

SILVER STATE-ISTICS



Nevada Chapter of American Statistical Association

Nevada Chapter News Letter

Vol. 11 No. 1

Dear Nevada ASA Members and Friends,

Read on for information on what our Chapter has been up to and what we are planning for the future. Please keep an eye on our website for more details on all upcoming events.

www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/

* * *

Contents:

| From the Program Committee | 1 |
|--|---|
| Election | 1 |
| Message from the President | 2 |
| NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition | 2 |
| NV-ASA Fall Symposium | |
| and Annual Meeting 2013 | 2 |
| Northern NV Fall 2013 Student Meet-&-Greet | |
| and Membership Social | 3 |
| Southern NV Fall 2013 Meet-&-Greet | 4 |
| New Faculty | 4 |
| Chapter Chatter | 4 |
| Moving from President to Past President | 4 |
| UNLV Statistics Colloquium/Seminar Series | 4 |
| Nevada SAS User Group | 5 |
| Joining NV-ASA | 5 |
| The NV-ASA Mission | 5 |
| NV-Chapter Current Officers | 6 |

* * *

From the Program Committee

Alicia Chancellor Hansen, Northern VP Eyal Dubovy, Southern VP

We are working on organizing several interesting events for 2014. The largest will be the **Fall Symposium and Annual Meeting**, slated to be in Las Vegas this year. We are currently reviewing scheduling

for conflicts and checking venue availability. The date will be sometime between late September and early November; watch for a "Save the Date" announcement in your inbox soon!

Thanks to everyone who took time to respond to our survey regarding the **ASA Traveling Course** Applied Logistic Regression. Based on your responses, we submitted an application to host the course; a response from ASA is pending. If we are awarded the course, we plan to arrange for video conferencing so those interested in attending in both the northern and southern parts of the state will be able to do so. Keep your fingers crossed!

Also on the agenda is planning for **dinner speaker events**. We are looking to hold at least one in each of the north and the south this spring. We will keep you posted on our progress. If you would like to make a presentation, or have suggestions for other potential speakers, please do not hesitate to contact us at achansen@sbcglobal.net or edubovy@aol.com.

That's it for now! Please keep an eye out for upcoming invitations to events. We are always open to ideas for activities you would like to participate in as well. Please drop us a line with your comments or suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon at a chapter event!

ELECTION 2013

We welcome our new officers. Debra Stiver of the UNR Department of Economics is President; Alicia Chancellor Hansen, a statistical consultant in Carson City, is the Northern Vice-President; Jessica Jaynes of the UNLV Department of Mathematical Sciences is Secretary; and Chad Cross, Statistician with the Veterans Health Administration Offices of Informatics and Analytics, Business Intelligence, Clinical Analysis and Reporting, and Performance Measurement (also a Las Vegas resident), is Chapter Representative. Jessica is

new to Nevada and in her first year at UNLV. The others have been long-time members and supporters of NV-ASA. All current officers are listed at the end of this Newsletter. Thanks to all those who have contributed their efforts toward keeping NV-ASA going for over a decade now. ◆

Message from the President And প্রত্তি ক্রিয়ার ক্রিয়ার প্রত্তি কর্মান ক্রিয়ার ক্রেয়ার ক্রিয়ার ক্রিয়া

Debra Stiver

NV-ASA is pleased to present its first newsletter of 2014. We welcome newly elected board members Alicia Hansen, Chad Cross, and Jessica Jaynes. Alicia is moving from the President's spot to the Northern Vice President position. Jessica will serve as the Chapter Secretary and Chad has become our Chapter Representative to national ASA.

This will be my second term as president and I look forward to representing the American Statistical Association during a special year. ASA is one of the oldest professional organizations in the United States and celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2014. Information on the celebration and all things statistical can be found at http://amstat.org. ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein has developed a special link highlighting various anniversary events and members are invited to contribute their own blogs. The Nevada Chapter will be fete the anniversary at our annual meeting in the fall. NV-ASA is also planning its participation in a special poster session at the August Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston. The session will highlight the histories of the various chapters and sections. Warning! If you are a member with historical ties to the Nevada Chapter, you may find yourself being contacted for remembrances!

