

CHAPTER CHATTER

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James J. Cochran, Editor

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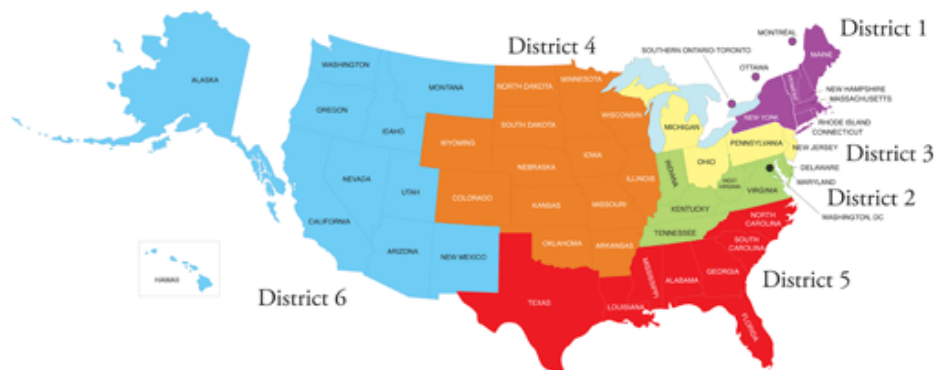


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STATISTICS WORKSHOP FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE TEACHERS

- STATISTICS WITHOUT BORDERS MARCHES ON
- TRAIN THE TRAINER: HOW TO PRESENT A SHORT COURSE ON EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS
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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Hello to all and welcome to the spring 2012 issue of *Chapter Chatter*, the newsletter for and about ASA chapters. The Council of Chapters Governing Board (COCGB) established this publication to foster improved communications i) between the COCGB and chapters and ii) among chapters by providing a forum for spreading news throughout the statistics community about ASA chapter initiatives and activities.

This issue features some thoughts by COCGB Chair-elect Dan Kasprzyk. The issue also includes a summary of the recent biannual Council of Chapters Governing Board (COCGB) Meeting in Virginia. Rick Peterson offers valuable advice on how to promote chapters and

chapter activities. Liam O'Brien, Nicholas Horton, and Scott Evans provide history and background of Mu Sigma Rho. Finally, several chapters have checked in with interesting reports on recent and upcoming 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 look forward to seeing many of you at

the 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego later this year, and I hope you enjoy this issue of *Chapter Chatter*.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE COCGB CHAIR-ELECT

Dan Kasprzyk

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the membership as Chair-elect of the Council of Chapters Governing Board. In this capacity, I will be chairing the Nominations Committee this year. I am in the process of organizing the Committee on Nominations. Those eligible for appointment to the Committee on Nominations include those who are full members of the ASA and are either a President, past President, Secretary, or Treasurer of an ASA Chapters or a member of the Council of Chapters. Each district is represented on the Committee on Nominations. I will be making several appointments to the committee during the next several months. The Committee will then identify candidates for the offices of Chair-elect of the Council of Chapters Governing Board, Vice Chair for District 5, Vice Chair for District 6, and Representative to the

Board of Directors for the Council of Chapters (2014-2016). If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact me at kasprzyk-dan@norc.org.



COCGB Chair-Elect Dan Kasprzyk

Plans are being made for the Council of Chapters annual workshop at the Joint Statistical Meetings. The Workshop will take place on Tuesday, July 31 from 4pm-6pm. I hope to see you there.

COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD HOLDS BUSINESS MEETING AT ASA HEADQUARTERS IN ALEXANDRIA VA

The COCGB held its annual winter business meeting on February 17 at the ASA headquarters in Arlington, VA.

After calling the meeting to order, Shane Reese (COCGB Chair) reported that the ASA 2012 COCGB election slate was nearly finalized; candidates include

- Chair-Elect, Ananda Jayawardhana and John Stevens
- District 3 Vice-Chair position, Alex Hanlon and Peter Hovey
- Board Representative, Mary J. Kwasny and Jerry Moreno
- District 4 Vice Chair, Kendra Schmid (the ASA will add a second candidate).

Regarding the COC Nominations Committee, Nick Horton, Sarah Kogut, and Lillian Lin will continue through 2012, and either Shane Reese or Dan Kasprzyk will appoint replacements for Glenn White, Thomas Bradstreet, and Jeffrey Wilson.

The Nominations Committee will be formed prior to the COCGB Meeting at the 2012 JSM, and the slate for 2013 election will be finalized by the end of November 2012.

Ananda reported that Anwar Hossain will succeed Glenn White as the Chair of the Traveling Course Committee in 2012.

COCGB OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD

COCGB Communications Officer Jim Cochran's Report

COCGB Communications Officer Jim Cochran reported electronically that:

- two issues the *Chapter Chatter* have been published during the previous

year, and all four issues are freely available on the ASA website;

- he initially had trouble getting well written reports from chapters, but chapters are now participating eagerly. Jim surmised the problem was awareness of the newsletter; and

- the next issue of ***Chapter Chatter*** (spring 2012) will be published soon.

Jim also reiterated his request that Chapter Representative put him on the distribution list for their chapter newsletters, asked that chapter officers continue to send him reports for the autumn 2012 issue of ***Chapter Chatter***, and he explained that he continues to explore ways of better distributing the ***Chapter Chatter*** to the broader membership.

COCGB Liaison's Report

COCGB Liaison Rick Peterson reported that some chapters do not cash monthly membership dues checks from the ASA. He explained that the ASA accounting system automatically issues these checks monthly and it is difficult to collect dues for a longer period and issue checks less frequently. The Governing Board decided that the Vice-chairs should contact chapter officers and ask the treasurer or another officer to deposit the checks in their chapter accounts and to contact Steve Porzio if there are any questions.

Rick then reported that about ten chapters have created chapter

webpages using the Microsite capability provided by the ASA. Bonnie suggested that Microsite should be a topic for the JSM 2012 workshop and a possible webinar.

Rick announced that the new ASA section *Statistics in Imaging* was charted recently, and another new section (*Mental Health Statistics*) has been proposed and will be voted for approval during the 2012 JSM.

Finally, Rick announced that he has created a public webpage for COC and it will be open to public in April. He provided the URL for the new site (<http://community.amstat.org/COC/Home/>).

COCGB Executive Committee

Regarding the 2013 COC sponsored JSM sessions; Shane has reached out to faculty members at Queens University and McGill University who could organize a session. For the general COC sponsored session the Executive Committee decided to focus on either *the role of statistics in climate change research* or *general informatics in the information age*.

Regarding the 2012 COC sponsored JSM sessions; Kathy reported that John Watts will organize the session titled *Data Meets Hard Times- Real Economic Decisions Meets Available Information*. The panel will comprise members of the Federal Reserve Bank and members of the American Economic Association. Rick reported that the San Diego Chapter is planning a session titled *Journeys to Targeted Therapies and Personalized Medicine* for the upcoming 2012 JSM.

COCGB Chapter Status Committee

Chapter Board Representative Bonnie Lefluer reported that in the webpage for the chapter reporting system, the “denominators” were incorrect in many cases and informed that she will forward the relevant information to Rick. The Chapter Status Committee has held continuing discussions on how to revitalize inactive chapters and will discuss some of their ideas at the 2012 JSM COC Business Meeting.

ASA Board Activities

COC Board Representative Bonnie Lefluer reported that the Board has approved sending a letter of

appreciation to Glenn White for his leadership in reinvigorating the Traveling Course. John Brewster, President of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) shared information about and the latest activities of the SSC.

Traveling Course Committee

Rick reported that the Committee received nineteen applications from twenty chapters and fourteen chapters were offered with courses. The Committee is finalizing the dates with the presenters, and it is expected that approximately half of the short courses will be given in the spring and the other half will be given in the fall. Rick reported that Anwar is doing an efficient job as the chair of the committee.

