



NC ASA Chapter Bulletin

Winter 2018

Greetings from the NC ASA President

Elizabeth Mannshardt



NC ASA has had an active and engaging 2018, offering leadership and professional development events as well as several socials and community gatherings. Our *Stories of Significance* Fall Dinner had a great turn-out and was a fun evening catching up with friends and colleagues. Attendees enjoyed hearing insights from the multifaceted career paths and leadership journeys of Lisa and Mine. I am already looking forward to next year’s NC ASA Fall Dinner!

NC ASA heads into 2019 with another exciting and full agenda, continuing its aim to further connect our community while implementing leadership initiatives and offering opportunities for professional growth. We will be implementing suggestions from our Statisticians Interest Survey with our new *Professional Webinar Series* (p.2), as well as developing events such as “*What Can Professional Societies Offer You?*” based on participant suggestions from NC ASA’s first Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop (p.4). Also look for NC ASA’s first informational Career Fair, and the return of NC ASA’s popular Recycled Poster Session – it is great to see what other NC statisticians are up to!

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as NC ASA President this past year. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning more about this amazing community and meeting its members. It has been rewarding to see the engagement of students and young professionals in our community with their participation in initiatives and events such as NC ASA’s Scholastic Council and the NC ASA Workshop and mentoring events. I am excited to see them further develop within our community and succeed on their own paths. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of those who have contributed to NC ASA’s success this past year. A big thank you goes to NC ASA community members who volunteered at various events, and to the Officers and Liaisons of the Executive Board. I welcome and appreciate Emily Griffith’s leadership as she transitions to NC ASA President. NC ASA members – thank you for this opportunity. I hope to see you at the next NC ASA event!

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NC ASA Calendar - Upcoming Events

<http://community.amstat.org/northcarolina/events/upcomingevents>

Election Information Coming Soon - NC ASA Executive Board Elections to be held in December.

NC ASA Kicks Off 2019

NC ASA Social – Tuesday January 29th, 5:30pm at [Raleigh Beer Garden](#) on Glenwood in Raleigh

Professional [Webinar Series](#) launches in 2019! – First webinar Friday Feb 22nd 12-1pm. (See p. 2)

Meet and Greet with [Eric Laber](#) – Monday, Feb 25th, 5:30pm at [Mattie B’s Public House](#) in Durham

Career Fair and Recycled Poster Social: Coming in March/April 2019! (Details p. 2)

NC ASA IIG Professional Webinar Series in 2019

<https://community.amstat.org/northcarolina/events/webinars>

Based on the feedback received on the IIG's 2018 Statisticians' Interest Survey we are aiming to meet the professional development needs of our community. In 2019 we will host two 2-part series on **Data Science** and on **Machine Learning**.

What does *Data Science* mean to an Executive?

Friday, Feb 22nd 12-1pm

Presented by Aric LaBarr of the Institute for Advanced Analytics at North Carolina State University



The data science field is full of practitioners who understand the language of data. However, this language might seem foreign to those on the edges of this field who still need to make important decisions using the results of data science. How then do we get through the hype and onslaught of information around data science, big data, AI, and other buzz word in this space to realize the important things executives need to know about starting, growing, or managing a new data driven world?

Introduction to Modern Machine Learning Techniques

Presented by Funda Gunes, PhD - Senior Machine Learning Developer, SAS



This talk will describe fundamental concepts of machine learning algorithms and cover key elements of training powerful predictive models. We will discuss overfitting, hyper-parameter tuning, cross validation, feature engineering, regularization, information leakage and ensemble modeling. You will learn how to train and tune modern ML techniques and how to interactively build machine learning pipelines.

Interpretability versus Explainability in Machine Learning

Presented by Cynthia Rudin, Associate Professor, Duke University

This discussion will be based on insights and important take-aways from NSF's "Statistics at a Crossroads" seminars, panels, and discussions.



