



MILWASA Monitor

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MILWASA Announces Major Speaker Engagement

World-renowned Statistician to Present Talk in Milwaukee

C.R. Rao, Emeritus Eberly Professor of Statistics and Director of the Center for Multivariate Analysis at Pennsylvania State University and Adjunct Professor at the University of Pittsburgh is scheduled to deliver a speech at a MILWASA meeting to be held at Mader's restaurant in downtown Milwaukee on September 20 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The topic of Dr. Rao's talk is "Uncertainty, Statistics and Creation of New Knowledge." He will address such questions as: "How do we make decisions under uncertainty?"; "How do we generalize from particular observed data to discover new phenomena or to advance in knowledge?"; "Is the process involved science, technology or art?"; and, "What are the philosophical and logical implications?"

The emergence of statistics as a separate discipline in the present century has enabled us to answer some of these questions. The role of statistics in collection of data, extraction of information from data and quantification of uncertainty in information leading to decision making will be discussed with appropriate examples.

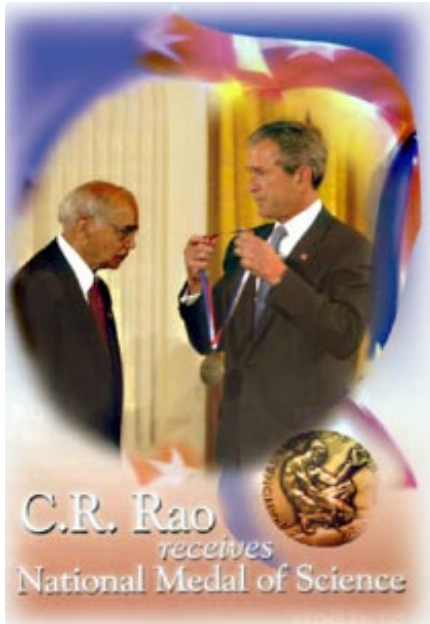
Dr. Rao was honored by the President at the White House with a National Medal of Science on June 12, 2002 with citations, "for his pioneering contributions to the foundations of statistical theory and multivariate statistical methodology and their applications, enriching the physical, biological, mathematical, economic and engineering sciences."

Dr. Rao earned his Ph.D. and Sc.D. degrees at Cambridge University, UK, and has received 27 honorary doctoral degrees from universities in sixteen countries around the world. He is the author of 14 books and 350 research papers published in professional journals. He held several important positions, as Director of the Indian Statistical Institute, Jawaharlal Nehru

Professor and National Professor in India, University Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and Eberly Professor of Statistics at the Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Rao is among the worldwide leaders in statistical science over the last six decades. His research, scholarship and professional services had a profound influence in theory and applications of statistics and are incorporated into standard references for statistical study and practice. Two of his papers have found a place in the publication, *Breakthroughs in Statistics: 1890-1990* (over 100 years) edited by S. Kotz and N.L. Johnson.

Dr. Rao has spent his entire career promoting statistics and their usefulness in society. He says, "If there is a problem to be solved, seek statistical advice instead of appointing a committee of experts. Statistics can throw more light than the collective wisdom of the articulate few."



For reservations to attend this special event, please send a check payable to American Statistical Association - Milwaukee Chapter to

Medical College of Wisconsin
Patient Care & Outcomes Research
PO Box 26509
Milwaukee, WI 53226
ATTN: Rodney Sparapani

Include your email address and your choice of entree.

Price Reduction!

The cost for this program is now \$12 for MILWASA members & students. The \$21 fee for non-members also covers a one-year ASA Milwaukee Chapter membership. Those who have already paid the original \$30 non-member price will receive two years of membership instead of one. Students who paid will receive a refund for the difference.

Lunch is included with the fee. Entree choices are:

- Bavarian Style Sauerbraten**
- Grilled Chicken Breast**
- Weiss Batter Walleye Pike**
- Wild Mushroom Stew**

Mader's is located at 1037 N. Old World Third Street.

