



The Southern California Statistician

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Volume 35, No.2

February/March 1996

Careers Day, Saturday March 9th

The annual SCASA Careers Day in Statistics is being held this year at:

City of Hope
Saturday, March 9
from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

The guest speaker this year is
Professor Stan Azen
with a talk entitled
"Solving Medical Mysteries
via Statistics"

Stan Azen is Professor of Preventive Medicine at USC Medical School, and Director and a "founding father" of the Biometry teaching program there. He is editor of the international journal *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis* (CSDA), and founder and Director of the Statistical Consultation and Research Center (SCRC) at USC. In his talk for this event, he will describe interesting scenarios of current research in the medical arena in which a biostatistician has played a key role in contributing to the investigation and analysis.

The event will be held at
Platt Conference Room3

A no-host lunch will be available provided by Dominico's (sandwiches, salads, pastas). The talk will be presented at 11:30 pm with lunch at 12:30pm.

There is no fee for this event. Rep-

resentatives of various organizations will be present for participants to meet with on an informal basis.

This yearly SCASA event has proved in the past to be very successful in providing job seekers and employers the opportunity to make contact and exchange information. It also affords students the opportunity to get information about career opportunities in the statistical profession directly from those working in various industries and organizations. Students, those seeking employment now or in the near future, and professionals from all areas are encouraged to attend.

Please post the flyer enclosed with this issue. For any other information you can contact either Joyce Niland at (818) 359-8111 X3032, e-mail: jniland@smtplink.coh.org or Beth Rose at (213) 740-7124 e-mail: erose@sba.usc.edu.

Directions:

The City of Hope is in Duarte—conveniently located just off the 210 (Foothill) freeway, 30 minutes northeast of downtown Los Angeles, and 15 minutes east of Pasadena. From the 210 freeway, exit at Buena Vista (just west of the intersection with the 605 freeway.) Take Buena Vista south to the next light at East Duarte Road and turn left (east). There will be a sign for the main City of Hope entrance in a few blocks on the right. When driv-

ing along Duarte Road to the main entrance, the Platt conference center is the large group of buildings on the lawn to the right (north side of campus).

Parking is available along the street in front of the conference center. If there is no space available, there is free parking lot on the East side of the main entrance.

15th Annual Workshop in Applied Statistics

The topic of this year's Annual Applied Statistics Workshop will be

Bayesian Statistics and Applications.

The workshop is scheduled for
Saturday May 18th

and will be held at Cal State Long Beach. The featured speaker is

Dr. Julian Besag,
University of Washington.

More detailed information on this event will be the next SCASA Newsletter. In the meantime, if you have questions, you can contact either Connie Vadheim at (310) 222-3842 or Roberta Madison at (818) 885-4645.

Our Annual Workshop is always one of the highlights of the year. This year's Workshop, again, promises to be interesting and informative.

President's Message...

The chapter sponsors 3 annual events: the Fall Kickoff, Careers Day, and the Applied Stat workshop in the spring. All of these events have been quite successful over the course of the last few years. In other ways, though, our chapter seems rather moribund. Up until a few years ago we sponsored a series of evening meetings in various Southern California venues, complete with dinner and speaker extraordinaire. The decline in the level of such activities has been almost as precipitous as the decline in Newt Gingrich's popularity.

I am looking for a handful of volunteers who will agree to coordinate local-area activities. Amanda Golbeck and Bob Riffenburgh are trying to cook up something in the greater San Diego area. Other potential areas include Orange County, the San Gabriel Valley, Central and West L.A., the Inland "Empire", and Ventura/Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo County.

Please respond to this call to arms by e-mailing me at jdevore@calpoly.edu. To each person who successfully organizes this type of event, I promise a complimentary copy of Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences (I own 9990 of the 10000 copies in print) or another book of my choosing. Isn't that enough of a carrot?
Jay Devore

October Fall Kickoff a Success

Between 50 and 60 attendees greatly enjoyed hearing Professor Stephen Stigler give two talks at the fall kickoff meeting this past October.

A highlight was a brief introduction to Stigler's Law of Eponymy, according to which almost all laws and other discoveries are not named after the person(s) who first came upon them. The two prime examples offered up were Pascal's triangle, which evidently predates Pascal by centuries, and Stigler's own Law of Eponymy. Both Steve's talks were very entertaining and far from floccinaucinihilipilificative (time for your Oxford Dictionary of the English Language).

Another round of applause, please, for Don Bentley and all the other Pomona College people for their stellar efforts in making this event work.

