



The Southern California  
**Statistician**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION**

Volume 38, No. 1

January/February 2000

## Careers Day in Statistics With Professor Ingram Olkin

Sponsored by the Southern California Chapter of the  
American Statistical Association

**Come learn about the many opportunities open  
to persons with a background in statistics!**

This is a careers fair, not a jobs fair. It provides an opportunity to learn about career options. In the morning, you will have the opportunity to speak informally with representatives from actuarial, aerospace, computer, government, health care, insurance, and pharmaceutical organizations from throughout Southern California. Following the lunchtime speaker, there will be small breakout sessions in which professionals from several different industries will tell you how they spend their work days, the preparation and experience needed, and the current and future opportunities in their fields. For those ready to begin careers, free workshops on interviewing skills and resume writing will be offered in the afternoon. Tours of the City of Hope will also be available.

**Saturday, February 12, 2000**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. - Careers Fair**

**11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. - Lunch and Speaker:**  
“Proportional Representation Systems”, Ingram  
Olkin, Professor of Statistics and Education, Stanford  
University

**1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Breakout sessions:**  
What it's like to do statistical work in different  
industries  
Basic Resume Writing & Interviewing Skills  
Tours of the City of Hope

Admission is free. You may reserve a lunch (lasagna, salad, bread, dessert, and beverage) for \$5.75 for students, \$7.50 for all others with your reservation postmarked by February 7th. To reserve your lunch, send a check for the above amount, payable to SCASA (Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association), with the registration form on page 4, to Rodney Jee, HNC Software, Predictive Software Solutions Group, 110 Theory, Irvine, CA 92612. A limited number of lunches will be available at the door for \$8.00.

**Location: City of Hope National Medical Center  
Platt Conference Center**  
1500 East Duarte Road, Duarte, Calif. 91010

**Directions:** Take the 210 freeway to Buena Vista, one exit west of the 605 freeway. Go south to Duarte Road and turn left. The main entrance and Platt Conference Center are on the right. There is free parking along Duarte Road or in the lot east of the main gate.

For further information please contact Rodney Jee:  
rxj@hncis.com or (949) 655-3700, or see the SCASA  
web site  
<http://orion.oac.uci.edu/~mewcomb/statistics/scasa/scasa.html>

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### President's Message

Many exciting things have been happening recently around our chapter, and much of the success of our Chapter is due to volunteers who deserve our appreciation. The Workshop on Effective Consulting and Collaborating last September at Claremont McKenna was well attended and got excellent reviews. Thanks to all

who helped make the workshop a success! Then in October, ASA President-Elect Dick Scheaffer gave us some good advice on making statistics a part of everyone's basic education and on enhancing undergraduate opportunities in statistics. Both of these events were well covered in the December issue of *Amstat News*, thanks to SCASA Secretary Andy Dagis. (Andy has also done an excellent job keeping the membership list up to date. Send changes to [adagis@smtplink.coh.org](mailto:adagis@smtplink.coh.org).) We hope to see as many of you as possible at this year's Careers Day. And even if you can't make it, you can help by encouraging students and others to attend, or by making sure your organization is represented at one of the tables. Kudos go to Rodney Jee for a lot of hard work. You can contact him at [rxj@hncis.com](mailto:rxj@hncis.com) for more information. The organizing committee for this year's Applied Statistics Workshop, chaired by Anita Iannucci ([iannucci@uci.edu](mailto:iannucci@uci.edu)), is on track for another great affair. Come see why data mining is so hot. Arnie Goodman (and others) continues to work with on integrating statistics in K-12. Send him a message at [agoodman@uci.edu](mailto:agoodman@uci.edu) if you can help. Arnie also is working with Janet Myhre ([MARCmath@aol.com](mailto:MARCmath@aol.com)) and me ([hdyck@csusb.edu](mailto:hdyck@csusb.edu)) on next year's consulting workshop. Give us a holler if you have some ideas. Others who deserve our appreciation are our treasurer, Nancy Berman ([nberman@ucla.edu](mailto:nberman@ucla.edu)) and Bob Newcomb ([rnewcomb@uci.edu](mailto:rnewcomb@uci.edu)), who maintains the Chapter Web page, among other things. Also, thanks go to Michael Chernick ([MChernic@bwius.jnj.com](mailto:MChernic@bwius.jnj.com)) for taking the initiative in organizing South Bay meetings. Finally, I'd like to thank Jeff Vaks, for taking over the Newsletter from me-and doing a great job with it, too! Items for the next issue can be sent to him at [jevaks@beckman.com](mailto:jevaks@beckman.com). So next time you see one of our volunteers, give them a pat on the back and tell them what a great job they're doing! (And apologies to many I've missed in this missive!)

