

SCASA Events and News



# E-Tidings Newsletter

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 *In this*  
*Celebratory 100th Issue!* 

**PAGE 2** Data Visualization Poster Competition Winners Announced

**PAGE 3** Applied Statistics Workshop 🌀 4/23

**PAGE 4** International Science and Engineering Fair 🌀 4/30 and on

**PAGE 5** WNAR International Biometric Society Events

**PAGE 6** SoCal R User Upcoming Events

**PAGES 7-10** Interview with Wayne Smith

**PAGE 11** Dr. Normalcurvesaurus, Ph.D. Presents





# **THE 2022 SCASA REGIONAL STATISTICS DATA VISUALIZATION POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED**



SCASA would like to express a deep gratitude to a team of dedicated judges (Rebecca Le, Riverside County; Anna Yu Lee, Claremont Graduate University; Joyce Fu, UCR; and Ha Dang, USC) who spent the last week in March judging the submitted digital posters and 5-minute video presentations prepared by high-schoolers in Southern California.

The top five winning posters will be submitted to the American Statistical Association national-level competition that will take place in May. Also, as it has become our tradition, the winning teams are invited to present during the lunch hour at the SCASA Applied Statistics Workshop on Saturday, April 23, 2022.

So, to the sound of fanfare, we are presenting to you the winners of the 2nd Annual SCASA Regional Statistics Data Visualization Poster Competition:



**FIRST PLACE:** Kriselle Madamba, Allain Perez, and Senai Seifu

**Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science**

Poster Title: A Musical Composition that Motivates the Basketball Team



**SECOND PLACE:** Sofia Gabrielle Marin, Mansi Sunkara, and Hector Lamadrid

**Trabuco Hills High School**

Poster Title: More Time Screening, Less Time Reading



**THIRD PLACE:** William Huang

**Palos Verdes Peninsula High School**

Poster Title: A Novel Image Optimization and Augmentation Framework to Enable an Improved Patient Experience for the Next Generation Epiretinal Prosthesis



**FOURTH PLACE:** Juliann Abueg and Halie Venga

**Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science**

Poster Title: Males and Females Do Not Have a Significant Difference in Anxiety Levels During a High Stakes Test



**FIFTH PLACE:** Roktima Godhuli, Connor Grethe, Grey Quibin

**Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science**

Poster Title: Performing Visual Arts Reduces Stress in High Schoolers

**SCASA 41ST ANNUAL (VIRTUAL)**  
**APPLIED STATISTICS WORKSHOP**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022**  
**9 AM - 4 PM**

**MODERN DATA VISUALIZATION WITH R**



**Instructor:** *Dr. Robert Kabacoff, Professor of the Practice in Quantitative Analysis, at Wesleyan University, Connecticut*

**When:** *Saturday, April 23, 2022, 9 AM – 4 PM*

**Location:** *via Zoom (<https://apu.zoom.us/j/84503314039>)*

**Cost:** *Free*

**Registration:** *Not required but is highly recommended <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/scasa-2022-applied-statistics-workshop-tickets-303908698097> There is an option to pay your SCASA membership dues.*

**Website with Course Materials:** *<https://rkabacoff.github.io/SCASA41/>*

The flyer with more details about this event is posted on our website

**<https://community.amstat.org/scasa/home>**



# 2022 International Science and Engineering Fair

## *ASA Special Awards in Statistics and Data*

### **News F L A S H ! Change in Schedule for Statistics Judging**

\*\*\*\*\* There will NOT be any judging on Thursday April 28 \*\*\*\*\*

Round 1 will start **\*\*sometime\*\*** on F R I D A Y (not Thursday)!

Round 1 will start **\*\*sometime\*\*** on Friday as soon as the project displays are available online on the SAO Portal

#### **What does this mean for you?**

It means that we need volunteers to judge on Monday May 2! And, we need judges to consider signing up for more time slots on Saturday April 30 and/or Sunday May 1!

Round 1 and Round 2 reviews **MUST** be completed on Monday May 2 so we can schedule interviews on Tuesday May 3 for the top 10-15 projects based on the Round 2 quantitative scores.

Please check your schedule and go to the sign up google form and indicate when you can be available. There are 3-hour time slots starting at 5 am ET to midnight EDT and even to midnight PDT!