Annual Chapter Service Recognition Award

Rick provided the 2012 rotation for the chapter service recognition award. He will send the link to submit nominations to the Vice-chairs in March and requested the Vice-chairs to communicate with the eligible chapters.

Kathy suggested creating new ribbons for chapter members and chapter service recognition award winners. Nick

suggested that ribbons for chapter officers should be distributed at the Business Meeting. Morteza suggested

that a list of past chapter service recognition award winners should be made available at the ASA website.

ASA PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ ADDRESSES THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Robert Rodriguez, 2012 President of the ASA, addressed the COCGB by teleconference while attending the Conference on Statistical Practice in Florida. Bob announced that approximately 300 individuals were



2012 ASA President
Bob Rodriguez

attending the Statistical Practice Conference and stated that this is a major step forward for the organization. He discussed his visits to chapters and he volunteered to visit other chapters. He then mentioned that the steering

committee of the 175th anniversary celebration (headed by Christy Chuang-Stein) will reach out to COC for ideas.

Next Bob discussed the efforts of three workgroups. The first, chaired by John Bailer, is developing outcome guidelines for master's degree programs in statistics and biostatistics. This group is reaching out to government and industry for input. A second workgroup, headed by Bob Starbuck, is developing training for ASA members in career success factors, including presentation skills and leadership. Chapters will be interested in sponsoring this training at their locations. A third workgroup, headed by Jeri Mulrow, is preparing downloadable presentation kits chapters can use to give short talks about the significant steps that our association is taking.

Finally, Bob solicited ideas for the President's Corner column in *AMSTAT News*.

ASA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RON WASSERSTEIN SPEAKS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director of the ASA, also addressed the COCGB by teleconference while attending the Conference on Statistical Practice in Florida. Ron reported that the International Year of Statistics (IYS 2013) website has been launched and the URL is www.statistics2013.org. He



ASA Executive Director
Ron Wasserstein

disclosed that several organizations (including fifteen chapters) have signed up to organize activities to acknowledge

and celebrate the contributions of the statistical science. He reminded all that the purpose of the International Year of Statistics is to promote and increase visibility of the profession and nurture the profession especially among the young people. Ron encouraged chapters to plan regular activities under the umbrella of the IYS 2013 and to plan new activities as part of the celebration.

Ron then shared that the ASA Board Members have been discussing ways to encourage membership and active participation in the ASA by practitioners. Many practitioners of statistics are not connected to the ASA, especially in the emerging areas of practice such as analytics, and the association needs to find ways to encourage them to participate. Ron encouraged chapters to reach out to practitioners of statistics. Ron closed by reporting that the first Statistical Practice Conference is having a great start.

ASA DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE POLICY STEVE PIERSON ADDRESSES THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD

Steve Pierson explained that his two primary responsibilities as ASA Director of Science Policy are to advocate on behalf of statisticians and to raise the



ASA Director Of Science Policy
Steve Pierson

profile of statisticians in policymaking. In 2011 and 2012 a group of statisticians participated in successful Climate

Science Day activities on Capitol Hill.

The ASA has also been active in bolstering the science in forensic science, along the lines of the 2009 National Academies' report, *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*.

Regarding the other legislative activities, Steve reported that the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will not likely be brought to the Senate Floor this year, and the number of sponsors for the Statistics Teaching, Aptitude, and Training (STAT) Act of 2011 has increased to nine.

Regarding other outreach activities designed to raise the profile of the profession, Steve reported that he and Rebecca Nichols are exploring a statement to help address the issue of meeting the demand for teachers and instructors of statistics.

ASA MAKES PLANS FOR 2012 TRAVELING COURSES

Traveling Course Committee Chair Glenn White explained the procedure of the selection and allocation of short courses, the responsibilities of the ASA and the chapters, and the financial commitment of the chapters. Glenn also reported the titles of 2011 short courses, discussed which chapters received the opportunity to offer short courses, provided a brief review of short courses offered from 2008 to 2011, and gave an update of this initiative's budget.

Glenn concluded by reminding COC meeting attendees that the ASA makes the honorarium and travel arrangements for a presenter, the host chapter is

responsible for local arrangements, and the cost of a short course for host chapters is \$25 per person (with a minimum \$500 payment to the ASA). Finally, Glenn reminded all that the deadline for applications by chapters to host short courses is January 31st of the year in question (but exceptions may be made pending availability of the short course instructor), the available courses for 2012 and names of the presenters will be announced by December 2011. For more information about ASA Short Courses, please see the article [*Information on Council of Chapters Traveling Courses*](#) later in this issue of *Chapter Chatter*.

AN INTRODUCTION TO MU SIGMA RHO FOR AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

(or a simple guide to honoring outstanding students of statistics in your midst)

Liam O'Brien (Colby College, BCASA Mu Sigma Rho Chair)

Nicholas Horton (Smith College, BCASA Mu Sigma Rho Chair)

Scott Evans (Harvard University, Former BCASA President)



Mu Sigma Rho, founded in 1965, is the national honorary society for statistics. Its purpose is to promote and encourage

scholarly activity in statistics, and to recognize outstanding achievement among students in eligible academic institutions. In February, 2005, the

National Mu Sigma Rho organization approved a proposal that allowed Chapters of the American Statistical Association to have automatic and immediate affiliate chapter status in Mu Sigma Rho.

Soon afterwards, the Boston Chapter of the ASA (aka BCASA, also serving members in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island) became an affiliate chapter, allowing undergraduate and graduate students in central and northern New England who do not attend schools with Mu Sigma Rho chapters to become members through a process coordinated by BCASA. The Chapter organized this affiliation with Mu Sigma Rho to facilitate stronger connections with isolated campuses and boost awareness of the ASA and BCASA.

Five members of the Chapter agreed to serve as members to oversee the process of nominating, vetting and recommending new members for Mu Sigma Rho. These members are a Subcommittee of the BCASA Planning Committee, and are charged with disseminating information regarding Mu Sigma Rho in the region covered by the

Chapter, soliciting nominations for new members, presenting recommendations for new Mu Sigma Rho members to the Planning Committee for final approval, and forwarding names and dues to the Mu Sigma Rho national secretary/treasurer.

Beginning as a pilot during the first year, the Planning Committee of the BCASA agreed that students who joined Mu Sigma Rho (by paying the \$5 initiation fee) would receive complimentary one-year memberships in ASA (\$15) and BCASA (\$3). The intention of this subsidy is to build membership in the ASA and BCASA targeting our most deserving students.

Faculty members located at educational institutions in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island nominate students for membership in Mu Sigma Rho. The nominator is responsible for forwarding a copy of the student's academic transcript along with evidence that the nominee satisfies the academic requirements. Students must take a minimum number of intermediate and advanced statistics courses (requirements vary for undergraduates

and graduate students), and have excellent grades. Once nominations are received, all information is verified and the student is deemed eligible, then the Subcommittee forwards recommendations to the BCASA Planning Committee. Upon approval, letters are sent to the students inviting them to join Mu Sigma Rho. A copy of this letter is also sent to the nominator. All students who accept this nomination are invited to an induction ceremony at one of the regularly scheduled evening lectures sponsored by BCASA.

Over the past 7 years the program has been quite successful, with more than 190 candidates from a dozen colleges and universities nominated and approved for Mu Sigma Rho membership. The cost to the Chapter to subsidize their one year memberships was relatively small (thanks to the modest pricing of student memberships) and we believe that acknowledging their success in statistics and providing these student memberships may help them consider careers in statistics. We are

highly enthusiastic about this outreach, and plan to continue to offer free ASA and BCASA memberships as a way of increasing awareness to statistics, the ASA, BCASA, and the statistics profession.

As the people responsible for coordinating this process, we can attest that processing the nominations was straightforward once draft practices and forms were created using models from existing Mu Sigma Rho Chapters (these forms are available at the website provided below) and a list of colleges and universities in New England was created to help solicit nominations.