Harold Dyck

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### SCASA News by Andy Dagis

On November 4th, 1999, Margaret Calder of Citrus College in Glendora, CA hosted a Statistics Fair that showed how statistics is used in the real world, in a fun and exciting way. Students participated in the fair by voting on their classmates' exhibits, which included ones titled "Gambling and Its Probabilities," "Statistics for Kids," "The Actuary Profession," "The History of Statistics," and "The Exciting World of Statistics in a

Nutshell." Students also got involved in the fair by talking to statisticians and representatives from the Los Angeles Health Department, the US Census Bureau, RAND, Biosense Webster, California Polytechnic University--Pomona, UCLA, Beckman, Blue Cross of California, SAS, and Transamerica.

Chapter member Michael Chernick gave a half-day workshop on bootstrap methods based on his new book *Bootstrap Methods: A Practitioner's Guide* on November 19, 1999 at University of California, Irvine.

The Chapter co-sponsored with the ASA Section on Health Policy Statistics the "International Conference on Health Policy Statistics: Methodological Issues in Health Services and Outcomes Research" which took place in Santa Monica on December 3-5, 1999.

Last fall Claremont-McKenna College, UC Irvine, and the Chapter sponsored a Consulting Workshop. Because of positive feedback on the event, the sponsors have decided to repeat it some time in the year 2000. Further information will be found in this column as plans coalesce.

The larger Southern California Chapter events above are being conducted in cooperation with the newly-formed San Diego Chapter. There is talk of forming a Santa Barbara-San Luis Obispo chapter, which will continue to be involved in these regional events. Volunteers and planners to these events are always welcome and needed: please contact Chapter officers or event coordinators as listed.

### Miscellaneous

The UCLA Department of Statistics announces the founding of the Center for Teaching Statistics (CTS). The CTS seeks to provide a model for Statistics education in the Southern California region by integrating research in Statistics and Pedagogy with technological innovations. We intend to serve as a resource for not just UCLA but the Southern California statistics community and, to the extent possible, to the Statistics community in general. We have formed some collaborative partnerships with AP Statistics educators, and plan to form future partnerships with educators in K-12, community colleges, and local colleges and universities. We will grow as resources and interest permits, but are already engaged in a number of activities concerning introductory Statistics teaching, AP Statistics, and technology in the classroom.

We invite you to visit our web page at <http://www.stat.ucla.edu/teach> for information about our

Seminar Series, AP Stats activities, and our new iMac computer lab. The CTS can be reached at 310- 206-6450 or by emailing Robert Gould, Director, at [rgould@stat.ucla.edu](mailto:rgould@stat.ucla.edu).

The members who would like to receive the Newsletter electronically are asked to send their e-mail addresses to Jeffrey E. Vaks, Newsletter Editor, at [jevaks@beckman.com](mailto:jevaks@beckman.com). Electronic publishing would speed up delivery and reduce SCASA costs. It will also make electronic communications easier to the members just clicking on the URL's published in the Newsletter.

## Seminars and Conferences

### RAND Statistics Seminars

(Thursdays, Main Conference Room, RAND, 1700 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Light refreshments served from 3:30 p.m.; seminars begin at 4 p.m. To register and for further information, please contact Ron Fricker at (310) 393-0411, x6102)

**January 13:** Hal Stern, Department of Statistics, Iowa State University, "Inference for Extremes in Disease Mapping".

**ABSTRACT** Hierarchical probability models for disease-incidence rates can be used to obtain the joint posterior distribution for an entire set of small-area rates while taking into account the spatial nature of the data. The appropriate summaries of the posterior distribution to report will depend on the scientific questions of interest. Summarizing the posterior distribution by a vector of posterior means or medians, as would be suggested by component-wise squared-error or absolute-value loss functions, will tend to underestimate the extremes in the distribution of underlying rates. Alternative loss functions are derived that address epidemiologists' special interest in identifying regions with unusually high disease-incidence rates. Summaries of the joint posterior

distribution derived under the alternative loss functions appear to do better at estimating the extreme region and its disease-incidence rate. A posterior predictive model assessment approach is used to address the importance of covariate information and to determine whether the extreme regions correspond to unusual "hot spots," regions with incidence rates beyond what would be expected due to the statistical variation inherent in the fitted model.

**February 17:** Naihua Duan, RAND.

Topic: "Statistical Design Issues in the Development of Health Care Interventions from a Consumer/Client Perspective".