We have it on good authority that next year's program will feature a panel discussion involving all statisticians at the Census Bureau, since it is expected that they will be classified as unnecessary government employees by our newest generation of Congressional Luddites.

SCASA Singles Sub-Chapter Proposed

Jeff Vaks has proposed organizing a new sub-chapter of SCASA. The following is addressed to all members from Jeff:

Fellow Statisticians,
I would like to thank the participants of the Annual SCASA Fall Kick-off, that took place at Pomona College in Claremont on October 21, 1995, for the support of the idea of forming SCASA Singles Sub-Chapter. The purpose of this Sub-Chapter is to provide to its members additional opportunities for professional networking, discussions, and for various cultural, social, outdoors and other activities.

Let us live more active lives and be more active members of SCASA! To offer your help, ideas or just to join the SCASA Singles Sub-Chapter, please call or write at the address below. Thanks, and I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Jeff Vaks 3
Crivelli Aisle
Irvine, CA 92714
(714) 724-8951

Voting on New Chapter Officers

As per our new constitution this year we will be electing three new officers. The current offices up for election are:

President -Elect, who will serve as president-elect for the coming SCASA of year July 1996- July 1997 and then serve as chapter president for the following two years (1997-1999).

Treasurer, who will serve for the next two year period of 1996 - 1998.

Secretary, who also will serve for the two year period of 1996 -1998.

A ballot will be sent out shortly to all current members (that is, members who are current in their chapter dues). The ballot will have the names of the candidates nominated at the last meeting and a space for write-ins. When you receive the ballot, *please* take the time to fill out and mail it!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please send items for the next issue to:

Rita Petersen
27931 Paseo Nicole,
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
Phone: (714) 493-1916
FAX: (714) 493-5596 (call first)
EMAIL: petersen@orion.oac.uci.edu

Deadline for the next issue is April 5th. Items not received by this date will not be included in the newsletter.

**CHAPTER OFFICERS
1995-1996**

PRESIDENT:

Jay Devore
Statistics Department
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo,
CA 93407
(805) 756-2026
email: jdevore@calpoly.edu

**VICE-PRESIDENT
PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS:**

Joyce Niland
Director of Biostatistics
City of Hope
National Medical Center
1500 East Duarte Road
Duarte, CA 91010
e-mail: jniland@smtplink.coh.org

**VICE-PRESIDENT
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS:**

Beth Rose
Dept of Information
and Operations Management,
School of Business Administration,
UCLA
Los Angeles
90089-1421,
(213) 740-7124,
email: erose@kecknet.usc.edu.

SECRETARY:

Harold Dyck
Information and
Decision Sciences
Cal State Univ.
San Bernadino 92407-2397
(909) 880-5765
e-mail: hdyck@wiley.csusb.edu

TREASURER:

James Sayre
Dept. of Biostatistics,
School of Public Health, UCLA
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1772
(310) 825-5250

**CHAPTER REP.
TO THE NATIONAL ASSOC:**

Dr. Roxy Peck
Statistics Department
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo,
CA 93407
(805) 756-2971
e-mail: rpeck@calpoly.edu

**RAND STATISTICS
SEMINAR SERIES**

Thursday, February 22, 1996

Speaker:

Don Berry
Department of Statistics
Duke University

Time:

4 pm

Place:

Main Conference Room
RAND
1700 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Refreshments will be served in
the Main Conference Room from
3:30 to 4 pm.

*Rand is located at 1700 Main
Street, Santa Monica, 90401. For
further information, please contact
Tom Lucas at (310) 393-0411
(x7140).*

Other Seminars and Colloquia:

**UCLA School of Public Health
UCLA Statistical Seminars**
Call (310) 825-5250 for
information

**USC Dept of Preventive
Medicine**
Call Brian Langholz @
(310) 342-1212
for information

UCR STATISTICS

DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM

Talks are held Tuesdays (unless
otherwise noted) at 3:45 in Stat/Comp
2678 with refreshments at 3:30 in
Stat/Comp 2643. Call the Dept.
at (909) 787-3774 for more information
or contact Professor Keh-Shin Lii
e-mail ksl@ucrstat.ucr.edu

February 13

Prof David Brillinger
Dept. of Statistics
UC Berkeley
"Assessing Interconnection of
point processes with Examples
from Neurophysiology"

February 16 (Friday)

Dr. Kenneth Hanson,
Los Alamos National Lab
"The Bayesian Inference Engine"

February 20

Professor Paul Deland,
Dept of Math
California State Univ., Fullerton
"Statistical Consulting as an
Outsourcing Activity for
a College of Optometry"

