successful career development workshop (*thank you Seonjin Kim!*), increased the participation of KISS members on high level ASA committees (*congratulations to KISS President-elect Donsig Jang on also being elected to the ASA Board!*), and had a great turn out at our Annual Meeting and Dinner in Baltimore. For me, the major highlight was all the wonder-

and contacts in other spheres. However, just creating these linkages in our various networks is not enough. It requires the investment of much time and effort to sustain them, as with anything that is worthwhile doing.

Building relationships, which is so beneficial not only for our careers but also for making our lives more rich and meaningful, was also a major recurring theme in the career development workshop for Asian statisticians at JSM 2017 that was organized by representatives from the three Asian socie-

ties, ICSA, IISA, and KISS, as well as the ASA, as part of ASA President, Barry Nusbaum's Asian initiative. For those who were not able to attend, we have reprinted in this newsletter an AMSTAT news article about the workshop. The panelists emphasized again the importance of organizations such as ours in helping Asian statisticians overcome language and cultural barriers in their workplace, and the benefits of being actively engaged in these societies, organizing sessions, and volunteering for committees.

I came across an article recently in the New York Times on "How to Manage Your Career" which offered the usual advice about the importance of networking, joining professional organizations, and taking advantage

of workshops and training sessions, in developing a successful career. What I found the most intriguing was the discussion of the relative value of the different types of social and professional networks that we all have, such as our local network (people we interact with daily) versus our outer network (colleagues we talk to occasionally), versus our extended network (former colleagues and classmates, people we've met on committees). According to the article, it turns out that it's actually *the more distant links in our network that offer the most value professionally*, such as help in finding a job, because these weaker ties provide an entree into networks we wouldn't ordinarily be able to access. I have certainly found this to be true in my 25+ years working in the statistics field--relationships and contacts developed outside of work snowball into additional valuable relationships

We will continue to

make the professional development and advancement of our members a major priority of KISS in the coming year. We are always eager to hear about new ways we can be more effective at doing this, so please reach out and share your ideas. I look forward to seeing many of you at the KISS annual meeting and dinner during JSM in beautiful Vancouver---please drop by to see old friends, make new ones, and expand your social and professional network!

Warmest regards,

Mimi



Letter from KISS president elect

Hello KISSers,

I wish you all a very happy new year! To my surprise, I was elected president for KISS last year, and am now serving for the second year of my term as president-elect. KISS has come a long way in becoming one of the key international statistical organizations recognized by ASA and other fellow international organizations, like ICSA and IISA. As many of you may have already known, it was Dongseok Choi's vision, leadership, and commitment that led us here. After Dongseok laid the critical ground for the organization, KISS was very fortunate to find the right leader, Mimi Kim, to take the baton from Dongseok to lead

the organization.

It is clearly my privilege to serve KISS as the president. I hope that I will be able to keep the momentum created by Dongseok and Mimi to help expand KISS contributions to the international statistical community, including ASA and KSS. During 2018, I will work closely with Dongseok, other KISS officers and board members to help KISS president Mimi Kim's initiatives. More importantly, I will seek wisdom and insight from many KISS members, including Dongseok and Mimi, to prepare for my president incumbency beginning next year. To that end, I would also like to ask my fellow KISS members to

provide your input to help shape the strategic priorities I should focus on during 2019 – 2020. Please email me at jang-don@norc.org with your suggestions about what KISS should focus on in the next few years. And if you plan to attend the JSM in Vancouver this year, please also plan to attend the KISS annual meeting. I look forward to seeing many of you at JSM this summer.

Best wishes,

Don Jang (KISS president-elect)

2017 KISS Annual Meeting at JSM

The 2017 KISS annual meeting was held at the Joint Statistical Meetings on the July 31st in Baltimore.

