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Statistics Professor Jammalamadaka Wins Top Honors

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Reporter

Calculating the probability of having an excellent statistics professor just got a whole lot easier after one of UCSB's own was honored for his work in the field.

Sreenivasa Rao Jammalamadaka was recently awarded top honors at the 11th annual Telugu Association of North America conference for his numerous contributions to the field of statistics and dedicated teaching.

The conference, held in Los Angeles, focused on celebrating South Indian culture and honored

members of the Telugu-speaking population for their outstanding accomplishments. Telugu is the second most commonly spoken language on the Indian subcontinent, and is currently spoken by over 100,000 North Americans, according to Jammalamadaka, who says that the language is part of his ethnic heritage.

Because many members of the Telugu-speaking community are successful doctors, businessmen and professors, getting an award from such a group is a true honor, Jammalamadaka said.

"I was truly honored to receive such an award, because the Telugu community is composed of so

many educated and successful people," he said. "The very fact that this group recognized me for my work makes me proud of my 22 years of work at UCSB. ... It also brings recognition to our department and all of UCSB as a first-rate educational institution."

Jammalamadaka received his doctorate in 1969 from the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta. After immigrating to the United States the same year, Jammalamadaka held professorships at the Indiana University and the University of Wisconsin before coming to

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UCSB in 1976, he said.

Jammalamadaka helped found the university's Statistics Dept. and was its first chair. Presently, his research focuses on statistical studies of directional or circular data, which is used in studies of the direction of ocean waves and the earth's magnetic pole and in calculations of wind direction for pollution studies, he said.

Many members of the Statistics Dept. are proud of

Jammalamadaka's contributions to their department and believe it will increase the prestige of the university, said department Chair David Hinkley.

"Professor Jammalamadaka's award puts him in very distinguished company, given the large number of outstanding Indian academic statisticians in the U.S.," he said. "This sets the tone for our current development into a state-of-the-art faculty that will provide a valuable resource to increasing numbers of UCSB stu-

dents and quantitative researchers as we move into the universal information age."

Many colleagues of Jammalamadaka, such as Assistant Professor Kaushik Ghosh, are also proud of his teaching contributions to the field.

"He is a great teacher who is always helpful, not only in academics, but as a friend and advisor," Ghosh said. "He has been here for a long time and has helped make the UCSB Statistics Dept. what it is today."