Interested? More information about Mu Sigma Rho can be found at the following web site:

www.stat.purdue.edu/~mccabe/msr/.

More information regarding the BCASA Mu Sigma Rho practices, nomination forms, and announcements can be found at:

www.math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html.

HOW TO PROMOTE YOUR CHAPTER EVENTS

ASA Chapters Liaison Rick Peterson

Some of your events may only be open to chapter members. In these cases, it is only necessary to communicate the information about the event to chapter members. However, you may want to get the word out to a broader audience when it comes to events such as continuing education courses or workshops, conferences or symposia the chapter organizes, or chapter meetings with a guest speaker. Attracting people outside the chapter can raise its profile, attract new members, and increase the chapter's revenue. The ASA has tools in place for chapter officers to reach both current and prospective members.

Communicating with Chapter Members

There are two ways officers can send messages to members. Keep in mind that these messages will only reach individuals who are national ASA members and pay their chapter dues through the national office. The chapter is responsible for maintaining a roster and distribution list for people who pay dues directly to the chapter.

In the **ASA Community** area of the ASA website (<http://community.amstat.org/Home>), there are eGroups automatically created for each chapter. You can send an email to all members of your chapter by posting a message on your chapter's eGroup discussion board. If you are unfamiliar with using the ASA Community area, the ASA Community guide in the Documentation section of the COC website will assist you.

Another way to send a message to your chapter members is by using the chapter officer tools found in the **Members Only** area of the ASA website. Log in to Members Only (www.amstat.org/membersonly) using your login and password. Once in the Members Only area, place your cursor over My Volunteer Activities found on the toolbar that runs across the top of the page. Select My Chapters from the drop-down menu and then click on your chapter, which will appear in the fly-out menu.

Under the Tools header on the next page, click on the **Chapter Member**

Reports link. Near the top of the next page will be a gray box with the current membership count of the chapter. Click on this gray box. At the top of the following Chapter Report Options page, click on the Display Current Chapter members link. This will create an Excel file with your chapter members. Copy and paste the email column into the To: line in the email message you would like to send to your members. Compose your message and click send.

Sending a single announcement about the event to your chapter members usually isn't sufficient. Send a reminder announcement 2–3 weeks before the event.

Communicating with Non-Chapter Members in the Area

At the bottom of the Chapter Reports Options page, there is a tool to find current ASA members in the area who do not belong to the chapter. Sending an announcement to these people about your upcoming chapter event is a great way to demonstrate the benefits of belonging to a chapter and could bring in new members. Select the state you want to run the reports for and click on

the gray Get Report button. This will create an Excel file of non-chapter members living in that state.

Communicating with All ASA Members

If your event might be of interest to ASA members outside of the chapter's region, there are several options for spreading the word to all ASA members. First, add your event on the Calendar of Events on both the home page of the ASA website (www.amstat.org) and the Council of Chapters website (<http://community.amstat.org/COC/Home/>). Anyone can post an event on the ASA website. For the Council of Chapters website, send information about the event to Chapters Liaison Rick Peterson at rick@amstat.org.

Event announcements can be placed in *Amstat News* and the monthly electronic newsletter, ASA Member News, at no charge to the chapter. Each issue of *Amstat News* has a section devoted to ASA committee, section, and chapter news. The print version of the magazine can accommodate an announcement of 6–8 sentences. The online version (<http://magazine.amstat.org>) will

accommodate a full article.

Announcements in ASA Member News should be 2–3 sentences, and a link to a website with additional information should be included.

It is best if an announcement for your chapter event appears in these publications 2–3 months before the event is scheduled to take place. This gives those interested in attending from outside the region time to make travel arrangements. Both publications are sent to ASA members around the middle of the month. The deadline for an announcement to appear in ASA Member News is the 1st of the month in which it is to be included. For *Amstat News*, the deadline is the 1st of the previous month. For example, If you would like your announcement to appear in the May issue of both

publications, you would need to send your announcement for ASA Member News on May 1 and April 1 for *Amstat News*. Send your announcement(s) to Chapters Liaison Rick Peterson at rick@amstat.org.

The ASA also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account from which we can post announcements at any time. The character limit for a Tweet is 140; the limit for a Facebook post is 420. Please send these announcements to Communications Manager Megan Murphy at megan@amstat.org.

I hope these communications tips increase the audience and popularity of your chapter events. If there is anything I can do to assist you or your chapter from the ASA office, please feel free to contact me.

EDUCATION OUTREACH AT THE 2012 JSM

BAPS - Beyond AP Statistics



The ASA/NCTM Joint Committee is pleased to

sponsor a Beyond AP Statistics (BAPS) workshop at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, California on

August 1, 2012. Organized by Roxy Peck, the BAPS workshop is offered for experienced AP statistics teachers and consists of enrichment material just beyond the basic AP syllabus. The course is divided into four sessions led by noted statisticians. Topics in recent

years have included experimental design, topics in survey methodology, multiple regression, logistic regression, what to do when assumptions are not met, and randomization tests.

Presenters for the 2012 BAPS are:

- Allan Rossman, Cal Poly - Randomization Tests
- Tom Short, John Carroll University - Logistic Regression
- Robin Lock, St. Lawrence University - What Do We Do When Assumptions Are Not Met?)
- James J. Cochran, Louisiana Tech University - Engaging Students in Statistics

The course fee for the full day is \$50, and BAPS participants are not required to register for the JSM (although a discount JSM registration is available for K-12 teachers available at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2012).

The 2012 BAPS will be held at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront (near the San Diego Convention Center). Refreshments will be provided, but participants are responsible for their

own lunches. BAPS participants will also receive handouts from the presentations, a pass to enter the Exhibit Hall at the JSM, and a certificate of participation from the ASA certifying professional development hours (optional graduate credit is also available).

Registrations will be accepted until the course fills, but should arrive no later than July 12, 2012. Space is limited. We recommend that teachers interested in attending register as soon as possible.

For more information and online registration, direct potential participants to www.amstat.org/education/baps. Questions may also be directed to ASA Director of Education Rebecca Nichols at rebecca@amstat.org or (703) 684-1221 ext. 1877.

Note that teachers who have little experience teaching statistics teachers should register for Statistics Workshop for Mathematics and Science Teachers Meeting Within a Meeting. See below or go to www.amstat.org/education/mwm/ for more information.

Statistics Workshop for Mathematics and Science Teachers



Sponsored by the
ASA, the 2012
Statistics Workshop

for Mathematics and Science Teachers will be held on Tuesday, July 31 and Wednesday, August 1, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel (near the San Diego Convention Center).

The primary goal of this Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) in 2012 is to provide an opportunity for middle and high school teachers who teach mathematics and science courses to discuss and apply the data analysis and statistical concepts embodied in the Common Core Standards for Mathematics and in the Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) Pre-K-12 Curriculum Framework endorsed by the American Statistical Association. Teachers will explore problems that require them to formulate statistical questions, collect, organize, analyze, and draw conclusions from data and apply basic concepts of probability. The MWM program will include examining what students can be expected to do at the

most basic level of understanding data analysis and what can be expected of them as their skills develop and experience broadens.

The target audience is middle and high school mathematics and science teachers, and multiple mathematics/science teachers from the same school are especially encouraged to attend.

The objective of enhancing the understanding and teaching of statistics within the mathematics/science curriculum will be promoted through conceptual understanding, active learning, real-world data applications, and appropriate technology. (Note, this part was redundant with the sentence highlighted in yellow in a previous paragraph).

The MWM program will include examining what students can be expected to do at the most basic level of understanding and what can be expected of them as their skills develop and their experience broadens. Content is consistent with Common Core standards, GAISE recommendations,

and NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics.

