E-Tidings Newsletter

SCASA Events and News

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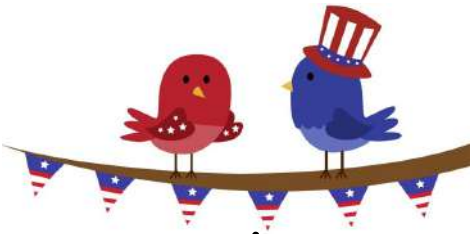
July 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

Cast Your Vote: Election of Vice President for Communications

Dear SCASA Community,

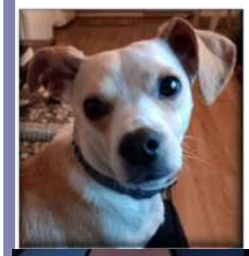
Please take a minute to participate in the Elections of an inaugural Vice President for Communications. As stated in the May issue of our eNewsletter (see Page 2), the SCASA Executive Board is pleased to announce a Brand New Officer Position: Vice-President for Communications. After careful deliberation, the Current President, Past-President, and President-Elect unanimously agreed on the need for this role to better connect with our growing community of statisticians, data scientists, and enthusiasts. If the position proves successful, an amendment to the Chapter Constitution will follow to formalize it. The key responsibilities are:

- Manage official chapter accounts on platforms including Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), YouTube, LinkedIn, and others
- Create, schedule, and post engaging content such as: promotional graphics and videos for events, highlights of chapter news and member achievements, recaps of events and interviews with members
- Collaborate with event organizers to promote activities before and after they happen
- Monitor engagement analytics and refine content strategies

Please meet the candidate:

Ronald Parent is the founder of Precision Data Strategies, a Marina del Rey consultancy that turns complex data into clear, actionable insights for small and mid-sized businesses through intuitive dashboards, predictive models, and plain-language advice.

A STEM student at Los Angeles City College, he has already delivered live solutions in inventory forecasting, maintenance-risk alerts, hiring analytics, and bus-route optimization. Ronald holds more than 50 credentials in data science and machine learning through IBM and related coursework, and champions transparent, ethical analysis.



He donates his time to local hospitals and institutions, mentors returning students, and demystifies statistics for non-technical audiences. For recreation, Ronald enjoys pickleball, travel, hiking, and rockhounding--usually with his best friend Charlie, a lively three-year-old terrier.

To vote, go to:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5ZQWF2P

Registration is Open for ASA Traveling Course

SCASA is super thrilled to announce that this year we have been awarded an ASA traveling course instructed by no one else but our own immediate past president Dr. Anna Yu Lee, a founder and owner of ***Concierge Mental Health & Associates***.

DATES: Friday, 9/19/2025, online & Saturday, 9/20, 2025, in person, in the **FOUNDRSPACE BUILDING** at **87 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103.** Parking is available in a nearby garage at an hourly rate.

COST: $50 general, $25 student/retiree (either one or two days). We owe ASA $25 per person regardless.

REGISTRATION: HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/1486401951249?AFF=ODDTDTCREATOR

TITLE: ***Statistical Therapy & Consulting: Combining Traditional and Quantitative Approaches to Provide Emotional Support in Educational & Mental Health Settings***

ABSTRACT: This seminar explores Statistical Therapy Consulting (STC), and Statistical Therapy (ST) as novel approaches to supporting existent forms of evidence-informed mental health care. The workshop begins with an overview of distinctions and similarities between psychotherapy, ST, and STC. Included is research that underscores the development of ST and STC, interactive exercises, and opportunities for group discussion. Highlighted are various applications of STC for the treatment and prevention of common mental, emotional, and relational concerns including stress, cognitive distortion, anxiety, depression, fear, and burnout. Some of the statistical tools applications include probabilistic thinking, distribution analysis, Bayesian inference, algorithmic decision-making, and data categorization analysis. Controversial and exploratory techniques such as, 'Statistics Masochistics,' are also discussed, with the focus being on integrity, transparency, ethics, and cultural diversity/respect as fundamental and integral within the delivery of all mental health services.

