

AusCan Scholarship recipient to visit Australia in 2006

The AusCan Scholar program was developed by the Statistical Society of Australia Inc and Statistical Society of Canada to foster young researchers and promote collaborative activities between the societies. A primary objective of the AusCan Scholar program is to promote scientific interaction between the Australian and Canadian statistical communities, particularly in areas of statistics relating to current and important practical problems. Another objective is to provide the opportunity for outstanding young Canadian/Australian researchers in these areas to visit a number of leading research centres in Australia/Canada, to present their current research and interact with a number of researchers in that country. The visit will be of 4-8 weeks' duration, one week in each of a few cities, and extendible if made in conjunction with participation in a national conference. The primary objective is to move around the country to meet people.

The inaugural AusCan Scholar is Dr Mu Zhu. Dr Zhu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at the University of Waterloo in Canada and has been a member of the department since 2001. Prior to this position, Dr Zhu received his PhD in statistics from Stanford University, which he completed under the supervision of Professors Trevor Hastie, Robert Tibshirani and Jerome Friedman. His current research interests include rare target detection, data mining, multivariate analysis, pattern recognition (namely classification and clustering), dimension reduction and variable selection. A list of his recent publications is provided on his webpage <http://www.stats.uwaterloo.ca/~m3zhu/>.

I will be helping to coordinate Dr Zhu's visit to Australia, which is most likely to occur in September-October this year, and am currently putting together a broad program for his time in Australia. At this stage, he plans

to visit a few cities in the eastern states for a total length of 6 weeks. In particular he has made plans to visit the Australian National University and the University of Melbourne. However, he is open to suggestions in developing a program that will allow him to fulfil the objectives of the scholarship. Any individuals or groups interested in meeting and/or having Dr Zhu spend some time with them during his trip should contact me as soon as possible to register your interest. If you require further details about Dr Zhu's research, I have a two-page document that I could forward on to you.

Finally, further details about the AusCan Scholar program are available on the SSAI webpage (www.statsoc.org.au). An Australian statistician will be given the opportunity to visit Canada during 2007 as part of the program.

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