<https://bit.ly/ISEF2022StatJudges>

Thank you for your dedication and enthusiasm and your flexibility!

Best regards,

Luke Thelen, Harold Dyck, Madeline Bauer, and Melinda Higgins

Your Virtual Hosts for the Virtual ISEF 2022 ASA Special Awards in Statistics

PS: Remember to keep your eye on the **Judge "Bulletin Board"**:

<https://bit.ly/ISEF2022StatJudgeINFO>



The Western North American  
Region of The International Biometric Society

**Training Program: Northwest Native American Research Center for Health (NW NARCH)** The Northwest Native American Research Center for Health (NW NARCH) is offering a new training program in applied biostatistics and data science. *This program is geared to American Indian and Alaska Native health professionals and students who have an interest in building their quantitative skills.* Training is offered virtually and includes intensive classes in June 2022 and June 2023; regular seminars throughout the year; and a mentored capstone project, which will be completed over a two-year period. Prospective applicants should to apply, or express their intent to apply, by April 15, 2022. For further information: [NW NARCH webpage](#). For questions or to express intent to apply, please contact track co-lead, Amy Laird PhD ([laird@ohsu.edu](mailto:laird@ohsu.edu)) [Apply to track here](#)

**Webinar Series: Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM and the Association for Women in Science** The Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment in STEMM kicked off their webinar series on March 24 with a discussion regarding the importance of engaging student and early career members in Society leadership, initiatives, and culture change efforts, including how Societies can engage students and early career members in policy development stages. They were joined by representatives from Optica, the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), and American Geophysical Union (AGU). The next webinar will be on May 26, please visit the [Societies Consortium website](#) for more information, and for recordings of past webinars.

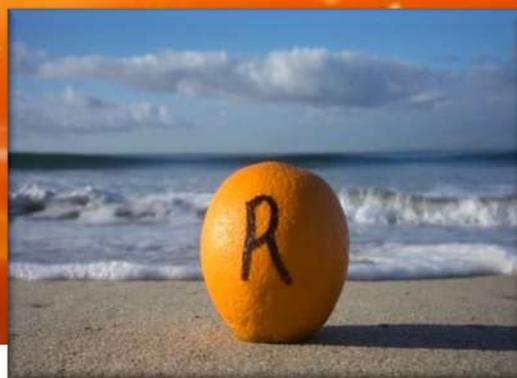
**The Association for Women in Science** is also hosting webinars addressing diversity and inclusion, and more info can be found below.

**AWIS Webinar – Space is for everyone: Diversity at NASA.** On April 19 at 1:00 pm ET, AWIS will host a panel discussion with NASA employees and leaders for a behind-the-scenes look into the current culture at NASA. You are invited to watch the documentary “Women in Motion, which depicts the career of Nichelle Nichols and her efforts to recruit diverse astronaut applicants. The documentary can be viewed between April 7-10. Registration for the webinar is [here](#).

**AWIS Webinar – Negotiating While Underrepresented.** On May 19 at 1:00 pm ET, AWIS will host a discussion focused on the many barriers women and other underrepresented groups face within the workplace. Sara Sanford, Executive Director of Gender Equity Now (GEN), believes equity is within reach and plans to share processes and behaviors that can be used to successfully renegotiate salaries, job titles, promotions, remote work schedules, and childcare subsidies. Registration is [here](#).

# SOCAL R USER GROUP

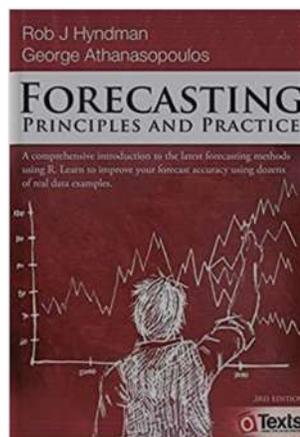
## UPCOMING EVENTS



- Apr 11 - SoCal R User Group - Forecasting book club - <https://www.meetup.com/SOCAL-RUG/events/284913426/>

 Monday, April 11, 2022  
 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM PDT

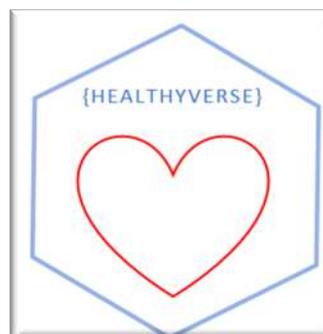
 Online event  
 Link visible for attendees