February 27

Professor Q. Joan Wu,
Department of Soil &
Environmental Sciences, UCR
"Applying Stochastic Simulation
Techniques to a Deterministic
Vadose Zone Solute
Transport Model"

March 5

Professor Donald Ylvisaker
Dept. of Math, UCLA
Title: TBA

March 12

Professor Barbara Sirotnik,
Information and Decision
Sciences, CSUSB
& Professor Shel Bockman,
Management, CSUSB
"Applied Research/Consulting:
A Win-Win for Faculty, Student,
and the Community"

Employment Opportunities

Senior Biostatistician

The City of Hope National Medical Center has an opening available March 1 for a full-time Senior Biostatistician to consult on cancer clinical trials and basic science research. City of Hope is located in the San Gabriel foothills, 20 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

Requirements for the position include a Ph.D. in Biostatistics or Statistics and medical consulting experience. A background in genetics and molecular studies is highly desirable. There is also the opportunity for a joint appointment at a local university. Strong benefits package; salary level commensurate with experience.

Send your CV & letters of reference to:

Joyce Niland, Ph.D.
 Director of Biostatistics
 City of Hope National
 Medical Center
 1500 E. Duarte Road
 Duarte, CA 91010

Manager, Outcomes and Biostatistics

Recently, Apria Healthcare was formed as a result of the merger between Homedco and Abbey Healthcare Group. With projected annual revenues of \$1.2 billion, Apria Healthcare emerges as the nation's leading, fully-integrated provider of home healthcare products and services. We now seek a clinical outcomes/biostatistics professional at our Costa Mesa, CA Corporate office.

The selected individual; will manage Apria Healthcare's research processes. requirements include a Master's degree; 2-5 years clinical outcomes and biostatistical experience; and an understanding and background in advanced statistical analysis. Clinical license/certification and familiarity with the home healthcare industry a plus.

If you want career growth with the nation's premiere home healthcare company, submit your resume to:

Apria Healthcare
 Professional Staffing Dept. RB,
 3560 Hyland Avenue,
 Costa Mesa, CA 92626
 FAX: (714) 957-8505
 EOE

Have you paid your chapter dues? Please check the date on the mailing label. If you are in arrears, please contact Jim Sayre, the Chapter Treasurer at (310) 825-5250. Also, if you have a change of address, please notify the Chapter Secretary, Harold Dyck at (714) 880-5765.



The Southern California

Statistician

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

American Statistical Association, Southern California Chapter
 c/o Harold Dyck
 California State University, San Bernadino
 5500 University Parkway
 San Bernadino, CA 92407-2397

NON PROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SANTA ANA, CA
 PERMIT NO. 1440



The Southern California

Statistician

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Volume 35, No.4

APRIL/MAY1996

SCASA 15th Annual Workshop in Applied Statistics: May 18th

Our chapter will be holding its 15th Annual Workshop in Applied Statistics this year on

Saturday, May 18th

from

8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

at

California State University,
Long Beach

This year's speaker is:

Dr. Julian Besag
Professor,

Department of Statistics
Director, Center for
Spatial Statistics

University of Washington, Seattle

The title of his presentation:

PRACTICAL BAYESIAN
INFERENCE

Abstract:

The past several years have seen a revolution in Bayesian computation, with the introduction of Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods, especially the Gibbs sampler. Interestingly, these methods have been used in spatial statistics for the past 20 years and for image analysis for over a decade. This workshop will provide a practical introduction to MCMC. The workshop topic has applications to research in such diverse areas as population demographics, spatial and temporal distribution of diseases, landscape ecology, med-

ical imaging, agricultural field experiments, energy utilization and distribution, and resource allocation.

Registration: \$70.00 (regular) \$30.00 (full-time students) Registration forms postmarked on or before May 12 get \$5.00 discount.

Please see the enclosed flyer and registration form for more information or contact Connie Vadheim phone: 310-222-3842

fax:310-782-8776

e-mail: vadheim@afp76.humc.edu

Note: Registration forms for this event were sent out separately some time ago. If for some reason you didn't receive one, please use the form enclosed with this newsletter. Or pass the form onto someone else you think may be interested. ■

IASC World Conference to be held in Pasadena

The Second World Conference of the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC) will take place at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasadena, California February 19-22, 1997. The Conference theme is "Computational Statistics and Data Analysis on the Eve of the 21st Century."

Professor Bradley Efron, Stanford University, will give the keynote address: "The Statistical Century." Professor Malcolm Pike, University of Southern California, will address the plenary luncheon on the topic "Computational and Statistical Risk Factors in Epidemiological Research."

