

# ***CHAPTER CHATTER***

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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS (WITH HYPERLINKS)**

- [\*\*\*A BRIEF INTRODUCTION\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD MEETS AT ASA HEADQUARTERS IN ALEXANDRIA, VA\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*ASA PRESIDENT ELECT RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*ASA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RON WASSERSTEIN ADDRESSES THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES STATtr@k\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*2012 ASA CONFERENCE ON STATISTICAL PRACTICE\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*AMENDMENT TO COC CHARTER PASSES\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*ASA CHAPTERS REPORT ON 2010-2011 ACTIVITIES\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*\*COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD\*\*\*](#)

## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Hello to all and welcome to the second issue of the first volume of *Chapter Chatter*, the newsletter for and about ASA chapters. The COCGB established this publication to foster improved communications i) between the COCGB and the chapters and ii) among the chapters by providing a forum for spreading news throughout the statistics community about initiatives and activities undertaken by ASA chapters.

This issue features a report on the February 2011 COCGB meeting and several reports from various chapters on their 2010-2011 activities.

As always, please let me know if you have any suggestions about this newsletter (its content, format, distribution, etc.). I am also interested in suggestions on how to facilitate more effective communication between chapters and enable you to use the COCGB as a resource. Finally, please send me information about guest speakers, short courses and seminars, symposia, and other exciting events that are planned for by your chapter so that I can inform other chapters about your activities through this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Chapter Chatter*.

## COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD MEETS AT ASA HEADQUARTERS IN ALEXANDRIA, VA

The COCGB held its annual winter business meeting on February 25 at the ASA headquarters in Arlington, VA. The following items were discussed:

### **Kathy Morrissey (COCGB Chair):**

- reported on the COC Nominations Committee;
- announced that she had appointed John Watts to be the 2012 JSM

COC sponsored Program Committee Chair and reported that Duane Steffy and George Bateman will assist John with this effort; and

- introduced three new ad-hoc committees: 1) Better Alignment of COCGB and Chapters, 2) Recognition/ Motivation for Chapter Representative, and 3) Materials/ Resources for Chapters.

**Steve Porzio (Director of Operations of the ASA):**

- expressed concern about inactive chapters.
- reported on the progress on the update of the chapter officer's handbook.

**Rick Peterson (ASA Liaison):**

- reported that member service records could be retrieved from the ASA website;
- discussed how the ASA will provide a service for chapters to create a chapter webpage microsite through the ASA Communities;
- demonstrated the simplified survey that is completed by chapter officers in January of each year; and
- reported a new special interest group on *Uncertainty Quantification* has been established and that a group had petitioned for section status for a proposed new section on *Statistics in Imaging*.

**Jim Cochran (COCGB Communications Officer):**

- indicated he had some difficulties in generating contributions from chapters for the first issue of Chapter Chatter, but that the response to the call for contributions to the second issue was far more enthusiastic; and
- shared that the COCGB had received very positive feedback on the first issue of Chapter Chatter, and that the newsletter appears to be filling an important need.

**COCGB Executive Committee:**

- reported on distributing the Chapter Representative ribbons at the COC Business Meeting;
- discussed providing material through Chapter Chatter to support Representatives' efforts to write articles for chapter newsletters; and
- considered the possibility of offering quarterly webinars for the Chapter Representatives to provide useful information on

chapter activities (such as how to create a chapter webpage).

**COCGB Chapter Status Committee:**

- reported on inactive chapters.

**COCGB Nominations Committee:**

- announced the slate for the 2011 Elections to start serving in January 2012.

**Tom Short (COC Board Representative):**

- reported the ASA Board's approved to enter into final

negotiations with a publisher to publish the flagship ASA journals during its December 2010 meeting.

**Ananda Jayawardhana (COCGB Secretary/Treasurer):**

- reviewed the 2010 budget prepared by the ASA staff; and
- reminded the Council that Budget Initiatives facilitate new ideas of COCGB that are outside of the Council's normal operations, and disclosed that no budget initiatives were proposed for report this year.

**ASA PRESIDENT ELECT RODRIGUEZ SPEAKS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD**

Robert Rodriguez (President –Elect of ASA), thanked COCGB members for taking time off to attend the meeting and then addressed two issues.

Bob first informed the COCGB that the ASA is working on the kick-off of its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. He then mentioned that he is looking at the important initiatives the association has taken in the recent past such as accreditation program, Statistics

Practice Conference, and Significance Magazine.

