IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2  SCASA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
PAGE 3  DONATE TO SCASA WITH AMAZONSMILE
PAGES 4-5  ISEF OUTREACH UPDATE
PAGE 6  STATISTICS & DATA SCIENCE NEWSROOM (NEW!!)
PAGE 7  SAVE THE DATE: ASA TRAVELING COURSE IS COMING TO TOWN
PAGE 8  2021 JOINT STATISTICAL MEETINGS
PAGE 9  SASSAVVY.COM: R PROGRAMMING WEBINARS
PAGES 10-11  THE FLOOR IS YOURS! – INTERVIEWED BY JENNIFER LEE (NEW!!)
PAGE 12  SPECIAL GUEST, DR. TACOSAURUS, PH.D. PRESENTS
SCASA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please Pay Your Annual Dues

All the proceeds go to a student scholarship/award fund. We have collected $760 thus far.

We encourage everyone who hasn’t paid their SCASA membership dues in 2021 to go to https://my.cheddarup.com/c/scasa-2021-membership-dues-collection and pay.

If you wish to pay with a check, cheddarup.com will give you this option. Membership is $12/general, $6/student and retiree.
DONATE TO SCASA WITH AMAZONSMILE

Follow these easy steps to choose SCASA as the charity of your choice. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price. That’s a substantial amount that will go towards our scholarship/award fund. Every time when making purchases on amazon.com, you will need to go to https://smile.amazon.com/

**Easy steps:**

- Go to your **Amazon account**
- Click on **Your Account**
- In the drop-down list choose **Your AmazonSmile**
- Under **Your current charity** click on the **Change charity** button
- Select **American Statistical Association Location: Long Beach, CA**
ISEF 2021 Outreach in the Time of COVID–19

By Madeline Bauer, USC (retired)

A status report for the statistics judging for the Virtual Regeneron ISEF 2021:

As reported previously, 47 statistics judges reviewed ~1450 science projects and selected 15 projects for interviews (~ 1%).

Since “outreach” is the objective of the ASA Special Awards in Statistics, the next task is to deliver the statistics and data science books to the ISEF finalists who scored in the top 100 projects based on the round 2 scores. Beginning in 2017, statistics judges would meet the students at their booths and offer them their choice of the books donated by Wiley and Taylor & Francis. The students were elated to receive these books and thrilled that professional statisticians took notice of their use of statistics in their science projects. The statistics judges who presented the books to the students were excited by the enthusiasm of the students. Awarding these books clearly helped to enhance the visibility of statistics as a profession and also the ASA.

This practice has been continued in 2018 at Pittsburgh and 2019 at Phoenix. The books for ISEF 2020 at Anaheim have been sitting in the office of Luke Thelen (OCLBASA chapter) in Santa Ana since February 2020. BTW: A big THANK YOU goes to Wayne Smith (SCASA) for making the Wiley contact in 2017 and each year since!

The new challenge in 2021 was how to connect the students with the books and the statistics judges when ISEF 2021 was virtual? Well, the statistics judges are nothing but creative and flexible! Huiyu Qian (SDASA) designed a google form to let the students select their top 3 choices. Heidi Gransar (SCASA) produced a brochure with descriptions of each of the 16 books. Many thanks to Wiley, Pearson, and Taylor & Francis for their generous donation of these books! Thanks again to Wayne Smith for his continuing contact at Wiley, Rob Gould for contacting Pearson and Harold Dyck for his continuing contact at Taylor & Francis.

Many statistics judges from many chapters volunteered to post messages at the ISEF project board website to let the students know they would be receiving an email from the ISEF staff.

The students’ responses were immediate and amazing! More than 20 students responded within 2 hours of receiving the email from the ISEF staff and more than 30 had responded during the first 12 hours! The google form had a spot for students’ comments - and these comments illustrate how important delivering these books is to the outreach objective of the ASA Special Awards in Statistics!
ISEF 2021 Outreach in the Time of COVID–19

Continued from the previous page.

Here’s the comment from the student who won the 3rd place prize:

"Thank you so much for providing such a variety of books! Definitely going to add some of them to my list of books to read:D Again, I really appreciate that the ASA would like to give me such an opportunity and reward for what I did in my project. Your special award and the offer of a book truly really encourages me to study the world of statistics further and find more sophisticated applications of it. Numerous people throughout the making of my project has mentioned to me how important statistics is to scientific studies--and I'm so glad that I was able to use statistics to a certain degree in my project as recognized by the ASA. My sincere and many thanks."

To date, 100 students have selected a book! The three most popular books were “sold out” almost immediately:

- Discovering Knowledge in Data: An Introduction to Data Mining by Daniel Larose. Wiley.
- Introductory Statistics: Exploring the World through Data by Rob Gould, Rebecca Wong, and Colleen Ryan. Pearson. (Hooray for Rob, and thanks to Rob for arranging with Pearson to donate the books!)

