

DataFest 2013 — Thanks!

By *Robert Gould*

DataFest 2013 was a tremendous success, thanks in large part to our "VIP" visitors, who helped show the students what life will be like in the "real world." We had about 100 students from 5 local colleges and universities. They worked hard, and had a great time, and you were a big part of the reason that they had so much fun. So many thanks! This year, the data came courtesy of the dating service eHarmony, and students were challenged to analyze "matches" to see why some potential matches chose to communicate with each other, and others did not. Students, working on teams, had 48 hours to do their analyses, and were aided by VIP visitors, graduate student consultants, and lots and lots of food. The data had one million entries and several hundred variables, and so were very rich. The students had fun, and produced original and interesting analyses, with titles such as "Message me? Maybe," "Love Can Be Race-y," "How Can e-Harmony Increase User Satisfaction While Simultaneously Increasing Revenue?"

We were expecting as many as 30 teams, although only 19 survived through the end of the weekend. We asked each of these 19 teams to prepare a one-slide, 60-second presentation. At the last minute, we told them



that, in order to move onto the next round, they would have to "match up" with another team, and present as a "super team."

Nine "super teams" then moved to the next round. They were allowed 5 minutes and three slides for their presentation to judges **Mark Handcock**, **Don Ylvisaker**, and **Damla Senturk**. The judges decided not to award an "external data" award, because the data did not lend themselves well to this. Instead, they gave two Insight awards. The **winner**s were

- **Best Insight I**
 - ◇ Teams Satisfaction + Burrito Thunder (UCLA)
- **Best Insight II**
 - ◇ Teams Chirp + Stingrays (Pomona College)
- **Best Visualization**
 - ◇ University of Statistical Champions (USC)

A summary of the weekend will be available on the wiki: <http://datafest.stat.ucla.edu>

If you have data suggestions for the next year, please let me know!
Send an email to Rob Gould at rgould@stat.ucla.edu.

IN THIS ISSUE PAGE

DataFest 2013	
—Thanks! 1
OC/LBASA Inaugural Career Day 2
AP Statistics Project Competition 3
2013 WNAR/IMS Meeting 4
ASA/IMS Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology 5
Normalcurvesaurus presents 6



OC/LBASA Inaugural Career Day

COMING UP ON MAY 4, 2013

The **Orange County /Long Beach chapter of the American Statistical Association** will be co-hosting its inaugural Statistics Career Day with California State University, Fullerton on **May 4th, 2013** at **Cal State Fullerton in the Titan Student Union**. Pre-registration and additional information can be found on the chapter webpage: **<http://community.amstat.org/OCLB/Home>**.

When: May 4th, 2013

9:30am - 3:00pm

Where: CSUF, Titan

Student Union

Cost: \$5/person

from companies and universities in the Orange County/Long Beach community that hire, train or edu-

Pre-registration and more information on <http://community.amstat.org/OCLB/Home>

Highlights of the event will include a key-note speech from a professional statistician recruiter, panels containing experts in statistical industry and education, exhibits

cate professional statisticians and access to an abundance of information on pursuing a career in statistics. **Registration fee for the event is \$5. Please pre-register using the chapter's webpage.**

AP STATISTICS PROJECT COMPETITION

COMING UP ON JUNE 1, 2013



The Southern California and Orange County/Long Beach Chapters of the American Statistical Association announce the 8th Annual AP Statistics Project Competitions to be held on Saturday morning June 1, 2013 at your choice from two locations: Cedars Sinai Hospital in Beverly Hills or Donald Bren Hall on campus of the University of California – Irvine.

This competition will be split between the two locations in order to serve better the Southern California region.

The competition at Cedars Sinai Hospital will be sponsored by the Southern California Chapter of the ASA. The newly formed Orange County/Long

Beach (OC/LB) Chapter of the ASA will sponsor the competition at UC -Irvine. The two competitions will follow similar formats and will be held on the same date.



More information regarding the event at either location can be found at

<http://postercomp.sc-asa.org/>

Registration for entering teams into the competition must be received no later than Friday, May 24, 2013.

Volunteer judges from the statistical community are needed to help with this event. If you are interested in volunteering, email catherine.bresee@cshs.org (for SCASA) or leekucera@mac.com (for OC/LBASA).



2013 WNAR/IMS Meeting

COMING UP ON JUNE 16-19, 2013

By *Brad Biggerstaff*

I am writing as President of the Western North American Region of the International Biometric Society to invite you and your colleagues to the **2013 WNAR/IMS Conference**, to be held on the Campus of the **University of California Los Angeles, June 16-19**.

Along with an exciting program, I am pleased to announce that this year's Presidential Invited Speaker is **Dr. John Chambers**, Consulting Professor of Statistics, Stanford University. Dr. Chambers will deliver his address "The Evolution of Two Paradigms in Statistical Software" the Monday afternoon of the conference.

Following WNAR tradition, a Short Course will be given on Sunday, June 16, this year by **Dr. Bryan Manley**, Statistical Consultant/Project Manager, Western EcoSystems Technology (WEST), Inc. Dr. Manley's course is "Computer-Intensive Statistics with Applications in Environmental Studies," which will be full-day.