**March 16:** Nicolas Hengartner, Yale University.

Topic: TBD

**April 20:** Gareth James, University of Southern California. Topic: TBD

**May 18:** David Brownstone, University California, Irvine. Topic: "Modeling Non-ignorable Attrition and Measurement Error in Panel Surveys: An Application to Travel Demand".

The Southern California Chapter of ASA will conduct its "19th Annual Applied Statistics Workshop" on Friday, May 12th, at Cal State University, Long Beach. Richard De Veaux of Williams College will speak on the topic of **Data Mining**. For further information, please contact Anita Iannucci [iannucci@uci.edu](mailto:iannucci@uci.edu) or Connie Vadheim, [vadheim@humc.edu](mailto:vadheim@humc.edu).

Please send items for the next issue of The Southern California Statistician to Jeff Vaks ([jevaks@beckman.com](mailto:jevaks@beckman.com))

Chapter Web page :

<http://orion.oac.uci.edu/~mewcomb/statistics/scasa/scasa.html>

## Job Opportunities

The City of Hope National Medical Center, located in Duarte, California, has several openings in the Department of Biostatistics:

- Senior Biostatistician with a Ph.D. in biostatistics or a related field and strong background in clinical trials and biomedical research.

- Programmer/Analyst - Biostatistician with MS in biostatistics or related field to perform statistical analyses of clinical trials data.
- Programmer/Analyst with BS in statistics or related field and 1 year experience in statistical consulting and data analysis.

Send resume to David N. Ikle, Ph.D., Associate Director, Department of Biostatistics, City of Hope National

Medical Center, 1500 East Duarte Road, Duarte, CA 91010-3000; Tel:626-359-8111x4446, fax:626-301-8802; e-mail: [dikle@coh.org](mailto:dikle@coh.org), <http://www.cityofhope.org>.

The Collaborative Alcohol Research Center is hiring:

- Ph.D. Statistician with knowledge of statistical software such as SPSS, SAS, STATA. Conduct statistical analysis of data, consult with research projects, assist in writing grant proposals and analysis

sections of papers for publication. Salary up to \$65K.

- Program Analyst with M.A. in statistics. Manage data collection, analyze and interpret data, compile statistical reports. Salary up to \$50K.

Send resume to Linda Gaona, Collaborative Alcohol Research Center, 1774 East 118<sup>th</sup> Street, Bldg. K, Los Angeles, CA 90059.

### Registration Form for SCASA Careers Day in Statistics February 12, 2000

Name and Affiliation (as you'd like it on the badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Admission is free

Lunch: SCASA Members (\$7.50) , Students (\$5.75)

Lasagna Selections:  Meat  Vegetarian

Please return this form (or a copy thereof), together with your check payable to SCASA, to Rodney Jee, HNC Software, Predictive Software Solutions Group, 110 Theory, Irvine, CA 92612.

If you require confirmation that your reservation was received, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refund requests cannot be honored after February 7. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with any refund request.

***Reservations should be received by February 7, 2000***

Have you paid your chapter dues? Please check the mailing label (for example, 9906 is June of 99, the date you paid your dues). If you are in arrears or have change of address contact the Chapter Secretary Andy Daxis at [Adaxis@smtplink.coh.org](mailto:Adaxis@smtplink.coh.org), or (626) 359-8111 x2354, fax (626) 301-8393.

American Statistical Association, Southern California Chapter  
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The Southern California

# Statist

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Volume 38, No. 2

March/April 2000

## Applied Statistics Workshop on Data Mining With Professor Richard D. De Veaux

Sponsored by the Southern California Chapter of the  
American Statistical Association

SCASA's Nineteenth Annual Workshop in Applied Statistics will be held on May 12th, 2000 at the University Student Union on the campus of California State University, Long Beach.

"An Overview and Examination of Data Mining" will be presented by Professor Richard D. De Veaux, Department of Mathematics, Williams College.

Data mining is the exploration and analysis of large data sets, by automatic or semiautomatic means, with the purpose of discovering meaningful patterns. These patterns, or rules, are then used for decision making via a process known as knowledge discovery. Much of exploratory data analysis and inferential statistics concern the same problems. What's different about data mining? What's similar? We will attempt to answer these questions by providing a broad survey of the problems that motivate data mining and the approaches that are used to solve them.

Data mining comprises techniques from Computer Science, Machine Learning and Statistics. Like Statistics, it concerns itself with learning, or generalization from data, but typically, only retrospectively. In typical business applications, data mining is the obvious next step after data warehousing. It has the potential to rank among the most strategic applications in organizations because of the enormous payoffs it brings. Some of the more notable applications include fraud detection, identifying good (and bad) credit risks, product warranty management, evaluating the effectiveness of retail promotions, and customer life cycle management. Recent innovative

applications of data mining have included clinical trials and relating biological activity to chemical structure.