Bob then explained how he plans to reach out to ASA members to find out what the association is doing for them. He emphasized that he wants to visit chapters and speak, and wants to know what do chapters want to hear about? Finally, Bob stressed that also wants to make ASA activities more visible to members.

## ASA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RON WASSERSTEIN ADDRESSES THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD

Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director of the ASA, reported to the COCGB that the ASA has begun planning for how to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the ASA in 2014 and expressed his desire for chapters to be heavily involved.

Ron then discussed the new webpage the ASA has created for young statisticians (<http://stattrak.amstat.org/>) and asked the COCGB to suggest individuals who could contribute to the long term success of the website. For more details see [The ASA Launches STATtr@k](#) later in this newsletter.

This was followed by a discussion of the Statistics Practice Conference. Ron explained that this conference will focus on practitioners and asked the COCGB be to make aware of the conference to the chapters. For more details on see [2012 ASA Conference on Statistical Practice](#) later in this newsletter.

Ron then shared some information about membership and the accreditation program with the COCGB, indicating that while ASA membership fluctuates

around 18400, the slow decline in regular membership has stopped. The accreditation program is progressing smoothly, and Ron volunteered to talk to chapters about it in person or by other means. Ron also explained that accreditation follow these steps:

1. An interested member should first notify the ASA online of her/his interest.
2. The ASA will then send an invitation to the member asking her/him to provide necessary information.
3. Once the member has provided this information and paid the \$120 application fee, the referees will be instructed to complete an online evaluation of the member's application for accreditation.
4. The application and referee recommendations are then forwarded to the Accreditation Committee for Review for final decision.
5. The ASA will inform the applicants the decision of the Committee.
6. Accredited members must pay an annual fee of \$85 and after 5 years the accreditation has to be renewed.

Finally, Ron shared the news that seventy-four people have already been accredited, and explained that some applications have been denied.

Ron then explained that he is working jointly with the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) to establish a joint chapter in Midwestern Canada. SSC gave a positive response but did not want to take an initiating role. Ron mentioned that the SSC has little infrastructure. When asked why a Canadian statistician would want to belong to an ASA chapter, Ron explained that approximately 400 members from Canada feel they get tangible benefit from their ASA memberships. David Marker (COC Board Representative) added that

Canadian ASA chapters are given an opportunity to participate in Traveling Course and asked if Canadian chapter members must be ASA members to be in the ASA computer system. Ron responded that the ASA system will not allow non-members to be listed as chapter officers, but that individual Canadian chapters can maintain their own web pages. David then wondered if the ASA should encourage members in Mexico to form chapters.

Finally, Ron expressed his appreciation to Rick Peterson (ASA Liaison) for stepping into the COCGB liaison role and doing a fantastic job, and he thanked the COCGB for the tremendous service it provides.

## **THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES STATtr@k**

In March the ASA launched STATtr@k (<http://stattrak.amstat.org/>), a website targeted toward young professional statisticians (individuals who are in a statistics program, recently graduated from a statistics program, or who recently entered the job world). STATtr@k provides a central location to access career information and

resources and learn more about the ASA and the statistics profession.

Based on the young professionals corner of Amstat News, STATtr@k features articles about such topics as how to apply for a job, how to be a successful graduate student, and how to make the transition from coursework to research. STATtr@k also offers

information about career and mentorship sites, upcoming conferences, and awards and competitions.

With the launch of STATtr@k, the ASA is striving to involve students in all aspects of the association. "The ASA is delighted to introduce this new feature," said ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein. "Young professionals are the future of statistics, and the ASA

hopes to support their development in every way it can."

If you have an idea for an article or an announcement you would like to see on STATtr@k, email Amstat News Managing Editor Megan Murphy at [megan@amstat.org](mailto:megan@amstat.org). You can also read the ASA press release on STATtr@k at <http://www.amstat.org/about/pressreleases/ASADebutsStattrak.pdf>.

## **2012 ASA CONFERENCE ON STATISTICAL PRACTICE**

The first annual Statistical Practice Conference will be held Thursday, February 16 through Saturday, February 18, 2012 in Orlando Florida.

The November 2009 issue of Amstat News ([http://magazine.amstat.org/wp-content/uploads/2010an/AMSTAT\\_Nov2010.pdf](http://magazine.amstat.org/wp-content/uploads/2010an/AMSTAT_Nov2010.pdf) pages 3-4) announced plans for an annual conference on applied statistics to be called the Statistical Practice Conference. The need for such a conference was identified by the Working Group on meetings led by Nathaniel Schenker and appointed by then-President Sally Morton.