[Webinar logistics, full abstracts, and speaker bios](#)

NC ASA Career Fair and Recycled Poster Social

Coming in Spring 2019

Our Recycled Poster Session last year was a huge success with over 50 attendees and a dozen posters.



We are pleased to announce the second annual NC ASA Recycled Poster Session in late March or early April of 2019. In conjunction with the poster session we are excited to host an informational Career Fair. Companies represented will include but not be limited to our Fall Dinner sponsors: RhoWorld, RTI, SAS, and Xylem Data Science. For more information on the Career Fair, including representing your company or organization, please contact Brian Gaines at Brian.Gaines@sas.com. Posters will be solicited in February. Contact Emily Griffith at Emily.Griffith@ncsu.edu for more information on the poster session.

2018 NC ASA Chapter Executive Committee

President – Elizabeth Mannshardt (US EPA)
Vice President – Emily Griffith (NCSU)
Vice President 2 – Amy Shi (SAS)
Secretary/Treasurer – Brian Gaines (SAS)
NC Chapter Representative to ASA – Ryne Vankrevelen (Elon)

2018 Liaisons to the Executive Board

Outreach and Communications Director (2019) – Lakisha Armstrong (Walden)
Industry Interests Group Core Strategic Team Lead – Sujit Ghosh (NCSU)
Ambassador to Small Colleges and Universities – Stephanie Zimmer (RTI)
Scholastic Council Chair – Katherine Allen (NCSU)
High School Outreach - Breda Munoz (RTI)
Past President – Weston McManus (SAS)

NC ASA Fall Recap

NC ASA Fall Dinner

More than 90 statisticians from our NC ASA community gathered for NC ASA's "Stories of Significance" Fall Dinner!



NC ASA was honored to host [ASA President Lisa LaVange](#) and Duke University's Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel, Associate Professor of the Practice and 2016 ASA Waller Education Award recipient.

President LaVange discussed her own *Stories of Significance* in a riveting talk about how specific decisions impacted her career trajectory.



Professor Çetinkaya-Rundel also spoke about her own career path and the moments of importance as she became an expert in statistics education and a Professional Educator at RStudio.



We would like to sincerely thank our sponsors [SAS](#), [Xylem](#), [SAMSI](#), [RhoWorld](#), [RTI International](#), & [ASA](#) for their generous support of NC ASA.

Meet and Greet Social with NC ASA

NC ASA hosted a Meet and Greet with Duke University's Cynthia Rudin on Oct 29th. It was a great chance to mingle and chat with Cynthia over a bite or a drink. One NC ASA member drove from Winston-Salem, meeting other NC ASA members for the first time! What a great way to connect with the community!



Look for Cynthia's upcoming NC ASA Webinar!

Local NC ASA Socials Interested in organizing an NC ASA event in your local region? [NC ASA can help.](#)

High School Statistics Teacher Training

NC ASA partnered with the NC School of Science and Math, SAS JMP and RTI to offer a [1-day workshop for High School Statistics teachers](#) to provide training in topics relevant to the AP curriculum, as well as hands on training using SAS JMP. There were 15 attendees, including Professor Hollylynn S. Lee and students from NCSU's Department of Mathematics and Statistics Education.



Attendees were very happy with the learning tools provided. NC ASA would like to sincerely thank the Sponsors - NC School of Science and Math, SAS JMP and RTI as well as Instructors Floyd Bullard, Ruth Hummel, and Dan Teague, and Breda Munoz (RTI) for organizing.

NC ASA Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop



NC ASA was excited to offer the first Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop for students and early career professionals. It featured prominent statisticians from our community and included interactive sessions on goal-structuring and professional development. Workshop participants also had the opportunity to meet with ASA President Lisa LaVange in a small group setting prior to the [NC ASA "Stories of Significance" Fall Dinner](#) that evening, as well as network with the NC ASA community at the dinner. NC ASA thanks our **Speakers** Sonia Thomas (RTI), David Banks (SAMSI/Duke), Richard Zink (TargetPharma), and Bob Starbuck (NCSU).