We will start the discussion by defining data mining and the knowledge discovery process and the typical applications that motivate it. We will next survey the collection of data mining techniques that are most commonly found in commercial data mining tools including neural networks, decision trees, K-nearest neighbor methods and MARS. We will discuss the role of Statistics and statistical thinking in data mining and what the field of Statistics can bring to the data mining effort. We will conclude with applications and case studies of data mining in a variety of fields including Marketing, Telecommunications, E-commerce and Bioinformatics.

### Schedule:

Check-in, Continental Breakfast,	
Registration	8:30 – 9:00 a.m.
First Session	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Coffee/Exhibits	10:30 – 10:50 a.m.
Second Session	10:50 – 12:20 p.m.
Lunch and Exhibits	12:20 – 2:00 p.m.
Third Session	2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Exhibits	3:30 – 4:00 p.m.
Door prizes	4:00 p.m.

To register for the Workshop, fill out form on page 4 of the Newsletter. For further information, contact Anita L. Iannucci, UCI Center for Statistical Consulting, Social Science Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697-5105; phone: (949) 824-1682, fax: (949) 824-1683, or visit <http://orion.oac.uci.edu/~rnewcomb/statistics/scasa/scasa.html>

## President's Message

Important and exciting SCASA activities have been happening: the South Bay Dinner Meetings and Careers Day just past, and the Fall Kickoff and Consulting Conference last fall were all well attended and quite successful. Looking into the future, planning proceeds for the May 12th Applied Statistics Workshop, as well as next year's events. In addition, this Newsletter is moving towards an electronic version.

However...these activities require a lot of hard work from a variety of dedicated people. But don't let the success of these Chapter events allow you to become complacent! We need our members to step forward and volunteer for these planning sessions and to help out at the events. We need our members—you!—to step forward, ask to become candidates for Chapter office and to become active in Chapter governance. This is your chance to recruit students and other professionals to become members and/or attend Chapter events. This is your chapter. You can help make your chapter even more successful. Another way to help is by suggesting other members for Chapter positions. Sometimes people will not come forward but a friend or colleague knows that they would do a good job and can let us know about them. Please contact me—or one of the other Chapter officers—and let us know how you can help.

Thank you,

Harold Dyck  
[Hdyck@csusb.edu](mailto:Hdyck@csusb.edu)  
 909.880.5765

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## SCASA Dinner Meetings

Michael Chernick

I moved to the LA area in 1980. At the aerospace company that I worked for, the statisticians were isolated. There were only two of us, and I met the other one, Steve Book, by chance. I was a member of the ASA, the IMS, and the Institute of Management Science. I knew nothing about the local chapters. Someone found me and asked me to speak at a joint meeting of SCASA and the Operations Research Societies. These organizations met once a year for a joint dinner meeting, alternating which organization selected the speaker. In addition, both societies had separate monthly dinner meetings the rest of the year. This activity had been going on for several years prior to 1980 and continued. The number of joint

meetings was eventually increased to two. I enjoyed the dinner meetings so much that I decided to join SCASA and eventually became very active in the chapter.

The dinner meetings provided a way to socialize with colleagues and discuss common problems. We always had a good variety of local speakers from the local universities and industry. At some point it appeared that the meetings would stop. To keep the meetings alive, Bob Thompson and I decided to work together on organizing them. I would often find a speaker, and he would identify a reasonably priced restaurant. An Italian restaurant was one of his favorites. Eventually Bob picked the China Garden Restaurant in Culver City, and we held many successful meetings there. The advantages were that the restaurant provided us with a large private room, a ten course Chinese dinner that Bob and the owner put together, and no minimum number of patrons to guarantee. We also were nicely located to attract attendance from UCLA, USC and the Santa Monica areas.

Bob eventually gave it up, and I took over. I tried to emphasize applied work, and the meetings remained popular. Eventually, I wanted to pass the responsibility on to someone else, but no one took over, and the meetings died out. Over the past few years, several members of the chapter have been missing the meetings, and so we decided to revive them. Again, I took the initiative. My plan is to make most of the talks fairly elementary so that even high school students and teachers can enjoy them.

Dan Martinez has helped me with the planning. He picked the El Patio Restaurant in Long Beach. The restaurant provides us with a very reasonably priced Mexican dinner, a very comfortable private room, and no required minimum number of patrons. Also, it is convenient for those who live in the South Bay area and/or teach at CSULB, and the Irvine group has an easier time coming to LB than to West LA.