1. President's Invited Talk: Karen Kafadar, ASA President-Elect, Commonwealth Professor and Chair, Dept. of Statistics, University of Virginia

2. ASA Fellows Talk: Jong-Hyeon Jeong, Professor and Interim Chair, Dept. of Biostatistics, University of Pittsburgh

3. Business items

- Status of organization
 - Membership profile
 - Updated website
 - Student Travel Awards
 - Fundraising
 - Changes in leadership
- 2017 President Elect:
Donsig Jang
2018 KISS Program Chair:
Jeongyoun Ahn
2019 KISS Program Chair:
Julia Lee

4. KISS 2017 Career Development Award

5. Career workshops

- 2017: Joint career workshop with KISS, IISA, ICSA, ASA
 - 2016: Leadership skill development workshop
 - 2015: Career development workshop
6. Recognition of past KISS officers.
7. KISS Annual Dinner at Pratt Street Ale House

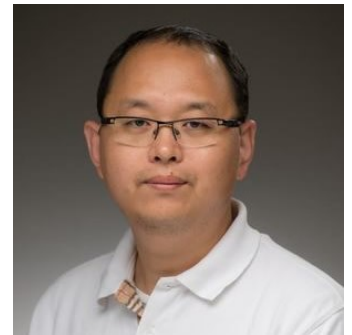
Member's Profile: Dr. Ick Hoon Jin, Career Development Award Winner

Dr. Ick Hoon Jin is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics in the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Jin received his B.A. in Business and Applied Statistics at Yonsei University in 2004. After completing M.A. in Applied Statistics at Yonsei University in 2006, he went to Texas A&M University to pursue a Ph.D. in Statistics under the guidance of Professor Faming Liang. During his Ph.D. period, he researched on Markov chain Monte Carlo methods with their applications to the network data analysis. His dissertation title is "Statistical Inferences for Models with Intractable Normalizing Constants."

After receiving his Ph.D. in 2011, Dr. Jin started a postdoctoral fellow in the

Department of Biostatistics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Under the supervision of Dr. Ying Yuan and Dr. Peter Thall, he worked on the Bayesian dose-finding studies, which determine the appropriate dose of a new agent based on toxicity and efficacy, in oncology. Additionally, he also proposed a new modeling framework for the analysis of dental caries outcomes.

Dr. Jin joined the University of Notre Dame as an Assistant Professor in 2015 after spending one year at Ohio State University Medical Center as a research scientist. During his tenure at Notre Dame, he works on the analysis of behavioral science data, especially, identifying dependent structures of binary item response datasets



using network modeling approach.

Dr. Jin's current researches can be summarized as follows: he focuses on the development of data intensive computing and its applications to big data analysis - from biological sciences (e.g., dental caries assessment data) to behavioral sciences (e.g., social network data and item response data).

KISS Officers' Reports

Financial report

2016 Carry Forward: \$16,075
 2017 Income: \$5,382
 2017 Expense: \$4,020
 2017 Balance: \$17,437

Membership report

Lifetime: 63, Regular: 99,
 Spouse: 1, Students: 22.
 These numbers may not reflect all who signed up

through KSS.

Program Chair report

- 1) KSS Spring meeting, May 2017 (Seoul, Korea): Two KISS-sponsored invited sessions
- 2) KSS Fall meeting, November 2017 (Seoul, Korea): One KISS-sponsored invited session

3) JSM, August 2017 (Baltimore, MD):

- Invited Papers Session: *New Challenges in Complex Data Analysis*
- Topic Contributed Papers Session: *New Advances in Analysis of Complex Cohort Studies*
- Contributed Papers Session: *Special Issues in Modeling*
- Contributed Poster Presentations

Awardees at JSM 2017

Three KISS members became 2017 ASA Fellows: Dr. Jong-Hyeon Jeong at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Ying Yuan at MD Anderson, and Dr. Rochelle (Rongwei) Fu at Oregon Health & Science University. The two winners for the 2017 Career Development Awards were Dr. James Long at Texas A&M University and Dr. Ick Hoon Jin at the University of Notre Dame.



