



SILVER STATE-ISTICS



Nevada Chapter of American Statistical Association

Nevada Chapter News Letter

Vol. 11 No. 2

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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Coming Events – Save the Dates!

The 2014 ASA Traveling Course: Applied Logistic Regression will be offered on the UNR campus, with video conferencing to UNLV, **Saturday, September 6**, 10:15am-5:15pm. The instructor will be David W. Hosmer, Professor of Biostatistics Emeritus at U. Mass and Adjunct Professor at U. Vermont. Dr. Hosmer is an author of *Applied Logistic Regression*, 3rd Ed. You will

be receiving a flyer giving locations, cost, and registration information.

Our **Annual Meeting and Fall Symposium** will take place **Saturday, October 18**, 10:00am-4:00pm on the UNLV campus. In the morning the keynote speaker will be Javier Rojo, the new Chair of the Mathematics and Statistics Department at UNR. The President's Message below contains more information about Dr. Rojo's background and experiences.

After lunch the program will include a round-table discussion "The Use and Mis-use of *P*-Values", a topic brought to our attention by the article "Statistical Errors: *P* values, the 'gold standard' of statistical validity, are not as reliable as many scientists assume" by Regina Nuzzo, which appeared in *Nature* 13 February, 2014. Reactions to this contention come from those with several interests: scientific researchers hoping to find "significant" results to publish and encourage further funding; managers hoping to avoid "significant" results which might indicate adverse worker exposure or environmental impact; those dealing with large datasets for which hundreds if not thousands of statistical tests are performed automatically, in which setting an absence of "significant" results would itself be highly unusual, and so on!

Message from the President

Debra Stiver

Thousands of statisticians travelled to Boston recently to participate in the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings and celebrate the 175th birthday of the ASA. The following description from the ASA website sums up the event:

"JSM ... is the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America. Attended by more than 6,000 people, meeting activities include oral presentations, panel sessions, poster presentations, continuing education courses, an exhibit hall (with state-of-the-art statistical

products and opportunities), career placement services, society and section business meetings, committee meetings, social activities and networking opportunities”.

The program is not exclusively directed toward the “formal” statistician and a sampling of the offered sessions shows the diversity typical of JSM proceedings. Users of statistics for almost any discipline can find seminars and panel discussions devoted to current practices in a colossal variety of fields including agricultural and environmental sciences, business and economics, biostatistics, health policy, statistical education, data mining, government, defense and national security, social statistics, risk analysis, and even quantitative analysis in sports. Poster presentations and career placement services cater to students and others looking for employment in the statistics field. JSM also offers training sessions for K-12 teachers.

SAVE THE DATE! Closer to home, NV-ASA is planning its annual meeting and statistics symposium for Saturday, October 18th. The event will be held on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus and we welcome this year’s keynote speaker, Dr. Javier Rojo, Chair and Professor of the Math and Statistics Department at the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Rojo is also the Seneca C. and Mary B. Weeks Endowed Chair and came to Nevada recently from Rice University. He has received many awards and recognitions including being elected a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, the American Statistical Association, the Royal Statistical Society, the International Statistical Institute and the National System of Researchers. The event also includes a morning and afternoon statistics symposium, lunch, and a short business meeting.

Our annual symposium provides a great opportunity to meet the board members of Nevada ASA and be introduced to the perks and programs that are part of the chapter and the national association. The meeting has a casual setting where members, students, and speakers easily come together, socialize and network. Please look for updates and information on the meeting and consider attending. The chapter welcomes all persons interested in statistics, from the high school student investigating a potential major in statistics, to the professional academic statistician or practitioner in any field.

President Nat Schenker, who visited our Chapter last October for the Annual Meeting in Reno, gave an amusing, informational, and inspirational President’s address on what membership in ASA means to its members. A video was shown during his talk; our very own Chapter Secretary Jessica Jaynes was one of many members who discussed the role of the American Statistical Association in their professional development. We invite all to attend one of our functions in the north or south to see what membership in ASA can do for you!



ELECTION 2014

Two offices are coming up for election at this time: Southern Vice President and Treasurer. The primary role of the Southern Vice President is co-program chair (along with the Northern Vice President). The Vice Presidents also fill in with chairing meetings etc. as needed. The role of the Treasurer is to handle the Chapter’s monies and membership lists and to help arrange for registration for events.

