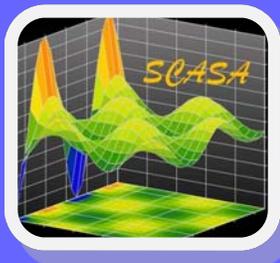


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# E-Tidings Newsletter

## SCASA Events and News



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2018

## ASA Council of Chapters

Summer issue of

### Chapter Chatter Newsletter

<http://community.amstat.org/coc/chapterchatternewsletter>

is out and on pages 23 and 24 it has a pretty nice summary of the SCASA's events this year. All thanks to Harold Dyck.

Thank you, Harold!

## Orange County R User Group *meetup*

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

PeopleSpace, 1691 Kettering Street, Irvine, CA

**Talk 1:** Classification and Statistical Analysis of Cancer Mutations Scores  
By: Yemi Odeyemi (Ph.D. Candidate in Data Science, Chapman University)

**Talk 2:** How Reactivity Works in Shiny Apps  
By: Tuck Nugn (Senior Data Scientist at Oracle)

*Pizza and soda will be served.*

More info on <https://www.meetup.com/OC-RUG/events/252695279/>

# STATFEST 2018 at Pomona College on September 22

Flyer is on  
the next  
page

*By Johanna Hardin, Pomona College*

StatFest is a one-day conference aimed at encouraging undergraduate students from historically underrepresented groups (African American, Hispanic, Native Americans) to consider careers and graduate studies in the Statistical Sciences. StatFest is an ongoing initiative of the American Statistical Association (ASA) through its Committee on Minorities in Statistics. StatFest will be held at Pomona College on Saturday September 22. The event is free, but registration is required by September 19. Registration is available at [https://pomona.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bqlqb21Ydod6L0p](https://pomona.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqlqb21Ydod6L0p). More information can be found here: <http://st47s.com/statfest.html>



The conference includes:

- ◆ presentations from established professionals, academic leaders, and current graduate students that will help attendees understand the opportunities and routes for success in the field,
- ◆ opportunities for networking,
- ◆ opportunity for attendees to submit and present posters describing their research, and
- ◆ panel forums that will provide information and tips for a rewarding graduate student experience, achieving success as an academic statistician, opportunities in the private and government arenas, among other topics.

Our first keynote address will be live streaming and given by Fernando Perez creator of iPython and Project Jupyter . He is a professor of statistics at the University of California/ Berkeley and Senior Fellow of the Berkeley Institute for Data Science. Fernando and the Project Jupyter Team were honored with this year's ACM Software System Award.

The second keynote address will be given by Talithia Williams who received her PhD from Rice University in Statistics. She is currently a professor of mathematics at Harvey Mudd College and co-host of the PBS series NOVA Wonders.

We will have two panel discussions featuring statisticians and data scientists from both industry and academia. There will be opportunities for undergraduates to ask questions and network.

**ASA** Committee on Minorities in Statistics

# StatFest 2018

## a conference for undergraduate students underrepresented in statistics and data science

**Date:** Saturday, September 22, 2018

**Time:** 9:00am - 4:00 pm

**Place:** Pomona College, Claremont, CA

**Cost:** Free (preregister by Wed, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> for food count)

**For more information and to register:**

<http://st47s.com/statfest.html>

**Contact:** Jo Hardin: [jo.hardin@pomona.edu](mailto:jo.hardin@pomona.edu)

Talithia Williams: [twilliams@hmc.edu](mailto:twilliams@hmc.edu)

**Speakers:** Fernando Perez (UC Berkeley & iPython)  
Talithia Williams (Harvey Mudd College)

Underrepresented students (African American, Hispanic, Native Americans) with analytical interests are particularly encouraged to attend and learn about exciting career and graduate study opportunities in statistics and data science.



UPCOMING  
EVENT



## ASA TRAVELING COURSE

**DATE AND TIME:** Saturday, October 27, 9am-3pm

**LOCATION:** CSU, Fullerton, McCarthy Hall 121

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mr. Fang K. Chen, SAS Institute, Inc.

**TOPIC:** Practical Bayesian Computation Using SAS®

**COST:** \$55 non-members /\$40 SCASA members/ \$10 students (pay at the door by cash or check). Annual SCASA membership can be acquired at the door for \$12. There will be an opportunity to register via PayPal. More information will be given in September issue.

**Parking:** free (directions will be given later)

**Lunch:** Snack will be provided. Lunch will be available for purchase in nearby eateries during the lunch break or bring your own lunch. There is a nice courtyard for socialization.