A separate one-day workshop "Pedigree Analysis Using the Genetic

(Continued on next page)

1996 SCASA Careers Day

Career Day was held on Saturday, March 9 at the City of Hope Medical Center. As usual it was a very successful event. There were roughly 100 attendees, and about 20 companies and other organizations disseminated information. Joyce Niland and Beth Rose, our two chapter vice presidents, did a first rate job of organizing the activities. Stan Azen was arm-twisted into giving a very informative and entertaining talk; he wanted to open with a few piano solos before get-

ting around to statistics, but I guess that was one of the few requests that City of Hope couldn't accommodate. The facilities and hospitality at the City of Hope were so impressive that we have tentatively requested the use of the same site for next year. So Joyce will have 12 months to find a piano for Stan. We offer also our thanks to the many others who made Career Day such a hit. See you there next year. ■

Subir Ghosh/Jay Devore

IASC 1997 World Conference

(Continued)

Analysis Package (GAP)," taught by Professors Jonathan Buckley, W. James Gauderman, and Duncan Thomas of USC, will precede the Conference on Tuesday, February 18, 1997.

Over twenty invited paper sessions, comprising more than 70 internationally distinguished statisticians and other researchers as speakers, have been organized to date.

Interested persons may contribute papers on such topics as: algorithms for complex statistical problems, artificial intelligence and symbolic data analysis, certification and quality assessment of software, computational methods in design of experiments, computational statistical methods for model selection, computer graphics, computer networks, future directions for statistical applications, computers in statistics education, extracting information from extensive research databases, multivariate statistical modeling and data analysis, neural networks and statistical inference, statistical and computational methods in genetics, statistical and computing issues in pharmacokinetics, the internationalization of statistics, or related topics. All contributed papers will be published in a Conference Proceedings. Additionally, the official journal of the IASC, *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*, will publish a Special Issue devoted to key Conference papers.

Abstracts for Contributed Papers are due no later than June 1, 1996. Submissions details are available from the Conference headquarters - via e-mail to iasc@spinoza.hsc.usc.edu, via fax to 213-342-2993, or by calling the Conference Administrative Coordinator, Patricia Huevo, at 213-342-2052. Conference and Workshop registration information can be obtained from these same sources. ■

ASA Continuing Education Courses: CE Short Courses Available

Zeger and Liang to offer short courses in April in D.C. area

The ASA Office of Continuing Education and Johns Hopkins University will co-sponsor Scott Zeger and Kung-Yee Liang's short course, "The Analysis of Longitudinal Data," on Saturday, 27 April from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in the Nitze Building at 1740 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington D.C.

Last summer in Orlando this JSM program drew 150+ participants, and many have requested that it be repeated. Tuition will include lunch and a copy of the "The Analysis of Longitudinal Data" by Scott Zeger, Ph.D., Kung-Yee Liang, Ph.D. and Peter Diggle, Ph.D. To reserve a space—limited to 200—send a check or credit account information (bank, c.c. number, date of expiration) in the amount of \$350.00, payable to ASA, (att. SueKulesher), Office of Continuing Education, 1429 Duke St., Alexandria VA 22314-3402. We shall send registration materials by return mail. block adjacent to Dupont Circle.

Therneau to offer 'Extending the Cox Model' near L.A. in June

Terry Therneau will expand his very popular '95 JSM short course, *Extending the Cox Model*, when he presents his course at the Amgen Conference Center in Thousand Oaks, CA near Los Angeles in June.

Tuition for the 12 hour program will be \$495.00 and will include lunch on Friday and refreshments on Saturday. A copy of all the data sets and analysis code will be made available electronically as well as in the speaker's notes. A total of 9 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for those who request it. Hours for the course will be from 8:30

a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, June 21 and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 22. To reserve a space for what promises to be a very informative session, complete a reservation form and send it to Sue Kulesher, American Statistical Association, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402. She can be contacted by phone at (703) 684-1221 x146; or by E-mail at sue@amstat.org.

"In the last 2-3 years the survival analysis software available in several of the standard statistical packages has experienced a major increment in functionality, and is no longer limited to the triad of Kaplan-Meier curves, logrank tests, and simple Cox models," Therneau says in his course description. "Many of these are intimately related to the theory of counting processes, as set forth in the books by Fleming and Harrington and Andersen et al. The exposition will focus on three aspects: some mathematical background, actual data examples that utilize each of the methods, and the SAS and/or S plus code to implement the examples."