Upcoming Meetings

- ENAR 2018, March 25-28, Atlanta, GA, USA, <http://www.enar.org/meetings/spring2018/index.cfm>
- KSS 2018 Spring Meeting, May 25-26, Busan University, Busan, Korea, <http://www.kss.or.kr/>
- WNAR 2018, June 24-27, Edmonton, CA, <http://www.wnar.org/event-2630481>
- Joint Statistical Meetings 2018, July 28- August 2, 2018, Vancouver, BC, CA, <http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2018/>
- 2018 Joint Conference for Experimental Design and Production Engineering (Joint meeting of the 3rd Pacific Rim Statistical Conference for Production Engineering and the 2nd Conference on Experimental Design and Analysis) Dec 13 -15, 2018 National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan (Contact email: statconfpe2016@gmail.com). This is a KISS co-sponsored meeting.



Asian Initiative Workshop Concludes with Sage Advice

Amarjot Kaur, David Morganstein, Cyrus Mehta, Tony Cai, Donsig Jang, Barry Nussbaum, and Donna LaLonde

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

— Henry Ford

During the 2017 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Baltimore, the American Statistical Association, International Indian Statistical Association (IISA), International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA),

ists, representing all four societies, included David Morganstein from Westat and former ASA president, Cyrus Mehta from Cytel and former IISA president, Tony Cai from the University of Pennsylvania and current ICSA president, and Donsig Jang from NORC at the University of Chicago and KISS president-elect. The discussion was moderated by Amarjot Kaur from Merck Re-

his perspective as a native speaker during both his interactions with family members from Asia and colleagues at Westat. He emphasized communication skills and networking and shared solutions to overcome barriers, such as joining in ASA and other society activities. Cai focused on new researchers in academia and gave practical advice for research and journal publications based on his experience as past editor of the *Annals*

and Korean International Statistical Society (KISS) organized a workshop on career development and leadership skills. The workshop was organized by the taskforce created under ASA President Barry Nussbaum's initiative to identify ways the societies could collaborate to identify and address distinctive needs and concerns of Asian statisticians and to help enhance their professional growth.

search Labs and past-president of IISA. Nussbaum made the opening remarks and provided motivation behind the initiative.

Topics Considered

The statistical leaders' diverse backgrounds affected their own professional experiences, challenges, and ability to overcome cultural barriers. They discussed unique

of Statistics. Mehta emphasized presentation and leadership skills that are fundamental to entrepreneurship. He brought in the perspective of Cytel employees. Jang emphasized collaborative skills and that clients define the true value of statisticians. He also described various career stages of the Asian statistician. Kaur weighed in on communication and leadership skills and shared anecdotes from her journey.

The workshop was successful in providing an opportunity to interact with and learn from the leaders who are passionate about the development of Asian statisticians. The keen interest of the audience of more than 30 was exemplified with their active participation, leaving no time for the prepared questions. And that was great!

The distinguished panel-

challenges they encountered due to different cultural backgrounds and communication skills and the approaches they took to overcome them, professional benefits of working with statisticians with diverse backgrounds, and the important skill set of Asian statisticians and potential areas of improvement.

Morganstein provided

Typically, the early struggle for Asian statisticians includes language and cultural barriers, along with the general fight for survival.

Asian Initiative Workshop Concludes with Sage Advice

Sage Advice

Volunteer Your Time

- Join committees of statistical societies.
- Organize sessions at conferences.
- Show up at other peoples' presentations.
- If chairing sessions, prepare questions in advance.
- Look for apprenticeships and internships.

Find a Mentor and Network

- Get involved in professional societies.
- Find a local mentor. Receiving mentoring and reinforcement from senior members of the profession helps.

Learn to Communicate

- Talk in English at professional meetings, especially when other colleagues do not speak your native language.
- Socialize with locals : Don't hang out solely with colleagues from 'back home.'
- When English is not the mother tongue, focus on the following:
 - Accent reduction, while acknowledging that good communication is not merely accent reduction
 - Writing style; join writing workshops
 - Logical presentation
- Give talks
 - Seek feedback.
 - Practice and do dry runs.
- Write papers
- Learn to be influential
 - Speak up at meetings.
 - Know when to intervene.