Nominations are being sought. Please give your suggestions to Alicia Hansen at achansen@sbcglobal.net by Tuesday, September 30. Ballots will be distributed soon thereafter. Election results are announced during the Annual Meeting in October. ♦

AMSTAT NEWS

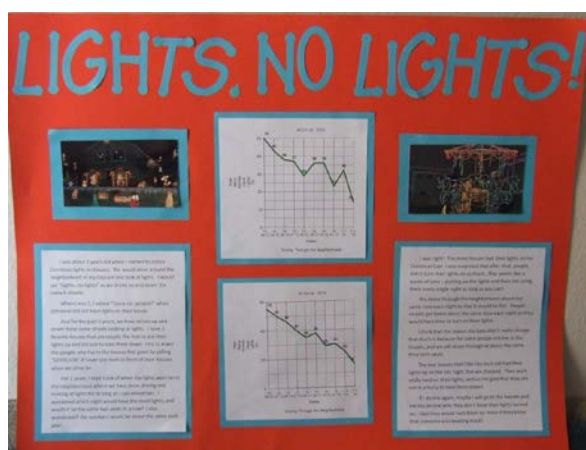
The August President’s Corner in Amstat News is titled “A Few Chapters in My Presidency”, and includes something about President Nat Schenker’s visit to our Annual Meeting last year. You can find the article at <http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2014/08/01/chapters-in-my-presidency/>.



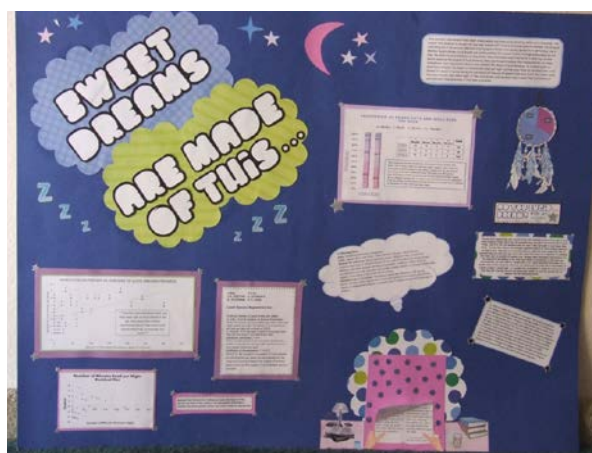
NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition

The 11th annual NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition took place this year. First, Second, and Third Places were awarded in each of four grade categories (K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12), along with three Honorable Mention awards. The State winning posters were forwarded to the national competition.

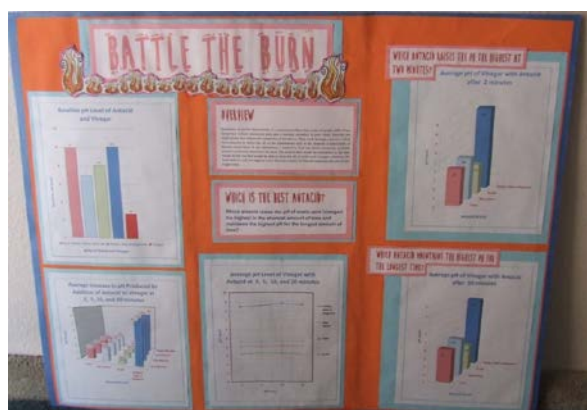
Our NV students have often been winners of the ASA National Statistics Poster Competition. This year one of our winning posters received Second Place in its division. The NV-ASA winning posters for this and past years may be viewed at www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/, which also contains more information about the Competition. Here are the First Place winning posters for this year’s competition.



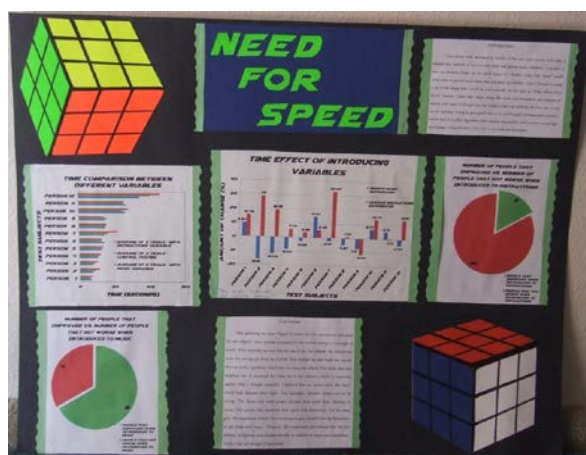
Lights, No Lights! by **Olivia Trahan**, 3rd grade, Ullis Newton Elementary School, Las Vegas (advisor: Bobbi Gardner)



Sweet Dreams are Made of This ... by **Lee Cohen**, 12th grade, West Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas (advisor: Tia Price) ★



Battle the Burn by **Kara Orevillo**, 6th grade, Hyde Park Middle School, Las Vegas (advisor: Judy Kraus)



Need for Speed by **Anik Patel**, 7th grade, Hyde Park Middle School, Las Vegas (advisor: Denise Romonoski)
Anik's poster won Second Place in the National competition.