We have held two successful meetings this year. In February, Dave Rothman spoke about the pair-wise ranking models that he uses, and has now gotten recognition for by being made a member of the BCS (Bowl Championship Series), which is used to select the teams for the NCAA Division 1A championship game. We had ten in attendance including two who were there especially because of the topic. It was very interesting, and discussion continued past the closing time for the restaurant.

At the second meeting, on March 9th, we only had 6 in attendance, including the three speakers. Jeff Vaks discussed his recent work in spectroscopy where model parameters are estimated using weighted least squares to minimize errors in blood tests in clinical labs. I discussed my experiences and thoughts about teaching an introductory statistics course to undergraduate health science majors. Arnie Goodman showed how simple step-wise regression can be used to determine what factors lead to successful software development and consumer satisfaction. Both problems involve the construction of a score function which weights factors by their relative importance. This can help planners modify their strategy in the course of a project in order to increase the probability of success.

Everyone attending enjoys the event thoroughly, and I have been getting several favorable compliments. Don't miss out! Next month, Bob Friis will talk about epidemiology studies. In May Phil Good will talk about use of statistics in court. The series concludes in June with Mitchell Locks discussing the value of Boolean Algebra in systems reliability problems.

I have been getting many suggestions for speakers when the series resumes in September. I welcome any suggestions you may have that will make the meetings successful and useful and encourage greater attendance. This series can continue and grow with your interest and enthusiastic support!

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With this issue, we started electronic publishing of the Newsletter that is posted on the SCASA web site: <http://orion.oac.uci.edu/~mewcomb/statistics/scasa/scasa.html>. Electronic publishing would speed up delivery and reduce SCASA costs. It will also make electronic communications easier to the members just clicking on the URL's published in the Newsletter and allow viewing past issues. Members who would like to receive the Newsletter electronically are asked to send their e-mail addresses to Andy Dagis, Chapter Secretary, at [adis@coh.org](mailto:adis@coh.org).

## Seminars and Conferences

### RAND Statistics Seminars

(Thursdays, Main Conference Room, RAND, 1700 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Light refreshments served from 3:30 p.m.; seminars begin at 4 p.m. To register and for further information, please contact Ron Fricker at (310) 393-0411, x6102)

**April 20:** Gareth James, University of Southern California. Topic: TBD.

**May 18:** David Brownstone, University California, Irvine. Topic: "Modeling Non-ignorable Attrition and Measurement Error in Panel Surveys: An Application to Travel Demand".

### SCASA Dinner Meetings:

(Thursdays, El Patio Restaurant, Long Beach, two blocks north of the 405 Freeway on Atlantic Avenue. Dinner starts at 6:30 PM)

**April 13:** Professor Robert Friis, Chairman of the Department of Health and Human Services at Cal State Long Beach will present "An Introduction to Epidemiology".

**May 11:** Phil Good, "Statistics in the Courtroom".

**June (date to be announced):** Dr. Mitchell Locks, "Applications of Boolean Algebra in Reliability".

**The Interface 2000 Symposium, April 5-8** For conference and hotel registration

<http://www.neptuneandco.com/interface/>

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Please send items for the next issue of The Southern California Statistician to Jeff Vaks ([jevaks@beckman.com](mailto:jevaks@beckman.com))

Chapter Web page :

<http://orion.oac.uci.edu/~mewcomb/statistics/scasa/scasa.html>

## Job Opportunities

**Biosense Webster, Johnson & Johnson Company, Diamond Bar, CA,** has an opening for an experienced Biostatistician with a Masters or Ph.D degree. One or two years of work experience at a medical device or pharmaceutical company is preferred. For details, or to apply contact Michael Chernick at [mchernic@bwius.jnj.com](mailto:mchernic@bwius.jnj.com) or

**Biosense Webster, 3333 Diamond Canyon Road, Diamond Bar, CA 91765**

Allergan has two openings for: **1. Principal Biostatistician** to support pharmaceutical research. You will provide guidance in statistical analysis methodology and perform statistical programming, design, and analyses

for multiple clinical trial projects. You must possess working knowledge of statistical software (SAS, etc.).  
**2. Statistical Systems Manager** to plan, organize and manage statistical programming and systems development activities, meeting ICH/GCP/ISO9000 quality requirements. Contact Colleen Cowley at (714)246-5945, or at Allergan, 2525 Dupont Dr., T2-1B, Irvine, CA 92623-9534, [cowley\\_colleen@allergan.com](mailto:cowley_colleen@allergan.com).