Bio: Dr. Anna Yu Lee holds multiple roles as Immediate Past President of the SoCal Ch. of the American Statistical Association, Adj. Professor in the School of Community & Global Health at Claremont Graduate University, and founder and senior consultant at Concierge Mental Health & Associates (CMHA). Her education and clinical training spans the fields of multicultural psychology, public health, and biostatistics, and her professional backgrounds are in counseling, residential care management, health promotion science, journalism, undergraduate/graduate instruction, and marketing. In her private practice, Dr. Yu Lee operates as a consultant, not a psychotherapist. Dr. Yu Lee's publications have appeared in journals of public health, social and behavioral health, and statistical education. She has presented to academic, clinical, and industry audiences in multiple countries in North America, Western Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East, and has taught in the Marriage & Family Therapy program in the USC Rossier School of Education, in Azusa Pacific University's MS in Biostatistics program, and UG Dept. of Mathematics, Physics, and Statistics, UG Dept. of Psychology, in addition to the UG Dept. of Psychology at Cal Poly Pomona.

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner

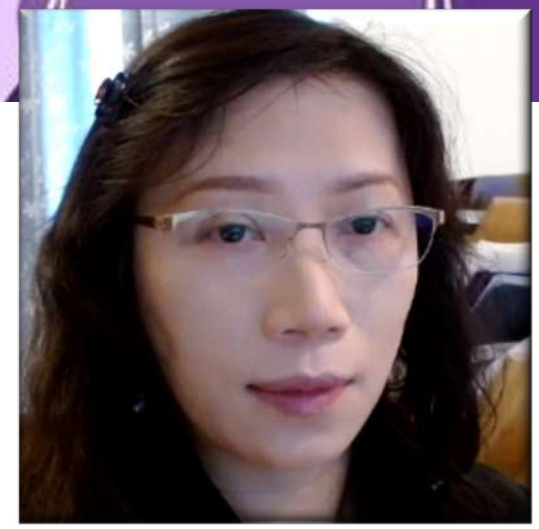
From the list of SCASA Presidents:

2025-2026 Chong Ho Alex Yu, Hawai'i Pacific University

Dr. Chong Ho Alex Yu is Professor and Program Director of Master programs in data science and artificial intelligence at Hawaii Pacific University. Dr. Yu is a three-time winner of the SAS faculty scholarship (2016, 2017 SAS Global Forum and 2017 Western Users of SAS Software Conference). In addition, he also won the Distinguished SAS Educator Award in 2021. His research interests include, but are not limited to, alternate and emerging research methods (e.g., exploratory data analysis, data visualization, data science, machine learning, and item response theory), philosophical aspects of research methodologies (e.g., causal inferences, the nature of latent constructs, and abductive reasoning), and cross-cultural comparison in STEM education (e.g., Program for International Student Assessment [PISA], Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies [PIAAC], and Trends for International Math and Science Study [TIMSS]).

As the President of the Southern California Chapter of the American Statistical Association (SCASA), he enthusiastically shares the latest trends and news about data science and machine learning (DSML) with the research community, especially on the topic of connecting classical statistics and DSML. He disseminates this through a weekly newsletter and info-videos posted on social media, including YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn. He also manages various administrative tasks of the organization, such as event planning.

SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner

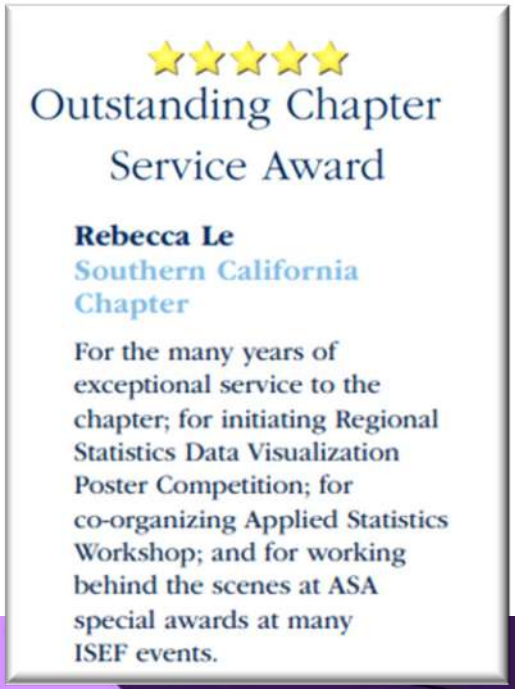


From the list of SCASA Presidents:

2021-2022 Rebecca Le, County of Riverside

Dr. Rebecca Le has more than ten years of experience in working with large-scale to rare-outcome data at Riverside County, using both parametric and nonparametric analysis methods for statistical research and deriving meaningful insight that supports policy making and improves services to communities. Her research interests include time series models, spatial analysis, machine learning, and generalized linear mixed models. Dr. Le also works as a part-time lecturer, teaching undergraduate and graduate statistics courses at Cal State Long Beach.