- Overcome a sense of inferiority.
- Realize that technical prowess alone is not sufficient.

Partner with Colleagues and Collaborate

- Partner with colleagues whose knowledge and skills complement your own.
- Be a team player.
- Be willing to let go of control.

Publication Pointers

- Do a good job writing your manuscript. Make sure the submission version is of good quality.
- Pay attention to the referees' comments and follow up thoughtfully when responding to journal comments.
- The good effort of authors does eventually get noticed.

Imbibe the Culture and Socialize

- Read novels.
- Watch movies and sports.
- Go to mixers and parties.

Other Professional Tips

- Have passion for your profession.
- Understand the big picture and be willing to help outside of your roles/assignments for the quality of the end product.

uct.

- Approach your assignments as if quality of the end product is up to you.
- Develop a keen understanding of your value in the appropriate context (whether methods or technology).
- Manage your time well.
- Develop good judgment. Know what you know and what you don't.

All these activities can help build confidence, develop social and presentation skills, and increase the chances of finding the right path toward your professional goals.

Looking Forward

Statistical societies such as the ASA provide encouragement to young statisticians by offering opportunities to network and enhance statistical skills when attending conferences, workshops, and other statistical activities. Determining the specific needs of statisticians with an Asian background is an important first step to paving the way for further discussion and development of future statistical leaders.

The 'Asian Initiative' taskforce led by Morganstein included two members each from the four societies (ASA, IISA, ICSA, and KISS). They identified sev-

eral actions that might enhance further growth of Asian statisticians. Two broader areas of early action include career development and leadership skills training and increased involvement of Asian statisticians with the ASA committees.

This workshop was the first step toward career development and leadership skills training, and there are plans to offer such workshops at future ASA-sponsored conferences such as the Conference on Statistical Practice. The taskforce will continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the planned activities. If you have additional ideas for the taskforce to consider, contact Morganstein at davidmorganstein@westat.com, Kaur at amarjot_kaur@merck.com, or Donna LaLonde at DonnaL@amstat.org.

[This article first appeared in *Amstat News* December 2017 issue. This workshop was organized by the Asian Taskforce sub-team on workshops to support professional development: Seonjin Kim, Amarjot Kaur, Mei-ling Ting Lee, David Morganstein, and Donna LaLonde.]



Korean International Statistical Society

Member's Profile: Dr. Jong-Hyeon Jeong, 2017 ASA Fellow

First I would like to thank Dr. Mimi Kim and Dr. Ryung Kim for inviting me to write this article. I wasn't sure if I would have much to say about my story as "success", but I thought this would be a great opportunity to reflect on my trails sitting in my recently renovated office on one of those quiet winter break days.

I spent my childhood in an extremely rural area, located somewhere in Inje County, South Korea. Electricity was an innovation unknown to our town and large

time of my childhood. And from there, as I started elementary school, marked the beginning of my academic journey.

During my senior year at Chun-Cheon senior high school, my homeroom teacher, while consulting me on my college plan, advised me to consider studying Statistics, because the discipline was new at that time and would bring potentially high

insightful quote then, I might have made my decision faster: "You can't fall if you don't climb. But there's no joy in living your whole life on the ground." I ended up joining the PhD program in the Department of Statistics at University of Rochester in 1989, where I met bright student colleagues and brilliant professors and mentors. I was extremely privileged to work with Professor David Oakes,

pythons were just mere sightings around the rural cottage house. Yet its surroundings were beautiful with abundance of unearthly trees and birds. Right in front of our house, a narrow creek marked base of a small mountain that sloped steeply on its opposing side. I can still vividly remember that the countless Azaleas were bloomed on that mountain every spring and squirrels were roaming all year around. Our house looked like a little animal farm with roosters and hens pecking

job security. Therefore, I have to credit my high school homeroom teacher for shaping my path toward this profession, and it has turned out to be a wonderful blessing throughout my journey. I still deeply respect and admire him for his vision on the discipline of Statistics.

