



American Statistical Association

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER

Happy New Year!

THE ASA LOGO



(Editor's Note: This item was submitted to Robert V. Hogg, chair of an ad hoc committee to consider the possibility of a new logo for ASA, in response to a news note that appeared in our April 1987 issue.)

The logo or symbol of ASA has several parts, each with a special meaning. In the center we have a vertical stand with a sphere on top. On top of the sphere we have an eagle. There is a serpent to the left and right of the stand. These are the main parts of the symbol about which little is found in our archives.

The use of serpents in U.S. heraldry at the time of the founding of ASA was commonplace in politics and in medicine. The early Gadsden flag uses the rattlesnake to warn all of the determination to gain respect. In the political sense, it was a warning of the determination of the American people to win freedom, with or without warning.

One of our four founding members was an M.D. "Aesculapius, the mythical god of medicine, carried a knotty wooden staff entwined with a single snake representing life-giving powers" (Dreyfus 1972). Most medical groups throughout the world use this symbol. However, the U.S. Army Medical Corps, Navy Pharmacy Division, and the U.S. Public Health Service use the winged staff with two snakes, which is a combination of a Babylonian symbol and a Greek symbol. The twin snakes date back over 4,000 years ago. The winged staff is usually depicted with the Greek, Mercury (called Hermes by the Romans). In ancient wars this symbol was carried by medics to indicate their neutrality. The windings around the rod were originally fillets of wool, but were changed to serpents later. Finally the wings were added (Avery 1962). In India, serpents are viewed as guardians of the threshold of the door and of treasures, both material and spiritual (Cooper 1978). When entwining or surrounding a staff or stand, two serpents are not viewed as opposites, but as united. They represent the cycles of nature; the solstices; and to us, time series.

The stand represents wisdom. It supports the sphere of the universe. On top we have the eagle, which represents inspiration, release from bondage, victory, pride, authority, strength, and a variety of other attributes. An eagle on a pillar or stand represents victory over darkness. Darkness represents the lack of facts, wisdom or positive spiritual status.

It then appears, that the logo represents victory over the darkness of all the cyclic forces of things in the universe through statistics. If the snakes are rattlesnakes, then it also means a determination to gain respect for those working in the field (W.A. Colomski)

JANUARY MEETINGS

January 20	Wednesday	Application of Semi-Markov Processes to a Human Factors Problem
January 28	Thursday	Statistical Methods in Parapsychology

GENERAL APPLICATIONS PROGRAM

SPEAKER: Fred Chang, Pacific Bell
TOPIC: APPLICATION OF SEMI-MARKOV PROCESSES TO A HUMAN FACTORS PROBLEM
 Human behavior is often modelled by Markov processes. A mild weakening of the Markov assumptions opens up a new set of possibilities. This talk explores one application of a semi-markov model to new telephone services.

DATE: January 20, 1988 (WEDNESDAY)
 3:30-4:00 Coffee
 4:00-5:00 Presentation

PLACE: Cal State at Hayward, North Science Building, Room 220

PRICE: NO CHARGE

RESERVATIONS: Call Loren Schoof (415) 823-9020

BIOSTATISTICAL PROGRAM

SPEAKER: Jessica Utts, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Division of Statistics University of California, Davis. Visiting Scientist, SRI Int'l
TOPIC: STATISTICAL METHODS IN PARAPSYCHOLOGY

After 100 years of research, scientists still disagree on whether or not claims for ESP have been substantiated. Many of the arguments are statistical in nature. The scientific study of these claims comprises the field of parapsychology. An overview of statistical methods used in parapsychology will be given along with illustrative examples.

DATE: January 28, 1988 (THURSDAY)
 3:30-4:00 Coffee and Cookies
 4:00-5:00 Presentation

PLACE: University of California, Berkeley, 1011 Evans Hall
 Following the presentation, refreshments will be served at the home of Professor Mike Tarter (2717 Benvenue, Berkeley). Directions will be provided at the meeting.