With a passion for helping the statistics community, she started participating in SCASA activities as a judge for the High School Poster Competition, one of SCASA's annual events, from the time she was in grad school. Since then, she has been involved more in the California State Engineering Fair (CSEF) and the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). During the COVID years, Dr. Le actively looked for ASA's available opportunities and learned from other chapter officers, she actively led the chapter officers to advance the current poster competition format to the Regional Data Visualization Poster Competition to promote student learning. Throughout the years, she also has served as the chapter officer for several roles. She received the chapter outstanding service award in 2022.



SCASA Leadership Legacy Corner

Dr. Wayne Smith, CSU Northridge

I earned my Bachelor's degree from California State University (Business Administration) and my Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University (Information Systems and Technology). I'm on the faculty in the Department of Management in the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics.

Academically, I've helped many faculty at CSU Northridge with their data and statistics-related technology. For many years, I was one of two consultants for the campus faculty to help with software such as XLISP, SAS, SPSS, BMDP, S/S+ and related libraries such as NETLIB. I often helped with data wrangling (e.g., "wide to long", unstructured data, missing data, larger-than-memory computation, dummy/one-hot encoding, etc.) but I also helped faculty with item-response theory (to help analyze student exam questions), multiple and logistic regression, and various convex optimizations.

My first experience at a SCASA event was hearing Stanford Prof. Brad Efron discuss bootstrapping and resampling. The talk/workshop was at USC in about the late 1980's. I was invited by SCASA member Prof. Elizabeth Trybus of California State University, Northridge.

I attended many SCASA events through the years, especially ones involving young people. I have been a judge for the annual High School Poster competition and a mock interviewer for data science and analytics for entry-level college students. I attended many Annual statistics lecturers. Probably my biggest work to date was to contribute as a judge at the International Science and Engineering Fair (High School students) held in Los Angeles every three years (I started in 2014, as I recall). This effort was led by an incredibly talented Madeline Bauer quite ably assisted by Luke Thelen and Harold Dick. I worked with all three of them to help improve the skills, knowledge, and abilities of the judges, the reliability and validity the judging, and I also arranged for Wiley to provide several thousand dollars of books each year to be given to the top student-competitors. I am currently the ASA Liasion for SCASA.

In addition to teaching variety of Accounting, Computer Science, Information Systems, Management, and Analytics courses at CSU Northridge, I had a thriving consulting practice more than three decades, mostly in the Los Angeles area.

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While I also did network engineering, cybersecurity, training, and strategy consulting, the following are some of the more notable engagements related to data and statistics.

My first paid consulting work was in 1978 was doing quarterly descriptive statistics and sales variance analysis for a small Caviar wholesaler. All the work was done on a Tandy Radio Shack Model 1 in BASIC.

Subsequently, I co-taught the Los Angeles Unified School District "in-services" (teacher training) in the summers of 1979 and 1980. I taught teachers from around the District how to use a spreadsheet for grading (Visicalc on an Apple II), and program (BASIC on a PDP-11/70 and Fortran on a Univac 1110). The BASIC programming was useful for not only instructional games but also dynamic quizzes which—using the gradebook data—could be individualized for each student in, say, a Math course. The FORTAN code helped with exam question analysis (point-biserial correlation as I recall).

One of my clients in the mid-1980s was Marquardt, an aerospace company in Van Nuys. I worked in the stress engineering department on the National Aerospace Plane project. This was a classified NASA/DoD project at the time. I used a mainframe computer and then a PC to run stress simulations in hand-coded FORTRAN (for Finite Element Analysis) and a language called SIMSCRIPT (for end-to-end discrete workflows), especially to test core metals in and around scramjet engines to fly at hypersonic speeds (e.g., flying from LA to New York in 2.5 hours or from New York to Paris in, say, 4 hours). We used non-parametric statistics to help evaluate the simulation results.