**MiniMed Inc.**, has an opening for **Biostatistician** to be responsible for developing study protocols, statistical analysis of clinical research, engineering and product development data. Minimum BA/BS in Statistics/Biostatistics, 2+ years experience in clinical or engineering data analysis using SAS or SPSS. Send resume w/Salary Req. to: MiniMed Inc., HR, Ref. Req #4897, P.O. Box 9219, Sylmar, CA 91392-9219, or FAX (818) 772-1114, e-mail [toddg@minimed.com](mailto:toddg@minimed.com).

**Registration Form for SCASA Applied Statistics Workshop  
May 12, 2000**

Name and Affiliation (as you'd like it on the badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Admission fee ( add \$5 after May 2, 2000)

SCASA Members \$65, Students \$25

Please return this form (or a copy thereof), together with your check payable to SCASA, to Anita L. Ianucci, UCI Center for Statistical Consulting, Social Science Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697-5105, phone: (949) 824-1682, fax: (949) 824-1683.

If you require confirmation that your reservation was received, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refund requests cannot be honored after May 2. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with any refund request.

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The Southern California

# Statistician

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER, AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

Volume 38, No. 4

October/November 2000

## Critical Success Factors for Consulting and Collaborating: Problem Solving and Communication (with Luncheon Remarks by Peter F. Drucker)

Saturday, November 4, 2000 • Claremont McKenna College

It is a one-day workshop designed for students, consultants and managers in social sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, business and government. The conference shares the experience and perspective of expert consultants and client executives with those who aspire to or already work in the consulting profession. Networking breaks, lunch seating and the closing reception provide opportunities for increased interaction between attendees and speakers. Co-sponsored by the Ruth K. and Joseph C. Reed Institute for Decision Science; the San Diego and Southern California Chapters of ASA; the Statistical Consulting Section of ASA; and the Center for Statistical Consulting, UCI.

### SCHEDULE

8:00-8:30	<b>REGISTRATION</b> Founders Room, Bauer Center with Coffee and Bagels
8:30-9:45	<b>PROBLEM SOLVING I</b> Janet Myhre, Professor of Mathematics and Director of the Reed Institute for Decision Science, Claremont McKenna College; Rodney Smith, President, Stratecon
9:45-10:15	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b>
10:15-11:15	<b>Communication in Consulting: How to Teach It, How to Learn It</b> Janice Derr, Mathematical Statistician, FDA
11:15-1:00	<b>LUNCH, Athenaeum</b> <b>REMARKS by Peter F. Drucker,</b> Clark Prof. of Social Science, Peter F. Drucker Graduate School of

	Management, Claremont Graduate University
	<b>MUSICAL INTERLUDE by Stanley Azen</b>
1:15-2:30	<b>PROBLEM SOLVING II</b> Donald Bentley, Professor of Mathematics, Pomona College; Arnold Goodman, Associate Director, Center for Statistical Consulting, University of California, Irvine
2:30-3:00	<b>NETWORKING BREAK</b>
3:00-4:15	<b>PANEL on Communication</b> Stanley Azen, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Director of Biostatistics, University of Southern California; Janice Derr, Mathematical Statistician, FDA; Robert Lunn, Principal, ETA Consulting; Kenneth J. Resser, Director, Biostatistics, AMGEN, Inc.
4:15-4:45	<b>Q/A Session</b>
5:00-6:00	<b>RECEPTION, Athenaeum</b>

### Directions to CMC Bauer Center

From the I-10, stay on the Freeway until you reach the Indian Hill/Claremont exit. Turn north off the exit. Continue north on Indian Hill for 2 miles. Turn right onto Foothill Blvd and follow it. Turn right on Claremont Blvd. After a quarter of a mile you will see a sign which reads "Claremont McKenna College/Pitzer College". Turn right at the entrance. Continue west past the parking lot for a couple of blocks; you will see Bauer

Center (500 East 9th Street), a large three story building, on your left.

From the I-210 eastbound (from Pasadena), stay on the Freeway (toward San Bernardino), then follow Route 30 to the end of the freeway--it will merge straight into Foothill Blvd. Continue on Foothill Blvd. for about 11 minutes. Turn right on Claremont Blvd. and follow the previous direction.

### Articles of Interest

By Michael Chernick

The May 2000 issue of *Statistical Science* is one of the most interesting issues I have seen in a long time. The first article by Lee and Zelen deals with a Bayesian approach to sample size determination in clinical trials. The authors claim that the traditional approach of arbitrarily fixing a significance level at 5% and then determining the sample size necessary to have, say, 80% power at a fixed value of delta (the non-centrality parameter) has led to too many false-positives.

