



SCASA LEADERSHIP LEGACY CORNER

# Special Issue

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From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1957-1958 • Alvord Leslie Boeck, Kwikset Locks**



**Alvord Leslie Boeck (18 Mar 1903 – 1 Sep 1970)** was born in Davenport, Iowa, and graduated from a Davenport High School in 1922. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois (now the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and married Catherine Elizabeth Stapp (1903-1984) on July 3, 1928. In June 1933, he obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California (USC) with a dissertation titled *The Economic Essentials of World Peace*. During World War II, Dr. Boeck served as an attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Quito, Ecuador. He was **president of SCASA from 1957 to 1958**, while working as a market analyst for Kwikset Locks Hardware Co. in Anaheim, California, until his retirement in April 1969. After retiring, he taught economics at California State University, Fullerton, until his passing at the age of 67. In his later years, he resided in Corona del Mar, California. The photo above shows Dr. Boeck at the National Junior Chamber of Commerce Convention on June 3, 1938, as chairman of the speakers bureau and a key leader scheduled to give multiple talks.





From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1965-1966 • Arthur William Gutenberg, USC**



**Arthur William Gutenberg (10 Nov 1920 – 10 Mar 2001)** was a pioneering management consultant, educator, author, and advocate for minority advancement in business. As the 1965–1966 President of the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association (SCASA), Gutenberg

exemplified leadership that blended statistical rigor with management practices.

Born in Darmstadt, Germany, Gutenberg immigrated to the United States, where he earned undergraduate and master's degrees in engineering and business from UC Berkeley, followed by a doctorate in business from Stanford University in 1955. He served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and military intelligence during World War II, making use of his fluency in German, French, and Italian.

Gutenberg's academic career spanned 25 years at the USC Marshall School of Business, where he taught management and organization. He also founded and directed the Business Research Bureau at Arizona State University. As a consultant, he led his own management firm from 1960 onward, serving clients in both the public and private sectors. Internationally, he directed Project Pakistan for USC and the U.S. Agency for International Development in the 1960s, helping develop management education and infrastructure in collaboration with the University of Karachi. Domestically, he led USC's Consortium for Graduate Study for Minorities and helped create internships with Los Angeles County to support minority students.

Gutenberg authored five books and numerous articles, including *A Primer for Productivity Management* and *Profitable Studio Management*. His scholarship spanned management control theory, labor relations, and business productivity. He also served as an arbitrator, chaired the Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission (1982–1984), and was a dedicated member of the Executive Service Corps of Southern California. In his later years, he contributed actively to USC's Emeriti College, earning the Leibovitz Award for Distinguished Service to Seniors.

Arthur W. Gutenberg passed away at the age of 80, in Pasadena, and was interred at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, CA.

From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1966-1967 • Wendell MacCoby, LADWP**



**Wendell MacCoby (11 Apr 1917 – 13 Dec 1994)** received a master's degree in political science from the University of California, Los

Angeles, in 1950. He began working for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) in the 1950s as a statistical analyst and remained with that agency until his retirement. His first wife, Mabel, with whom he had two children, died in 1983. Upon retirement, he returned to Oregon to live. In 1985, he married Helen Joyce Vershum, and the couple settled in the Tigard, Oregon. He was a **president of SCASA in 1966-1967**. He is buried in Evergreen Memorial Park, McMinnville, OR.





From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1967-1968 • Arnold Frank Goodman, McDonnell Douglas Corporation**

**1997-1998 • Arnold Frank Goodman, The UCI Statistical Consulting Center**



**Arnold (Arnie) Frank Goodman (10 Feb 1933 – 30 Oct 2018)** was a distinguished statistician who made significant contributions to the field throughout his career. He earned his

Bachelor's degree in Statistics from North Carolina State University in 1954 and his Ph.D. in Statistics from Stanford University in 1961, with a dissertation titled "*The Selection of an Optimum Sampling Partition*", under the advisement of Herman Chernoff (b. 1923) and Emanuel Parzen (1929–2016).



Arnie began his career as a statistician at McDonnell Douglas Missile and Space Systems Division, later working at Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) and the County of Los Angeles. He played a pivotal role in reviving the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association (SCASA), serving as its president in 1967. This accomplishment is commemorated by the **gavel** he donated to the chapter, which continues to pass from president to president alongside the chapter's charter, signed in February 1928. Notably, he served as SCASA President twice — first from 1967 to 1968 and again from 1997 to 1998 while working at the University of California, Irvine's Statistical Consulting Center during his retirement.

