Alabama-Mississippi Chapter
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The Alabama-Mississippi chapter hosted its annual conference at Auburn University on April 13. Sixty-four current and prospective chapter members attended from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Mississippi State University, the University of Mississippi, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Auburn University, Gadsden State Community College, and several companies:

- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Botchagalupe Technologies
- Five Star Credit Union
- Ryan, LLC

The conference featured a keynote presentation and student oral and poster presentations. The keynote speaker was Ping Ma, a distinguished research professor in the department of statistics at the University of Georgia and co-director of the big data analytics lab. He was a Beckman fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Center for Advanced Study, a faculty fellow at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and a National Science Foundation CAREER Award recipient. His paper won the 2011 Best Paper Award from the Canadian Journal of Statistics, and he delivered the 2021 NSF Distinguished Lecture. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Statistical Association. The title of his talk was “Statistical Computing Meets Quantum Computing.”

Students presented their research in various fields of statistics. Topics included the following:

- Bayesian modeling
- Markov chains
• mediation analysis
• survival analysis
• order statistics
• copulas
• applications of statistical methods on health outcomes related to HIV, obesity, cancer, and cardiovascular disease

For the oral presentation awards, Kwabena Boateng from MSU won first place. The second-place winner was Tran Le from UMMC, and Barkat Mian from OleMiss placed third. For poster presentation awards, Mathias Muia from OleMiss was the winner of first place, Kevin Okotchi Owuor from UAB placed second, and Zamzam Qazi from OleMiss and Chia-Ying Chiu from UAB tied for third place.

Students presenting posters

The chapter also held a brief business meeting. Topics of discussion included a chapter membership report, the treasurer’s report, and the election of new officers. The president-elect is Elvan Ceyhan from AU, the vice-president-elect is Martial Longla from OleMiss, the secretary-elect is Jialin Zhang from MSU, and the treasurer-elect is Anastasia Hartzes.

Detailed information on presentations and more photos are available at the chapter website: https://community.amstat.org/alabamachapter/main.