

Chair's welcoming message for 2020

Dear Section on Statistics and Data Science Education Members,

Welcome to a new year (belatedly). Thank you for your membership in the section. There are lots of exciting things coming up this year. Below is a (non-random) sample of them to whet your appetite.

- **Social media:** We are continuing to expand our outreach through social media. Be sure to watch for [blog posts](#) throughout the year as well as our regular newsletter. Let me and/or [Maria Tacket](#) (our new Publications Officer) know if you have any news, events, etc. you'd like to highlight on the blog.
- **Section Mentoring Program:** We have a fantastic group of new members on the Mentorship Committee, chaired by Jennifer Green. A rolling application window for mentees and mentors will be announced soon, make sure to watch for that announcement.
- **eCOTS 2020:** The theme of this year's electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics is *Engaging Everyone*. The conference will be held May 18-22 and you can participate from whatever location you are in at that time. Or, if you are near one of the [regional conferences](#), you can join them for part of the time. This year's [keynotes](#) include Roxy Peck and Hilary Parker (two of my favorite speakers). At \$20 it's probably the most affordable conference to attend.
- **JSM 2020:** The theme of this year's JSM is *Everyone Counts: Data for the Public Good*. Program chairs Amelia McNamara (2020) and Jamie Perrett (2021) are hard at work to put together a great program for us all. This includes organizing Birds of a Feather (BoFs) sessions, which are no cost discussion groups. If you are interested in hosting one, please see Jamie's email of Feb 7 or go to [the website to submit a BoF](#). You might also be interested in the [short courses and workshops](#). There are also a few options to volunteer on behalf of the section. We are always looking for judges for our speed sessions. If you are willing to serve in that role, please [let me know](#). In addition, the MAA's MathFest is happening in Philadelphia immediately following JSM. Stay tuned for some collaborative events across our organizations.
- **Two Year College and High School SSDSE Section Fellowships:** This year, we welcomed Amy Hogan and Kathy Kubo as section fellows to help with outreach to their communities. If you want to apply, or know someone who should apply, the deadline this year is May 1.
- **TSHS Resource Portal.** If you have not yet visited the data and teaching resource portal from the Section on Teaching Statistics in Health Sciences, I recommend checking it out. It's housed by [CAUSE](#).
- **US Statistics Project Competition (USPROC).** Encourage your students to submit to this event. The deadline for this semester is June 26. There are two awards to submit to - a statistics class project for first semester classes as well as a research project for more advanced undergraduate projects. Even if they don't win, just listing the submission on their resume can help students get a leg up when it's time for job hunting.

- **The [Causality in Statistics Education Award](#)** encourages the teaching of basic causal inference in introductory statistics courses. Originally donated by Judea Pearl and now sponsored by Google and Microsoft Research, the prize is motivated by the growing importance of introducing core elements of causal inference into undergraduate and master's level classes in statistics. Nominations and questions should be sent to the ASA office at educinfo@amstat.org. The nomination deadline is March 16, 2020.
- **Data Science Education Working Group:** Stay tuned for more updates on the products of this important working group, set up by ASA.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to our outgoing executive committee officers – Beth Chance (Past-Chair), Stacey Hancock (Program Chair), Kay Endriss (Publications), Garret Grolemond (at Large), Rebecca Nugent (at Large), Erin Blankenship (Section Representative). The section is in great shape today due to their efforts! We also welcome our new executive committee officers – Jo Hardin (Chair-elect), Jamie Perret (Program Chair-elect), Maria Tacket (Publications Officer), Lisa Kay (at Large), Ellen Braezel (at Large), and Brianna Heggeseth (Section Representative). Thank you for your willingness to step forward and serve the section. And a special thank you to Mine Cetinkaya-Rundel, who is transitioning from her role as Chair to Past-Chair. Thank you, Mine, for your leadership and vision! Thanks also to all of you for your membership in the section, your support of all of our activities, and your ongoing creative ideas.

You can stay up to date via [our website](#), with thanks to our Webmaster, [Brigitte Baldi](#) or use the Section's distribution list or ASA Community page. We wish you the best in all your statistical endeavors.

Sincerely,

Michael Posner
Chair, ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education

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