

The Mu Sigma RhoVER

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News from the Chapters

Virginia Alpha Chapter - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

This past year there were 6 BS, 10 MS and 6 PhD degrees awarded. Graduates accepted jobs with companies or institutions like Du Pont, Miami University (OH), Auburn University, Dade MicroScan, 3M, and the CDC. Two students opted to continue to graduate school. Salaries for the new hires ranged from \$50K to \$80K.

Current officers are **Sundar Dorai-Raj**, President; **Megan Waterman**, Vice President; and **Kathryn Tucker**, Secretary-Treasurer. The faculty advisor is Dr. Jeffrey B. Birch.

In the past year the Chapter sponsored two colloquia: Dr. Donald Burdick, of Duke University, spoke on "How does Johnny Learn to Read?" and Dr. B. Michael Adams, from the University of Alabama, spoke on "Diagnostic Tools for Control Charts." The colloquia speakers were inducted as honorary members.

All five new initiates were at the graduate level. They were **Edward Boone**, **Bennett Otieno** and **Xiao Yang** (PhD level); and **Ayca Ozol** and **Silvia Zhang** (MS level).

South Carolina Beta Chapter - University of South Carolina

The South Carolina Beta Chapter inducted seven new members this past spring: **Parul Bhargava**, **Ryan Fescina**, **Lisa Haney**, **Brandon Julio**, **Bonnie Kegan**, **Heather Ridings**, and **Russ Stocker**.

Major activities this year included:

- (1) A field trip to the ENAR regional meeting in Charlotte in March. Members accompanying advisor Don Edwards were Parul Bhargava, Brian Gray, Megan Meece, Dani Nitcheva, Wei Pan, Susan Simmons, and Phil Yates.
- (2) A social hour and talk featuring Jeri Williams of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society.

(3) A social hour and talk featuring Dr. Robert Lordo of Battelle Laboratories, Columbus OH (and a USC alumnus), who spoke on research and employment opportunities at Battelle.

Louisiana Alpha Chapter - McNeese State University

We now have a program offering a BS in Mathematics with a concentration in Mathematical Statistics, and also a BS in Computer Science with a Concentration in Statistical Computing. Our Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences with Concentration in Statistics program is doing well. Many graduate students are from local petrochemical industries and the number is increasing every year.

Also, we now are set up for Applied Statistics program and anticipate high quality presentations for them.