The course will include, "the counting process form of a Cox model, expected survival curves, left truncation, time dependent strata, the use of residuals for estimation of functional form, assessment of proportional hazards via time-dependent coefficients, assessment of leverage, robust variance estimation, case-cohort designs, and the analysis of multiple events/subject."

Dr. Therneau has worked in medical research statistics for over ten years, largely in the areas of cancer clinical trials, cardiology, and liver transplant, areas where survival analysis plays a fundamental role. He is currently Head of the Section of Biostatistics at the Mayo Clinic. ■

BRAD EFRON AT SDSU

Note on the following announcement: The deadline for registering for this event (dinner) is well past by the time the newsletter will be mailed. If you are interested, however, you might want to contact Amanda Golbeck at the number shown to see if anything can be arranged.

Jointly sponsored by: Southern California Chapter, American Statistical Association AND Division of Statistics, Department of Mathematical Sciences, San Diego State University

Speaker:

Professor Bradley Efron,
Stanford University

Topic:

An Introduction to Bootstrap
Confidence Intervals'

When:

Saturday, April 20, 1996

Time:

5:30 p.m. reception 6:00 p.m. colloquium 7:00 p.m. dinner

Where:

International Student Center, San
Diego State University Campus

Cost:

\$20.00 per person for
colloquium and dinner,
paid by April 8, 1996

Please join us, and bring a friend!
Amanda L. Golbeck, Ph.D. Associate
Dean Division of Undergraduate
Studies San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive San
Diego, CA 92182-1623 TEL (619)
594-1261 FAX (619) 594-7934

**RAND STATISTICS
SEMINAR SERIES****Speaker:**

Richard A. Olshen
Departments of Health
Research and Policy,
Electrical Engineering,
and Statistics
Stanford University

Topic:

Tree-Structured Clustering
With Applications To Imaging
And HIV Genetics

Time:

4 pm,
Thursday, April 18, 1996

Place:

Main Conference Room RAND
1700 Main Street
90401

Abstract

The talk will begin with a review of statistical problems in classification and clustering, with an emphasis on binary tree-structured methods. The clustering is of k-means type and is used for "lossy" coding of images. We sometimes wish to "compress" an image by coding its pixel blocks and also to classify the blocks as to whether they contain something of special interest such as a tumor in the case of a medical image. I will present algorithms that enable both goals to be achieved. The clustering also applies to understanding "quasi-species" in the context of HIV genetics, in particular the V3 loop region. Examples will be given to illustrate the applications. If time permits, I will describe some asymptotic properties of the algorithms. These results come from collaborations with many individuals over the past six years.

Refreshments will be served in the Main Conference Room from 3:30 to 4 pm. For further information, please contact Tom Lucas at (310) 393-0411 (x7140).

**UC Riverside
Statistics Department
Colloquia**

Lectures are on Tuesdays at 3:45 in Stat/Comp 2678 with refreshments being served in Stat/Comp 2634 @ 3:30. For more information call the department @ (909)787-3774

(note: Topics were apparently not available at press time. Please call the dept for information)

April 16th

Dorota Dabrowska
UCLA

April 23rd

David Fairris
UCR

April 30th

Phil Stark
UC Berkeley

May 7th

Steve Park
UCR

May 14th

Jeremy Taylor
UCLA

May 21st

Keith Widaman
UCR

June 4th

Robert Shavelle - UCR

Other Seminars and Colloquia:

UCLA School of Public Health
UCLA Statistical Seminars
Call (310) 825-5250 for
information

USC Dept of Preventive
Medicine
Call Brian Langholz @
(310) 342-1212
for information

EDITOR'S NOTE

Please see the note on back page.
You may tentatively still send
items for the newsletter to:

Rita Petersen
27931 Paseo Nicole,
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
Phone: (714) 493-1916
FAX: (714) 493-5596 (call first)
EMAIL: petersen@orion.oac.uci.edu

Employment Opportunities

Senior Biostatistician

The City of Hope National Medical Center has an opening available March 1 for a full-time Senior Biostatistician to consult on cancer clinical trials and basic science research. City of Hope is located in the San Gabriel foothills, 20 miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

Requirements for the position include a Ph.D. in Biostatistics or Statistics and medical consulting experience. A background in genetics and molecular studies is highly desirable. There is also the opportunity for a joint appointment at a local university. Strong benefits package; salary level commensurate with experience.

Send your CV & letters of reference to:

Joyce Niland, Ph.D.
Director of Biostatistics
City of Hope National
Medical Center
1500 E. Duarte Road
Duarte, CA 91010

A Note from the Current Editor:

Well, this is it folks. Officially this is my last newsletter. And since we had some room, I've allowed myself this part for the appeal which you've been hearing all year. But before I put out the plea for a new editor, let me explain what is involved in producing this newsletter. It's really a 3 step job.