- Apr 29 - SoCal R User Group - Intro to the Healthyverse Packages <https://www.meetup.com/SOCAL-RUG/events/284815529/>

 Wednesday, April 27, 2022  
 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM PDT

 Online event  
 Link visible for attendees



# The Floor is Yours!

## Interviewed by Jennifer Lee



### Interview with Wayne Smith

This month, I had the pleasure of interviewing our new ASA Council of Chapters Representative, Wayne Smith. Wayne has been with SCASA since the 80s and is very involved in ISEF and other ASA events. His thirst for knowledge, and his passion for success with every generation are evident throughout this interview. Not only is he deeply involved in growing his students at CSU Northridge, where he lectures at the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics, but he is also a consultant, consulting various companies in a variety of fields. His range of experience provides him with a unique perspective that is not only refreshing but thought-provoking.

*[Ed. Note: This interview is edited from a conversation I had with Wayne]*

**Hi Wayne, thank you so much for agreeing to do this interview. I want to start by asking you when you joined SCASA.**

I believe I joined SCASA in either 1987 or 1988. A colleague of mine invited me to listen in on Bradley Efron's lecture on jackknife results from the bootstrap method. I had been actively following statistics and Elizabeth Trybus from CSU Northridge invited me to come to an event. The lecture really was interesting, as it is from a world-renown statistician.

Elizabeth was running the table for that event and put me right to work. But I got to hear Bradley Efron's lecture, met a lot of great people, and picked up my thirst for technology and statistics.

**That's a great introduction to SCASA. With all these years under your belt, what keeps you busy in SCASA these days?**

I am currently involved in ISEF, where the best and brightest high school students showcase their statistical research. Some of the research presented is incredibly complex, and I am always amazed at the level of talent that comes about it.

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# Interview with Wayne Smith

Continued from the previous page.

Also, working behind the scenes for this event has been incredible. We at ISEF are devoted to continuous improvement, at the same time taking leadership roles with other cities, such as Phoenix. As judges, these students keep us on our toes with their different ideas. We continually must keep abreast of the trending and new ideas and that is something I greatly enjoy.

We also have such superstars in ISEF who really made ISEF the success it is today. People like Madeline Bauer, Harold Dyck, Rebecca Le, Heidi Gransar, and Luke Thelan have made ISEF into the renowned event it is today. I am excited to see ISEF continue to grow and showcase talent.

## **Are there any other SCASA events you enjoy?**

I personally enjoy going to SCASA talks that challenge my thinking. There are National Institute of Statistical Science (NISS) talks I recommend going to, especially if they are not in the area with which you are familiar.

In addition, there are mock interviews for grad students to help them further their careers. I think helping out in events like these is vital for SCASA, and the entire statistics community, to grow.

## **I absolutely agree with you about taking advantage of these talks. Speaking of talks, are there any upcoming events in SCASA you are looking forward to?**

The upcoming Applied Statistics Workshop, "Modern Data Visualization with R" with Dr. Robert Kabacoff has piqued my interest and I am looking forward to attending that event.

## **This workshop looks incredibly promising, especially since R has become so ubiquitous and necessary. I can't wait to learn more about ways to use R in this field as well.**

## **For all of the wonderful things SCASA offers, is there anything you wish SCASA could do more in the future?**

I have yet to see SCASA, and ASA for that matter, do a supercomputing event. I think that would be a great way to segue into Data Science and all that that area has to offer. We have a lot of talent in the statistics field and have a lot to bring to the table. It would be a shame to have the fields of engineering and computer science take it all for themselves.

## **Wow, that's a really good point, Wayne. Perhaps in the near future, this is something the statistics community can start organizing.**

**At this point, I would like to delve a little more into who you are. Not only do you teach a variety of courses at CSU Northridge, but you have also worked or consulted in IT for various diverse industries such as automobile racing manufacturing (accounting systems), aerospace (finite-element analysis), major magazine printing (production/imposition), and higher education (IT management).**

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# Interviewed by Jennifer Lee

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## **How did you get into your line of work?**

I started consulting at a very young age, right after high school, in fact. I was bitten by the consulting bug and I knew I wanted to be my own boss even at a young age. You can say I wasn't all that excited about moving up the corporate ladder.