The presenters are GAISE Report authors and prominent statistics educators. The Program features separate tracks for High School and Middle School Teachers. The program for High School Teachers features:

- Katherine Halvorsen, Formulating Statistical Questions and Recognizing the Purposes of and Differences Among Sample Surveys, Experiments, and Observational Studies; Explain how Randomization Relates to Each. (Common Core Standards for High School S-IC)
- Pat Hopfensperger, Interpreting Categorical & Quantitative Data (Common Core Standards for High School S-ID) and Becoming a Data Detective: Investigating Patterns in Data. (Common Core Standards 8.SP)
- Robert Gould, Using Randomization Tests to make Inferences & Justify Conclusions (Common Core Standards for High School S-IC)

The Middle School program includes

- Christine Franklin , Overview of GAISE Pre-K–12 Report and Common Core State Standards for Middle School Mathematics and Univariate Analysis of Measurement Data: Focus On I) Understanding Measures of Center and Spread and Ii) Understanding of Statistical Variability and Summarizing and Describing Distributions (Common Core Standards 6.SP.2)
- Pat Hopfensperger, Formulating Statistical Questions (Common Core Standards 6.SP.1)
- Jerry Moreno, Use Random Sampling to Draw Inferences about a Population and to Draw Comparative Inferences about Two Populations (Common Core Standards 7.SP.2) and Categorical Data Analysis (Common Core Standards 8.SP.4)
- Katherine Halvorsen, Bivariate Measurement Data Analysis. (Common Core Standards 8.SP.1)

Both programs will also feature welcoming remarks by 2012 MWM Program Chair Katherine Halvorsen, ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein, ASA President Bob

Rodriguez, ASA Director of Education
Rebecca Nichols, and local ASA
representatives.

The course fee for the full day is \$50,
and MWM participants are not required
to register for the JSM (although a
discount JSM registration is available for
K-12 teachers available at
www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2012).

Refreshments will be provided, but
participants are responsible for their
own lunches. MWM participants will also
receive handouts from the
presentations, a pass to enter the
Exhibit Hall at the JSM, and a certificate
of participation from the ASA certifying
professional development hours
(optional graduate credit is also

available).

Registrations will be accepted until the
course fills, but should arrive no later
than July 12, 2012. Space is limited. We
recommend that teachers interested in
attending register as soon as possible.

For more information and online
registration, direct potential participants
to www.amstat.org/education/mwm/.
Questions may also be directed to ASA
Director of Education Rebecca Nichols
at rebecca@amstat.org or (703) 684-
1221 ext. 1877.

Note that experienced AP statistics
teachers should register for the Beyond
AP Statistics workshop. See above or
go to www.amstat.org/education/baps
for more information.

STATISTICS WITHOUT BORDERS MARCHES ON Gary Shapiro, SWB Chair



Statistics Without
Borders (SWB)
provides entirely
pro bono
statistical assistance to non-profit
organizations, particularly in the area of
international health. SWB is an
Outreach Group of the American

Statistical Association that started in
2008. It has well over 500 members and
is getting new projects at the rate on
about once every 3 weeks. Currently
most requests involve surveys in one
way or another. Membership is open to
everyone, whether or not members of
ASA, and regardless of experience. See

www.community.amstat.org/StatisticsWithoutBorders/home for more information or to join. SWB particularly needs to cultivate relationships with other organizations. If you know of an organization that could benefit from the expertise of SWB volunteers, email SWB Chair-elect and current Chair of the New Projects Committee Justin Fisher at fisherjs@gmail.com.

Two chapter meetings have been devoted to SWB. The first of these was a 2011 San Francisco Bay Area chapter meeting, which featured a talk on SWB's background (including a brief description of ongoing projects) and a presentation on Statistics and Human Rights. The second of these meetings was quite recent; a Washington Statistical Society meeting featured a general introduction to SWB followed by an in-depth presentation on an SWB project.

In an exciting development, SWB is participating in an unprecedented science diplomacy program between North Korea and the US/International Community. This summer SWB will provide pro-bono instructors for the [Pyongyang Summer Institute](#) (PSI) in Survey Science and Quantitative

Methodology in North Korea. The PSI is an intensive, international teaching program at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST), the first and only private and international university, which was launched in North Korea in the fall of 2010.

PSI is the first program of its kind in North Korea, which has approved visas for 15 visiting faculty. PSI students are expected to be upper level undergraduate and graduate students with academic credentials comparable to students in Ivy plus schools.

The Summer Institute is jointly administered by the International Strategy and Reconciliation Foundation (ISRF), PUST and SWB. The ISRF is a 501(c)(3) organization recognized by the U.S. Departments of Treasury and Commerce for its humanitarian and educational programs in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The PSI will begin as a three-year pilot program that will take place from July 2012—July 2014.

SWB members make up the majority of the 15 instructors who will provide pro-bono instruction during July for seven

four-week courses that will provide training in areas including sampling, statistics, survey methods, census methods, questionnaire design, computer-assisted data collection and analysis, both fundamental and advanced courses. The courses are modeled after those of the 65-year-old Michigan Summer Institute, a renowned international survey training program.

PSI instructors with expertise in survey research methods are: Sunny Bak, statistical consultant; Dr. Annelies Blom, Germany; Dr. Woody Carter, University of Chicago; Dr. Young Chun, an alumnus of Michigan Summer Institute and PSI Director; Bob Colosi, an alumnus of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology of the University of Maryland; Michael Costello, RTI International; Justin Fisher, George Washington University; Dr. Mark Griffin, Australian Development Agency for Statistics and Information Systems; Professor Patricia Gwartney, University of Oregon; Professor Ryung Kim, Einstein College of Medicine; Adam Molnar, University of Georgia; Dr. Rene

Paulson and Dr. Jacquelyn Pennings, Elite Research in Texas; Pinar Ucar, Qatar Statistics Authority; and Elena Zafarana, Swiss Federal Office of Communications.

The DPRK Working Group of SWB, all ASA members, was formed for planning and implementing the PSI. Co-chairs of the working group are Dr. Gary Shapiro, chair of Statistics without Borders and former mathematical statistician, U.S. Census Bureau; Justin Fisher; and Dr. Young Chun. Other members of the group are: Professor Duncan Thomas, Director of the Biostatistics Division, and Verna R. Richter Chair in Cancer Research, University of Southern California; Dr. Griffin; Dr. James J. Cochran, past chair of SWB and professor, Louisiana Tech University; Michael Costello; Professor Sunghee Lee, University of Michigan Joint Program in Survey Methodology; Professor Dominique Haughton, Bentley University; and Professor Mary Gray, American University, Washington, D.C.

TRAIN THE TRAINER: HOW TO PRESENT A SHORT COURSE ON EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS

Is there an amazing communicator in your chapter? Perhaps several? If so, these are people who understand how important communication skills are to advancement, professional development, and dissemination of research results. They may also be willing to be trained to pass their skills on to other members of your chapter.

Train the Trainer: How to Present a Short Course on Effective Presentations will be offered by the ASA on Sunday, July 29 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Indigo 206 of the Hilton Bayfront Hotel during the 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings. This is the first course to be offered in support of one of this year's ASA presidential initiatives (developing a set of "soft skill" courses that will have a positive impact on the careers of statisticians, regardless of their employment sector). The content of the this course has been prepared, and this "train the trainer" course on effective presentations will be presented by course instructors Jeanine Buchanich (University of Pittsburgh) and Jennifer Van Mullekom (DuPont).

