2012 Annual Report

by: Carol Bigelow

The activities of the ASA Section on Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences (TSHS) in 2012 addressed several priorities in addition to advancing teaching: administrative, financial, and outreach. Looking ahead to 2013, we have a clear idea of our short and long term future goals and a healthy respect for the challenges for their success.

Activities in 2012

Charter revision work by Cyndy Long (COS Representative 2010-2012) and Constantine Daskalakis (Secretary/Treasurer 2010-2011) was ratified in 2012 (link to 2012 TSHS Charter).

Expenses exceeded income for a second year in 2012, but not by much ($1,000 approx.). 2012 JSM expenses were lower than those of the 2011 JSM; we eliminated the catering of our Executive Council Meeting and reduced the number and amounts of our cash awards. Tentatively, there are no plans to increase the price of membership, as we are already at the “high end” ($7). All of us would prefer to eliminate deficit spending by increasing revenues rather than cutting costs, as the former is integral to our visions of growth and outreach. Thus, an important challenge for TSHS is the production of such things as continuing education courses, webinars, and outreach.

A new ASA Community website for the TSHS was created by Constantine Daskalakis (Secretary/Treasurer 2010-2011) and went “live” in March, 2012. (http://community.amstat.org/TSHS/Home/)

“Teaching Statistics in Practice”, a new ASA Member community, was created and launched in March 2012 by Miranda Kroehl. Its target is students and recent graduates who are new to teaching statistics. See, (ASA Member Community, “Teaching Statistics in Practice”).

TSHS sponsored activities at the 2012 JSM included: one invited panel, one contributed panel, one contributed paper session, one contributed poster session and several roundtables. The 2012 TSHS Outstanding Award for Teaching was awarded to Dr. Keith Williams of the University of Arkansas. The 2012 TSHS Best Contributed Paper was awarded to Drs. Harry Norton and George Divine of the Henry Ford Hospital for “Interesting Examples of the Capture-Recapture Sampling Method from Biology, Public Health, and Epidemiology”.

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Development of a TSHS Resources Portal was initiated. A draft concept of the portal was presented to the TSHS membership at the 2012 JSM and is envisioned as a tool for the navigation of existing resources. TSHS members and friends (members of other sections of the ASA, happily) were invited to participate in its design and development. Approximately 6 very knowledgeable and interested individuals have joined to form a core group of grant writers and portal developers. In October 2012, at the invitation of Michelle Everson and Dennis Pearl of CAUSE.web, a conference call meeting took place; TSHS participants were Carol Bigelow (2012 Section Chair) and Steve Grambow (2013 Section Chair). We brainstormed strategies for mutually beneficial collaboration. Michelle and Dennis kindly shared with us some of their “in the trenches” savvy.

2013: Goals, Planned Activities and Challenges

Goals:

- Zero deficit
- Increased membership
- Outreach
- At least one peer reviewed publication (eg a publication in the Amstat News)
- Completion of TSHS portal “wireframe”
- TSHS support of ASA Diversity and Minority Mentoring

Planned Activities:

- Recruit 2013 JSM speakers from outside the TSHS
- Three TSHS newsletter publications
- Submission of a proposal to the ASA Member Initiative (due: 2/2/2013)
- Attendance at the May 2013 Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics
- Completion of TSHS portal “wireframe”
- TSHS Table at the 2013 JSM
- Computer-based topic contributed session focused on TSHS portal development and progress

Challenges:

- ASA members may not be seeking additional section membership
- New approaches are needed to recruit new members
- TSHS portal “wireframe” development will require technical expertise not yet identified.
2014 and Beyond: Goals, Planned Activities and Challenges

Goals:

- TSHS sponsored CE courses
- TSHS sponsored Webinars
- Financial solvency of the TSHS portal
- Sustainability of the TSHS portal
- Advancement of diversity and minority mentoring

Planned Activities:

- TSHS sponsored CE courses
- THSS sponsored webinars
- Creation and implementation of a “business model” for the TSHS portal
- Creation and implementation of a “management system” for the TSHS portal
- Participation in ASA sponsored workshops for diversity and minority development

Challenges:

- Fund raising