The ad hoc Statistical Practice Planning Committee chaired by Maura Stokes, and succeeded by Philip Scinto, was appointed and began work at JSM 2009. This committee determined the goals, target audience and format for the new conference: It would aim to serve the needs of those statisticians, data analysts, researchers, and scientists who engage in statistical analysis and consulting as a major component of their jobs. The conference would provide opportunities to learn new statistical methodologies and best practices in statistical analysis, consulting, and statistical programming.

Additionally, the conference would strengthen relationships in the statistical community for those practitioners not necessarily part of an academic community or a large statistical organization

The format would consist of a three day event including papers, panels, posters and courses taught by experts, including sessions devoted to career development (effective communication, management and leadership skills and job placement). Every effort has been made to design a conference that does not overlap with JSM, by focusing on a specific audience with specific needs. The conference will be shorter and smaller than JSM (about 400 attendees

in the first year).

The ad hoc Statistical Practice Planning Committee also arranged the site for the first conference, to be held February 16-18, 2012 in Orlando. Specific sessions have not yet been announced.

Ongoing planning for this conference will be handled by the Conference on Statistical Practice Organizing Committee. The Conference on Statistical Practice Annual Committee will create and run the program for a specific annual meeting. For more information or to volunteer for these committees, please go to <https://www.amstat.org/committees/committeeelist.cfm>.

## **AMENDMENT TO COC CHARTER PASSES**

An amendment to the COC Charter dealing with the COCGB Nominating Committee was proposed by the COCGB and approved by both the COC and the ASA Board of Directors. The COCGB Nominating Committee submits two candidates for each position in the ASA annual election (COCGB Chair-Elect, two Vice-Chairs and one Board

Representative).

The charter had required that the COCGB Nominating Committee be comprised only of members of the COC (i.e. current officers of the COCGB and Chapter Representatives), one from each District. In trying to achieve some

degree of diversity in the Nominating Committee, it has become clear that the pool of Chapter Representatives is not sufficiently diverse (male/female, government/academia/business, etc.).

The amendment to the charter expands the pool of candidates eligible to be appointed to the Nominating Committee to include other officers from each Chapter: Past President, President, Secretary and Treasurer. Note that except for the Past President, full ASA membership is required for each of these positions. Full ASA membership is also required for participation on the COCGB Nominating Committee.

Expanding the pool of persons eligible would provide 3-5 times more candidates and the additional positions added to eligibility tend to turn over more frequently than the Chapter Rep position, thus continually adding new people to the pool.

It is up to the Chair of the COCGB and the Chair of the Nominating Committee to establish diversity in the Nominating Committee. Expanding the pool of eligible appointees potentially makes that task easier. Of course, results are what count and we will be observing over the next few years whether this measure is successful.

## **CHAPTER SERVICE AWARDS**

Each year, approximately one third of the ASA Chapters are given an opportunity to nominate one of its members for a Chapter Service Recognition Award. The objective of this award is to recognize the service of individuals who have made sustained and significant contributions to the activities of ASA Chapters. The Council of Chapters of the ASA recognizes that the best judge of a member's contribution to the chapter is the chapter

members themselves, and so nominees are selected by the local chapter and not by the Council of Chapters. Chapters should consider multiple aspects of a member's service in deciding the nominee. While the length of service to a chapter is important, equally important is the contribution made by the nominee in not only sustaining chapter activities, but also his/her efforts at enriching such activities and member experience.

Chapters that are due for awards in the next three years are:

**2011**

District 1 - Albany, Boston, Southern Ontario, and Syracuse

District 2 - Chesapeake, Delaware, and Maryland

District 3 – Ann Arbor and Detroit

District 4 - Central Arkansas, Central Illinois, Colorado-Wyoming, and Northeastern Illinois

District 5 - San Antonio

District 6 - Albuquerque, Oregon, San Diego, Snake River, Southern California, and Utah

**2012**

District 1 – Buffalo-Niagara, Montreal, Ottawa, and Rochester, and Syracuse

District 2 - Kentucky, Eastern Tennessee, Middle Tennessee, and Virginia Academy

District 3 - Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Northwest Ohio, Philadelphia, and Southwest Michigan

District 4 - Chicago, Iowa,

Kansas/Western Missouri, Milwaukee, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Red River Valley, St. Louis, and Twin Cities

District 5 - Alabama, Georgia, and Austin

District 6 – Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, Sacramento, and San Francisco Bay Area.