This small session is limited to 40 attendees (a wait-list will be maintained). In this course, the attendee will learn how to train others in how to make effective presentations and communicate more effectively with an audience (including clients and customers). Topics to be covered in the course include:

- Communication
- Delivery Dimensions
- Room Setting & Arrangement
- Audiences
- Visual Communication
- Oral Communication
- Use of Pointers
- Proofreading

Prerequisites for this short course are:

- The attendee is willing to teach short courses on effective presentations to statisticians in the local area where the attendee lives
- The attendee has acquired presentation skills through either prior attendance of a course on how to make effective

presentations, or from giving numerous presentations

Those completing the “train the trainer” course will form a pool of instructors for teaching the one-day course on effective presentations. Instructors will be expected to teach the course at least annually, and primarily in their local area to minimize the costs of course registration fees and travel expenses.

What's in it for your chapter? Do you want a great local speaker with a terrific topic for a chapter meeting? Then identify a talented chapter member who already plans to attend the 2012 JSM and sponsor her/him for this ASA short course! In return for sponsorship, your sponsored chapter member can offer the one-day course at one of your chapter meetings during the 2012-13

year. For a \$40 registration fee, your chapter will have access to a terrific speaker and topic for a chapter meeting - a topic that will benefit all members of your chapter (no matter their career interests) and certainly could be repeated every few years.

What's in it for the chapter member you sponsor? Prestige, an opportunity to give back to the profession, networking, the ability to affect the future of ASA and how it promotes the profession of statistics, and a meaningful addition to her/his résumé or vita.

Registration for this short course is open and limited to 40 participants, so act quickly to take advantage of this opportunity for your chapter! Visit <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ttt/index.cfm> for more details.

THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE FOR STATISTICS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO BE HELD IN SUVA, FIJI
Mark Griffin, Friends of Australasia co-Chair

[The Pacific Conference for Statistics and Information Systems](#) will be held in Suva, Fiji on July 2-5, 2012. The annual PaCSIS conference series has been established to advance expertise in statistics and computer skills within the

local populations of the Pacific Islands. The conference is designed for delegates from any professional background (such as statisticians, health workers, government staff, businessmen, agricultural workers, and

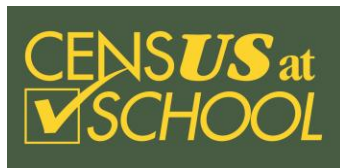
international aid workers), and the conference provides a solid introduction into the use of statistics within these various fields.

Speakers and organizers for the conference include international experts from Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S., along with local experts from the Pacific Islands. The 2012 conference builds upon the success of the [International Conference on Health Statistics in the Pacific Islands](#) (ICHSPI) that was held in Suva, Fiji in July 2011. The conference is supported several organizations and agencies, including

the [Australian Development Agency for Statistics and Information Systems](#), the [Fiji School of Medicine](#), the [Friends of Australasia](#) (of the ASA), and the [Section for International Engagement](#) (of the Statistical Society of Australia)

Contact Conference Chair Mark Griffin (+61 448 176 926, m.griffin@adasis-oz.com) or either of the Program co-Chairs Sabiha Khan (+679 926 5171, sabiha.khan@fnu.ac.fj) or Ramneek Goundar (+679 3233255, ramneek.goundar@fnu.ac.fj) for more information.

INTERNATIONAL CENSUS AT SCHOOL WORKSHOP TO BE HELD AT 2012 JSM ASA Director of Education Rebecca Nichols



The [U.S. version of Census at School](#) is a free international classroom project that engages students in grades 4–12 in statistical problem solving using their own real data. Students complete an online survey, analyze their class census results, and compare their class data with random samples of participating students in the U.S. and other countries. The project began in the

United Kingdom in 2000 and now includes Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland, Japan, the U.S., and a few other countries who are now starting the project.

The ASA directs the U.S. version of Census at School and is hosting an International Census at School Workshop at the end of JSM on Thursday, August 2 and a meeting for the international Census at School

leaders on Friday, August 3. The meeting will provide an opportunity for international leaders to coordinate the international program, share curriculum resources and ideas, and increase awareness of international efforts to enhance statistical literacy in schools. The meeting will include a workshop to help middle and high school teachers understand the mechanics of how to use Census at School, incorporate it in their classes to teach statistical problem solving using real student data, and use international Census at School

curriculum resources and technology.

The ASA is seeking champions to help expand the U.S. Census at School program nationally. This is a wonderful opportunity for chapters, statisticians, and statistics educators to perform outreach in their communities. If you are interested in attending the Census at School workshop at JSM or are interested in more information about how you can get involved with Census at School, please contact me at rebecca@amstat.org.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Florida Chapter Report

The Florida Chapter of the ASA held its annual conference at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville on February 3 and 4, 2012. About 100 chapter members participated in a two day conference which included plenary talks by 2011 ASA president Nancy Geller and NASA Engineering Director Russell Romanella. The conference schedule was rounded out by an additional 20 student and chapter

member presentations. The conference also included the chapter's annual banquet. This was held on the evening of the first day of the conference and was a great success.

The conference included a session dedicated to student talks. Graduate and undergraduate students from several chapter-associated universities made presentations and competed for chapter awards and recognition.



Clockwise from top left: Plenary speaker Nancy Geller, NIH; speaker Eric Chicken, Florida State University; conference organizers Luminita Razaila, Elena Buzaianu and Pali Sen, University of North Florida

Special thanks are due to chapter member Dr. Pali Sen for her excellent work in organizing this year's event. The Florida chapter is already planning its 2013 meeting in Pensacola, Florida. The University of West Florida has graciously offered to host next year's event.

Washington Chapter Report

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) has been active in many different spheres. In the last several months, WSS officers and board members have

organized a variety of seminars on topics such as dual-frame RDD methodology, communicating disclosure risk to non-statisticians, calibration adjustment for nonresponse in cross-classified data and the use of geospatial tools in the 2011 Abu Dhabi census. In the fall, WSS, along with Westat and the National Agriculture Statistical Service co-sponsored the Morris Hansen Lecture where Bob Groves and Rod Little spoke on "Missing Conceptual Components, and Design-Based/Model-Based Viewpoints." The WSS also sponsored a panel with the U.S. Department of Energy University, the District of Columbia Department of Mathematics, Georgetown University Career Education Center, the American Statistical Association and the Council on Women and Girls STEM Mentoring Program called *What can I do with a degree in mathematics, statistics or physics and related fields?* It also organized and co-sponsored with Confidentiality and Data Access Committee (CDAC) a free one-day seminar *Overview of Data Confidentiality in the Federal Context.*

WSS has a full upcoming spring schedule. The WSS Quantitative Literacy team has been active and is gearing up for their spring activities that include science fair judging and awards, the Curtis Jacobs Memorial awards,



Members discuss issues at a recent meeting Washington Chapter meeting

poster competitions and consulting on classroom materials. In addition to seminars such as Measuring Sexual Identity in Federal Surveys in April, WSS is looking forward to the President's invited dinner, the June annual dinner where the RTI- and WSS-sponsored Cox award winner speaks, and short courses on topics such as programming with R and an introduction to Bayesian statistics.

WSS is not without our challenges. It is constantly striving to widen the range of

statisticians the organization serves, to increase the number of seminars organized, to increase the utility of its programs, to improve the website and communications. In an organization run by volunteers there is a constant tension between volunteer activities and day-to-day professional and personal demands. But collectively we believe in the mission of ASA and WSS and try to implement it within the greater Washington DC statistical community.

Northeastern Illinois Chapter Report

Northeastern Illinois chapter was very fortunate to have Dr. Carl Peace present his well known one-day workshop on clinical trials methodology last October. Attendees felt that it was a very thorough introduction to clinical trials for the beginner and a good refresher for the experienced as well.

Chapter will be hosting Susanne May of University Washington on May 30th for her sought-after 1-day survival analysis workshop. Chapter officers and the membership are very excited to have this opportunity.

Several of the chapter officers will be participating in the science fair to be

held on March 17 at Niles North High School, Skokie, IL as judges. David Degras, chapter's community activity officer is coordinating the chapter efforts to sponsor an award for the best statistical application. Chapter is very proud to be part of this community activity.