One of Arnie's proudest achievements at SCASA was founding the Interface Symposia. The first Interface Symposium took place in Southern California in 1967, sponsored by the local chapters of both the American Statistical Association and the Association for Computing Machinery. The second and third symposia, also held in Southern California, expanded into two-day conferences. The strong interest generated by these initial meetings inspired the

organizers to continue the series, leading to the fourth symposium in Irvine, California, in 1970. By the late 1980s, the Interface Foundation of North America was formally incorporated.

Arnie was married to his wife Julie for 62 years until her passing in March 2018. He passed away later that year at the age of 85 and was laid to rest at Pacific View Memorial Park in Corona del Mar, California.

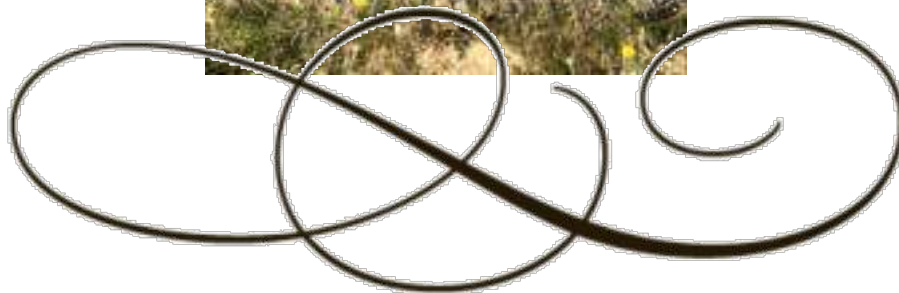


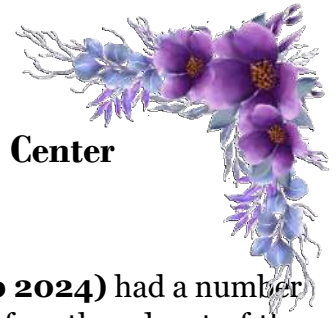
From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1968-1969 • Stanley G. Somerville, Southern California Gas Company**



**Stanley Gordon Somerville (6 Jul 1913 – 6 Aug 2001)** was born in Willmar, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1939. In 1942, he married Mayeda Blanche Aitken (1915–1994). Somerville served as president of SCASA during 1968–1969 while working at Southern California Gas Company. He was laid to rest at Grand View Memorial Park in Glendale, California.





From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1970-1971 • Nancy R. Mann, North American Aviation Science Center**



**Nancy R. Mann (6 May 1925 – 27 Feb 2024)** had a number of careers, some of which she pursued before the advent of the Women's Movement in the late 1960s. By 1950, at age 25, she had earned both a BA and an MA in mathematics from UCLA and had worked for a year at the Institute for Numerical Analysis, part of the U.S. Bureau of Standards. Shortly after this, she became a U.S. Air Force wife. A few years later, in St. John's, Newfoundland—headquarters at that time of the U.S.A.F. Sixth Air Rescue Squadron—she became the mother of a son. Four and a half years later, back in the civilian world in Los Angeles, she bore a daughter.

In 1959, with a National Institutes of Health fellowship, Mann returned to UCLA to pursue a Ph.D. in biostatistics (with a "biomedical field" of psychology). In 1962, she became an aerospace research scientist at the Rocketdyne Division of what later became Rockwell International. In 1965, some of the research she performed at Rockwell contributed to her doctoral thesis and helped her earn her UCLA Ph.D.

With the help of SCASA, **where she served as president from 1970 to 1971**, Mann organized two national conferences on Computer Science and Statistics and one on Statistics and the Environment. More in line with her own research was a NATO conference on Reliability, which was held in The Hague, Netherlands, and for which she was in charge of the scientific program.

By the mid-seventies, Mann had published more than 50 research papers in various technical journals and had traveled to cities on four other continents (e.g., Cairo, São Paulo, Tokyo, Lisbon, Budapest) to present the results of her research. During these years, she also spent a week at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania as a Distinguished Visiting Professor. In 1974, she saw the publication of the book *Methods for Statistical Analysis of Reliability and Life Data*, co-written with Ray E. Schafer of Hughes Aircraft Company and Nozer D. Singpurwalla of George Washington University. This text, which consisted largely of research results by the three authors, became the premier reference manual in the field of Reliability for nearly 15 years and remained in print for 24 years, until 1998.