1. There's the "reporter": Gathering the information, contacting the various sources - (this really boils down to begging alot); then editing and finalizing the information.
2. The production: Organizing the files and laying it out for the printing.
3. The mailing: A fun morning of stapling, labelling, counting and organizing 700 newsletters for the post office.

So far I've been handling nos. 1 & 2 and have been very grateful to trusty Bob Newcomb and Harold Dyck, our secretary, for handling the

If someone to handle the "reporting", I've agreed to put it all together. That is, if someone would gather the info and get it into text files, all edited and ready to go, I'll be happy to get the pages ready for the printer. And assuming Bob and Harold are willing to continue for next year, we should be set. (Or, if someone wants to handle both editing and production that would be terrific. After 5 years, we could use a new look for the newsletter.

OK fellow members. Any takers? (It's actually a fun job. You get to contact all kinds of interesting people.)

Let me (or any of the chapter officers) know.

Best Wishes to all.

Rita

Have you paid your chapter dues? Please check the date on the mailing label. If you are in arrears, please contact Jim Sayre, the Chapter Treasurer at (310) 825-5250. Also, if you have a change of address, please notify the Chapter Secretary, Harold Dyck at (714) 880-5765.



The Southern California

Statistician

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

American Statistical Association, Southern California Chapter
c/o Harold Dyck
California State University, San Bernardino
5500 University Parkway
San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SANTA ANA, CA
PERMIT NO. 1440

HAROLD DYCK [9505]
DEPT OF INFORMATION/DECISION SCIENCE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2397



The Southern California

Statistician

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Volume 35, No.1

October/November 1996

Annual SCASA Fall "Kick-off" Meeting: October 26

This year's Fall Kickoff will feature Prof. Judith Tanur and be held at Pomona College in Claremont.

Date:
October 26

Place:
Seaver North,
645 N. College Ave.,
Pomona College

Cost:
Lunch \$15.00 (students \$10.00)

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

9:30 - 10:30 am
Registration,
Seaver Auditorium

10:30 - 12:00 noon
Morning Session

12:15 - 1:15pm Lunch
and business Meetings
Frank Dining Hall

1:30 - 3:00pm
Afternoon Session

3:00 pm Reception,
Math Lounge, Millikan Lab

*Reservations must be received by-
October 18.*

MORNING SESSION

"Surveys, Sampling, SLOPs, and Sense"

Abstract:

Pre-election polling and other uses of surveys in academia and the real world will be discussed in terms of how sampling is accomplished and how a "scientific" survey differs from a Self-selected

Opinion Poll (SLOP). Some glimpses of the long history of the study of non-sampling error will be offered and the new model for studying such errors as provided by the movement to study cognitive aspects of survey methodology will be explored. Questions that one might ask before believing a survey will be suggested.

AFTERNOON SESSION

"Statistical and Cognitive Aspects
of Survey Design"

Abstract:

This presentation will consider stratification, clustering, and their combinations in multi-stage probability sampling used to carry out large scale surveys when simple random sampling is inappropriate or impossible. Considered will be issues of estimation and sampling error in complex surveys, random digit dialing, and choice of respondent within a household. Parallels between sampling and experimental design will be pointed out and there will be consideration of the exploitation of such parallels in designing experiments embedded in surveys. Some statistical approaches to nonsampling errors will be considered, as will be some of the insights from the new movement to study cognitive aspects of surveys.

Biographical Sketch:

Judith M. Tanur is Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of Sociology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She holds a BS in

Psychology and an MA in Mathematical Statistics from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Her publications include editorships of "Statistics: A Guide to the Unknown" (with a group of co-editors headed by Frederick Mosteller), "The International Encyclopedia of Statistics" (co-edited with William H. Kruskal), "Cognitive Aspects of Surveys: Building a Bridge between Disciplines" (a report of an advanced research seminar which was sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences and which she chaired, co-edited with a team from the National Research Council), and "Questions about Questions: Inquiries into the Cognitive Bases of Surveys" (under the sponsorship of the Committee on Cognition and Survey Research of the Social Science Research Council, of which she was co-chair). Other work includes a series of papers in the statistical literature on parallels between sample surveys and experiments growing out of collaborative work with Stephen E. Fienberg, work on cognitive aspects of surveys, and a project investigating the effects of proxy reports for youths on the measures of youth unemployment determined by the Current Population Survey carried out by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Professor Tanur has served as Chair of the American Statistical Association's Section on Statistical Education and of its Section on Survey Research Methods, as well as on its Board of Directors and as Book Review Editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association.

