



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/



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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. ♦

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**Message from the President**  
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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 Statistics2013. 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. ❖

NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition

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.

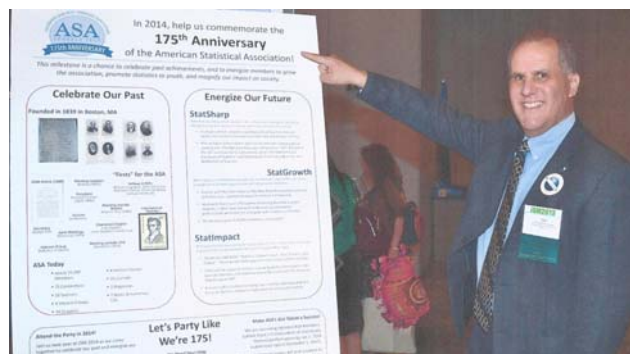
Our NV students have often been winners of the ASA National Statistics Poster Competition. Last year two of our posters received First Place and two received Second Place in their divisions. The NV-ASA winning posters for past years may be viewed at www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/, which also contains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



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**NV-ASA Fall Symposium  
 & Annual Meeting 2013**  
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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 and Prevention. His presentation described three 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 in-depth 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

*Southern Nevada Fall 2013
Meet-and-Greet*

New Faculty

Chapter Chatter

Moving from President to Past President

UNLV Statistics Colloquium/Seminar Series

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”.

Nevada SAS User Group

The 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 attending events can contact Dr. Liu at 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

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. *

“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:
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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.

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Check our website:

www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/

