



**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION  
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER  
NEWSLETTER  
May 7, 2013**



**\*\*\*Tuesday, May 14, 2013\*\*\***

**Panel Discussion: What I wish I knew before starting my statistics job**

Due to last year's success, we are bringing back our moderated discussion over tips, insight and advice for people entering different professions of statistics (academic, industry, government). Anyone present can contribute their own insights, and we have a new panel of individuals who offer to start the discussion. We hope everyone has something to learn from and contribute to this forum, from graduate students and high school science fair winners, to people in their first job, and even those who have had a long successful career. Our panelists are:

Darwin Poritz, PhD  
Statistician, Engineering and Science Contract  
Johnson Space Center

Michael D. Swartz, PhD, Assistant Professor,  
Division of Biostatistics,  
University of Texas School of Public Health

Erin M. Hodgess, PhD, Associate Professor  
Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences  
University of Houston, Downtown

Heidi Spratt, PhD  
Associate Professor, Bioinformatics,  
University of Texas Medical Branch

**Science Fair Winners:**

Two of the winners of the HACASA Science Fair Awards will be presenting their posters during the social hour. Please come to support these budding statisticians!

The winners are:

Junior: Karina Bertelsmann, "Bingo!...In a Round or Two"; Westbrook Intermediate  
Ninth: Christine Castagna. "Efficiencies of Sun Rays Capture"; Academy of Science and Technology

Senior: Grant Zhao, "Waist-to-Height Ratio - A Better Index to Diagnose Obesity and Estimate Body Fat: Part II"; Clements High School

Karina and Grant will be at our social hour. Christine will be presenting her poster at the international science fair in Phoenix, AZ.

**HACASA meetings are open to the public! Please pass on copies of this announcement to colleagues and friends and post on appropriate bulletin boards.**

**WHEN and WHERE:** \*Tuesday, May 14, 2013\* at Duncan Hall, Rice University  
5:30pm - Social Time and with snacks & drinks: Room 1049  
6:30pm - Talk (Room 1049)



Duncan Hall (also known as the Computational Engineering Building) is on the northeast side of the Rice University Campus. For parking information and directions please refer to the Rice parking websites, the following have been found helpful:

<http://cohesion.rice.edu/campuservices/parktrans/parking/visitors.cfm>

<http://www.rice.edu/maps/maps.html>

Thank you to **Rice University** and the **Department of Statistics at Rice University** for their generous support of HACASA by allowing us the use of their facilities for our gatherings, **and sponsoring FREE PARKING. See an officer for a voucher at the meeting.**

**To help us cover cost of our weekly snacks, we are asking for small donations (\$5 or more). Also, please RSVP so we can bring enough snacks and drinks. Please RSVP to Margaret Kuczynski at [HoustonASA@gmail.com](mailto:HoustonASA@gmail.com).**

### **Introducing the officers!**

The officers for the 2012-2013 academic year are:

President: Hao Liu ([haol@bcm.edu](mailto:haol@bcm.edu))

President Elect: Becky Slack ([RSSlack@mdanderson.org](mailto:RSSlack@mdanderson.org))

Past President: Jose-Miguel Yamal ([Jose-Miguel.Yamal@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Jose-Miguel.Yamal@uth.tmc.edu))

Secretary: Michael Swartz ([Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu))

Treasurer: Margaret Kuczynski ([margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com))

Science Fair Coordinator: Erin Hodgess ([HodgessE@uhd.edu](mailto:HodgessE@uhd.edu))

ASA Chapter Representative: Becky Slack ([RSSlack@mdanderson.org](mailto:RSSlack@mdanderson.org))

### **Reminder!**

Membership dues: Students: \$1, and non-students: \$8.

### **Welcome New Members!**

Please take a moment at this month's meeting to welcome new members!



### **Mark Your Calendars!**

This year we are still meeting every month. In the Fall Semester (September through December) we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> **Wednesday** of each month, depending on the month. In the Spring (January through May), we return to the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tuesday** of the month, depending on the month. The official dates and locations are below (all rooms are located in Duncan Hall on Rice University Campus):

**Wednesday, September 12, 2012 (DH1049)**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2012 (DH1049) 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of October**

**Wednesday, November 14, 2012 (DH 3092)**

**Wednesday, December 12, 2012 (DH 3092) Holiday Potluck**

**Tuesday, January 15, 2013 (DH1049) 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of January**

**Tuesday, February 12, 2013 (DH1049)**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013 (DH1049)**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2013 (DH1049)**

**Tuesday, May 14, 2013 (DH1049) (Science Fair Winners)**

### **Let us know what you think!**

Send comments to Michael Swartz at [HoustonASA@gmail.com](mailto:HoustonASA@gmail.com) with the subject COMMENTS.

Or Send comments / additions / corrections concerning the HACASA newsletter to Michael

Swartz at [Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu)

### **Announcements**

### **Nominations for officers now open!**

Nominations for next academic year's officers are now open. We are looking for nominations for president elect, and we have one nominee for secretary (Michael Swartz) but more nominees are welcome. The only requirements are to be a full member of the ASA, a member of HACASA, and willing to serve your full term (2 years for secretary, and 3 years for president elect (1<sup>st</sup> year president elect, 2<sup>nd</sup> year as president, and 3<sup>rd</sup> year as past president). Please email Margaret Kuczynski at [margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com) with your nominations. Self-nominations are preferred. Elections will be held in May 2013.

### **New Website is launched!**

Our new website is launched! Please visit it for more information and announcements:

<http://sites.google.com/site/houstonasa/>

for comments and suggestions regarding content, please contact our website coordinator/maintainer: Margaret Kuczynski ([margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com))

## **JOB POSTINGS**

Statistician wanted for industry:

United Global Solutions is currently in search of a Statistician for a Houston client to analyze and interpret data from various sources and provide expert opinions. This is an opportunity to help build a Statistics Department from the ground up, where you will be given the chance to be in a leadership role from the very beginning!

Requirements:

- Masters degree or PhD in Statistics
- Outgoing personality
- 3-7 years of experience
- Experience compiling reports, tables, and charts based on statistical methods

Benefits:

Our client offers outstanding benefits including, but not limited to: Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, 401(k), FSA, Holidays, PTO, Training and Mentoring programs.

Contact Adam Kaye, Executive Recruiter, United Global Solutions LLC, 832-294-2949, [adam.kaye@ugsmail.com](mailto:adam.kaye@ugsmail.com)

Opening at the Dan L. Duncan Cancer Center, Houston TX.

The Dan L Duncan Cancer Center Division of Biostatistics at Baylor College of Medicine (Houston) collaborates with investigators engaged in the molecular profiling of cancers at various levels of complexity (including somatic mutation, mRNA, microRNA, DNA copy number, and protein), with the overall goal of better understanding cancer biology and improving cancer diagnosis and treatment. For this position, we are looking for someone to assist in statistical analysis of high throughput molecular data, including integration of datasets from disparate sources. BS in statistics, MIS, or related field required. For more information contact: Dr. Chad Creighton <[creightc@bcm.edu](mailto:creightc@bcm.edu)>. More information on the HACASA Website soon.

Opening at University of Texas El Paso

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso invites applications for a tenure-track position at the Assistant/Associate Professor level starting fall 2013. The Department is seeking someone who will develop an independent research program in statistics and teach undergraduate and graduate courses in statistics. Opportunities exist to participate in consulting and collaborative research through the Statistical Consulting Laboratory [www.statlab.utep.edu](http://www.statlab.utep.edu). More information on the HACASA website.