



# The Southern California STATISTICIAN

❖ Meeting Memo and Newsletter ❖

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## DECEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

### Los Angeles Area Meeting

**Who:** Dr. Maryann Hill, Vice President  
BMDP Statistical Software

**Topic:** Statistical Consulting Minus the Statistics:  
Problems Encountered While Consulting

**When:** Thursday, December 15, 1983  
6:00 - Social Hour  
7:00 - Dinner  
8:00 - Speaker

**Price:** \$11.00 - Regular Members  
\$9.00 - Students  
Prime Rib (Holiday Special)

**Where:** UCLA Faculty Center  
SEQUOIA #1  
University of California  
Los Angeles

**Dinner Reservations:** Please place your dinner reservations by Tuesday, December 13 at one of the following numbers:

### **Orange County Area:**

Bob Newcomb (714) 856-5366  
856-6807

### **Los Angeles Area:**

Marge Lebsock (213) 475-5700  
(BMDP Stat Software)

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Chapter will be held on January 26, 1984. Please reserve this evening on your calendar!

### The Speaker

Dr. Maryann Hill is currently the Vice President of BMDP Statistical Software in Los Angeles. She holds a Ph.D. in Biostatistics from UCLA with minors in Mathematics and Epidemiology. In 1982, Dr. Hill was elected Secretary of the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association and in 1983 she was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Statistical Computing Section of the American Statistical Association. Her professional interests are in the areas of application of robust statistics, missing value procedures and research design.

### Abstract

Statistical Consulting Minus the Statistics:  
Problems Encountered While Consulting

Classical Statistics as taught in standard college statistics courses often is not the major emphasis or effort involved in statistical consulting. The consultant spends much time communicating or trying to communicate such things as:

- o In a large study, 95% of the money and staff time will be spent in data cleaning and screening; and only 5% for the analyses and final report.
- o The hiring of staff with low hourly rates often does not result in minimal total job cost.
- o An hour spent with a good consulting statistician before the data are collected may save much time and grief.

When it comes to the actual analyses more communication skills and creativity are required. For example, the study P.I.'s emotional involvement with the effort expended to collect data may cloud the path to a clear analysis. The P.I. may feel that it took time and money to collect the data, therefore all variables should be used in the model.



How does the consultant convince the P.I. that more is not necessarily better. The ingenuity of the consultant is also tested when he or she must be a detective ferreting out anomalous responses—e.g., a small subset of the cases may respond differently than the majority. Missing data, repeated measures, and censored data are also problems that consultants may face. Examples drawn from consulting experience will be used to illustrate these problems and the solutions open to consultants.

#### **Notice** **1984**

##### **California Mathematics Project Funds Available**

The California Mathematics Project Advisory Committee has announced that funds again are available for mathematics education project proposals.

Proposal guidelines will be mailed November 1. A tentative deadline for submitting proposals to the Committee is January 15, 1984. A tentative date of award is February 15, 1984. Specific deadlines and details for submission will be available with the guidelines, November 1. For further information before that date, call Marie Collins, (415) 642-7800.

##### **Under Graduate Paper Session at Philadelphia**

A session of contributed papers for undergraduate students is planned for the ASA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia August 13-16, 1984, sponsored by the Section on Statistical Education.

Abstracts from undergraduate students should be submitted in the same manner and using the same submission form as for other contributed papers, but marked "Undergraduate Session" on the form under "Type" and "Section." (See Amstat News for September-October and November 1983 for the forms and other details.) It is requested that the undergraduate status of the author be attested to by an ASA/member-sponsor of the paper. Please note the March 9 deadline and the other requirements.

This is ASA's first experience with such a venture. It opens a number of opportunities for professors and students: local contests, with the prizes being travel expenses for winners to present the papers at the national meeting; car-pooling a group of students, especially for those within driving distance of Philadelphia; personal attention to outstanding students in suggesting topics suitable for undergraduate investigation; possible support from the local Chapter of ASA for student travel expenses; presentation of "trial runs" at local meetings, etc.

For further information, please contact Dr. John Hewett (Program Chair of the Section on Statistical Education), Department of Statistics, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211; or Dr. Paul Minton, Institute of Statistics, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23284.

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