ASA concluded its International Year of Statistics campaign in 2013, but continues the spirit of that banner year with the development of *The World of Statistics*. A quote from Ron Wasserstein on the national site describes the program:

"Thousands of statistical organizations around the world are excited to continue working with The World of Statistics campaign toward the goals that initially were established for Statistics 2013. Those objectives are:

- Increasing public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society
- Nurturing statistics as a profession, especially among young people
- Promoting creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics"

The program site (www.worldofstatistics.org) contains several helpful sections including The World of Statistics Blog, At Work with Statisticians, Statistics in Action, Around the World in Statistics, Career Resources, Teacher Resources and the site's Twitter account. In addition, ASA has launched a new open-access electronic journal entitled *Statistics and Public Policy*. The journal aligns with the organizations goal of promoting the use of professional, effective statistical analysis in policy decisions at all levels of government. The inaugural issue can be accessed at www.amstat.tandfonline.com.

This is a great year to become involved in the Nevada Chapter of the American Statistical Association. Membership provides a wealth of resources for professionals using statistical analysis and aspiring student statisticians. For more information, feel free to contact me at stiver@unr.edu. ❖

The 11th annual (!) NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition will take place this year. Volunteers from NV-ASA will assemble at the end of March to assign First, Second, and Third Places, along with two Honorable Mention awards, in each of four grade categories (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12). The State winning posters will be forwarded to the national competition.

Our NV students have often been winners of the ASA National Statistics Poster Competition. Last year two of our posters received First Place and two received Second Place in their divisions. The NV-ASA winning posters for past years may be viewed at www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/, which also contains more information about the Competition. **







NV-ASA Fall Symposium & Annual Meeting 2013

Our 2013 Fall Symposium and Annual Meeting took place Saturday, October 12 in Reno. The keynote speaker was **Nat Schenker**, then the National ASA's President-Elect. Dr. Schenker's keynote address was "Initiatives in the ASA as We Approach its 175th Anniversary". There will be special programs commemorating the anniversary, particularly in association with the Joint Statistical Meetings revisiting the ASA's birthplace in Boston this coming summer.



Dr. Schenker also presented "Combining Information from Multiple Data Sources to Enhance Estimation: Some Experiences Involving Surveys and Some Lessons Learned". Nat's "day job" is with the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control His presentation described three and Prevention. projects that benefitted from combining information; the motivation for doing so includes (1) obtaining information efficiently when resources are limited, (2) taking advantage of different strengths of different data sources, (3) using complementary data sources to fill in each others' gaps, (4) handling non-sampling errors such as missing data, measurement / response error, and coverage errors, and of course (5) improving estimation precision.

After lunch we heard from three speakers. The first was **Anna Panorska** of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of UNR, speaking on "What to Expect from a Graduate Program in Statistics – Possibilities, Opportunities, and Scholarships". Dr. Panorska first encouraged prospective graduate students to understand what they would be getting into (and how to get there); she then gave practical advice on topics including selection of thesis topics and advisors. She closed by suggesting numerous sources for scholarships and other funding opportunities.

The next speaker was **David Thiel**, currently a Financial Associate with Thrivent Financial and former Coordinator of K-12 Mathematics for the Clark County School District (and leader of our NV-ASA Poster Competition). Dave spoke on "Statistics Education: Past, Present, and Future", from its weak beginning in the 1970s onward. He described significant milestones along the way, such as the *NCTM Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics* (1989), the introduction of the Statistics Advanced Placement

Test (1996-1997), the Nevada standards (1999, revised in 2006), and the new Common Core Standards (2010). Dave shared with us his considerable experience and indepth knowledge of these and other developments, and gave us his expectations concerning and recommendations for guiding the future of statistics education.

Jeff Hardcastle, Nevada State Demographer, was the final speaker, presenting "Data, Statistics, Information, and Public Policy". Jeff described various attributes of Data: observational vs self-reported vs administrative record vs experimental; qualitative vs quantitative; inferential vs descriptive; and "big". He described several data sources (the census among them) and purposes for collecting data, along with how demographic data can be and are used. At one point he quoted "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own set of facts". He followed this with "There is a difference between knowing the facts about something, interpreting those facts, and making a decision on how to act on them".

