

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

2007-2008 Daniel R. Jeske, Department of
Statistics, University of California, Riverside

After seventeen years at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey, I relocated to California in 2003 to embark on a second career in academia. I joined the Statistics Department at the University of California, Riverside, where I was appointed the first Director of the Statistical Consulting Collaboratory. Though the Collaboratory continues to thrive, I transitioned away from leading it in 2015 when I stepped down as Chair of the Department and ultimately moved into up-

per University Administration. For the past six years, I've served as Vice Provost at UCR.

It was my initial appointment as the Collaboratory Director that led me to engage with SCASA. Following Janet Myhre's term as President (1999–2000), she launched a series of SCASA fall workshops focused on statistical consulting and collaboration. In 2003, she invited, a newcomer to the area, to the event to share insights from my work at Bell Laboratories and present my vision for the Collaboratory at UCR.

Some of my earliest recollections of the chapter involve noticing the strong commitment to engaging students wherever possible. I immediately engaged this way by recruiting UCR students to speak at our Fall Kickoffs. I was excited and inspired when our chapter invited prominent speakers to deliver keynote addresses at our events. A standout moment was when ASA President Brad Efron visited the Fall Kickoff in 2004. We also organized Career Days, frequently held at City of Hope, where we proactively recruited companies and conducted mock interviews for students. In 2008, I arranged for ASA President Mary Ellen Bock to deliver the keynote speech at our Career Day.

Reflecting on our chapter's legacy, I'm struck by the remarkable contributions of multiple individuals I had the privilege to work with. Rodney Jee, who spearheaded our poster competitions and ISEF involvement. Alan Safer, who so competently led the organization of our applied workshops. Janet Myhre, who was the champion of integrating student participation into our events. Rob Gould, who launched the DataFest initiatives, and

Continues on the next page.

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner

Continued from the previous page.

Madeline Bauer and some of my Statistics Department colleagues who helped prepare students for their DataFest experience. Andy Dagis, who gave generously of his time in support of our Career Days. Harold Dyck and Mahtash Esfandiari who were ultimate team players when it came to the meticulous details around planning and executing our events, and Olga Korosteleva, whose tireless work then and now produces our outstanding newsletter. Together with the ongoing readiness of new members to step into leadership, including my former PhD student Rebecca Le who was SCASA President in 2021-2022, these efforts have made SCASA a standout example of engagement within the ASA.

I do remember feeling a bit disheartened by the split that led to the creation of the Orange County & Long Beach chapter, but over time, both chapters have emerged strong and vibrant. The successive generations of SCASA leadership have impressed me by meeting new challenges head-on and seizing fresh opportunities.

My experience in SCASA encouraged me to become more involved with ASA and I was elected to the ASA Council of Chapters Governing Board for a three-year term from 2011 to 2013. That experience allowed me to appreciate SCASA's strengths compared to other chapters. In 2014, I was elected to a three-year term on the ASA Board of Directors (2014–2016), where I proposed a program to distribute annual “stimulus funding” to chapters to support their activities, believing that ASA, with its strong financial footing, needed to better support local chapters. My proposal passed, and I’m pleased that each chapter continues to receive \$1,000 per year.

During my unsuccessful populist bid to be elected ASA President in 2020, my primary focus was expanding member engagement. I still see significant opportunities for growth in that area, but I deeply value the efforts of our local chapters, and I’m especially grateful to SCASA for playing a crucial role in my own professional growth.