**2013**

District 1 - Connecticut and New York City Metro

District 2 - Washington Statistical Society, Central Indiana, and Western Tennessee

District 3 - Harrisburg, Mid-Michigan, New Jersey, Pittsburgh, and Princeton-Trenton

District 4 - Mid-Missouri

District 5 - Florida, Houston Area, Louisiana, North Carolina, North Texas, South Carolina, South Florida, and Southeast Texas

District 6 - Nevada and Puget Sound.

These awards are presented at the COCGB Meeting that is held during the annual Joint Statistical Meetings.

## ASA CHAPTERS REPORT ON 2010-2011 ACTIVITIES

Click on a hyperlink to go directly to THE report provided by officers of the corresponding chapter.

[San Antonio Chapter](#)

[Southwest Michigan Chapter](#)

[Philadelphia Chapter](#)

[Connecticut Chapter](#)

[Syracuse & Rochester Chapters](#)

[Nevada Chapter](#)

[North Carolina Chapter](#)

[Northwest Ohio Chapter](#)

[Dayton Chapter](#)

[Ann Arbor Chapter](#)

[Chesapeake Chapter](#)

[Alaska Chapter](#)

[Hawaii Chapter](#)

[Snake River Chapter](#)

[Middle Tennessee Chapter](#)

### **San Antonio Chapter**

On February 22nd the San Antonio Chapter joined the UTSA Department of Management Science and Statistics to welcome Xiao-Li Meng, Ph.D., Department of Statistics, Harvard University. Dr. Meng gave an excellent lecture on “Trivial Mathematics but Deep Statistics: Simpson’s Paradox and Its Impact on Your Life.” The gathering was held at the UTSA campus.

In March the Chapter sent judges to the 2011 Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The judging held at St. Mary’s University on March 7 selected those Senior Division Projects (grades 9-12) that showed excellence in the use

of statistical methods. Volunteer judges included Norma Ketchum, Keying Ye, John Schoolfield, Danny Sharon, and Howard Monroe. At the Awards Ceremony on March 8, 2011 the following awards were presented by San Antonio ASA Chapter Judging Coordinator Howard Monroe:

- First Place and \$125 to Jaime Parra from Health Careers High School for his project titled, “Association between Genetic Variation of the Fibrinogen gene and HIV-1 Susceptibility”
- Second Place and \$75 to Amy Robinson from Keystone High School, for her project titled, “Astronomical Image Processing: Eliminating

Random Atmosphere Noise and Enhancing Low Resolution Images”

- Third Place and \$50 to Carolina Lopez-Trevino of John Jay Science Academy for her project titled, “Synergistic Neuroprotection of Astrocytes against Oxidative Stress-Related Injury and Degeneration”



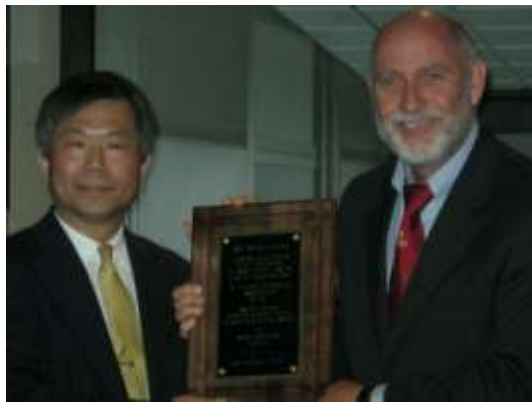
From left, Carolina Lopez-Trevino, Jaime Parra, Amy Robinson, and Howard Monroe

On March 25 the chapter presented its 2011 Don Owen Award to Dr. Dennis K. J. Lin. The award was presented to Dr. Lin at the Conference of Texas Statisticians by chapter president John Schoolfield. This conference was held at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas and was organized by Dr. Webster West. Dr. Lin, who was nominated by Professor Zhiliang Ying of the Department of Statistics at Columbia University, is a University Distinguished Professor from the Department of

Statistics at The Pennsylvania State University. As indicated in the nomination letter by Professor Ying, “Dr. Lin has made enormous contributions to the field of Statistics and its interface. His over 150 publications cover a breath-taking spectrum of areas, including general theory (statistical inference, random number generation), business (capacity planning, operation management), industrial statistics (quality assurance, control chart, reliability, design of experiment), and government statistics (sampling survey, consumer indices). His industrial experiences cover a wide range of companies with significant impacts, and his service to our professional society is remarkable. His work on supersaturated designs opened up a vital research area and has occupied an important place in the literature.”