Slides for all of these presentations are available on the Chapter website. The Symposium was followed by the annual business meeting of the chapter. [Editor's note: the Southwest Airlines flight back to Las Vegas was delayed 3 hours, so the southern contingent was forced to dine with the northerners at Louie's Basque Corner. Not a problem!] •

Northern Nevada Fall 2013 Student Meet-and-Greet and Membership Social

Alicia Chancellor Hansen

A successful Student Meet-and-Greet and Membership Social for the northern part of the state was hosted Friday, September 20, 2013. Chapter members, graduate students, and faculty from the University of Nevada, Reno, along with others interested in statistics, gathered at the lovely home of Drs. Anna Panorska and Tomasz Kozubowski for an evening of pizza, ice cream, and networking. The beautiful fall evening was a perfect backdrop for food and statistics fun! Nearly 30 people enjoyed learning more about the American Statistical Association and the Nevada Chapter, as well as receiving an invitation to the Fall Symposium and Annual Meeting. Several people took advantage of the opportunity to join. Further, these sorts of events are invaluable for extending one's connections in the local statistical community. JOB SEEKERS NOTE: at least one job was secured due to contacts made at this event! We would love to have

you join us at future Meet-and-Greets and other chapter events! ♥



Kaushik Ghosh

The Nevada Chapter of the American Statistical Association (southern branch) held its second annual meet-and-greet on Wednesday, September 11 at UNLV. Approximately 16 attendees got together at 5:30 pm over pizza and soda to learn about ASA and our chapter and its activities and to welcome new members. majority of the attendees were graduate students from UNLV. Southern Vice President Eyal Dubovy presented the various membership benefits of ASA, including access to top journals, ASA JobWeb and discounted registration at meetings. Past Presidents Charles Davis and Hokwon Cho briefed the audience on the past activities of NV-ASA and how students can become more involved. Several students expressed interest in joining the chapter and given membership information by Treasurer Kaushik Ghosh. &



Javier Rojo is the new chair of the Mathematics and Statistics Department at UNR, coming to Nevada from Rice University. Dr. Rojo is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association as well as of the Institute for Mathematical Statistics, the Royal Statistical Society, and the International Statistical Institute. You may find more information about him and his distinguished career at www.stat.rice.edu/~jrojo/. ◆

Have you read Chapter Chatter? The American Statistical Association (ASA) publishes a newsletter for chapter leaders and others interested in chapter activities across the US and around the world. According to its Spring 2013 Newsletter, the Council of Chapters Governing Board (COCGB) established this publication to foster improved communications between the COCGB

and chapters and among chapters by providing a forum for spreading news throughout the statistics community about ASA chapter initiatives and activities. All Chapters are invited to contribute articles and pictures. You can view current and previous Chapter Chatters on the COC website at http://community.amstat.org/COC/ChapterChatterNewsletter/. Check it out today! ©



Alicia Chancellor Hansen

As my term as NV-ASA President comes to an end and I begin my duties as Past President, I have been reflecting on my experiences over the last two years. Serving as Chapter President was a privilege for which I am grateful. I learned a great deal and was reminded on multiple occasions of the value I have obtained from being an active member of the chapter. At times it was frustrating, other times exhilarating, but ultimately I move into my role as Past President rewarding. determined to focus on spreading the value of participation in both the NV-ASA and the ASA to those who have an appreciation for statistics across Nevada. As I also tackle serving another term as Northern Vice President, I will be working closely with our Southern Vice President, Eyal Dubovy, to plan interesting events. I hope you will join us and encourage your colleagues to join us as well. I will be reaching out to encourage membership and seeking out people who are interested in taking a more active role in the chapter. This fall we will be holding elections for Southern Vice President and Treasurer. If you have any interest in learning more about either of those roles, suggesting events, or joining our chapter and ASA, please do not hesitate to contact me at achansen@sbcglobal.net. I look forward to hearing from you!

The UNLV Mathematical Sciences Department maintains an active statistics seminar series, typically meeting on Fridays at 11:30-12:30 every few weeks during the academic year. Notices are sent to those on the NV-ASA email list.

The first seminar of the Spring semester took place Friday, February 7. S. Rao Jammalamadaka of the University of California at Santa Barbara spoke on developing nonparametric maximum likelihood and "self-consistent" estimators for application in a "Middle

Censoring" setting; that is, when at least some observations are reported as intervals rather than values.

