

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner



From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

2011-2012 Andrew C. Daxis, City of Hope
National Medical Center

During my 32 years at City of Hope, one of the most rewarding aspects of my career was my deep involvement in the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association (SCASA). I co-planned and operated numerous Career Days at City of Hope's Platt

Conference Center, and proudly represented City of Hope at events across the region—from San Diego State University and UC Santa Barbara to pharmaceutical companies in La Jolla and workshops at Cal State Fullerton, Chapman University, and beyond. I helped organize City of Hope as a venue for several Applied Statistics Workshops, participated in meetings at UCLA organized by Robert Gould, and attended Olga Korosteleva's R courses in Irvine.

Serving as SCASA Secretary under Arnie Goodman, I ensured our chapter was highlighted in every issue of *Amstat News*. Later, as President, I experienced the organization at its most challenging and most resilient—navigating the turbulent period when the Orange County–Long Beach Chapter was founded. Despite the split, the loss of prominent members to retirement or relocation, and the concern that our chapter might lose momentum, we pressed forward. We held our first Poster Competition at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center following Rodney Jee's long and dedicated leadership, and continued Career Days and the Annual Workshop with the support of outstanding members like Robert Gould, Olga Korosteleva, Rebecca Le, Dan Jeske, and Harold Dyck.

SCASA was also a place for unexpected inspiration—like when Judea Pearl used our chapter as a general audience for his video course on *Causality*, or when Google in Silicon Beach shared their fascinating approaches to managing vast volumes of data. After my presidency, I stepped back to focus on learning the R language and eventually transitioned from City of Hope to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

I learned a great deal from leading the chapter, but ironically, my greatest satisfaction came from the collaborative, behind-the-scenes roles I held before and after my term. SCASA has been a source of professional growth, intellectual stimulation, and community.