In 1982, Dr. Mann was awarded the IEEE Reliability Society Award and, in 1986, the ASQ Reliability Division Award, both for contributions to the discipline of Reliability. She was an elected member of the International Statistical Institute and a Fellow and former Vice President (1982–1984) of the American Statistical Association. For many years, she served as Associate Editor of two major professional journals, *Technometrics* and the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*.

In 1978, Mann moved to UCLA from the Rockwell International Science Center in Thousand Oaks, California, where, during her four-year tenure, she had been the only female among the senior technical



staff members. At UCLA, with a joint appointment as a research professor in the Biomathematics Department and the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, she was able, as at Rockwell, to conduct her own government-supported research (with the help of a research assistant).



Included in Mann's research at UCLA was her two-year study of drug-usage relapse and remission behavior, sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Results of this study provided a breakthrough in understanding recidivism in undesirable habitual behavior and addiction. Dr. Mann found that there were three types of abstinence behavior: one of moderate length, based on trying to abstain (as with a New Year's resolution or going on a diet); one of short duration, based on the motivation of others alone (like probation officers or emotionally involved

relatives); and very long periods of staying clean as a result of transformation brought about by profound personal experiences (like becoming a parent, falling in love, or finding religion). These results led to implications involving more general inferences and contributed to the thesis of a book that Dr. Mann worked on.

Shortly after completing her drug recidivism research, Mann, with the support of the U.S. Army and the Office of Naval Research, began work on a book, *The Keys to Excellence*, about the philosophy of statistician W. Edwards Deming. Dr. Deming was considered the person most responsible for both the Japanese Industrial Miracle and the U.S. Quality Movement of the 1980s. First, second, and third editions of *The Keys to Excellence* were published in 1985, 1987, and 1989, respectively; editions in Portuguese and Japanese were published in São Paulo and Tokyo, respectively, and a British version was published in London, which remained available on the Internet.

From 1978 through 1982, Mann was a member of The Committee on National Statistics and an Advisory Committee on EMP (electromagnetic pulse), both sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences. In 1979, she was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy to a four-year term on the Advisory Board to the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Just prior to that, she served for three years on an American Statistical Association Advisory Committee to the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

In Marquis Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, and Who's Who in Finance and Industry, Nancy R. Mann was listed as an entrepreneur (her own description). She took on this role in 1982, when she founded and operated what turned out to be an extremely successful company, Quality Enhancement Seminars, Inc. (QES), which employed over 20 people and, for more than a decade, produced monthly four-day seminars featuring Dr. Deming in various cities around the country and in England. After the first couple of years, each of these monthly seminars attracted over 500 people from government, industry, and education. Together with Mann's company's satellite broadcasts of many of the seminars, Dr. Deming's presentations provided the basis for a wide-ranging network of many thousands of individuals dedicated to his principles of optimization and never-ending improvement. Many of them remained actively engaged in studying his ideas.

From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1972-1973 • Stephen Richard Webb, McDonnell-Douglas Corporation**



**Stephen Richard Webb (3 Jul 1938 – 18 Jun 2024)** was a distinguished statistician and aerospace consultant whose professional career spanned groundbreaking contributions to space exploration, defense systems, and applied statistics. Known for his analytical precision, intellectual curiosity, and collaborative spirit, Webb's work left a lasting imprint on both industry and professional organizations.

Born in Franklin, Indiana, and raised in Urbana, Illinois, Webb showed early promise in science, earning a Westinghouse Science Scholarship as a high school student. He graduated with a BS in Mathematics from the University of Illinois in 1959, followed by an MA (1960) and PhD in Statistics (1962) from the University of Chicago. Soon after, he moved to Southern California to embark on a pioneering career in aerospace.

Webb began as Principal Scientist of Statistics at Rocketdyne, where he contributed to NASA's Apollo program by working on rocket heat shield designs through 1968. He then advanced to a management role at McDonnell Douglas Aeronautics, publishing influential papers on experimental design and earning multiple citations for Outstanding Contributions to Aerospace Literature. His expertise in applying statistical methods to complex engineering challenges made him a sought-after leader in the industry.