**FYI:** This event will be sponsored jointly by SCASA and OCLBASA. The same course will be given in San Diego on Thursday, October 25.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course reviews the basic concepts of Bayesian inference and focuses on the practical use of Bayesian computational methods. The objectives are to familiarize statistical programmers and practitioners with the essentials of Bayesian computing, and to equip them with computational tools through a series of worked-out examples that demonstrate sound practices for a variety of statistical models and Bayesian concepts. The first part of the course will review differences between classical and Bayesian approaches to inference, fundamentals of prior distributions, and concepts in estimation. The course will also cover MCMC methods and related simulation techniques, emphasizing the interpretation of convergence diagnostics in practice. The rest of the course will take a topic-driven approach that introduces Bayesian simulation, analysis, and illustrates the Bayesian treatment of a wide range of statistical models using software with code explained in detail. The course will present major applications areas and case studies, including multi-level hierarchical models, multivariate analysis, non-linear models, meta-analysis, latent variable models, and survival models. Special topics that are discussed include Monte Carlo simulation, sensitivity analysis, missing data, model assessment and selection, variable subset selection, and prediction. The examples will be done using SAS (PROC MCMC), with a strong focus on technical details. survival analysis, Bayesian hierarchical models, and discrete choice models.



meetup

SCASA meetup site <https://tinyurl.com/scasatrav>

# REPORT ON

## 2018 VANCOUVER JSM



By Harold Dyck, CSUSB

Vancouver is a wonderful site for JSM, with views of the harbor and mountains beyond from the convention center. I loved watching the floatplanes taking off and landing. The last time JSM was held in Vancouver was in 2010 right after the winter Olympics in Whistler.

The Council of Chapters meetings included a visit with ASA execs. President Lisa LaVange talked about her initiatives, including: a student challenge for student chapters; a JSM leadership award; a year-long leadership training program emphasizing delegation, communication and negotiation skills; and decision making & statisticians. She pointed out that, "You don't have to be assigned to be a leader to be a leader." President-elect Karen Kafadar introduced her "draft" initiatives: making an impact (water, fracking...); dis-information and fake statistics; diversity in ASA and recognizing chapters; statistics *for* decision science (rather than how to fit into decision science). Executive director Ron Wasserstein emphasized what ASA is doing with DataFest and ThisIsStatistics.org, training for giving expert witness, the ASA Stat Inference Symposium, and the "Count on Statistics" public awareness of public agencies campaign. The ASA statement on p-values now has over 260,000 downloads. ASA hopes to put out another statement on "Beyond  $p < 0.05$ " that will be more about what to do (rather than what not to do). He pointed out that, come January 1<sup>st</sup> next year, ASA will, for the first time, have a past president, a current president and a president elect who are all women. Finally, Ron mentioned the excitement surrounding DataFests, Florence Nightingale Day to encourage HS students, and the ASA advocacy for human rights issues and statistics (the treatment of Andreas Georgiou, Greece's former head statistician, and Puerto Rico's Statistics Institute, for example). The collaboration between ASA and NY Times on "WGOWTG" (What's Going On With This Graph) has been successful and is expected to become a weekly feature.



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# REPORT ON

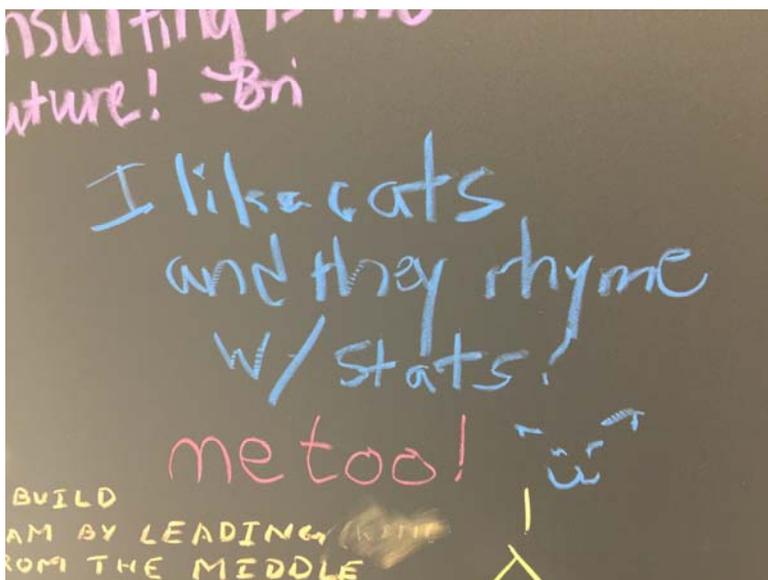
## 2018 VANCOUVER JSM



(... continued from the previous page.)

We then had a break-out session to discuss what worked in our chapters, then came together to report to the larger group. Here are the highlights: Meetup, AP exam review sessions, happy hours (yeah!), virtual meetings/dial-ins/webinars, social media (Twitter accounts), careers days, traveling courses, AP poster competitions, and DataFests.

There was a bit of discussion about the traveling courses. There were six presenters this year and they were very well received. We were all encouraged to submit the annual chapter survey report, apply for the chapter stimulus funding program, and file the annual IRS form 990. We told the officers the chapters needed better web support and more visibility in searches. Twenty-five chapters used the stimulus last year. It was announced that the BOD had approved the program for an additional two years with a review in two years. Two conditions for the stimulus: Chapters need to file their annual report and need to apply for the stimulus funds *before* the event.



Tom Short gave a "short" report on ISEF. He noted the uncertainty of sponsorship for 2019 and beyond (after Intel drops off). We emphasized the need to provide continuity from year to year by having representatives of previous and future sites visiting the current site.