The second paper, "Data Mining for Fun and Profit" by Hand, Blunt, Kelly and Adams provides an overview of current developments in data mining and data quality issues. There are many excellent up-to-date references given and a number of interesting examples presented.

In the third article Pfannkuch and Wild summarize points made by a number of prominent statisticians on statistical thinking and practice.

The fourth paper by Hall and Tajvidi provides practical ways of handling temporal trends when extreme-value data is used.

The last article is an interview from 1997 with Milton Sobel. I have known Milton since the late 1970s when he used to visit my colleague the late Ram Uppuluri at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Milton and Ram worked on statistical tables that provided solutions for very interesting and difficult combinatorial problems in probability including occupancy problems and generalizations of the birthday problem. The interview traces Milton's life starting with his upbringing and college education in New York. Funny stories about his initial involvement with Deming and his service in World War II are covered. After the war Milton became a student of Abraham Wald and because of Wald's untimely death he was the only student to officially complete a thesis under Wald. Milton made major

contributions to sequential analysis and the theory of ranking and selection.

The September issue of the *AMSTAT News* is a special issue that highlights careers in statistics (a major area of interest in our chapter). There are interesting historical articles about Ed Deming, Florence Nightingale, Ada Byron, Gertrude Cox and Herman Hollerith. Ralph O'Brien provides guidance for job applications. There are also several interesting stories from statistical interns and "Day in the Life" vignettes from Jane Booker, Janet Buckingham, Kathleen Cronin, Stu Hunter and Jack Wang. Christine McLaren interviews Janet Riley (the Director of Rothamsted Experimental Station). You will probably find these and other articles in the issue intriguing and may want to recommend them to students thinking about careers in statistics.

### JSM 2000 Resampling Short Course

On August 12, 2000 at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Indianapolis, Phil Good and Michael Chernick presented a one-day short course on resampling methods. Most of the material for the course was based on their recent books ("Permutation Tests" Second Edition (2000) by Good and "Bootstrap Methods" (1999) by Chernick). This course was a slight modification of the class they gave in May 2000 at Cal State Long Beach. Some minor changes were made based on feedback from the students at the Long Beach course. A major change was the addition of discussion about available software. The course is being expanded to a two-day class at the Deming Conference this December. In addition to expanding the discussion on bootstrap confidence intervals, the instructors will add a computer session on the second day where applications will be demonstrated.

### Seminars and Conferences

#### RAND Statistics Seminars

(Thursdays, Main Conference Room, RAND, 1700 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Refreshments served from 3:30 p.m.; seminars begin at 4 p.m. To register and for further information, please contact Susan Paddock at (310) 393-0411, x7628, or Carolyn Rogers x7562)

October 19, 2000

**Speaker:** Padhraic Smyth, University of California, Irvine, Information and Computer Science

**Topic:** "What's New in Data Mining?"

**Abstract:** Is data mining really any more than conventional statistical ideas being applied to massive data sets? This talk will explore this question, examining

**RAND Statistics Seminars (continued from p. 2)**

how ideas from both statistics and computer science have each influenced the practice of data mining. Data miners tend to place more emphasis on algorithms and computational issues and less emphasis on traditional statistical concepts such as estimation and inference. The talk will review the main ideas, techniques, and applications that are currently in vogue in data mining. We will focus on techniques and methods that are relatively new in a statistical context, including scalable algorithms, rule and pattern finding, and analysis of text and Web data. The talk will conclude by emphasizing that while much of current data mining could simply be viewed as "the application of well-known statistical methods to massive data sets" there are also numerous new problems and associated opportunities for statistics.

**November 16, 2000**

**David Heckerman, Microsoft Research**  
Topic: TBD

**December 14, 2000**

**Tom Santner, Ohio State University**  
Topic: TBD

**January 18, 2000**

**John Eltinge, Bureau of Labor Statistics**  
Topic: "Evaluation of Repeated Sampling Operating Characteristics in the Analysis of Complex Survey Data"

**LearnStat on November 3 offers Course**  
"Communication Skills in Statistical Consulting". Place: Seaver House at Pomona College in Claremont, CA. For more information see ASA website  
<http://amstat.org/education/consulting.html>

**Student Paper Competition**

Statistical Computing Section of American Statistical Association has announced Student Paper Competition 2001. Anyone who is a student in the fall of 2000 (undergraduate, Masters, and Ph.D.) is eligible to participate. Winners will present their papers in a topic-contributed session at the 2001 Joint Statistical Meetings in Atlanta. The Section will pay registration fees for the winners as well as a substantial allowance for transportation to the meetings and lodging (which in most cases covers these expenses completely). Information on the competition can be accessed on the website of the Statistical Computing Section from the ASA website at [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org). Inquiries and application materials should be mailed to: Student Paper Competition, c/o Lionel Galway, The RAND Corporation, 1700 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90407, or [Lionel\\_Galway@rand.org](mailto:Lionel_Galway@rand.org)