The next speaker, on March 7, will be Chandrasekaran Kandhasamy of the National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis of the Indian Council of Medical Research, speaking on "Spatial count data modeling with CAR priors in Bayesian approach".

Then on April 4 Nitis Mukhopadhyay of the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut will speak (topic TBA at this time). More information about these and future programs may be found at http://faculty.unlv.edu/cho/statseminar.htm. ❖

Chad Cross

 ${f T}$ he Nevada SAS User Group (NV-SUG) hosted a conference at UNLV on January 17, 2014. Around 30 participants attended to learn from three excellent speakers: Cynthia Zender from SAS provided an interesting talk titled "Macro Basics for New SAS Users"; Melodie Rush of SAS presented "SAS/STAT: A Gentle Introduction to some Frequently Used Tools"; and Dr. Guogen Shan of the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences (SCHS) gave a talk on "Exact Testing Procedures in SAS for Categorical Data Analysis." The group is currently organized by Dr. Darren Liu of the UNLV SCHS. To assist Dr. Liu with planning, an activity committee of 10 students and professionals was formed to plan new events. Current plans are to host a meet-and-greet in May and August of this year and to host an annual event in January 2015. The group is interested in finding speakers and/or topics that would be useful for all users of SAS beginner to expert and student to professional. The group hosts a Facebook page and a LinkedIn page. Those interested in joining the NV-SUG or in contact attending events can Dr. Liu darren.liu@unlv.edu or Dr. Cross at chad.cross@rocketmail.com for more information. ◆

Only a minority of the people who receive this newsletter are members of the Nevada Chapter of the American Statistical Association (NV-ASA). Dues are nominal: \$20 per year, \$10 a year for members of the national ASA, and \$2 for student members of the national ASA. There are two ways to join. You can join

NV-ASA when you renew your national ASA membership (or join for the first time); this can be done on-line at www.amstat.org. Otherwise, whether a national ASA member or not, you can join through PayPal on our website www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/ or by contacting our Treasurer Kaushik Ghosh. Any way you do it, please obtain an information form from our website, complete it, and send it to Kaushik at the address listed on the form.

Why should you join? NV-ASA events provide opportunities for networking and contact with other statisticians working in a wide variety of areas in Nevada. But in addition to that, a major reason is that your dues support the outreach activities of the NV-ASA including the K-12 Poster Competition and Career Days. Our financial needs are not great, so long as we all pitch in our modest amounts. *

From our Constitution:

"The purpose of this Chapter is to be a state and local area leader in promoting all aspects of sound statistical science and practice, including the advancement of statistical education, professional practice, and research."

"The Chapter shall sponsor educational, professional and scientific activities that benefit professional statisticians, students, and users of statistics. The Chapter shall promote effective unified action amongst all groups having an interest in or concern with statistics and probability. The Chapter shall foster communication between the statistical community, other scientific organizations, and the media for the enlightenment of the general public and enhancement of the general welfare. The Chapter shall promote the proper application of statistics in all fields, shall work for the improvement of statistical education at all levels, and shall seek opportunities to advance the statistics profession and professional work opportunities." *



NV-Chapter Officers and Others

Elected (and voting) officers are

President: Debra Stiver (2014-2015)
Past President: Alicia Chancellor Hansen (2014-2015)
Southern Vice President: Eyal Dubovy (2013-2014)
Northern Vice President:

Alicia Chancellor Hansen (2014-2015)

Secretary: Jessica Jaynes (2014-2015)
Treasurer: Kaushik Ghosh (2013-2014)
Chapter Representative: Chad Cross (2014-2016)

Also involved are

Education Committee Co-Chair: David W Thiel Webmaster: Alicia Chancellor Hansen Newsletter co-Editor: Charles Davis Newsletter co-Editor: Hokwon Cho

For contact information, please see our website www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/

Co-Editors:

Charles B. Davis Hokwon A. Cho

Type setting:

Hokwon A. Cho

Silver State-istics welcomes news items and letters from members and friends of the NV-ASA on matters of interest to the Chapter and the profession. Manuscript or items can be sent as a Microsoft Word document, PDF, or within an e-mail.

Silver State-istics is published by the Nevada Chapter of the American Statistical Association

© 2014 Nevada Chapter of American Statistical Association

Check our website:

www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/