And now perhaps the biggest challenge is yet to come: packaging and mailing more than 100 books to addresses across the US and over 15 overseas locations! But no problem! Statistics judges are dedicated, creative, flexible, and above all, enthusiastic!

BTW: https://projectboard.world/isef/ will be open through the end of June! Celebrate the next generation of scientists and engineers.
STATISTICS & DATA SCIENCE NEWSROOM

Hosted by Chong Ho (Alex) Yu,
SCASA Vice President for Statistics Education

To read the news go to https://community.amstat.org/scasa/home
SAVE THE DATE

ASA TRAVELING COURSE

with Brian Leventhal

10AM-4PM, October 23, 2021, via Zoom

COST $25 GENERAL/$0 STUDENT OR RETIREE
REGISTRATION ON EVENTBRIGHT.COM WILL
BE OPEN IN SEPTEMBER
ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT VIA EMAIL TO ALL
REGISTRANTS

An Introduction to Item Response Theory

Instructor: Brian Leventhal, James Madison University

Item response theory is a class of models that describes the interaction between persons and questions on a test or survey. These models are used to relate behavior to constructs with applications in test development, item banking, equating, computer adaptive testing, and behavioral and psychological measurement. This course will cover the basic tenets and concepts of item response theory with the goal to have attendees develop an understanding of dichotomous and polytomous models. The instructor will deliver content using a mix of lecture, discussion, engaging interactive examples, and meta cognition checks with formative and summative feedback. The course assumes knowledge of basic terminology such as parameter vs statistic but will be taught at an introductory level. Some familiarity with concepts of basic calculus, logistic regression, and maximum likelihood estimation may be helpful, but are not required.

About the instructor: Dr. Brian Leventhal is an assistant professor in the Assessment and Measurement PhD Program at James Madison University and a consultant in the Center for Assessment and Research Studies. He earned his PhD in Research Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics, after completing a Master’s in Applied Statistics from the University of Pittsburgh. His research focuses on item response theory psychometric methods. He teaches courses using item response theory techniques, classical test theory, generalizability theory, and inferential statistics, both univariate and multivariate.

SCHEDULE

10AM–11:30AM Session I
11:30AM–12NOON Lunch
12NOON–1:30PM Session II
1:30PM–1:45PM Break
1:45PM–3:15PM Session III
3:15PM–3:45PM Q/A & Discussion
3:45PM–4:00PM Raffle & Wrap-up
2021 JOINT STATISTICAL MEETINGS
August 8, 2021 - August 12, 2021
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

REGULAR REGISTRATION PERIOD

June 16, 2021 12:01 AM - July 15, 2021 11:59 PM

REGISTRATION FEES

Member (ASA, CAS, CWS, ENAR, ICSA, IISA, IMS, ISBA, ISI, KISS, RSS, SSC, WNAR) ♦ $390

New ASA Member (includes discounted first-year ASA dues; not available to renewing or recently lapsed members) ♦ $525

Nonmember ♦ $645

Student Member (full-time; certification required) ♦ $100

K–12 Teacher ♦ $0

Senior Member (65 or older and fully retired) ♦ $155

The fee includes Technical Sessions, Virtual EXPO with Community Tables, Sunday Virtual Opening Mixer, Tuesday Night Virtual Social Event, and JSM Proceedings (available online in early 2022).

REGISTER

https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2021/registration.cfm
Sign up for R Programming Webinars with SASSavvy.com

By Sunil K. Gupta, Founder of SASSavvy.com and a long-time supporter of SCASA

SAS Savvy is happy to offer free R Programming webinars! SASSavvy.com is now an open source for all R and SAS programmers! To attend these R webinars with live Q&A and access a free R Programming e-book, please sign up. Enter your R topics for future presentations.

Please sign up to receive registration information:

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/kwo8FtG/RWebinars

List of Webinars  (NOTE: ALL DATES HAVE CHANGED AND ARE SUBJECT TO MORE CHANGES IN THE FUTURE)

- **Jul. 13, 2021**: What is R and Why Should You Learn R?
- **Sep. 9, 2021**: Writing Your First R Program, Just the Basics
- **Nov. 11, 2021**: Anatomy of R Reports, Look what R can do!
- **Jan. 27, 2022**: R is for Pharma, R You?
- **Mar. 15, 2022**: R and SQL: Best of Both Worlds
Interview with Harold Dyck

I am excited to present the inaugural interview of an ongoing segment of the newsletter where we get to know both new and continuing members of the SCASA community. We want to share our member’s experiences and what they enjoy about being a member of SCASA.

In this interview, I had the pleasure to talk to Harold Dyck. Harold is one of SCASA’s longest standing members and genuinely a great person to know. He is currently a Professor Emeritus at Cal State University, San Bernardino at the Department of Information and Decision Sciences. Throughout our conversations, it is evident that he is student-focused and loves to help equip his students with the tools to succeed, as well as an engaging person to be around.

Harold is an important member of SCASA and I am thrilled to have the members of SCASA get to know him a bit better. Be sure to say hello at the next in-person SCASA function, which, hopefully, is soon!