News from The World of Statistics

These newsletters are now part of the ASA monthly electronic news, which goes out to all ASA members. They won't get to chapter members who aren't ASA members, though, so please pass this along. The most recent one is available at <http://www.worldofstatistics.org/files/2014/07/July-14-2014.pdf>; past issues can be reviewed at <http://www.worldofstatistics.org/news-of-the-world-of-statistics-archive/>. ♦

Chapter Chatter

There is a brief article about our chapter in the Summer 2014 issue of the ASA Council of Chapter's on-line newsletter *Chapter Chatter*. Here's the link.

<http://community.amstat.org/COC/chapterchatternewsletter>

The Spring 2014 issue contains several items of potential interest to Chapter members, including the following.

The ASA strongly recommends that chapters should continue to reach out to "isolated statisticians" – that is, those that work professionally in the field but who may be professionally isolated from potential colleagues. The main purpose of outreach is to involve new people in our

chapter, and to reconnect with those who have previously been involved in the chapter but may no longer participate. One of our goals is to update our email lists of NV-ASA members and potential members in order to get our colleagues more involved in the meetings, trainings, and workshops that we support. Please reach out to statisticians you may know who may be interested in being involved with our chapter.

There is an increased emphasis on the use of social media for chapter interactions and announcements. We should revisit the existing Facebook page and consider adding additional social media groups for our chapter (e.g., LinkedIn) in order to provide up-to-date announcements and to provide an avenue for discussions among members.

The ASA has officially launched a new certification called the “GStat”, which is designed for those wishing to advertise their skills and training as a graduate-trained statistician, and for those wishing to someday have the PStat® certification but currently lack the experience and/or publications that would allow for the higher professional certification. Information on this certification can be found at <http://www.amstat.org/accreditation/>. ☺

UNLV Statistics Colloquium Series

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

9/26 Prof. Jay Lee, Boise State University
 10/17 Prof. Guogen Shan, UNLV
 11/7 Prof. Usha Govindarajulu, SUNY Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
 11/14 Prof. James Flegal, University of California, Riverside

More information about these and future programs may be found at <http://faculty.unlv.edu/cho/statseminar.htm>.
 ❖

UNR Statistics Seminar Series

The UNR Mathematics and Statistics Department provides a statistics seminar series, typically meeting on Thursdays.

8/28 Paul Hurtado, PostDoc , Mathematical Biology Institute, Ohio State U
 10/9 Fei Jiang, PostDoc, Biostatistics, Harvard U
 10/16 Stacey Alexeeff, PostDoc, NCAR
 10/23 Minggen Lu, Assoc. Prof, Biostatistics, UNR
 11/13 Jessica Jaynes, Asst. Prof, Math Sciences, UNLV

Notes from the Council of Chapters Meetings at JSM

Chad Cross

Morning Session: Council of Chapters Business Meeting

- There is a continued push to include more students in local chapters. Currently there are over 19K ASA members, nearly a quarter of whom are students. Retention of students in the ASA after graduation is problematic, and hence if students are active members of local chapters, they may continue to see the benefits of continued membership in the ASA. One way to include students may be to encourage them to hold an office in the local chapter.
- Chapters are encouraged to continue sending articles and updates to the ASA’s publication “Chapter Chatter.” Articles are not limited in topic or scope, but must be 300 words or less and must contain no more than two pictures.
- The website ThisisStatistics.org has officially launched. There are many resources on the website for professional statisticians, educators, and students.
- Chapters may be invited to construct a poster for a future JSM that highlights the history and activities of the chapter. We should begin to formulate ideas for what to include on such a poster.

Afternoon Session: Council of Chapters Workshop

- Three breakout sessions were available: Microsites for chapter websites, social media, and value-added models. Unfortunately, we could attend only two of these, so I was not able to attend the value-added models session.
- Microsites: Microsites are community-specific content pages that branch from the main ASA page. They offer a short URL and are managed by ASA staff, making them a free, useful tool for chapters. Once NVASA has migrated to the microsite, we will be able to send out email blasts to the membership and to easily post blog

messages, etc. One important note: once the microsite is up and running, members must “opt-in” in order to be part of the site.

- Social Media: Though this has been heralded as a way to get new members and to entice students to participate, most chapters suggest that there has been little payoff for the effort. We should think carefully if we wish to begin using social media for our chapter. ♦

Outside Event of Interest

We have learned that a **Data Analytics Week** will be taking place at the MGM Grand Resort & Casino in Las Vegas on November 10-13. This forum is for the most passionate analytics seekers to exchange, discuss, collaborate and shape the future of data analytics. Speakers scheduled include John Eisenhower of Humana, author of *Heads Up! The Data Tsunami Survival Guide*, along with numerous data scientists, credit officers, and so on associated with organizations ranging from Discover Financial Services and American Express to Samsung to Twitter to Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals to Michaels Stores. Just a warning: the event is a bit pricey!

Joining NV-ASA!

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. ✱

The NV-ASA Mission

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.” ♣



2014
175th Anniversary

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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Hokwon A. Cho

Typesetting:
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

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Check our website:

www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/