Officers for the year 2012 are David Degras, Patrick Huang, Charles Chaofeng Liu, Clint Lovell, Melvin Munsaka, Carolyn Setze, Sandra Sinisi Lovell, Carl Slenk, Eric Song, and Jennifer Yen.

San Diego Chapter Report

The San Diego chapter of the ASA organizes roundtable discussions on statistical topics of interest to the community two to three times a year. In 2011, the topics included the pros and cons of multiple comparison adjustments, tips for starting a statistical consulting business, and survival analysis. In 2012, we will have a session on adaptive design led by Yisheng Li from University of Texas and MD Anderson Cancer Center on April 23 and a session on missing data analysis in November. The San Diego chapter has hosted several ASA Travelling short

courses in recent years and will host Susan May, University of Washington, September 11, 2012 who will discuss survival analysis.



San Diego Chapter 2011
Annual Fall Picnic

In addition to our professional activities, the San Diego chapter organizes a yearly autumn picnic, an annual business meeting and is involved in outreach activities with the Greater San Diego Science Fair.

Nevada Chapter Report

The Nevada Chapter of ASA (NV-ASA) is busily planning activities for 2012 after its successful 2011 annual meeting held this past October in Reno. The agenda included electing new officers, conducting chapter business activities, and seminar presentations

(accompanied by good food!) on a variety of statistical topics. The chapter was treated to an interesting keynote address by Dr. Francisco Samaniego, Distinguished Professor of Statistics at the University of California, Davis. His presentation was A Short Course on Comparative Statistical Inference. Other seminar topics varied in subjects ranging from determining genetic associations in obesity to an overview of the theory and geophysical applications using self-similar trees.

NV-ASA continues to provide significant outreach to Nevada's K-12 teachers. The southern area hosted the K-12 Statistics Workshop: World of Statistics - Health and Environmental Sciences on March 10, 2012 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. This workshop was the first in a series that will be offered by the Nevada Chapter. The program was led by Dr. Chad Cross, NV ASA member, who shared how statistics taught by secondary mathematics teachers can be applied to health and environmental sciences. He introduced various online government health databases during the workshop and illustrated a fun mark-recapture

experiment that that can be performed in the classroom. This outreach activity for K-12 teachers will be followed by the 9th annual K-12 Student Poster Competition. Last year, the Nevada competition produced 3 national poster winners. The prize winners from this year's contest will be announced April 3.

Because of the long distance between the major southern and northern population areas of Nevada (over 400 miles!), separate functions are often offered in each region. This spring, the northern area will host the Northern Nevada Career Day at the University of Nevada, Reno. The event, slated for May 5, is directed toward high school and university students, and will feature professionals discussing how they use statistical analysis in their occupations. During past presentations, a variety of statistical applications have been highlighted from diverse occupations that included among others, economic analysts, gaming experts, engineers, hydrologic scientists, range managers, non-profit board members, and medical and health care practitioners. Attending students are treated to lunch and "statistically-related" raffle prizes.

NV-ASA will soon be issuing its newsletter outlining other 2012 activities. Information on NV-ASA activities can be seen on its website located at www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/index.html. The Chapter has already begun planning its 2012 Annual Meeting scheduled for October 6 in Las Vegas. This year, NA-ASA is partnering with the Nevada Public Health Association; members from both organizations will be invited to attend back-to-back sessions. Nevada members look forward to a busy year!

Harrisburg Chapter Report

The Harrisburg Chapter of the ASA held its initial meeting of 2012 on March 1st involving business and a presentation. Notable business included the recognition of new president for the chapter - Kevin S. Robinson, PhD of Millersville University of Pennsylvania and a discussion of statistical awareness initiatives - Mathematics Awareness Month April 2012 & International Year of Statistics. Ilya Shvartsman of Penn State Harrisburg presented *A frailty model in crossover studies with time-to-event response variable*.

The chapter is active in the community. In March 2012, the chapter sponsored and judged special awards for "Best Use of Statistical Methods" in both the Capital Area Science and Engineering Fair (Harrisburg region) and the York County Science and Engineering Fair. Three high school students were selected as our 2012 winners, and each awarded a 1-year Student Membership to ASA and a print subscription to Chance magazine.

In the fall of 2012, the chapter will be hosting the Council of Chapters Traveling Course: Applied Mixed Models with presenter, Linda J. Young of the University of Florida.

Twin Cities Chapter Report

The Twin Cities (TC) Minnesota chapter of ASA has about two hundred members, and 3/4 of those are also in the National ASA. Chapter membership includes professionals from the academic, public, and private industrial sectors. Chapter meetings are open to both members and nonmembers. The TC chapter was established in 1957 and holds meetings at the University of Minnesota (UMN), the University of St. Thomas (UST), and other universities

and colleges. Meetings are announced on the chapter website as well as by email distribution.



Meeting of November 2011: A. Shemyakin, M. Isaacson, S. Lipovetsky, M. Schield, P. Dayananda, XX, Barbara Short, Sarah Kogut

In 2011-2012, several chapter meetings with presentations and dinners or refreshments have been held, some of them organized jointly with the UST Applied Probability and Statistics departmental seminar, co-sponsored by the Center of Applied Mathematics. The mean and standard deviation for attendance are 25 and 10 people, respectively.

The meeting announcements always emphasize: "The food and beverages will be available free of charge for Twin Cities Chapter members. For non-

members there will be a charge of \$3 for students and \$10 for non-students.



Meeting of March 2012. A. Shemyakin, S. Banerjee, B. Carlin, L. Billard, P. Dayananda, S. Lipovetsky

These fees will also allow you to become a Chapter member!" This route to membership permits involving more people, especially students, in chapter activities, and they stay in the chapter for many years.

The TC Chapter has also sponsored several Career Days, and has received ASA Career Day grants to help support these events. The career panels included presentations and discussion by statisticians from academic, business, and government institutions and attracted audiences of students looking to a future career as well as

current statisticians interested in hearing about statistics careers in other employment areas. Recent meetings include the following:

- Prof. Brad Carlin, Division of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities: *Introduction to Bayesian Adaptive Methods for Clinical Trials*;
- Dr. Carlos Tolmasky, Cargill Petroleum: *Shaping Forward Curves (financial markets)*;
- Sarah Kogut, Twin Cities Chapter Representative to ASA Council of Chapters: *The American Statistical Association: Current Initiatives and Member Benefits*.
- Professor Lynne Billard, University of Georgia, former President of the American Statistical Association: *Symbolic Data Analysis - Applications to Real Life Problems*;
- Prof. Milo Schield, Augsburg College: *The Omnipresence of Coincidence*;
- Prof. Rob Gould, UCLA: *Educating Citizen Statisticians*.

For more background and photographs of chapter activity see the chapter

website

<http://sitekreator.com/ASATwinCities>.

Albuquerque Chapter Report

The Albuquerque Chapter has had a busy early 2012. Eleven chapter members presented their research at the new Conference on Data Analysis (CoDA), held in Santa Fe February 29-March 2, 2012. This new conference, organized by Albuquerque Chapter president Kary Myers and attended by past-president Oleg Makhnin, attracted over 130 participants from 9 Department of Energy national laboratories, 25 universities, and many other organizations. In addition, the chapter will again sponsor and award *Best Use of Statistics* prizes at the New Mexico State Science Fair, to be held at New Mexico Tech on March 31. And on June 15 we will be pleased to offer a short course in Santa Fe, facilitated by the Council of Chapters, by George Casella on Monte Carlo methods.