Please send items for the next issue of The Southern California Statistician to Jeff Vaks at  
[jevaks@beckman.com](mailto:jevaks@beckman.com)

With March-April 2000 issue, we started electronic publishing of the Newsletter that is posted on the SCASA website:  
<http://orion.oac.uci.edu/~rnewcomb/statistics/scasa/scasa.html>. Members who would like to receive the Newsletter electronically are asked to send their e-mail addresses to Andy Dagens, Chapter Secretary, at [adagens@pacbell.net](mailto:adagens@pacbell.net).

**Job Opportunities**

**UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Senior Programmer.** Qualifications: SAS UNIX and PC environment. Masters degree in Public Health (M.P.H.) with mathematical background. Contact Bernie Dempsey, 10911 Weyburn Avenue, Suite 300, Los Angeles, CA 90024, Fax: (310) 794-2686, email: [bdempsey@ucla.edu](mailto:bdempsey@ucla.edu).

**The Collaborative Alcohol Research Center has openings for:** 1. **Research Data Manager.** Min. BS/BA in related field, SAS, SPSS, STATA, PC operating systems. 2. **Data Analyst.** Statistics, experience with SAS, STATA, SPSS. Contact Dr. Steve R. Mitchell at [stmitche@cdrewu.edu](mailto:stmitche@cdrewu.edu), or by fax (323) 357-3477.

**Kaiser Permanente, Pasadena, Sr. Health Care Analyst.** Min. BS/BA, experience in clinical/health data systems. MS Access, MS Excel, and MS Word essential, SAS/FOCUS desirable. Contact Ms. Freda Melnick at (626) 405-3623 or [Freda.L.Melnick@kp.org](mailto:Freda.L.Melnick@kp.org).

**Enron, Wind Energy Data Analyst.** Microsoft Access, Excel, Word, etc. College degree. Contact Patricia Hunter, Enron Wind, P. O. Box 1970, Tehachapi, CA 93561

**Quest Global is seeking:**  
**LIMS Analyst/Lab Automation Specialist (min. BS)**  
**BIOINFORMATICS TEAM LEAD (Ph.D.)**  
**BIOINFORMATICS CURATOR (Ph.D.)**

Contact Max Reynolds at P.O. Box 411991, St. Louis, MO 63141; (314) 878-8866; info at <http://www.questglobal.com/>

National Jewish Medical and Research Center is recruiting for Ph.D. and Master's level Biostatisticians and SAS programmers. For information Email [MurphyJ@njc.org](mailto:MurphyJ@njc.org).

Allergan has openings for:  
Principal Biostatistician, Ph.D. Biostatistics/Statistics,  
4 years Pharmaceutical industry experience.

Clinical Data Specialist, Ph.D./MS/BA, 2-6 years experience in AE coding, Global CRF/Database Standardization. Contact Colleen Cowley, Allergan Inc., 2525 Dupont Drive, T2-1B/CC, Irvine, CA 92623, (800) 347-4500 x5945

Mathsoft is looking for a full-time S-PLUS Trainer to join Educational Services Team in Seattle, WA. Contact David Remer, MathSoft Inc, 800-569-0123 x247

#### Consulting and Collaborating Workshop Reservation Form

Name and Affiliation(as you'd like it on badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information (preferably e-mail address, phone OK, too): \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch selection: Chicken/Pasta  Vegetarian

Please write a check to SCASA: \$8 for students, \$25 for others with reservations postmarked by October 27; thereafter, \$10 for students and \$30 for others. Send this form and check to Janet Myhre, Reed Institute, Claremont McKenna College, 850 Columbia Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711-6420. If you require confirmation that your reservation was received, please send e-mail to [hdyck@csusb.edu](mailto:hdyck@csusb.edu) four days after you mail your check, or enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Refund requests must include self-addressed, stamped envelope and cannot be honored after October 27, 2000.

Have you paid your chapter dues? Please check the mailing label for the date of renewal of your membership. If you are in arrears or have change of address contact the Chapter Secretary Andy Daxis at [adaxis@pacbell.net](mailto:adaxis@pacbell.net) or (626) 359-8111 x2354, fax (626) 301-8393.

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Beckman Coulter, Inc.,  
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Brea, CA 92822-8000