Dr. Lin has directed 10 Ph.D. and 16 Master students from the University of Tennessee, University of Memphis, and the Penn State University. He has taught various courses in the fields of Statistics, Management Sciences and Business. Dr. Lin is best known for offering his “Introduction of Business Statistics” course which he has taught to

more than 5,000 students at Penn State. He has presented several distinguished lectures, including the 2010 Youden Address (FTC) and the 2011 Loutit Address (SSC). He also received numerous awards for his excellence in research, teaching, and services.



Dennis K. J. Lin (left) and John Schoolfield (right)

The Don Owen Award is presented annually by the San Antonio Chapter of the American Statistical Association, and Taylor and Francis, a leading international academic publisher.

Finally, the Council of Texas Statisticians (COTS) sponsored an award at the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair (EMTSEF). The fair was held in San Antonio, Texas at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center on April 2, 2011.

The award is for best use of statistics in a science project. A team of judges from the San Antonio Chapter of the American Statistical Association helped select three senior high division projects that showed excellence in the use and knowledge of statistical methods. The volunteer judges were Keying Ye, John Schoolfield, Danny Sharon, Ken Williams, Michael Lecoche, Pete Donahoe, David Han, and Howard Monroe.

- First place and \$125 were awarded to Amy Robinson, from Keystone High School in San Antonio, for her project, “Astronomical Image Processing: Eliminating Random Atmospheric Noise and Enhancing Low Resolution Images (Year III).”



Howard Monroe, San Antonio Chapter Judging Coordinator, congratulates Amy Robinson with \$125 and the first place award at the EMTSEF award ceremony

- Second place and \$100 were awarded to Bhas Karan Nair, from Plano High School in Plano, for his project, “Genome Signature and the Origin of Life.”
- Third place and \$75 were awarded to Sai Gourisnakar from Robert L. Paschal High School in Fort Worth, for his project, “Novel Mathematical Characterizations of the One-dimensional, Self-gravitating System.”

### **Southwest Michigan Chapter**

At our most recent meeting (April 1, 2010), the Southwest Michigan Chapter elected a new chapter president and treasurer. We met in Kalamazoo, with about 30 attendees, many of them students. Kirk Anderson and Phyllis Curtiss of the Department of Statistics at Grand Valley State University gave talks. Professor Anderson spoke on "How to Sneak in a few History Lessons when Teaching Statistics," while Professor Curtiss gave a talk called "Teaching a History of Statistics Discussion Course." The chapter plans to call a meeting with a speaker in the first week of September, and to commemorate is Statistics Career Day

2011 at Grand Valley State University on October 21.

### **Philadelphia Chapter**

From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 the Philadelphia Chapter will have conducted the following four educational seminars:

- a discussion of using R through the Excel interface by Dr. R. Heiberger (Temple U);
- a discussion of the 2010 Census by Ms. W. Burrell of the Philadelphia Area Office of the Census;
- an ASA Traveling Short Course by Dr. L. Young (U Florida) on applied mixed models (cosponsored with the Princeton chapter, scheduled April 20, 2011); and
- a discussion of translational medicine by Dr. D. Cosmotos (independent consultant) tentatively scheduled for June, 2011

In addition, the chapter has initiated a networking/social event for its members this year.

Finally, the chapter has undergone a major upgrade of the chapter web site this year in terms of format, content and

links. Our goal is for our chapter web site to be the "one-stop shop" for all things statistical in the Philadelphia area.

### **Connecticut Chapter**

Each year the Connecticut Chapter sponsors an annual mini-conference for professionals from academia, industry and other research areas to discuss the emerging statistical challenges. It was a very successful and an important event in our community and was attended by over 100 participants.

The focus of this year's mini-conference was "Analysis of Time-to-Event Data". The main objective was to share knowledge and bring in expertise from recognized experts in this area:

Speakers at this event included:

- Dr. Donald Berry, from M.D. Anderson, on Bayesian Adaptive Designs for Clinical Trials with Time to Event Endpoints;
- Dr. Cyrus Mehta, from Cytel, on Adaptive Sample Size Re-estimation in Time-to-Event Clinical Trials;
- Dr. Tianxi Cai, from the Harvard School of Public Health, on

Personalized Prediction of Time to Event with Empirical Models;

- Dr. Rajeshwari Sridhara, from the FDA, on Regulatory Considerations in the Choice of Endpoints from Drug Evaluation.



Scenes from the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual ASA Connecticut Chapter Mini Conference - March 8, 2011

The conference also featured a panel discussion led by three speakers from the pharmaceutical industry to illustrate case studies and introduce challenges

that were encountered in practice. The panelists were:

- Dr. Pralay Mukhopadhyay from Bristol-Myers Squibb
- Dr. Julie Cong from Boehringer Ingelheim
- Dr. Xin Huang from Pfizer.

