Tuesday, March 12, 2013
Masquerading as a Statistician
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And
President, Statistical Designs

I'm an analytical chemist. I am *not* a formally trained statistician.
But I have found that the statistical analysis of laboratory data, the design of experiments, and the sequential simplex method of optimization are very useful tools that can be applied productively in my field. And I've had a lot of fun over the years showing others how they can use these tools in their fields. In keeping with full disclosure, I'm very careful to inform my potential clients early in our discussions that I'm not a formally trained statistician -- that my formal training is in the field of analytical chemistry. Much to my continuing surprise, this disclosure rarely ends the discussion. Thus, over the years, I've been able to appreciate the usefulness of statistical methods properly applied ... and to wonder and speculate about areas in which either the statistical methods don't seem to be fully mature yet, or the application of existing statistical methods doesn't make much sense. As an example of the first area, a question I encounter frequently is, "What do I do with non-detects?" There still seems to be room for work in that area. As an example of the second area, a question I constantly ask myself is, "Although two one-sided t-tests might work for a question involving 'different from a single specification', is it appropriate to use two one-sided t-tests for a question involving 'between two specifications'?" The United States Pharmacopeial Convention recommends this for at least one type of "equivalence testing", but I don't think it's the correct thing to do. And, by extension, I ask myself, "Is there a p-value approach for between-specification testing that would be more appropriate for making better business decisions?" Questions like this keep me feeling young and active, and let me enjoy my charade -- masquerading as a statistician.

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, March 12, 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/campusservices/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 Kuzynski at HoustonASA@gmail.com.

Introducing the officers!

The officers for the 2012-2013 academic year are:
President: Hao Liu (haol@bcm.edu)
President Elect: Becky Slack (RSSlack@mdanderson.org)
Past President: Jose-Miguel Yamal (Jose-Miguel.Yamal@uth.tmc.edu)
Secretary: Michael Swartz (Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu)
Treasurer: Margaret Kuczynski (margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com)
Science Fair Coordinator: Erin Hodgess (HodgessE@uhd.edu)
ASA Chapter Representative: Becky Slack (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 2nd or 3rd **Wednesday** of each month, depending on the month. In the Spring (January through May), we return to the 2nd or 3rd **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) **3rd Wednesday of October**
Wednesday, November 14, 2012 (DH 3092)
Wednesday, December 12, 2012 (DH 3092) Holiday Potluck
Tuesday, January 15, 2013 (DH1049) 3rd 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 with the subject COMMENTS.
Or Send comments / additions / corrections concerning the HACASA newsletter to Michael Swartz at Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu

Announcements

Volunteers Needed to judge for the Houston Engineering and Science Fair, March 1, 2013
A note from Erin Hodgess, HACASA Science Fair coordinator:

Would you like to help budding statisticians while having fun? Then be a judge for HACASA at the Houston Engineering and Science Fair. It is on Friday, March 1 from 6 - 8 PM. We need about 6 judges for the 3 categories. The students enjoy it and we do as well. Please send an email to Erin Hodgess at hodgesse-at-uhd.edu if you would like to participate.

Thanks,
Erin

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)

JOB POSTINGS

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 <creighto@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. More information on the HACASA website.