



DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

August 31, 2007

Dear ACAS participant:

Welcome participants of the 2007 U.S. Army Conference on Applied Statistics to Rice University and to Houston! The Department of Statistics is pleased and honored to host this event in 2007. We last hosted this conference in 2000, and once again welcome the participants to the area. Houston is an exciting city to visit with much to see and do. Rice University is within walking distance of the Museum District and within a short train or cab ride of the Theatre District. The faculty and students of the Department of Statistics hope that your visit to Houston is productive and enjoyable.

This year marks our department's 20th anniversary as a Department of Statistics. Our department has had the fortune of significant growth and success in these twenty years. I am happy to serve as its fourth chair and extremely proud of the accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni. The Department of Statistics is the home to ten tenured faculty, twenty-five joint, adjunct and research faculty and fifty doctoral students. Many of our alumni at the undergraduate and graduate level now hold faculty positions at exceptional universities. Our department resides in the George R. Brown School of Engineering at Rice. We are also fortunate that the Dean of the Engineering, is one of our own, namely Sallie Keller-McNulty, past president of ASA.

It is especially rewarding to acknowledge the strong role that the Department of Defense and the Army Research Office has played in the growth of our department over these twenty years. Our students and faculty have been an integral part of the ACAS conference and the research it represents. The founding faculty of our Department, Jim Thompson and David Scott, formed a department based on the highest caliber research in computational statistics with an emphasis on the practical implementation of statistics to real problems. Today we continue to carry forward with this theme focusing our talents and energies in areas such as homeland and national security, finance and risk reducing the human and monetary impact of natural or man made disasters, wireless technologies and sensors, as well as biotechnology from disease prevention to disease discover and treatment.

On behalf of the Department of Statistics and Rice University I am pleased to welcome the participants of the 2007 U.S. Army Conference on Applied Statistics to our campus.

With best regards,

Katherine Bennett Ensor, Chair
Department of Statistics