An extended discussion followed among all the invited speakers and audience afterwards

The Connecticut Chapter also sponsors an annual Poster Competition for students across our state in Grades K through 12. The main purpose is to promote math literacy by encouraging students to:

- select a topic to investigate
- gather and examine data from different points of views
- summarize these data and present their results graphically.

The intent is for children to develop analytical reasoning through critical examination of data and convey this knowledge to the viewer through graphical representation of results and conclusions!

Our chapter has conducted this annual event for more than 15 years! Judges are from academia & industry, including a few first-timers, and bring a great breadth of experience to the event. For photos of last year's event see [http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/Poster/Poster\\_2010\\_judging\\_pictures.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/Poster/Poster_2010_judging_pictures.pdf).

The judging will occur on April 2, 2011 with the Awards Ceremony for the winners on April 16 at the University of Connecticut during the New England Statistical Symposium.

### **Syracuse & Rochester Chapters**

David A. Marker of Westat presented "Statistics and Public Policy" at the chapter meeting on October 13 on the Syracuse University campus. Dr. Marker discussed uses and abuses of statistics in public policy and the ASA's efforts to raise the profile of statisticians and the organization with regard to public policy. Points of discussion included the roles of statisticians in climate change, assuring the fairness of elections, and other recent topics.

## Nevada Chapter

As the academic year 2010-2011 begins, the NV-ASA has been active, as usual, with several activities. Among those activities are:



Front row (from left): Hokwon Cho, Chapter President; Anton Westveld, Chapter Rep; Amei Amei.

Back row (from left): Kaushik Ghosh, Chapter Treasurer; Sandra Catlin; Ananda Malwane

Fall Statistics Symposium and Annual Meeting - The Fall Statistics Symposium took place on Sat. Oct. 16, 2010 in the Student Union Room 213 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. There were three speakers - Dr. J. Symanowski, Nevada Cancer Institute; Dr. G. Aras, Amgen; Dr. C. Davis, EnviroStat - followed by the annual NV-

ASA Chapter meeting after luncheon.

World Statistics Day - On Oct. 20, 2010, the NV-ASA Chapter had an exhibition in the Student Union at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to celebrate the first World Statistics Day with statistics faculty members in the Math department to celebrate the first World Statistics Day in the Student Union. *The Rebel Yell*, the UNLV newspaper visited the booth to interview. The article was shown on Oct. 21, 2010 issue. During the week of October 20, members of the Nevada Chapter joined others from around the world in celebrating the discipline in recognition of The United Nations World Statistics Day (October 20).

Spring Dinner Meeting - The Spring Dinner Meeting was held on Wed. March 2, 2011 at 7pm, Marie Callender's restaurant near by UNLV. The speaker Mr. David W. Thiel, Coordinator, K-12 Mathematics, Clark County School District spoke on the statistics education in the Clark County School District.

## **North Carolina Chapter**

The Chapter is sponsoring the 2011 IISA Conference on Probability, Statistics, and Data Analysis, April 21-24, 2011 in Raleigh, NC. At the conference a member meeting is planned.

The NC Chapter has also planned a statistical presentation for mid-May 2011 (time and location TBD) on "Recurrent Event Data Trials – What Are Some of the Issues?" This presentation will be given by Stephan Ogenstad, President, Statogen Consulting LLC

## **Northwest Ohio Chapter**

The Northwest Ohio chapter has a meeting each fall and spring semester. This chapter includes academic faculty, students, and professional statisticians. The chapters most recent three events were:

For its World Statistics Day celebration on October 21, 2010, the chapter sponsored a social event and viewing of the Distinguished Lecturer Series Video: DS020: "A Conversation," John Tukey, Fred Mosteller. Thirty-six members attended.

Guest speaker Dr. Karen Kafadar of Indiana University addressed the chapter on April 29, 2010. Sixteen members came to see Dr. Kafadar speak on "Statistical Analysis of Bullet Lead Compositions as Forensic Evidence."

Guest speaker Dr. Stephen B. Vardeman of Iowa State University addressed the chapter on November 12, 2009. Professor Vardeman presented "Elementary Statistical Methods and Measurement" to forty-two members.

Chapter officers James Albert, Maria Rizzo, and Kenneth Ryan organized the events above as well as the March 31, 2011 spring meeting. C. Shane Reese of Brigham Young University will be the guest speaker.