Workshop Participant Feedback:

- It was a great way to start thinking about my goals in a new way. I highly enjoyed this workshop.*
- I feel so much more confident in my future job and internship searches!*
- The wealth of knowledge presented was exactly what I wanted and needed to hear*
- Speakers are great and gave really engaging interesting and helpful talk and advise*
- Talks were very engaging and diverse! They all meshed well together but delivered different ideas/concepts*
- Very influential speakers who care to make an impact in the future data scientists/statisticians*

NC ASA also thanks our **Professional Panelists and Mentors** Artin Armagan (SAS), Heather Kopetskie (RhoWorld), Kelci Miclaus (JMP), and Kristen Foley (EPA).



- Everyone was professional, knowledgeable and was willing to share their experience candidly.*
- I enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions.*
- I really enjoyed the panel discussion.*
- It was very useful and interesting to hear from a variety of people in different industries and points in their careers.*

Participants met in small group settings with professional mentors as well as in targeted sessions on Leadership, Resume Tips, Peer Mentoring and Career Next-Steps. At the NC ASA dinner, participants had a chance to meet with ASA President Lisa LaVange.

-Awesome opportunity to listen to Lisa Lavange at NC Chapter ASA Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop!

-The variety of sessions and topics made this the best career development event I have ever attended.



We are excited to implement suggestions on additional activities from workshop participants! Be on the lookout for more NC ASA early career development events in 2019! We thank our sponsors [SAS](#), [Xylem](#), [SAMSI](#), [RhoWorld](#), [RTI International](#), and [ASA](#) for their generous support of NC ASA. Full workshop feedback and details, including organizer takeaways and options for future professional development events, can be found on the NC ASA Blog: <https://community.amstat.org/northcarolina/blogs/2018/careerdevelopmentworkshop>

Representing You and Your Organization's Interests within NC ASA

NC ASA Website Updates and Functionalities

NC ASA Blogs Recaps, Pictures, and Community Feedback! <http://community.amstat.org/northcarolina/blogs>

NC ASA In The News: <http://community.amstat.org/northcarolina/ourlibrary/ncasainthenews>

NC ASA has been featured several times in AmStat News, as well as the ASA President's Corner!

NC ASA Conference Corner: <http://community.amstat.org/northcarolina/events/conferencecorner>

Jobs and Events Board: members can post NC jobs and professional events to provide a permanent, easy-reference list.

New! NC ASA Student page: <https://community.amstat.org/northcarolina/students>

Industry Interests Group

IIG's Professional Webinar Series launches in Spring 2019! [NC ASA's IIG](#) provides a forum for communication among members. If interested in IIG participation on behalf of yourself or your company or organization, contact Sujit Ghosh at sujit.ghosh@ncsu.edu. New IIG members welcome!

NC ASA does not endorse any specific organization or company, its financial interests, or its products.

Consulting Connections

[Consulting Connections](#) will continue to connect the community as a web-based communication platform. It will work in coordination with the IIG to host events such as July's in-person webinar viewing as well as NC ASA Socials to Meet & Greet with North Carolina's consultant statisticians. Contact NC ASA Vice President Emily Griffith: eghohmei@ncsu.edu

Scholastic Council

[NC ASA Scholastic Council](#) facilitates communication and coordinate activities between the Chapter and North Carolina schools, colleges and universities. Each institution is invited to have a Faculty Contact and a Student Representative on the council. Contact NC ASA President Elizabeth Mannshardt: Mannshardt@stat.ncsu.edu

NC ASA Student Corner

Professional Societies have many resources to offer students and young professionals. NC ASA will be showcasing opportunities and items of interest in the new Student Corner, as well as on the [new student website!](#)

Students should always feel welcome to join NC ASA Socials and other [events](#). They are a great way to network and learn about opportunities! A 2018 graduate:

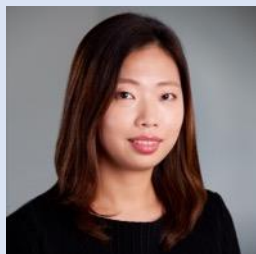
"I ended up making a great connection with an ASA member at an NC ASA social event over the summer. This person was very helpful to my job search. I have accepted a job offer that seems like an ideal first full-time job out of grad school, in that I'll be working as a part of a team of statisticians. I am excited to begin in the new year!"