First things first. I see you are currently a Professor at CSUSB. How did you get into your line of work?

While at Purdue, I interviewed for a few industrial and government positions, but mostly for academic jobs and that’s been my whole career. I’ve done a few consulting projects, but the academic life has been wonderful. My official title at CSUSB is now Professor Emeritus. I tell people I’m retired but still working.

What do you love about your job?

Working with students who want to learn is the best part of being a professor. I love seeing a light turn on over their heads or working with students on research projects and seeing them present their work at conferences.

What was your first job out of school?

My first teaching position was with Loyola University of Chicago. My third year there I taught at their Rome Center in Italy. My second daughter was born in Rome.

Is there any advice you would like to give to students and/or people just beginning their career in statistics? / What career advice would you give to your younger self?

Don’t be afraid to toot your horn! Document everything you do. My advice to my younger self: take more risks when you are young. This is the advice an economics professor gave me back in grad school. You can fail many times when young and still die rich.

Let’s shift gears. When did you join SCASA? What was your initial reason for joining SCASA?

I’ve been an ASA member since 1978 when I was encouraged to join by my dissertation advisor back at Purdue. I was previously a member of the Chicago and Kansas/Western Missouri chapters before moving out to California in 1979. I might have actually joined SCASA the year before anticipating the move. My first year in California we were renting in Anaheim, but the SCASA annual Fall Kickoff was always arranged by Don Bentley at Pomona College. As a result of this exposure to Claremont from those first meetings, my wife and I fell in love with Claremont’s college atmosphere and I’ve now lived in Claremont for over 30 years.

Continued on the next page.
Interview with Harold Dyck (Continued)

You have been one of SCASA’s longest standing members. What keeps you so involved over the years?

One of the first projects I worked on for SCASA was as a member of the local arrangements committee in 1990 when JSM was in Anaheim. Bob Newcomb had roped me in. Part of the project was to work with Esri in Redlands to come up with a program that allowed JSM attendees to enter in a type of restaurant and distance they were willing to travel and get a list of restaurants and directions. Bob and I went out to the Esri campus to talk with the president of Esri, Jack Dangermond, who was a friend of his. A few years later I was able to recruit Dangermond to come to the CSUSB campus to talk about Esri at a conference I had organized. This is just one example of the kind of connections SCASA has made for me over the years and one of the best reasons for joining SCASA!

What is your favorite SCASA event and what excites you about this year?

For many years SCASA had three main annual events: the Fall Kickoff, Careers Day, and the Applied Statistics Workshop. Each of the events have their appeal to me, but Careers Day was especially gratifying because it gave me an opportunity to introduce the world of statistics to students. Another event we held for three years was a consulting workshop. Janet Myhre, Arnie Goodman, and I were co-organizers. For me, a highlight was the opportunity I had one year to introduce Peter Drucker as our lunch-time speaker.

This year is really unique with the Covid-19 lockdown. I’ve been working with Madeline Bauer and others to prepare for the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). SCASA works with the Orange County/Long Beach and San Diego chapters to provide the judging for the special awards in statistics at ISEF. DataFest is also coming up and I’ll be involved in that as well. Mentoring is really important in today’s world.

Really appreciate all your responses; they have been so informative. Can you tell me more about this fun picture?

The fun one is me flying a floatplane over Lake Washington near Seattle before JSM in 2015. JSM returns to Seattle this August and I hope to try it again if all goes well.

One last thing, a non-SCASA related question, but a very enjoyable one: what is your favorite restaurant in the LA area and why?

If you include Claremont as being in the LA area, then Walter’s would be it. There are a lot of SCASA associations with Walter’s for me, going back many years. From SCASA board meetings to just getting a coffee with Bob before a Kickoff. Before the lockdown hit, the ISEF planning group would meet there regularly. We (Madeline and the gang) are itching to return!

Thank you for all your thoughtful responses, Harold. It was such a pleasure!

Again, a big thank you to Harold Dyck for his wonderful and insightful responses. It is obvious to see how much he thrives in providing tools for the burgeoning statisticians to succeed, as well as being quite the adventurer.

If you are interested in trying out Walter’s, the website for Water’s is https://waltersrestaurant.com/. If any SCASA members have the opportunity to try it, do not hesitate to let me know how you liked it.

Do you want to be featured in a future article? Or, do you know someone in SCASA you think should be featured? Email scasa.interviews@gmail.com.

About our interviewer Jennifer Lee is a licensed attorney in two states, she graduated from UC Berkeley and received her JD from George Washington University. She also has an MA in International Affairs from the Eliot School at the George Washington University. A few credits shy of graduating with an MS in Statistics at George Mason University, she is in the process of re-entering the academic world to get her Ph.D.
Special Guest
Dr. Tacosaurus, Ph.D.
Presents

Earth’s first science fair

"Whoa! We sure blew that prediction!"

"Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice."

"My homework ate my dog."

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http://community.amstat.org/scasa/newsletters