Later, as head of the California Program Office for Teledyne Brown Engineering, Webb directed projects in ballistic missile defense simulations and anti-satellite weapons testing—areas critical to national security during the Cold War era. As an independent space systems analyst, he secured private and government contracts, notably evaluating the NORAD missile warning system and advising Rockwell International on the OSCAR anti-satellite mission effectiveness model.

Webb maintained a lifelong commitment to the statistical profession. A member of the American Statistical Association (ASA) for over 50 years, he served as the president of SCASA from 1972 to 1973. His leadership roles in the ASA reflected both his technical expertise and his dedication to advancing the field of statistics.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Webb applied his organizational talents to a variety of community activities in Orange County, supporting youth programs, outdoor recreation, and the performing arts. He died peacefully at the age of 85 at St. Francis' Home Care in Mission Viejo, surrounded by his family.

From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1979-1981 • Wallace R. Blischke, USC**



**Wallace “Wally” Robert Blischke (20 Apr 1934 – 2 Dec 2013)**, born in Oak Park, IL, was a distinguished statistician specializing in reliability, warranty analysis, and quality assurance. He earned his B.S. in Mathematics from Elmhurst College in 1956, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Statistics from Cornell University (in 1958 and 1961, respectively). His career began in aerospace and consulting firms before he joined the faculty at the University of Southern California in 1972, where he taught in the Marshall School of Business for 27 years. Dr.

Blischke was a prolific scholar, authoring over 50 publications and co-authoring or editing six books, four on warranty and two on reliability. He frequently lectured at conferences and universities across five continents. A Fellow of the American Statistical Association, he also served as an Associate Editor for multiple scientific journals. He served as a **president of SCASA 1974 to 1975**, and then again, **1979 to 1981**. He was a member of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Institute of Management Sciences, Institute of Mathematics Statistics, and Biometric Society. After his retirement, Dr. Blischke continued working as a private consultant specializing in data analysis, experimental design, sampling, reliability, quality assurance, warranty, and litigation support. He is buried at Valhalla Memorial Park in North Hollywood, Los Angeles County.



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1977-1979 • Robert Newcomb, UCI**

**1983-1985 • Robert Newcomb, UCI**



**Jr. Robert (Bob) Lewis Newcomb (2 Aug 1932 – 10 Jun 2014)**

was a transformative force in the advancement of statistics education, consultation, and community building in Southern California and beyond. With over four decades of dedicated service to the University of California, Irvine (UCI) and the American Statistical Association (ASA), Bob leaves behind a legacy defined by mentorship, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to statistical excellence.

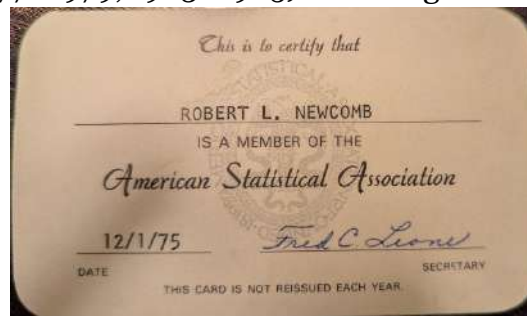
Bob Newcomb's remarkable life began in Oceanside, California, where he developed an early love for surfing, cars, and the vibrant Southern California beach culture. Graduating from Oceanside High School at the young age of 16, Bob first attended the University of Redlands. It was then that Bob met Elizabeth (Betty) Engvall of Pasadena. They married in August of 1958. Later Bob paused his studies to serve in the U.S. Navy as a pilot. Flying the Douglas AD-5N Skyraider, one of the first aircraft equipped with night vision capabilities, he was stationed in Hawaii where he would often surf at dawn after overnight flights. After completing two tours of duty, Bob returned to academia, ultimately earning a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1968 and joined the UCI faculty in 1969. For more than 45 years, he shaped the statistical education of thousands of students, inspiring many to pursue careers in statistics through his engaging teaching style and mentorship. In 1980, he was recognized with UCI's Distinguished Teaching Award, honoring his passion for learning and excellence in instruction.