Look for information about careers and professional development – including **NC ASA's Career Fair and Recycled Poster Session Social** in Spring 2019! You can also find mentoring events and opportunities for leadership within NC ASA. Be on the lookout for NC ASA's Speed Mentoring event planned for 2019! NC ASA also offers [student awards](#) for travel and conferences.

Feedback from the Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop indicated interest in "**Best Practices for Social Media and LinkedIn**" as well as "**What can Professional Societies Offer Students?**" as well as "**Navigating Conferences**". Stayed tuned!

Member Profile: Hwanhee Hong (Duke University)



I am an Assistant Professor of the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Duke University and affiliated with the Duke Clinical Research Institute. I completed a PhD and a MS in biostatistics from the University of Minnesota and Harvard School of Public Health, respectively. I was a postdoctoral fellow at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I am interested in developing statistical method for comparative effectiveness research, network meta-analysis, generalizability, and Bayesian analysis to answer clinical and scientific questions in public health and medicine. Bayesian flexible modeling approaches enable us to easily integrate different data sources and borrow information adaptively across them. I enjoyed NC ASA's Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop and encourage more junior faculty to get involved in NC ASA! In my spare time, I enjoy listening to music, playing the piano and hiking.

New Member Profile: Lakisha (Kisha) Armstrong

I have been a Clinical Data Manager for the past four years and, with numerous collaborations with Biostatisticians, I became intrigued by and interested in a biostatistics career. I co-presented at the 2018 Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference Hackathon in Cincinnati, Ohio. I earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from South University in Tampa, Florida and a Master of Public Health from Walden University. This fall I attended NC ASA's Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop. The mentors, speakers, and panelists gave clear strategies and tips for navigating to and through a successful career as a statistical professional. As an early careerist, the workshop was exactly what I needed so that I can make calculated steps in my career! I am excited to be coming onboard as NC ASA's Outreach and Communications Director!



I am currently completing a dissertation for a Doctor of Public Health program with Walden University and the focus of my quantitative research involves environmental health education on a watershed in Maryland/District of Columbia and its impact on human health. In 2018, I became President of the Maryland Chapter of the American Statistical Association. And, I am excited and looking forward to transitioning into my career as a Biostatistician and [Public Health] Professor of Biostatistics, Health Education, Epidemiology, or Environmental Health. In my free time, I enjoy motorcycling, painting, eating/trying new foods, exercising, visiting waterfalls, and relaxing/having fun with my family and friends.

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Student Member Profile: Samopriya Basu (UNC Chapel Hill)



I am a third year PhD student in Statistics at UNC-CH. I work with Drs. Jan Hannig and Sayan Banerjee on stochastic processes, diffusions and uncertainty quantification. I am a Bengali from Calcutta (eastern India), and before coming to UNC, I got my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Statistics from the University of Calcutta. After graduating, I hope to find a research and teaching position in academia. I have taught undergrad statistics here at UNC twice, and have loved the experience. I have recently joined NC ASA's Scholastic Council for UNC STOR. I am also interested in mathematical typography and notational practices, and like designing LaTeX templates for fun!

Besides math and statistics, I harbor a genuine academic interest in linguistics and languages. I am mostly self-taught in linguistics, and speak three languages fluently (Bengali, Hindi-Urdu and English), one semi-fluently (Ossetic) and a few others to varying degrees of proficiency. Mostly, I try to know about minority languages from around the world, especially South and Central Asia and the Caucasus, and hope to start learning Cherokee soon.