Continued on next page

Continued from Page 1

tion and Co-editor and Editor at Large of Chance. She has served as Chair of the Section on Statistics and of the Section on Social, Economic, and Political Sciences of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, on the Board of Overseers of the General Social Survey, on the Board of Trustees of the National Opinion Research Center, on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Swiss Academy of Development, on the advisory committee for the NBC News polls, and as a member of the Committee on National Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

Please use the registration form on the back of this issue (or a copy thereof) for registering by mail. Also, please note that it is important to register as soon as

possible. Reservations should be received no later than **October 18th** in order to ensure lunch availability. Directions to Pomona College follow.

For further information on the meeting, please call (909) 621-8409.

Directions to Pomona College:

Major highway routes to Pomona College are Freeway I-10 (the San Bernardino), Freeway 57 (the Orange), Freeway U.S. 60 (the Pomona), and Freeway I-210 (the Foothill).

To reach Claremont from any area except Pasadena, take the I-10 to Indian Hill Boulevard (exit 47), and drive north. It is one mile to First Street in the village. Turn right three blocks to the College Ave. Left to 7th St.. Seaver Auditorium is at the SW corner of 7th and College. To reach I-10 from Orange County and the south, take 57 or from Long Beach take I-605. From the west and southwest Los Angeles, take US 60 to 57 and 57 to I-10.

President's Message...

Many of you will be happy to hear that this is my last message to you as president of the Southern California ASA chapter. At the Fall Kickoff Meeting on October 26 at Pomona College (see the announcement elsewhere in this issue) I will be turning over my gavel and ASA t-shirt to a new president whose name will be revealed at that time (but we really do have someone, though the last person that agreed to do this job subsequently thought the better of it and decided to move out of state). I wish I could trumpet my accomplishments the way Clinton and Dole have done theirs, but the lure of the truth is too strong. Our chapter has been treading water, continuing to have good participation at its traditional activities (the Fall Kickoff, Careers Day, and Applied Statistics Workshop) but breaking little new ground. Perhaps our new president will inflame passions sufficiently to successfully strike out in new directions. A particularly compelling need is to recruit Local Area Coordinators who will organize periodic events under our banner. Amanda Golbeck and now K-J. Lui are doing this successfully in San Diego,

and others should follow in their footsteps.

I want to give special thanks to a number of people who have helped me and the chapter during my two years at the helm: Bob Newcomb (the Metternich of our chapter), Ken Resser, Don Bentley, Arnie Goodman, the triumvirate of Joyce Niland, Beth Rose, and Noel Wheeler for their service as chapter vice-presidents (Joyce has graciously agreed to again host Careers Day at the City of Hope), Jim Sayre for keeping us out of hot water with the IRS, Harold Dyck for his great work as secretary, and Rita Petersen for being the scourge of yellow journalism. I also appreciate the willingness of various chapter "brain-trusters" to congregate at my command and work on behalf of the chapter. One of our most active chapter members was invited in to the "inner circle" some years ago after complaining that an elitist group was controlling the chapter. If this is your perception, please accept my invitation to become active - we are much in need of fresh ideas and enthusiasm to enhance our chapter's contributions to statistical activity in Southern California.

Cheers, Jay Devore

Second IASC World Conference in Pasadena

The Second World Conference of the International Association for Statistical Computing will take place on **February 19-22 in Pasadena**. The keynote speaker will be "Bootstrap Brad" Efron of Stanford University (title is "The Statistical Century"). Please contact Ms. Patricia Huevo at the Dept. of Preventive Medicine, University of Southern California, 1540 Alcazar ST., CHP 218, Los Angeles, CA 90033 for more information (Stan Azen and Ernie Scheuer are chairing the Local Organizing Committee).

1997 Joint Statistical Meetings to be held in California

The 1997 Joint Statistical Meetings (ASA, IMS, E/WNAR, and SSC) will be held on **August 10-14** in that garden spot of Southern California, Anaheim (wow, Orlando and Anaheim in the same decade!). We are in the process of putting together a Local Arrangements Committee that will help to organize and coordinate on-site communications, publicity, activities, and so on. The committee's first meeting with a representative from the national ASA office will take place on the evening of November 10. We need volunteers, especially a chairperson for the committee. If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact Jay Devore at Statistics Department, Cal Poly State Univ., San Luis Obispo, CA 93407, telephone 805-756-2026 or 805-756-2709, email: jdevore@calpoly.edu. Or contact Lee Decker (see below).