During my training period in the military academy to be an officer, which was a

who trained me to be an independent researcher and has been my mentor throughout my academic career.

After my brief stay with Department of Neuroscience at UC-San Diego as a post-doctoral fellow, I joined the Department of Biostatistics at University of Pittsburgh in 1998 as a junior faculty. Since arriving here, I have been



around with dogs hard on their heels, and a small barn full of domesticated rabbits. I consider that period the best

part of the special 6-month military service program, I came across colleagues who had studied in the United States and came back to Korea for their mandatory military services. From listening to their stories of adventure in a foreign country, I was inspired to follow their footsteps to come over to the United States to pursue an advanced academic degree. If I had known the following

very fortunate to be actively involved in many academic and scholarly activities in our department from teaching and student advising to collaboration to junior faculty mentoring to administration. Last year I was humbled and honored to lead the department as Interim Chair, and have learned numerous lessons during my tenure. One of the most important lessons has been, "Men with

Member's Profile: Dr. Jong-Hyeon Jeong, 2017 ASA Fellow

achievements might be envied, but men with integrity are admired and followed". As a group leader, my favorite quote all year around was one by Antoine de Saint Exupéry (Author of The little Prince): "If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea." This year, I have returned to the role of Vice Chair and am working together with our new Chair on faculty recruitment and routine management of the department.

Having been in this profession for so many years, I realize that the work-related hazard, due to sitting and working on the computer most of the day, can be incredibly high and dangerous. I was actually in a very poor health condition about 10 years ago for this exact reason. For a period I struggled to even sit and focus on my work, and it took years, with the aid of constant physical therapy and regular exercise, to fully recover. I still remember a simple but unforgettable comment made by my

father during that period, "If you lose your health, you lose everything".

In my personal life, although I grew up loving playing soccer, my muscles and joints do not allow for it any longer. I still enjoy playing tennis, both singles and doubles, and enjoy playing guitar and singing from time to time. I also love going to the movies and watching Broadway shows. I am very proud of my two special children (son and daughter) and my lovely and intelligent wife.

I would like to thank

you for reading this somewhat boring story of my academic life, and would like to conclude with my translated version of the quote about learning and life from the great thinker and philosopher, Confucius (551 B.C. – 479 B.C.):

"How joyful to study and learn from time to time? How cheerful when a friend makes a long distance trip to pay a visit? If one remains calm and level-headed despite not being recognized by others, what a man of integrity he is?"

Pictures from JSM 2017



Member's Profile: Dr. James Long, Career Development Award Winner

James Long is an Assistant Professor of Statistics at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. He earned his PhD in Statistics in 2013 from UC Berkeley under the supervision of Professors Nouredine El Karoui and John Rice. His research focuses on analysis of astronomical data sets and the emerging field of astrostatistics. He is a proud husband of Mika Shiramizu and a new father to little Mia, age 4 months.

I first become interested in statistics while taking an undergraduate inference

work, the Harvard Dialect Study, an fMRI study of neural responses to natural images. I particularly enjoyed the emphasis on prediction rather than parameter estimation. This course, combined with some bad measure theory experiences, switched my academic interests to more applied problems.

I began working with astronomy data sets during

class at Columbia University taught by Professor Daniel Rabinowitz. In the class we learned about Fisher Information and the Cramer Rao bound. I found it fascinating that there existed a mathematically rigorous framework for quantifying the best possible performance of an estimator. As a result of this class I decided to apply to graduate programs in statistics.

