Invited Speakers
On November 30, 2023, the North Texas Chapter hosted Kyu Ha Lee, assistant professor of biostatistics at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His talk, titled “A Scalable Multivariate Variable Selection Approach for Zero-Inflated Count Data,” focused on a new multivariate method for analyzing microbiome sequencing data. The proposed approach was demonstrated to have superior performance compared to existing models.

More recently, the North Texas Chapter hosted Andrew Jamieson, assistant professor at the Lyda Hill Department of Bioinformatics at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, for his talk titled “University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center” on March 21. In his presentation, Jamieson discussed the role of large language models like GPT-4, Gemini, and Mixtral in enhancing automated systems for evaluating medical student performance. He also explained how these models facilitate a new era of automatic, rubric-based grading with no prior training data or labels.

These events took place at the University of Texas at Dallas, and participants included students, faculty, and industry practitioners.

ASA DataFest
The North Texas Chapter sponsored the annual ASA DataFest, which was organized and hosted by Southern Methodist University from April 12 to 14. The competition drew over 120 participants from universities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, including the University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at Dallas, Southern Methodist University, Baylor University, and others.

Traveling Courses
The North Texas Chapter organized a short course titled “Fundamentals of Causal Inference with R,” taught by Babette Brumback, a professor from the department of biostatistics at the University of Florida. The course covered different methods of confounding adjustment through the lens of potential outcomes and graphical models and included practical working examples.
The North Texas Chapter is also planning to host the ASA traveling course “Data Visualization with R” in the fall. The short course will be taught by Aaron Williams, a senior data scientist in the Urban Institute Income and Benefits Policy Center.