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Social & Decision Analytics Lab
Arlington, VA

     I am applying for the Data Science for the Public Good (DSPG) program. I am interested in applying my data science skills and learning new skills on projects with impact on communities. I became aware of this position opening from the AMSTAT website, and I believe I can contribute to the projects with my experience in a variety of statistics topics such as regression, Bayesian analysis, time series, inference, and design of experiments.

     My background is in mathematics, and I hold a master's degree in mathematics from Wake Forest University and a statistics' degree from Virginia Tech. I am continuing in the Ph.D. program at Virginia Tech. I currently work with Dr. Leanna House in exploratory data analysis using the BaVA framework. BaVA stands for Bayesian visual analytics, and this group concentrates on insights made from these visualizations. Specifically during the fall semester, I worked with a software developed by their group called Andromeda, which utilizes weighted multidimensional scaling to project high-dimensional data into a two dimensional display.

     My motivation for applying to this program stems from the impact of the projects at hand. The work accomplished can impact many people, and this aspect makes the investment into the project even more fruitful. I have learned a variety of statistical concepts, and I have worked on a few projects within my coursework. I have also participated in our statistical consulting laboratory where I worked on a few projects from graduate researchers at Virginia Tech. I have teamwork experiences from these consulting projects, working on group projects, and collaborating with my colleagues. Another appeal to the DSPG program is the opportunity to learn more skills pertaining to data science. I have some knowledge of machine learning, but the ability to apply different techniques is exciting. Another appeal is learning about the subject context of the projects as well as improving my computing ability. How decisions are made matters, and with readily available data, how those decisions are made is even more crucial. To be a part of this process would be an amazing experience whereby I would learn much more application as well as apply my current knowledge on a high impact project.

     Thank for your consideration, and I would enjoy working this summer in the DSPG program. I have a statistical and mathematical background as well as the experience working on teams and others to accomplish goals.

Sincerely,

Lata Kodali

Lata Kodali

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EDUCATION

Virginia Tech
Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics

Blacksburg, VA
August 2015 – May 2020 (Anticipated)

Virginia Tech
Master of Science in Statistics

Blacksburg, VA
August 2015 – May 2020 (Anticipated)

Wake Forest University
Master of Arts in Mathematics

Winston-Salem, NC
August 2011 – May 2013

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistantship at Virginia Tech
Graduate Research Assistant

Blacksburg, VA
August 2016 – Current

- Assisting with a user study for STAT 2004 to understand data visualization with high-dimensional data under Dr. Leanna House.

Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis (LISA) at Virginia Tech
Associate Collaborator

Blacksburg, VA
January 2016 – May 2016

- Worked with graduate students and a faculty member on various statistical projects.
- Answered statistical questions and guided statistical analysis such as RCBD for plant fertilizers, survey data analysis for Likert scale responses, and autoregressive model for time series data.

JMP at SAS Institute
Statistics Development Team Testing Intern

Cary, NC
May 2016 – August 2016

- Tested statistical features such as bagging, modeling utilities, and simulate responses under the design of experiments platform.
- Verified closed defects in defects system and wrote unit tests in JSL using the JMP testing framework.

Natural Sciences and Mathematics Department at Shaw University
Lecturer and Mathematics Program Coordinator

Raleigh, NC
August 2013 – May 2015

- Taught Calculus III, Probability and Statistics, Introductory Algebra Courses, and Intermediate Algebra.
- Advised math majors, wrote reports on the performance of the math program, and developed an improved general education curriculum for math.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Statistics Department at Virginia Tech
Teaching Assistant

Blacksburg, VA
August 2015- May 2016

- Graded and recitation leader for STAT 2004 Introductory Statistics.

Math Center at Wake Forest University
Tutor Leader

Winston-Salem, NC
August 2011 – May 2013

- Monitored students' learning, provided feedback, and clarified information in various mathematical topics such as calculus and statistics.
- Assisted math department administrative coordinator in clerical duties.

Mathematics Department at Wake Forest University
Teaching Assistant

Winston-Salem, NC
January 2012 – December 2012

- Graded homework assignments and tutored students in that particular math class in group sessions.

PROFESSIONAL AFFLIATIONS

- Pi Mu Epsilon (Mathematical Honor Society)
- Alpha Chi (Academic Honor Society)
- Mu Sigma Rho (Statistical Honor Society)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Proficient at Word, PowerPoint, and LaTex.
- Intermediate at Excel, JMP, R, and SAS.
- Novice at Matlab, SAGE, C++.