Being such a generalist has its advantages, but it's not for everyone and definitely not something I recommend to my students. But it does give me a different point of view and allows me to see between the cracks, so to speak, something I enjoy doing.

## **What made you go into teaching?**

After I graduated college, I got a job offer that would have relocated me to Houston, Texas. And I am a Southern Californian at heart. I was already running the computer lab at CSU Northridge and was asked to teach a few classes at the business school. The rest, as they say, is history.

## **You also have done litigation consulting. As someone who is statistics adjacent, can you tell us more about what you did?**

Just to be clear, I was paid by the plaintiff attorney; I was not an expert witness. In the case I worked on, I reviewed the curriculum when it came to network and computers and gave my opinion to the efficacy of the class. By being able to apply my expertise in various fields, I am able to work with a variety of different environments.

## **You're have an extensive pro bono record. What has been the most rewarding about working pro bono?**

I enjoy working with students and especially helping those who are disadvantaged get the leg up they need to stay competitive. I have worked with youth programs in the fire department and police department as well as helped student organizations incubate start-ups. Why do I do this? I see talented people skip college and go straight to the work force. I would like to see their career blossom rather than be cut short because they did not further their education. By being involved in these programs, I am able to impart my experiences so that they know there is a better path out there in the long term.

## **Mentoring the next generation so that our society will continue to progress is such a noble and important task. I hope to see more people who are established in the fields do the same. Thank you for that important message.**

## **I know teaching and the private sector are very different. What are some positives about both fields? What are some challenges?**

I personally feel both teaching and consulting go hand in hand. Since I teach in the business school and I teach management, the lessons I learned through the various consulting jobs have given me insight I can pass onto the students.

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# Interview with Wayne Smith

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**That is an interesting take. And it makes sense. Continuing with the job theme, what was your first job?**

My first job, interestingly enough, was as an umpire for my Little League baseball. I umpired for the baseball teams 2 to 3 years younger than me.

**That sounds like a fun first job. I know you are passionate about your students and those who are just starting out. Any advice to those who are reading this article?**

I am a firm believer that formal education past high school is necessary and important, even if that isn't what it always seems, especially with success stories like Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk always in the media. It's important to hone other skills as those will be vital in the later years. It is important for those who are just starting out to think about the future, the long term rather than the short term. And that perspective is tough in the "Go go" mentality we have in our current society.

**I really appreciate your insights and I hope students take to heart your valuable advice.**

**Finally, my favorite question: What is your favorite restaurant in the LA area and why?**

My favorite restaurant is Lawry's in Beverly Hills. The prime rib is fantastic, but more importantly, my favorite teacher in high school, Gene Robidoux would take his best student out to Lawry's and when I was given that opportunity, that was something that I always remembered and cherished. In fact, his act was so inspiring that I created a scholarship in his name to carry on the tradition to reward students for excellent work.

**That is amazing and incredibly inspiring. Thank you so much for sharing and providing a unique perspective on how statistics is universally used in a variety of fields.**

Once again, a deep thank you to Wayne for bringing a diverse, but very pertinent, point of view. Statistics is being applied in all fields and I look forward to a time when we can be the central force behind those fields that need statistical analyses in data and in other ways.

Also, Lawry's in Beverly Hills has some of the best prime ribs I've ever tasted. If you like prime rib, I highly recommend this place. The restaurant's ambience harkens back to the old steakhouses. Their website is <https://www.lawrysonline.com/lawrys-the-prime-rib-beverly-hills>.

Lastly, as Wayne said in this interview, these workshops are really interesting and will stretch your knowledge of statistics. The workshop Wayne mentioned, "Modern Data Visualization with R," is on April 23, 2022. You can find more information about this workshop and any future events at <https://community.amstat.org/scasa/home>. I hope everyone takes advantage of these wonderful learning panels and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next SCASA event!

With that, I'll see you at the next interview!

*Do you want to be featured in a future article? Or, do you know someone in SCASA you think should be featured? Email me at [SCASA.Interviews@gmail.com](mailto:SCASA.Interviews@gmail.com).*



# Dr. Normalcurvesarus, Ph.D. Presents

