January 29, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

We are in the process of founding the Statistics Former Students Network (SFSN). Dr. Valen Johnson, Department Head of Statistics, has asked me to serve as the inaugural President. Marcella "Marcy" Johnson, Director of Quantitative Research in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Center, has been selected as the inaugural President Elect, and Dr. Shane Reese, Dean, Brigham Young University, College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, has agreed to serve as a board member.

The purpose of the network is to share knowledge, expertise and experiences of the former students of the Department of Statistics among its members, thus enriching and extending their education and professional careers. Individuals who received or are pursuing graduate or undergraduate degrees in statistics from the Texas A&M Department of Statistics are eligible to become members of the SFSN.

The SFSN will be co-sponsored by the Association of Former Students (AFS) and Aggie Network, which the AFS maintains. We will use the Aggie Network's database to communicate with our members. We therefore need your help in disseminating this information to colleagues who may not receive this announcement as a result of either not being in the Aggie Network database or not having current contact information in the Aggie Network system. We also plan to use the Aggie Network database to establish a listserv for SFSN postings, online discussions and sharing of ideas. The listserv will also be used for the election of board members and officers.   We therefore encourage and invite you to log into aggienetwork.com and update your contact information.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SFSN, PLEASE REPLY TO THIS EMAIL INDICATING YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT LISTSERV. YOU MAY ALSO CLICK THIS LINK. https://t.e2ma.net/click/v2crcc/ztki5z/jd9pdkc

We also invite you to volunteer for open positions on the SFSN Board. Responsibilities of each open position are described below:

- Managing technical resources in collaboration and coordination with AFS. SFSN technical resources include the SFSN web page, online discussion and consulting forums, webinars, and network database management.
- Organizing SFSN member presentations. Presentations may be distributed electronically as webinars, or provided in person during on-site presentations at Texas A&M University or professional meetings.
- Organizing academic consulting. The SFSN may assist in the identification of data analysis and consulting problems for undergraduate and master students, and in identifying potential internship/job opportunities for current statistics students.
- Organizing meetings, identifying and recommending candidates for awards. The SFSN will play an active role in identifying and recommending candidates for the Hartley Award, and will periodically organize alumni events (i.e., reunions and seminars).

One of the best assets of Texas A&M University and Department of Statistics is its alumni and current students. We encourage you to join the SFSN. With the recent inauguration of the undergraduate bachelor's of science degree in statistics, we hope to capitalize on this unique opportunity to help ourselves, the Department of Statistics, Texas A&M University and our society by becoming better at our profession through participation in the Statistics Former Student Network.

Sincerely,

Ersen Arseven, Ph.D., '74

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