Local Arrangements Committee for the 1997 National Meeting in Anaheim

The LAC (Local Arrangements Committee) meeting will take place Sunday evening, Nov 10 in Anaheim. Anyone interested in participating should contact Lee Decker for more details. E-mail: lee@amstat.org Phone: 703-684-1221, ext. 145 Fax: 703-684-8069

Visit the ASA's home page: <http://www.amstat.org>

**UCR STATISTICS
DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIA**

Talks are held Tuesdays at 3:45 in Stat/Comp 2678
with refreshments at 3:30 in Stat/Comp 2643.

*For information, contact the
Statistics Department at
(909)787-3774*

October 1

Samuel D. Oman

Dept. of Statistics Hebrew University
Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem

"Calibration with Repeated Measures"

October 8

Subir Ghosh

Dept. of Statistics UC Riverside

"Some Statistical Issues in Survey
Sampling and Experimental Designs"

San Diego State University Events

The division of Statistics in Department of Mathematical Sciences at SDSU and the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association will continue to jointly sponsor statistics events held in San Diego.

This semester, we feel very honored and pleased that we can invite

Dr. S. Azen,

**Professor and Director of Biometry and
Clinical Trials at USC,**

to come down here and give a talk:

**"A Clinical Trial in Coronary Artery Disease:
A Case Study of Interdisciplinary Research
between Clinician, Basic Scientist, Statistician,
Engineer, and Computer Scientist"**

at the International Student Center at SDSU.

For further information, please feel free to call Dr. K.-J. Lui at (619) 594-7239 or send an E-mail to kjl@rohan.sdsu.edu.

Note from the Secretary:

We are building a database of e-mail addresses. If you would like to be included in this list, please e-mail a short note to: hdyck@wiley.csusb.edu.

Harold Dyck, Secretary

**RAND STATISTICS
SEMINAR SERIES**

Sponsored by the Statistics Group

SPEAKER:

James Berger
Statistics Department
Purdue University

TOPIC:

Bayesian Analysis of Mixture Models

TIME:

4 pm, TUESDAY, October 8, 1996

PLACE: Common Room

RAND

1700 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

ABSTRACT

The Bayesian approach to analysis of mixture models will be reviewed, with emphasis on current Monte Carlo implementations of the needed computations. The practical advantages of the approach will be highlighted through examples to medicine and astronomy. A brief introduction to new default Bayesian methods for mixture models will also be given. These are methods which can be applied in situations in which there is no "training data" and in which proper subjective prior distributions for model parameters are not available.

Refreshments will be served in the Common Room from 3:30 to 4 pm. For further information, please contact Tom Lucas at (310) 393-0411 (x7140).

VISITOR PARKING NOTICE: Due to the OJ Simpson civil trial underway directly across the street from RAND, those of you who drive to the seminar will be stopped at the RAND driveways and asked for the name of your RAND contact - please give the attendant Tom Lucas' name to verify your official business here at RAND. Thank you.

UPCOMING

SPEAKER:

Edward George
University of Texas, Austin

TIME:

4 pm, Thursday, November 14, 1996

For further information, please contact
Tom Lucas at (310) 393-0411 (x7140).

EDITOR'S NOTE

Send items for the next issue to:

Harold Dyck
Information and Decision Sciences
California State University
San Bernardino 92407-2397
Phone: (714)880-5765
e-mail: hdyck@wiley.csusb.edu
fax: (909)880-5994

Registration Form for SCASA Annual Fall "Kickoff" Meeting, October 26, 1996

Name: _____ Business Phone () _____

Number of Attendees: _____ SCASA Members (\$15.00) _____

Students(\$10.00) _____

Please return this form (or a copy thereof), together with your check
made payable to SCASA and mail to:

Kathy Sheldon
Department of Mathematics
Pomona College
610 N.College Ave
Claremont, CA 91711-6348

Please check your preference for lunch: Poached Salmon ___ Vegetarian Entree__

Reservations should be received by October 18th

Please verify the date on the mailing label to ensure that you are up to date with your Chapter dues.
If not, please contact the Chapter treasurer, Jim Sayre at (310) 825-5250. Also, if you have a
change of address, or if you have had any difficulties receiving the newsletter, you may
notify the Chapter Secretary, Harold Dyck at (909) 880-5765.



The Southern California

Statistician

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

c/o Harold Dyck
California State University, San Bernardino
5500 University Parkway
San Bernardino, CA 92407-2397

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE.
PAID
SANTA ANA, CA
PERMIT NO. 1440