Next year's JSM will be in the mile-high city of Denver. Hope to see you there!



# REPORT ON

## UseR!2018



By Madeline Bauer, USC (retired)

UseR!2018 was held at the Brisbane Convention Center in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia July 10-13, 2018. The conference was organized and run very smoothly. Some of the innovative features included the Brisbane Convention Center smartphone app which included the conference schedules, so we didn't have to look through a paper program to decide which talk to attend next. This feature was even more useful since DataCamp provided free Wi-Fi for all the conference attendees!



I enjoyed the opportunity to see young and old friends from the S and S-Plus days and meet new friends.

Preceding the conference, there was a day and a half of tutorials. The only problem was how to choose between six or more parallel half-day workshops. Fortunately, the conference organizers (superbly led by Di Cook) had two innovative features:

- ◆ First, having registered for the tutorials, we could attend any of the tutorials, or even attend one for the first hour and attend another one after the morning/afternoon tea break.
- ◆ Second, almost all of the 19 tutorials (workshops), six keynote presentations and over 200 contributed talks, lightning talks, and posters were recorded (courtesy of the R Consortium, <https://www.r-consortium.org/about>).

The videos are available on YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_R5smHVXRYGhZYDJsXTwg/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_R5smHVXRYGhZYDJsXTwg/videos)

Browse the videos and you will see that the video recording was done by experts. One of the most informative tutorials was presented by the young data scientist Przemyslaw Biecek. He has developed an R package DALEX with graphical tools designed to help explore, validate and explain complex machine learning models. DALEX is short for **D**escriptive **m**Achine **L**earning **E**xplanations. The graphical techniques which he illustrates will be useful to any statistician/data scientist regardless of the statistical package, not just those using R! This is the link to his 20 minute talk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7milGBG7JKY> And here is the link to Part 1 of his tutorial:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPxQpMCnPE0> And, Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u29EXLXuCQI>

For more suggestions, check out my colleague David Smith's blog

<http://blog.revolutionanalytics.com/2018/07/user-2018-recap.html>

UseR! conferences are always packed full of useful talks and very friendly people.





# Dr. Normalcurvesaurus, Ph.D. presents

Expand  $2(x+y)$ .

$$2(x+y)$$

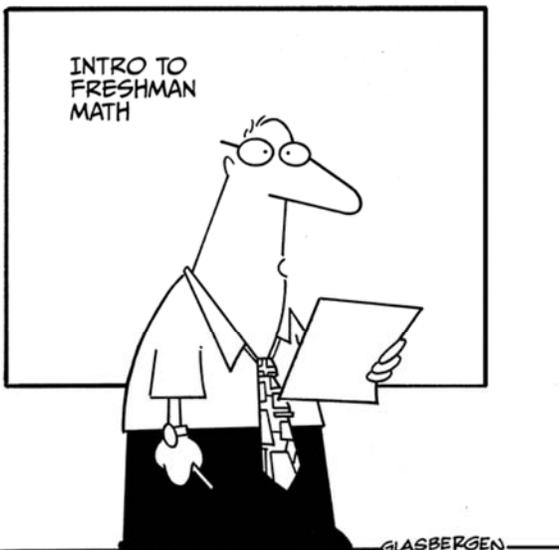
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$$2(x+y)$$

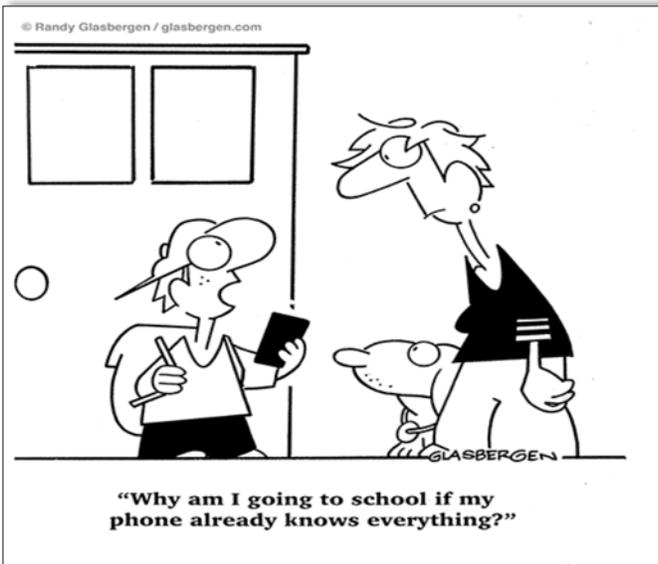
$$2(x+y)$$



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**"If Allen attends a \$60,000 college for 48 months and borrows \$240,000 in student loans at 7.9% interest, how long will it take him to steal someone's identity and move to a foreign country?"**



If you would like to submit an entry to the next issue, please contact me at [Olga.Korosteleva@csub.edu](mailto:Olga.Korosteleva@csub.edu).  
Yours Truly,  
*Olga Korosteleva*, Your Editor-in-Chief