A visionary leader, Bob founded the UCI Center for Statistical Consulting in 1996, directing it until 2011, and played a pivotal role in establishing UCI's Department of Statistics in 2002. His leadership extended to interdisciplinary research, where he served as Director of the Biostatistics and Informatics Core of UCI's NIH-funded General Clinical Research Center (2000–2010) and later the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design Unit within the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science (2010–2013).



Bob's impact on the American Statistical Association and the Southern California statistical community was profound. An active member of the Southern California Chapter of the ASA (SCASA) since 1976, he served as chapter president twice (1977–1979, 1983–1985). He inaugurated enduring programs such as the annual Applied Statistics Workshop and Career Day, fostering professional development and community engagement. Recognizing the diverse needs of the region, Bob facilitated the creation of the San Diego and Orange County/Long Beach ASA chapters and served as founding president of the latter (2012–2014), encouraging regional collaboration while strengthening ASA's outreach.



At the national level, Bob served on the ASA Council of Chapters Governing Board, the Statistical Graphics Section, and the ASA Committee on Career Development, among others. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions, he was elected ASA Fellow in 2003, lauded for his "service as an outstanding ambassador of the statistics profession through passionate and inspirational teaching, mentoring students, and extraordinary contributions at the local and national levels."

Bob's enduring legacy is honored through the Robert L. Newcomb Graduate Fellowship Fund and the annual Newcomb Lecture at UCI, continuing his vision of supporting student careers in statistics. He is remembered not only as a distinguished statistician but as a mentor, colleague, and friend whose warmth, generosity, and vision enriched the lives of countless students and professionals. His tireless advocacy for statistics as a collaborative, community-driven discipline continues to inspire statisticians across generations.

Outside of his statistical career, Bob's extraordinary contributions to collegiate volleyball and student-athlete mentorship are widely recognized. He established the UC Santa Barbara men's volleyball program in 1963 and, after moving to UC Irvine in 1969, founded the Anteaters' men's volleyball program the following year, serving as head coach through 1975. Under his guidance, UCI became a member of the Southern California Intercollegiate Volleyball Association (later renamed the Western Intercollegiate Volleyball Association), where Bob served as commissioner from 1975 to 1992. His tireless advocacy led to the creation of the Men's Collegiate Volleyball Grants Program in 1988, and he served on the NCAA Men's Volleyball Championship Committee, taking on the role of chair in 1990.

From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1991-1992 • Michael Ross Chernick, Risk Data Corporation**



**Michael Ross Chernick (11 Mar 1947 – 1 Jan 2021)**

was born in Havre de Grace, Maryland. He earned a Ph.D. in Operations Research from Stanford University and held an advanced degree in Statistics. From **1991 to 1992, he served as president of SCASA** while working at Risk Data Corporation. Dr. Chernick authored books on bootstrapping and biostatistics and contributed numerous articles to statistical, mathematical, and medical journals. He was elected a **Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA)** and was also a member of the International Biometric Society, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the Bernoulli Society, and the Royal Statistical Society. He had published many articles in professional journals and mathematical books on bootstrap methods and biostatistical methodologies.

Michael was a lifelong sports fan, especially the New York Yankees. He was married to Deborah Ann (née Lewandowski) for 32 years until his passing at the age of 73. He is buried in Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, Pennsylvania.



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1992-1993 • Peter Anthony “Tony” Lachenbruch, UCLA**



**Peter Anthony “Tony” Lachenbruch (5 Feb 1937–29 Jul 2021)** was a distinguished statistician known for his contributions to biostatistics and service to the profession. He earned a BA in mathematics from UCLA (1958), an MS from Lehigh University (1961), and a PhD in biostatistics from UCLA (1965). He then joined the University of North Carolina, becoming a professor in 1976. From 1976 to 1985, he was professor and head of biostatistics at the University of Iowa before returning to UCLA, where he chaired the biostatistics department in 1991–1992. Tony joined the FDA in 1992, serving as chief of the biostatistics branch until 1999 and later as director of the division of biostatistics through 2006. He then became a professor at Oregon State University, from where he retired. In retirement, he remained active on editorial boards for *Statistics in Medicine* and *Statistical Methods in Medical Research*. Tony was **president of SCASA (1992–1993) and ASA (2008)**, publishing over 200 papers and a monograph on discriminant analysis (1975). His numerous honors included recognition from the American Public Health Association, FDA, Biometric Society, and International Statistical Institute.