## **Dayton Chapter**

On April 9, 2010 the chapter met at the University of Dayton to elect new officers and host a colloquium by UD's Dr. Maher Qumsiyeh. The chapter met again on April 23, 2010 for a colloquium by Dr. Xinyi Xu of Ohio State University, who spoke at Wright State University on "Bayesian Predictive Density Estimation". This talk was co-hosted by

the Department of Mathematics & Statistics at Wright State University.



Professor Thaddeus Tarpey (Dayton Chapter President) at the World Statistics Day celebration

On October 20, 2010 the chapter co-hosted World Statistics Day along with the Statistical Consulting Center at Wright State University. The event featured refreshments and an opportunity for a social gathering of area statisticians.



Professor Harry Khamis (left) at the World Statistics Day celebration

On October 21, 2010, at the invitation of the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky

Chapters of ASA, members of the Dayton chapter attended the ASA traveling course on “Successful Data Mining in Practice” by Dr. Dick DeVeaux. The Chapter covered the registration cost of several college students to attend the all-day short course in Cincinnati.



Professor Shuxia Sun at the World Statistics Day celebration

### **Ann Arbor Chapter**

The Ann Arbor Chapter had a busy year. In cooperation with the Detroit Chapter, we participated in judging a regional science fair, held several chapter meetings, will host a traveling course with George Casella on statistical design in April, and will hold a chapter meeting in May.

Our major activity has been holding free introductory classes on statistical software. In both the Fall and Winter we taught classes in R, SPSS, SAS, Stata

and Excel. In the Winter we taught a class in MS Access, and will soon teach a class on SAS JMP.

### **Chesapeake Chapter**

Over the course of the Chesapeake Chapter's program year to date, we have hosted four lunchtime meetings and a holiday social. On October 6, Ms. Nancy Dunn of the Army Evaluation Center presented "A Framework for Using Design of Experiments Across and Within Test Events for DoD System Acquisition Testing." On November 17, Ms. Barbara Gillich of the Aberdeen Test Center presented "Clay Calibration: Radial Dependence of Calibration Drop Depths for Body Armor Testing." After a lively holiday social at the Prost German Restaurant on December 14, we started the new calendar year on January 12 with a presentation by Mr. William Broemm of the Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity on "Parametric Bootstrap Confidence Intervals on the Reliability of Repairable Systems with Grouped Data." Our most recent meeting was on February 8 when Mr. David Webb of the Army Research Laboratory presented "Correcting 90/90 Vision," a critical look at the common

rule of thumb used by engineers in binomial-outcome reliability studies which states that 22 successes out of 22 trials are needed to conclude a 90% minimal success rate with 90% confidence.

We plan to co-host an ASA traveling course along with the Delaware Chapter on April 21, 2011. Ms. Linda Young of the University of Florida will be teaching a one-day course on "Applied Mixed Models". This course is open to neighboring chapters.

### **Alaska Chapter**

The Alaska Chapter held its 2010 annual meeting in Kodiak on October 20-22. The guest speaker was Dr. Richard A. Davis of Columbia University, who presented a 2-day short course on time series analysis to fourteen participants. The third day of the meeting featured a series of technical talks (both formal and informal) by Chapter members, followed by the Chapter's annual business meeting. Social events included a visit to a local brew pub and a hike up Pillar Mountain, followed by a dinner at a local Kodiak restaurant.

The dates have been set for 2011 annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter. The meeting will occur Monday-Wednesday, August 29-31 and will be held in Juneau. Dr. Margaret Short, Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks has agreed to be the guest speaker, and she will give a two-day short-course on spatial statistics. The specific timing and topic areas for her course, etc. are still be worked out. Time during the three day meeting will also be devoted to talks by members and other meeting attendees. Check the chapter's Annual Meeting page ([http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Alaska/Meetings/annual\\_meeting.html](http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Alaska/Meetings/annual_meeting.html)) for additional details as they develop, or contact Allen Bingham ([allen.bingham@alaska.gov](mailto:allen.bingham@alaska.gov)) for additional information.

### **Hawaii Chapter**

Did you know the Hawaii Chapter is scheduled to celebrate 65 years in 2012? While we contemplate ways of celebrating this milestone, here's what we've been up to recently.