ESS Developers proudly announce the release of ESS 5.1.24

Emacs Speaks Statistics (ESS) provides an intelligent, consistent interface between the user and the software. ESS interfaces with S-PLUS, R, SAS, BUGS and other statistical analysis packages under the Unix, Microsoft Windows, and Apple Mac OS operating systems. ESS is a package for the GNU Emacs and XEmacs text editors whose features ESS uses to streamline the creation and use of statistical software. ESS knows the syntax and grammar of statistical analysis packages and provides consistent display and editing features based on that knowledge.

ESS assists in interactive and batch execution of statements written in these statistical analysis languages. ESS is freely available under the GNU General Public License (GPL). Please read the file COPYING which comes with the distribution, for more information about the license. For more detailed information, please read the README files that come with ESS.

Getting the Latest Version

The latest stable version of ESS is always available on the web at: ESS web page

<http://software.biostat.washington.edu/ess/>
or StatLib

<http://lib.stat.cmu.edu/general/ESS/>

John P. Klein Named Fellow of the American Statistical Association

Alexandria, VA - John P. Klein, Division of Biostatistics Head at the Medical College of Wisconsin, was named Fellow of the American Statistical Association on August 13, 2002, during the annual awards ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in New York City.

Klein earned his Bachelor's and Masters degrees at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1973 and 1975, respectively. He joined the American Statistical Association in 1977, then went on to receive a Doctorate at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1980.

His official Fellow citation reads as follows: "John P. Klein, Division of Biostatistics Head, Medical College of Wisconsin: For contributions to survival analysis, especially in the areas of multistate modeling, frailty models, and competing risks, and for innovative applications of statistics to the bone marrow transplantation field."

Each year, the Committee on Fellows can only elect one-third of one percent of the total membership. This year, 48 members of the Association were accorded the Fellows honor.

Law of Large Numbers is Alive and Well at 2002 GENCON Games Fair

By Dan Eastwood, M.S., MILWASA Vice President

My own exploration of probability began with the board game *Risk* when I was young, and soon I was writing my own simulation programs on an Apple II+. I was fascinated by the thought of enumerating all the possible outcomes and determining the best strategy for winning the game. This self-study soon expanded to include most of my favorite games, got me hooked on computers, and eventually led me to the study of statistics and a career. I still like to study my favorite games; I love to disassemble the rules, study the probabilities, put them back together again, then go and play it.

Looking over the GENCON crowds gathered in the Midwest Center, I have to believe that there are lots of people out there who are quite interested in probability, and whether they know it or not, interested in statistics too. Some of the people I spoke to are very knowledgeable of the probabilities involved in a game. Furthermore, THEY THINK IT'S FUN.

Now, when was the last time you heard someone describe their college stats class as fun? How many times have you seen people get the "your-a-WHAT" look on someone's face when you tell them of your profession? I have personally met at least half a dozen people still in statistical-shell-shock, twenty or more years after taking an intro level stats course. How many people have you met that would consider statistics to be fun?

I am very happy being a statistician, but I sometimes think that as a profession, we haven't done a very good job of selling ourselves. Too many people have the impression that statistics has to be dull, boring, or cryptically complex. Too many people think that statistics are something they can't understand. It doesn't have to be that way. I think statisticians need to try harder to increase awareness of what we do, what it's good for, and how it can be of benefit. I think it's very important to reach out and find ways to attract new people to our profession, and to let them know that it offers excellent opportunities.

There are plenty of people who are interested. There are plenty of people who grasp the basic concepts. I know there are, because I just saw thousands of them at GENCON. All of them were shuffling cards or rolling dice, all of them putting the Law of Large Numbers to the test, and all of them loving it.

Chinese Professor Here for a Year as Post Doctoral Fellow

Hongmei Yu is visiting for a year as a Post Doctoral fellow at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She has a Ph.D. in Medicine from the Fourth Military Medical University. Dr. Yu is currently an Associate Professor of Statistics in the School of Public Health, Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan China. Her interests are in survival analysis and biostatistics.