Another one of my clients in the early 1990's was R.R. Donnelly and Sons. My main task was to supervise a small programming team writing an custom "imposition" (printing details) system to fully print and bind magazines such as Ladies Home Journal and numerous Time Magazing monthlies. I also helped develop a couple of "minimization" optimization batch processes to reduce the downtime for the world's largest printing presses. This work was done in C with C-Plex (now owned by IBM).

Most of the work in the past twenty years is to help faculty (and some students!) with big data faculty issues using Oracle, Postgres, MySQL/MariaSQL, DuckDB, and SQLite. My more recent statistical computing work and help is in R, Python, Julia, and various visualization tools such as Observable. For several years, I was on the steering committee for the original LA R Meetup Group.

In addition to teaching and pro-bono data science work, I now help coordinate and support the High-Performance Computing and related storage/network resources for the entire campus (e.g., the NRP/Nautilus/CENIC AIR systems, the Cloudbank/UC Berkeley CAL-ICOR Jupyter-Hub, and the ACCESS-CI/Jetstream2, et al. system). Much of this work involves Science topics such as Molecular Dynamics and Engineering topics such as Mechanical Engineering. I am active in a few NSF grants and travel occasionally to NSF-sponsored HPC workshops.

"Hidden Figures" (2016)

"Hidden Figures" is a 2016 American biographical drama film directed by Theodore Melfi and written by Melfi and Allison Schroeder. It is loosely based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly, also published in 2016, and tells the story of three African-American women—Katherine Goble Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer), and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), who worked as mathematicians at NASA during the Space Race.

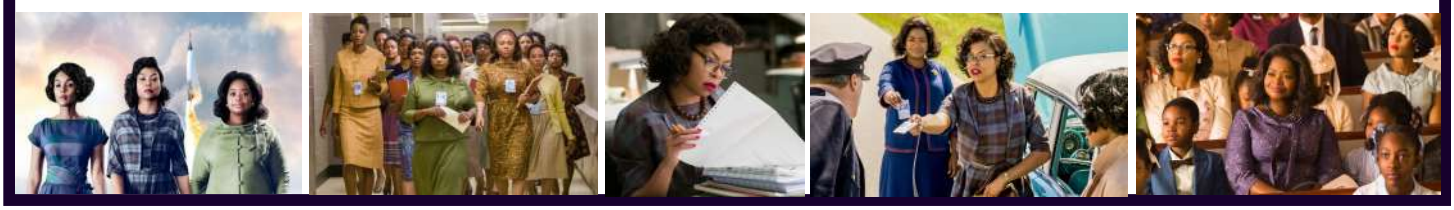

Katherine G. Johnson-1983-NASA

Dorothy J. Vaughan-NASA

Mary W. Jackson– NASA

For those who missed this amazing story, now streaming on Amazon Prime Video and Disney +

Trailer: Hidden Figures



Dr. Normalcurvesaurus, Ph.D.

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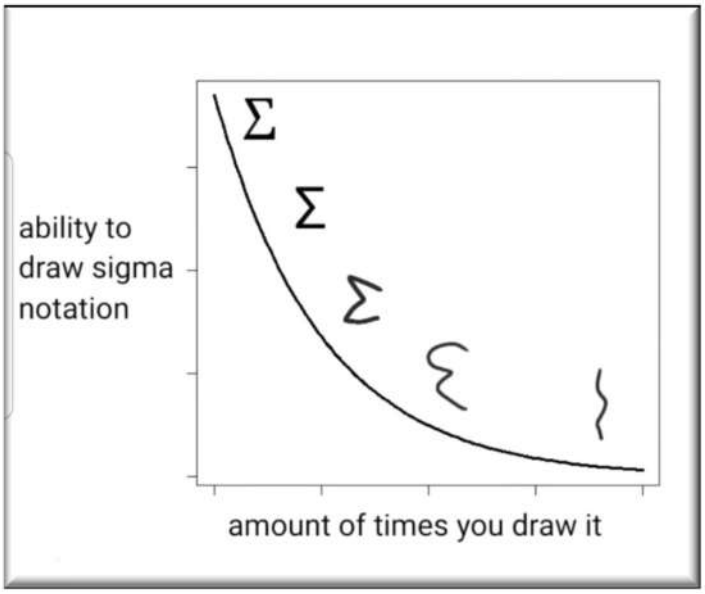

Neil Armstrong's dog, July 20, 1969