Continuing a long standing commitment to supporting statistics in education,

officers Ernest Oshiro and Russell Yost represented the Chapter by choosing the Best Use of Statistics award recipient at the 2010 Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair. The \$100 award is sponsored by the Chapter and went to Mark T. Seu from Waiakea High School for "When Fair is Foul: An Exercise in Probability." The Chapter is sponsoring a similar award this year, and judging will be done by Russell Yost (Chapter Vice President) and Elaine Lee (new Chapter member). In addition to this award, the Chapter also supported statistics in education issues by participating in ASA's Statistics Literacy Campaign. Chapter President Tamara Tom continued her involvement in this effort by meeting with congressional staffers in order to gain House support for the Stat Act of 2010.

We also continue to have lunch meetings for networking and information sharing purposes. The Chapter Vice President is responsible for identifying an appropriate presenter and topic and obtaining relevant information for a lunch meeting flyer that gets distributed by email. 2010 presentations organized by then Vice President Lawrence Sue

included the Census 2010, health care reform, the insurance industry, the new energy industry information reporting program, and pre-election surveys and prediction methodology. Our current Vice President is Russell Yost who organized a recent 2011 presentation on using Census 2010 data for congressional and legislative redistricting and reapportionment. We plan on having four more meetings in 2011, topics unknown at this time.

Last year was the first year Hawaii participated in two Council of Chapter activities: the ASA Service to the Chapter award and the Traveling Course. In order to obtain nominations for the Service to the Chapter Award, we developed and distributed a document that described the intent of the award, the nomination guidelines, a nomination form, and outlined criteria for selecting the award recipient. An ad-hoc award selection committee was also identified to represent the three main ASA areas of industry, academia, and government. Industry was represented by Bank of Hawaii's Edward Nishimura, academia by Chaminade University's John Steelquist, and government by the (State of Hawaii) Department of

Business, Economic Development & Tourism's Eugene Tian. Chaired by past Chapter officer Edward Nishimura, the committee reviewed nominations and selected Tamara Tom as the recipient. Nominated for her role in organizing Chapter activities, keeping members of the community informed of local statistical activities, and for expanding Chapter activities, Tamara was chosen as the award recipient based on the following criteria: diversifying or expanding Chapter membership, activities, or communications; substantial or sustained participation in Chapter activities; successful inclusion of the Chapter in appropriate statistical activities; soliciting and valuing Chapter member input; and statistical or research activities for the community.

Our most recent accomplishment is the completion of the ASA traveling course on data mining. We coordinated with ASA, presenter Dick De Veaux, and co-sponsors from the University of Hawaii at Manoa to provide the one day workshop Successful Data Mining in Practice. Held February 1 of this year, the workshop was attended by about 30 researchers, faculty, and other analysts

working in government or for non profits. Evaluation responses were positive and supportive of us in applying for future traveling courses. Dick De Veaux did a wonderful job and is welcome back ANY TIME.

### **Snake River Chapter**

The Snake River Chapter met for their annual meeting Friday, June 4, 2010.

The meeting included our annual business meeting, member presentations, and a featured speaker. Our featured speaker, Dr. Robert Lund from Clemson University, spoke on "Changepoints in Climatology."

In January 2011, our chapter applied for and was awarded the traveling course, "Analysis of Sample Survey Data" presented by David Morganstein. We are currently working on dates for our chapter to offer this presentation. In addition, on January 4, 2011 Sue Schou (a Snake River Chapter member) visited with Nate Green, education staff member for Mike Simpson (our congressman from Idaho). Backed by the Snake River chapter's recent vote, a request was made that Mike Simpson lend his support to the Statistics Literacy

Act of 2010. ASA materials were given to the aide for Mr. Simpson's perusal.

### **Middle Tennessee Chapter**

The Middle Tennessee Chapter is very interested in encouraging young people to consider a career in statistics. Our chapter had several ideas about how to do this including hosting a statistics fair, visiting schools with career days, and hosting a statistical computing course for students. We were certain, however, that without the support of our local teachers, any effort we made would fail. Through generous funding from an ASA Member Initiative, the Middle Tennessee Chapter hosted a retreat for area high school Advanced Placement Statistics teachers.



Fall 2010 Middle TN Chapter AP Statistics Teacher retreat participants

Chapter members presented examples of AP Statistics topics they have encountered in their work including an example of Simpson's paradox and conditional probability. Members also presented possible educational paths for the students who are interested in statistics as a career.

Lastly, the chapter presented possible outreach ideas and asked the teachers

for feedback. Every teacher requested a chapter member visit their classroom. It was also suggested that local math contests would be an ideal setting for presentations about a career in statistics. The math competition setting would allow us to reach students earlier in their education and could encourage them to take AP Statistics. Further follow-up efforts are in the works.

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