
Foreword

Foreword to the Special Issue of *Statistica Sinica* in Memory of Peter G. Hall

We appreciate having been asked to be the editors of this special issue in memory of our friend Peter G. Hall. Both of us were fortunate to have many years of writing papers with Peter and to have close relationships with him. We enjoyed many visits to work with him in both Canberra and Melbourne, and he frequently visited us. We, like many others, have fond memories of and great stories about him: his legendary work ethic, his astonishing productivity, his mentoring of an extraordinary number of junior statisticians, his support of female statisticians, his collegiality and advice, even to senior statisticians, almost daily lunches with him talking about many topics, including airplanes and academic politics, trends in scientific disciplines, etc. In 2016, *Statistical Science* (volume 31, pages 275-304) published a conversation with Peter, where he was remarkably frank about his life, thoughtful and full of fond memories of his wife, Jeannie Hall. One of us (RJC) co-authored an obituary of Peter in the IMS Bulletin (March 31, 2016). Both of us feel deeply sad about not being able now to experience his personality, and his mind.

Since Peter's passing on January 9, 2016, there has been an outpouring of grief and recounting of memories. Web sites, blogs, obituaries in Statistical journals and publications have been developed, and there have been many memorial conferences throughout the world. We especially thank the editors of *Statistica Sinica* for thinking of a special issue in his honor, all the papers of which were specifically aimed at this issue and not as part of its back queue of publications.

We also thank Terry Speed for writing an article about Peter's career, which immediately follows this foreword to the issue. It is full of facts, and warm memories. Many of the authors of the papers in this special issue also wrote about their own remembrances about their relationships and work with Peter. We hope that you will enjoy Terry's paper, the author-written remembrances of Peter, and the high level of content of the articles themselves.

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Photos by/of Peter.



Photo taken by Peter at Collie locomotive depot, Western Australia, 16 February 1971.



Peter and his parents, Ruby and Bill Hall, in front of family home in Oatley, Australia, December 1976. (Photo taken by Jeannie Hall)



Peter and Jeannie, Hong Kong, December 1978. (Photo taken by Jeannie's father)



Peter at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA, 1988. (Photo taken by Jeannie Hall)



Peter, Jeannie, Louis Chen, Ker-Chau Li and Kai Tai Fang, Fifth ICSA International Conference, HK, August 2001.



Peter and Howell Tong, Fifth ICSA International Conference, HK, August 2001.



From left to right: Feifang Hu from George Washington University, Song Xi Chen from Peking University, Peter, and Dayue Chen from Peking University. March 2012.



Peter in a market at the foot of Great Wall at Mutianyu, north of Beijing, China. March 2012.
(Photo taken by Song Xi Chen)