

# SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner



## From the list of Past Presidents of SCASA:

**1996-1997 Joyce C. Niland, City of Hope National Medical Center**

**Q: Could you update us on your time with SCASA and beyond?** Sure - after completing my PhD and serving as Assistant Professor at USC School of Medicine for several years, I was recruited to City of Hope (COH) as Director of Biostatistics in 1989. I was actively involved in SCASA at that time, serving as President from 1996-1997. During my tenure, I volunteered COH to serve as the venue for the SCASA Careers Day, and an awesome biostatistician in my Department, Andy Dagis, was instrumental in organizing this event there for several years (serving as SCASA President himself in 2011-2012). I made many great friends through SCASA, including Anita Ianucci, VP for Academic Affairs, who assisted with Careers Day as well; Anita and I are still in touch, and share a love of antique shows. She provided this photo from a lecture I was giving in the 1990s (note the groovy glasses!).

In 1997 I was proud to be appointed as the first female Department Chair at COH, creating the Department of Information Sciences, which combined biostatistics, clinical research information management, cancer registry, and biomedical informatics into a synergistic hub for collecting and analyzing data.

At that time COH was running about 500 clinical trials per year, and we built one of the first electronic data management systems to support all of these. In 1998 I was elected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), served as ASA Vice President from 2003-2005, and became the first holder of the Edward and Estelle Alexander Endowed Chair in Information Sciences in 2006.



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The latest stage of my career involves being the Principal Investigator of 3 national coordinating center grants in the areas of stem cell and diabetes research. Since 2017 I've served as founding Chair of a new COH Department of Diabetes & Cancer Discovery Science. I'm still enjoying this position today, working full-time from our home in Santa Barbara, which I share with my husband Dr. Stanley Azen (whom some of you may remember as the founding father of Biostatistics at USC, and an incredibly accomplished pianist). This picture was taken in our SB home earlier this year (post-cataract surgery for me – no glasses!).



**Joyce C. Niland, Ph.D.**  
Chair, Department of Diabetes & Cancer Discovery Science  
Diabetes and Metabolism Research Institute  
Edward & Estelle Alexander Chaired Professor, Beckman  
Research Institute

**Stanley Azen, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Biostatistics/Epidemiology  
Department of Preventive Medicine  
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