San Antonio Chapter Report

The San Antonio chapter has held, along with the Department of Management Science and Statistics at the University of Texas at San Antonio,

several meetings with speakers from local and out of the State. All the following events were held at the UTSA main campus. On November 8, 2011, a seminar was presented by Dr. Brad H. Pollock, the chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, titled “Small Area Analysis of Primary Liver Cancer Incidence in Bexar County, Texas.” On December 1, 2011, a presentation was given by Dr. Dennis Lin, a University distinguished professor of Supply Chain and Statistics from the Department of Statistics of the Pennsylvania State University. He presented “Recent Advances in Computer Experiments.” On January 20, 2012, a talk was given by Dr. Robert McCulloch, professor of Statistics from the Department of Information, Risk and Operations Management of the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. McCulloch presented *Bayesian Additive Regression Trees and Parallel Computation*. On February 10, 2012, a talk was given by Dr. Joel Edmund Michalek, Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the University of Texas Health Science

Center at San Antonio, titled *A Fourier and Wavelet Analysis of Serial Glucose Measurements*.



Professors George McCabe of Purdue University (left) and Jonathan Gelfond of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

On March 2nd, 2012, the San Antonio Chapter vice president Jonathan Gelfond presented the Don Owen Award to Professor George McCabe, for his outstanding contributions to statistical research, applications, and teaching. The award ceremony was held at the 2012 Conference of Texas Statisticians (COTS), held at Lamar University, March 2-3.

On March 5, 2012, the San Antonio Chapter sent judges to the 2012 Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair. The judging selected those Senior Division Projects (grades 9-12) that

showed excellence in the use of statistical methods. Volunteer judges included Pete Donahoe, David Han, Norma Ketchum, Howard Monroe, John Schoolfield, Danny Sharon, Peter Olofsson, Samuel Tumlinson, Ken Williams, and Keying Ye.



Professors George McCabe of Purdue University (left) and Jonathan Gelfond of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

At the Awards Ceremony on March 6, 2011 the following awards were presented by San Antonio ASA Chapter Judging Coordinator Howard Monroe: First Place and \$125 to Sharjeel Syed from John Jay Science and Engineering Academy for his project titled *Duckweeds Salty: A 3rd year study of duckweed*; Second Place and \$75 to Lauren Mandaville from Sequin High School, for her project titled *Increasing Casket Decomposition*; and third Place

and \$50 to Alison Klemm of Madison High School for her project titled *Zapped: A study evaluating the effects of microwaves applied to water used in the germination of monocotyledons and dicotyledons, specifically in Zea mays and Phaseolus vulgaris*.

On April 27, 2012, the San Antonio chapter will hold the ASA travel course: Applied Linear Model, by Professor Linda Young from the University of Florida at the campus of UTSA. It is expected that more than 30 participants will participate this short course.

Connecticut Chapter Report

Each year the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association sponsors a 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, and
- summarize these data and present their results graphically.

The intent is for children to develop analytical reasoning through critical

examination of data and then to convey this knowledge to the viewer through graphical representation of results and conclusions!

Our chapter has conducted this annual event for almost 20 years! Judges are members from academia & industry, including a few first-timers, and bring a great breadth of experience to the event. Photos of last year's event are at http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/Poster/poster_judging.htm.

The judging will occur on April 14, 2012 with the Awards Ceremony for the winners on April 28 at the Bristol-Myers Squibb, Wallingford Connecticut.

South Carolina Chapter Report

Each The South Carolina chapter of the ASA holds regular meetings in the fall and spring semesters. The Fall 2011 meeting was held in November in Charleston, SC. Attendees included members from Augusta, GA, Clemson, Charleston, and Columbia, SC. Vice President of the SC-ASA chapter and meeting organizer, Dr. Mulugeta Gebregziabher, made several important announcements regarding upcoming ASA events. Dr. Chris Rorden, the

director of the neuropsychology lab at the University of South Carolina, gave a presentation on the analysis of Magnetic Resonance Images (MRI).

The SC-ASA Palmetto Symposium will be held on April 10 and April 12, 2012 at the University of South Carolina-Columbia. Dr. Ed George from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania will provide the keynote address on April 12th. A student paper competition will be held during the meeting. Six student presenters will be selected prior to the meeting and invited to present. A certificate and modest cash award will be given to those presentation(s) judged to be the best. The next meeting of the SC-ASA will occur in fall, 2012 in Clemson, SC.

Philadelphia Chapter Report

The Philadelphia Chapter embodies more than 350 members from the Philadelphia and surrounding area. Members represent a variety of settings, including academia, health systems, and the pharmaceutical industry. The chapter is active, hosting four meetings per year, and supporting annual events such as the Delaware Valley Science

Fair and the Pennsylvania Statistics Poster Competition.

Last November, Dr. Elizabeth Stuart, Associate Professor in Mental Health/Biostatistics at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, delivered an engaging afternoon workshop on “Propensity Score Methods for Estimating Causal Effects.” Her talk was followed by a social mixer at the University of Pennsylvania. This is the second social mixer that the Philadelphia Chapter has hosted in the last year; the goal in this changing climate is to bring together statisticians from various sectors to foster new relationships, incubate new ideas, and tackle challenging problems.

More recently, the chapter enjoyed their highlight mid-winter gathering on beautiful and historic Boathouse Row. Each year, the evening promises to bring together a lively group of statisticians, along with their significant others, for a catered, gourmet dinner, a light and entertaining discussion, followed by the much anticipated signature bananas foster dessert. This year’s speaker was Dr. Howard Wainer, Distinguished Research Scientist and

author, presenting on "Uneducated Guesses: Three examples of how mistreating missing data yields misguided educational policy."



Dr. Howard Wainer speaking during the Philadelphia Chapter’s Mid-Winter Gathering on historic Boathouse Row in Philadelphia

Spring and Summer Philadelphia Chapter workshops seek to continue the tradition of offering outstanding topics and speakers. For the fourth consecutive year, the chapter has secured a traveling Spring Short Course in the area of Applied Survival Analysis, to be presented by Dr. Susanne May from the University of Washington. The upcoming summer topic will relate to Data Safety Monitoring Boards (DSMBs). The DSMB is an independent group that continuously monitors data from various aspects of a clinical trial and guides the clinical trial group in moving forward, or stopping, with the

trial. In recent years, the number of clinical trials opting for, or requiring to have, DSMB services has been increasing for reasons related to patient safety concerns, increased awareness among the trial subjects, among others.

The chapter would like to extend thanks to their parent organization, as well as to their dedicated members. Kudos to a fun and cohesive team of officers – Alex Hanlon, Mac Turner, David Radley, Jason Martin, Dennis Cosmatos, Anne Meibohm, Ruifeng Xu, Charlie Liss, and Michael Posner.

Bay Area Chapter Report

The Bay Area chapter has organized monthly seminars every month in 2011 and 2012, excluding our vacation months (June, July, and August). Congratulations and thanks to our Chapter Vice Presidents, Ruixiao Lu and Clinton Brownley, who found speakers and organized almost a dozen seminars through September 2012. A list of recent seminars is given at <http://www.sfasa.org/oldmeetings.htm>, while a list of the chapter's upcoming seminars for 2012 can be found at <http://www.sfasa.org/seminars2012.htm>. We have also cosponsored a seminar

with the statistics departments at Berkeley and Stanford.

Since 2010 we have organized several short courses on Genomics (<http://www.sfasa.org/May2011mtg.htm>) and Bayesian Statistics (two day course with Scott Berry and David Draper (<http://www.sfasa.org/bayesOct2010.htm>), and the follow-on one day course covering winBUGS by Professor Draper in October).

Our chapter was honored by a visit from 2011 ASA President, Nancy Geller. We appreciated our colleagues and chapter members at Genomic Health for providing seminar space, refreshments and a webex connection for those members unable to attend in person (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/chrisphotos/6152215342/>). The webex was a first time experiment for the chapter, and we invited AP statistics teachers from the workshop and chapter members to attend remotely.

In June 2011, as part of our Chapter History Project we celebrated an informal 83rd birthday party (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/chrisphotos/6152215342/>).