During my second year of graduate school, I was fortunate enough to take an Applied Statistics course from

my third year of graduate school. This continues to be my main area of research. Astronomy is full of multi-stage inference problems that require use, and sometimes development, of many statistical tools. At Texas A&M I am part of an ongoing collaboration with members of the Physics and Astronomy Department to construct maps of the Milky Way halo, the region of space that lies



Professor Bin Yu. The class consisted mainly of projects in which we would analyze one data set and write a report. The complexity and size of these data sets was unlike anything I had seen before: a redwood tree sensor net-

at the edge of our galaxy. The problem has involved building physical models for a particular type of star (RR Lyrae), developing model selection / classification tools so that we can identify stars of this type from the 200 million or so total stars we observe, and finally inferring the 3-D spatial density of this type of star.



Call for Papers: Communications for Statistical Applications and Methods

Dr. Chul H. Ahn

Communications for Statistical Applications and Methods is an official journal of the Korean Statistical Society and Korean International Statistical Society beginning in 2013. Abbreviated title is 'CSAM'. It contains original articles dedicated to application research in various fields of statistics and probability, or contributing to applied statistics through innovative data analysis and interpretation. However, articles dealing with

statistical education are also welcomed. The journal welcomes articles from all countries. Our objective is to increase the visibility of CSAM journal by growing its content and distribution. By continually raising the quality of the journal and thereby increasing the likelihood of citation, we are working hard to list this journal in Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE).

We encourage all KSS and KISS members to submit pa-

pers via CSAM to reach this goal in the near future.

The journal accepts articles written in English and is published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September, and November. All of the manuscripts are peer-reviewed. CSAM welcomes only original research articles for the form of publication. For details about instruction for authors including manuscript preparation and submission, please visit <http://csam.or.kr>

Editorial Board:

Editor-in-Chief
Seongjoo Song, Korea U

Co-Editors
Chul H. Ahn, Food and Drug Administration
Hyuncheol Kang, Hoseo U

Honorary Editors
Wayne Fuller, Iowa State U.
Donald B. Rubin, Harvard U.
Grace Wahba, U. Wisconsin

As of August 2017, *Communications for Statistical Applications and Methods (CSAM)*, an official journal of the Korean Statistical Society and Korean International Statistical Society was listed in Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) in the Web of Science Core Collection. As a result, CSAM will now be included in journal citation reports by Web of Science and its Impact Factor will be calculated for evaluation of journals.



Korean International Statistical Society

0841 SW Gaines St. Unit 502
Portland, OR 97239

E-mail: info@statkiss.org
<http://www.statkiss.org>

If you would like to write an
article or have comments for
KISS newsletters, please email to
info@statkiss.org.

KISS Officers:

President: Mimi Kim (Albert Einstein College of Medicine)
President-elect: Donsig Jang (NORC)
President-past: Dongseok Choi (Oregon Health & Science U.)
Executive Director: Kiseop Lee (Purdue U.)
Treasurer: Jong-Min Kim (U. Minnesota at Morris)
Communications Director: Ryung S. Kim (Albert Einstein College of Medicine)

KISS Board of Directors:

Dongseok Choi (Oregon Health & Science U.)
Jae-Kwang Kim (Iowa State U.)
Sin-ho Jung (Duke U.)
Hokwon Cho (U. Nevada at Las Vegas)
Chul Ahn (U. Texas Southwestern Medical Center)
Donsig Jang (NORC)
Eun-Pyo Hong (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)
Mimi Kim (Albert Einstein College of Medicine)
Sunhee Kwon (ONYX Pharmaceuticals)
Chul H. Ahn (Food and Drug Administration)
Daniel F. Heitjan (SMU/UTSW)
Kyunghee Song (Food and Drug Administration)
Jong-Hyeon Jung (U. of Pittsburgh)
MoonJung Cho (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Hyunsik James Lee (Westat)

Become a KISSer!

KISS has renovated the website at <http://statkiss.org>. The sign-up and renewal process is automatic now. Members can sign-up or renew their membership on a rolling basis. Members can also edit their personal information such as email and affiliations. They can also opt-in to receive job posting announcements through email.

The website contains the information about KISS, News and events, job opportunities, upcoming and past meetings, and membership online registration. Please visit our website for more information.



Korean International Statistical Society