The **Student Paper Competition** is back, and the registration and banquet fees are waived for students who participate in the competition!

As in the past there are cash awards for the best written paper and best

paper oral presentation. Rules for the student competition are on the conference website.

We will also continue our tradition of a **Junior Investigators Lunch Banquet**, which is free to all junior investigators and offers the opportunity to meet other colleagues in the region. The banquet will also feature an invited speaker and discussion on topics of interest to new investigators in statistics and biostatistics.

New this year is a **Poster Session**, to be held during the Opening Mixer, Sunday evening.

Detailed conference information is available at the conference website <http://wnar2013.biostat.ucla.edu>, and questions may be directed to the Local Organizer, **Dr. Kate Crespi**, ccrespi@ucla.edu. Registration information is available at the website, and please note that students can register at a reduced rate.

I ask you please to share this announcement with your colleagues and students. Conference registration is open now. **May 13, 2013 is the deadline for early registration and the deadline for abstract submission.**

I look forward to seeing you at UCLA in June!

The 20th ASA/IMS Spring Research Conference on Statistics in Industry and Technology



COMING UP ON JUNE 20-22, 2013

The **Spring Research Conference (SRC) 2013**, hosted by **UCLA Department of Statistics**, will be held on UCLA campus (at UCLA faculty center), **on Thursday, June 20, 2013 - Saturday, June 22, 2013**.

The aim of the SRC is to promote cross-disciplinary research in statistical methods in engineering, science and technology. This is to be interpreted broadly to cover a wide range of application areas including biotechnology, information, manufacturing sciences and environment. The conference is intended to stimulate interactions among statisticians, researchers in the application areas, and industrial practitioners. It will provide a forum where participants can describe current research, identify important problems and areas of application, and formulate future research directions.

Each invited or contributed session will be 90 minutes long. A contributed session will have four speakers



with a 20-minute talk each. The scientific programs end at 12noon on Saturday, followed by a lunch buffet.

Hotel reservation information is available. Registration is coming soon.

Early registration fee (regular \$300, student \$130) by **Sunday, May 19, 2013**.

All other information will be posted as soon as available on the event website

<http://www.stat.ucla.edu/~hqxu/src2013/>

Please contact **Weng Kee Wong** at wkwong@ucla.edu or **Hongquan Xu** at hqxu@stat.ucla.edu for information on programs and sponsorship.

Normalcurvesaurus presents



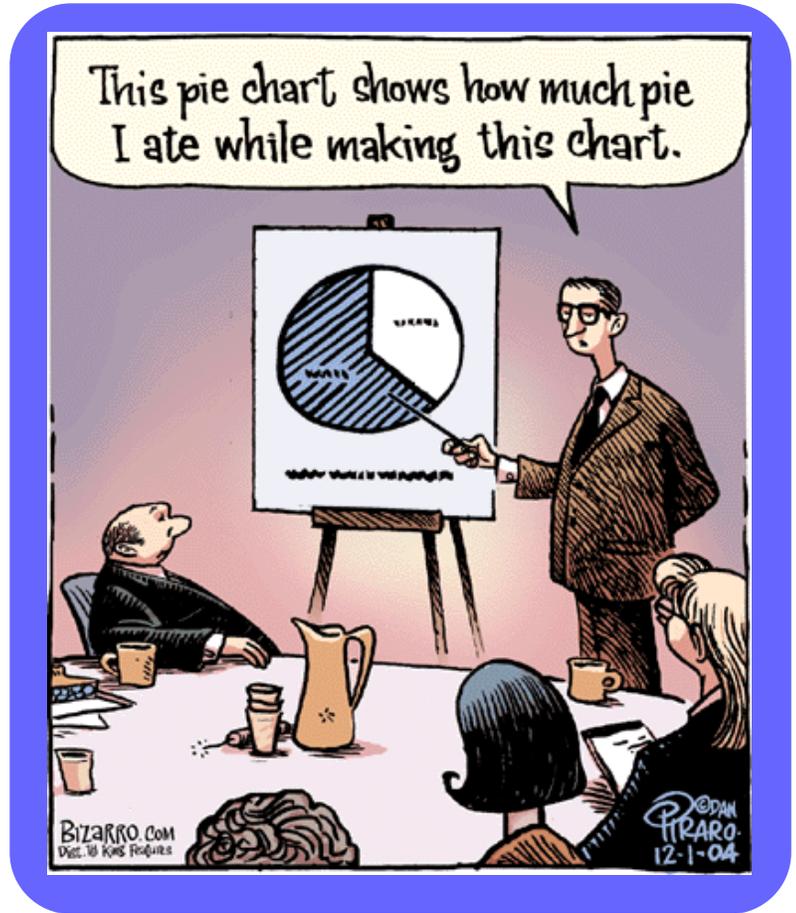
Statistics Haiku

Statistics is fun
Interpretive dance of math
Useful for research

Stats are not psychic
Can't go beyond our data
Don't extrapolate

To be normal or
not to be normal is the
major question here

— Undergraduate students,
Smith College, Northampton, MA



If you would like to submit an entry to the next issue, or simply have comments/suggestions/corrections/questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Olga.Korosteleva@csulb.edu.

Yours truly,

Olga Korosteleva

Editor-in-Chief