Our Chapter organized our inaugural workshop in statistics for AP statistics teachers, and a write-up appeared in the November 2011 AMSTAT news (<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2011/1/01/bayareanov11/>).

Two students, Tony Tran and Aida Yazdanparast from Cal State East Bay, won chapter student travel awards to the Miami JSM for third prize in the ASA's statistical graphics poster section (<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/onlineprogram/AbstractDetails.cfm?abstractid=303416>, http://www.sfasa.org/News8_17_2011.html).

Based on a suggestion at the Council of Chapters Meetings in Miami, our chapter conducted its first survey of chapter members. The survey is at <http://www.sfasa.org/2011ChapterSurveyResults.pdf>, and responses are at <http://www.sfasa.org/2011BayAreaChapterSurvey.pdf>.

The Chapter joined the ASA's efforts in observance of the International Year of Statistics, and named Chris Barker its Representative.

South East Texas Chapter Report

The South East Texas Chapter of the ASA (SETCASA) held its elections, and the new officers are President Cliff Spiegelman-Distinguished Professor in Department of Statistics, Vice President Vic Willson-Head and Professor of Department of Educational Psychology, Treasurer Mike Longnecker-Professor in Department of Statistics, and Secretary Shilpa Jagannathan-graduate student in Department of Statistics.

The focus of this chapter will be to encourage collaborations among faculty and students at Texas A&M University and professionals in the Bryan/College Station who have an interest in probability and statistics. This includes students who may consider a career path within the ASA purview.

The first planned activity for the year is a Probability and Statistics Day to be held on March 24, on the Texas A&M campus. The focal point of Probability and Statistics Day is to bring ASA members together with many high level consumers of statistical methods from the local area including Texas A&M

faculty and students, and professional in the surrounding commercial enterprises. Researchers in social sciences, physical sciences, engineering, and humanities will give talks dealing with theoretical developments, interesting data analyses, novel methods of teaching probability and statistics, software development, and unsolved problems related to statistics in their research.

SETCASA is exploring opportunities for interacting with teachers and students in local elementary and high schools. Our members have lectured to AP stat classes, participated in workshops for students with submissions to science fairs, and judged submissions at local and regional science fairs. SETCASA is interested in expanding these types of outreach activities.

Northwest Ohio Chapter Report

The Northwest Ohio chapter of the American Statistical Association includes academic faculty, students, and professional statisticians from industry. Professor C. Shane Reese from Brigham Young University was the guest speaker at the chapter's spring meeting on March 31, 2011. Professor

Reese's engaging talk "A Random Onset Model for Reliability Degradation" was attended by 25 chapter members and guests.

Mid-Michigan Chapter Report

ASA President Bob Rodriguez visited the chapter on October 3, 2011 and gave a presentation at Saginaw Valley State University titled *New Opportunities for Statisticians in the World of Business*.

The chapter recently revised its constitution and it is scheduled to be voted on by its members during the upcoming April 2012 chapter meeting/presentation to be held on the campus of Michigan State University. The exact date, speaker and the title of the presentation is yet to be finalized.

Pittsburgh Chapter Report

The ASA Pittsburgh Chapter certainly has been busy so far this year. Our annual Fall Mixer was held November 17th, 2011 at the University Club at the University of Pittsburgh. There was live music, fabulous food, and about 50-60 local statisticians. The University Club had no idea what hit them!

This spring we have been preparing for several big events. Our annual ASA Chapter Banquet is April 2nd, 2012 (also at the University Club at the University of Pittsburgh). The banquet opens with a graduate student poster session followed by dinner and a featured talk by Dr. Andrew Moore. Dr. Moore is Vice President, Google Inc, Site Director, Google Pittsburgh Engineering Office and a former Professor in Computer Science & Robotics at Carnegie Mellon University. We close with presentation of this year's awards. The 2012 ASA Pittsburgh Chapter Statistician of the Year is Dr. Sally Morton, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biostatistics in the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh. The Student of the Year award recipients are Daniel McDonald (CMU Statistics), Chi Song (Pitt Biostatistics), and Scott Rothenberger (Pitt Statistics). Many congratulations to all our winners!

Our chapter is also very active in

community outreach, particularly in local and national science fairs. We have been financially supporting the St. Francis University Pennsylvania Statistics Poster Competition for the last few years and provide judges for the Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair Statistics Competition. This year Pittsburgh is also hosting the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and statisticians from all over Pennsylvania will be judging the top young scientific minds (on their use of statistics of course!). The Intel ISEF awards over \$4,000,000 in prizes and scholarships each year; we're happy to contribute to this year's showcase of upcoming talented researchers.

Details of the three science fairs can be found at:

- www.francis.edu/paposter.html
- www.scitechfestival.org/mainsf.asp
- www.societyforscience.org/isef/about

For more information on our chapter, see www.amstatpgh.org.

COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD (COCGB)

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C. Shane Reese
Brigham Young University
Department of Statistics 230 TMCB
Provo, UT 84602, United States
(801) 422-9250
reese@stat.byu.edu

Past-Chair (2012)

Kathleen Morrissey
29 N. Wacker Dr. #701
Chicago, IL 60606, United States
(312) 212-3144
kmorrissey@strategy2market.com

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Daniel Kasprzyk
NORC At the University of Chicago
150 Rhode Island Avenue NW Unit 101
Washington, DC 20001, United States
Phone: (202) 232-4556
dankasprzyk@gmail.com

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Marianne E. Messina
Bristol-Myers Squibb
5 Research Pkwy Global Biometric
Sciences
Wallingford, CT 06492-1951, United
States
Phone: (203) 677-7261
Marianne.messina@bms.com

Vice-Chair, District 2 (2012-2014)

Alexander C. Cambon
University of Louisville
School of Pub Health and Information
Sci Dept of Bioinformatics and
Biostatistics
Louisville, KY 40292, United States
Phone: (502) 852-3731
accamb01@exchange.louisville.edu

Vice-Chair, District 3 (2010-2012)

Delray J. Schultz
Millersville University
7 Lark Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603, United States
(717) 872-3535
dschultz@millersville.edu

Vice-Chair, District 4 (2010-2012)

Morteza Marzjarani
Saginaw Valley State University
Computer Science Department
7400 Bay Road
University Center, MI 48710-0001,
United States
(989) 964-4341
marzjara@svsu.edu

Vice-Chair, District 5 (2011-2013)

Scott J. Richter
University of North Carolina at
Greensboro
107 Petty Building PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402, United States
(336) 256-1123
scott_richter@uncg.edu

Vice-Chair, District 6 (2011-2013)
Daniel R. Jeske
University of California Department of
Statistics
900 University Ave Room 1340 Olmsted
Hall
Riverside, CA 92521, United States
(951) 827-3014
daniel.jeske@ucr.edu

Board Representative (2011-2013)
Bonnie LaFleur
University of Arizona
1295 N. Martin PO Box 245211
Room A242
Tucson, AZ 85724, United States
Phone: (520) 626-1393
blafleur@email.arizona.edu

Board Representative (2012-2014)
Nicholas J. Horton
Smith College
Clark Science Center 44 College Lane
Northampton, MA 01063-0001, United
States
Phone: (413) 585-3688
nhorton@smith.edu

Board Representative (2010-2012)
Thomas H. Short
John Carroll University
Dept of Mathematics & Computer
Science
20700 North Park Blvd
University Heights, OH 44118, United
States
(216) 397-1626
tshort@jcu.edu

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Ananda A. Jayawardhana
Pittsburg State University
1701 South Broadway
Pittsburg, KS 66762, United States
(620) 235-4414
ananda@pittstate.edu

Communications Officer (2010-2012)
James J. Cochran
Louisiana Tech University
College of Business
P. O. Box 10318
Ruston, LA 71272, United States
(318) 257-3445
jcochran@LaTech.edu