NOTICE ON DUES:

The date on your mailing label is the date we last received payment of your \$6 dues for the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of ASA. If it has been more than a year since your last payment, rush your check for \$6 to:

Anna Eagniewska
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 3401 Hillview Avenue L2035
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TAPES FROM 1987 JOINT STATISTICAL MEETINGS IN SAN FRANCISCO

You can order tapes at \$8 each for any one of 100 talks given at the 1987 Conference. See the Sept/Oct 1987 issue of Amstat News for details.

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DATE MAILED: 12-21-87

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. SENIOR STATISTICIAN, FAILURE ANALYSIS ASSOCIATES
RESPONSIBILITIES: Development of procedures to perform statistical analyses using a large volume of accident data. In addition, you will coordinate and manage tasks performed by research assistants and junior level statisticians.
REQUIREMENTS: Minimum of 5 years of related experience and a PhD in Statistics is required. A doctorate-level degree in an engineering discipline and strong statistics background may qualify. Familiarity with experimental and survey designs and knowledge of statistical packages such as SAS and SPSS desirable. Successful candidate will have the ability to convey highly complex issues to both technical and non-technical personnel.
COMPANY: Failure Analysis Associates is a national engineering and scientific services firm specializing in the analysis and prevention of engineering system and product failures.
CONTACT: Personnel Manager, Failure Analysis Associates, PO Box 51470, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Reference Ad#: GF 11.7. Equal Opportunity Employer
2. MANAGING ENGINEER, FAILURE ANALYSIS ASSOCIATES
RESPONSIBILITIES: Risk analysis and risk assessment in the context of human behavior and machine performance. Responsibilities will include statistical analysis of accident and other data, particularly on consumer products.
REQUIREMENTS: PhD with a solid background in applied statistics coupled with significant qualifications and experience in the areas of human behavior and engineering. Exceptional communications skills in order to gather information from and convey technical conclusions to both technical and non-technical personnel.
CONTACT: Personnel Manager, Failure Analysis Associates, PO Box 51470, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Reference Ad#: NR 11.6. Equal Opportunity Employer
3. SENIOR STATISTICIAN, SYSTEMS APPLICATIONS INC.
RESPONSIBILITIES: Data analyses requiring originality and ingenuity. Analyses are both confirmatory and exploratory in nature, requiring imaginative approaches to probing and presenting data. Conscientiousness concerning the accuracy, appropriateness, and timeliness of results is essential. Depending on qualifications and interests, the individual may be given major responsibility for selected statistical projects and may participate in marketing activities.
REQUIREMENTS: At least one year of statistical consulting, especially in the environmental field, is preferred. PhD degree in statistics or equivalent. Oral and written communication skills needed to present results clearly to clients. Ability to program in Fortran, SAS, Minitab, BMDP, and/or other statistical packages is required.
COMPANY: Systems Applications provides the US Environmental Protection Agency and other governmental and industrial organizations with consulting services related to air and water pollution.
SEND RESUME: Job #8-P-87R, Systems Applications Inc., 101 Lucas Valley Road, San Rafael, CA 94903. Equal Opportunity Employer.
4. BIostatistician, XOMA CORPORATION
RESPONSIBILITIES: Reports to the Vice President, Medical & Regulatory Affairs and Clinical Research. Works directly with Clinical Research Directors to design clinical trials and define clinical data collection requirements. Will implement statistical analysis of clinical trial data for Investigative New Drug Applications and Product License Applications supporting Product Marketing.
REQUIREMENTS: 3-5 years pharmaceutical or biologicals industry experience. Proficient use of computers (VAX/DEC) or IBM compatible and statistical software (SAS). Experience in presenting NDA's or PLA's to FDA and knowledge of current FDA IND regulations required. Excellent written/verbal communications skills a must. PhD or MS degrees in Statistics preferred.
COMPANY: XOMA Corporation is a leader in the development of therapeutic monoclonal antibody-based pharmaceutical products for human use. XOMA currently has products in FDA-authorized clinical trials for the treatment of gram negative sepsis, bone marrow transplantation, melanoma and colorectal cancers, and the detection of melanoma.
CONTACT: Director, Human Resources, XOMA CORPORATION, 2910 Seventh Street, Berkeley, CA 94710, (415)644-1170.