



**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER
April 8, 2014**



*****Tuesday, April 15, 2014***
Dr. Stanley Deming, PhD
Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry
University of Houston
And
President, Statistical Designs**

**“Sequential Simplex Optimization and its Application to the
Improvement of Industrial Processes and Consumer Products”**

In industry, when improving old processes and products or developing new ones, it is important to make changes that rapidly achieve optimal performance. To that end, Spendley, Hext, and Himsworth introduced the sequential simplex method of experimental design in 1962 as a more efficient substitute for the original factorial-based evolutionary operation (EVOP) presented in 1957 by George Box. Later, in 1965, Nelder and Mead modified the original fixed-size simplex method to make it a variable-size method and applied it to the mathematical minimization of the sum of squares of residuals when fitting non-linear models to data. The advantage of the variable-size simplex to accelerate when moving in good directions and decelerate when moving in poor directions was quickly adopted by industrial researchers working in the real world. Today, the sequential simplex methods are often used in the early stages of process and product development or improvement to rapidly find a region of suitable operating conditions, after which more complex experimental designs can be used to map and understand the region in more detail.

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

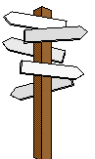
WHEN and WHERE: ***Tuesday, April 15, 2014*** at Duncan Hall, Rice University
5:30pm - Social Time and with snacks & drinks: Room 1049
6:30pm – Talk (Room 1049)



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 Kuzynski at HoustonASA@gmail.com.

Introducing the officers!

The officers for the 2013-2014 academic year are:

President: Becky Slack (RSSlack@mdanderson.org)

President Elect and Science Fair Coordinator: Erin Hodgess (HodgessE@uhd.edu)

Past President: Hao Liu (haol@bcm.edu)

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

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

ASA Chapter Representative: Heidi Spratt (hespratt@utmb.edu)

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 November) we will meet on the 2nd Tuesday. Starting in December and through the Spring, (January through May), we will move to the 3rd **Tuesday** of the month. The official dates and locations are below (all rooms are located in Duncan Hall on Rice University Campus):

Tuesday, September 10, 2013 (DH3092)

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 (DH1049)

Tuesday, November 12, 2013 (DH1049)

Tuesday, December 17, 2013 (DH1049) Holiday Potluck

Tuesday, January 21, 2014 (DH1049)

Tuesday, February 18, 2014 (DH1049)

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 (DH1049)

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 (DH1049)

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 (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

Celebrate 175 years of ASA!

We will be recording a greeting video from our chapter to the ASA regarding the 175th anniversary of the ASA. Participation is optional, and promises to be fun. Come to the meeting to find more details. From ASA:

“Get involved with ASA's 175th Anniversary celebration and upload a video greeting from your chapter. See the video created by the ASA staff and instructions on submitting your own video here: <http://www.amstat.org/asa175/sendagreeting.cfm>”

Looking for speakers for Spring!

Hi All, Erin is looking for speaker volunteers for spring. If you want to give a Talk at HACASA, please contact Erin Hodgess at HodgessE@uhd.edu

HACASA Website MOVED!

Our new website is launched! Please visit it for more information and announcements: is <http://community.amstat.org/Houston/Home> for comments and suggestions regarding content, please contact our website coordinator/maintainer: Margaret Kuczynski (margaret.kuczynski@gmail.com)

ASA news and links:

The latest *News from the World of Statistics* is available at <http://www.worldofstatistics.org/files/2014/04/April-11-2014.pdf>.

Past newsletters can be reviewed at <http://www.worldofstatistics.org/news-of-the-world-of-statistics-archive/>.

Please pass this message on to the members of your chapter.

Thank you for your support of The World of Statistics, the successor to the International Year of Statistics.

Ron Wasserstein (on behalf of [The World of Statistics Steering Committee](#))

***** Upcoming Conference: The 2014 Summer Research Conference (SRC) Hosted by the Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS)**

The Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS) will be hosting the 2014 Summer Research Conference (SRC) from June 1st through June 4th at Galveston, TX in the historic Hotel Galvez. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the SRCOS SRC. Every year, the SRC brings together leading researchers, faculty, and students in a dynamic, interactive learning format. In 2014, the SRC meeting highlights include plenary speakers Butch Tsiatis and Peter Mueller. Invited senior speakers include Simon Sheather, Elizabeth Slate, Deb Sinha, Jianhu Huang, and Marie Davidian, the current president of the ASA.

The SRCOS 2014 SRC will host two poster sessions: the ASA/Mike Kutner Faculty Contributed Poster Session and the NSF/Anderson Student Poster Competition. Partial financial support for participants in these sessions may be available. For details on the financial support, please visit the conference web site (<http://srcos2014.rice.edu/poster-sessions/>).

The **deadline** for making reservations at the Hotel Galvez, and for consideration for financial support is **May 1, 2014**.

For registration and more information about the conference, visit the conference web site at <http://srcos2014.rice.edu>.

Dr. Jane L. Harvill
Associate Professor
Department of Statistical Science
Baylor University
One Bear Place, #97140
Waco, Texas 76798-7140
Phone: [\(254\) 710-1517](tel:(254)710-1517)
FAX: [\(254\) 710-4477](tel:(254)710-4477)

JOB POSTINGS

Statistical Analyst Baylor College of Medicine and VA medical Center

Statistical Analyst for the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety, Section of Health Services Research, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine. The incumbent will have a wide range of responsibilities in providing data management and statistical expertise to all components of the VA Health Services Research and Development, Center of Excellence (HSR&D, CoE) and the Department of Medicine, Section of Health Services Research at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). Interested applicants should e-mail resume and cover letter to Mr. Edward Pomer, HR Manager, Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety at Edward.Pomer@va.gov. Please reference "Analyst Position" in the subject line.

Statistician position at Southwest Research Institute

Southwest Research Institute currently has an opening for a Statistician in its Fuels and Lubricants Division. Would it be possible for you to send notification of our ad posted at <http://www.amstat.org/ads/ResultsDetail.cfm?AdID=6317>. Southwest Research Institute (SwRI®) is an independent, nonprofit, applied engineering and physical sciences research and development organization. A partial listing of research areas includes antennas and propagation; automation, robotics, and intelligent systems; avionics, chemistry and chemical engineering; corrosion and electrochemistry; emissions research; engineering mechanics; fire technology; and fuels and lubricants. For more information about SwRI go to www.swri.org and to view current job opportunities go to www.swri.jobs. <http://www.youtube.com/user/SwRItv>

Associate/Full Professor of Biostatistics/Clinical Trials Position at University of Texas School of Public Health (Tenure Track):

The University of Texas School of Public Health (UTSPH) seeks a **senior** biostatistician to take a leadership role in the Coordinating Center for Clinical Trials. This is a state funded tenure-track faculty position at the Associate or Full Professor level in the Division of Biostatistics at The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston campus in the Texas Medical Center. For more information see job postings on the HACASA website.

Assistant Professor at the University of Texas at Austin:

The Department of Statistics and Data Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin invites applications for a faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor to begin in Fall 2014.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach undergraduate and graduate statistics courses, develop an externally funded research program, supervise graduate students, collaborate with other faculty, and be involved in service to the university and the profession. For more information see http://facultyjobs.utexas.edu/potential/view_job.cfm?jobID=2039 or the Job Postings on the HACASA website.

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:

Out 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

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>. More information on the HACASA Website.

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.