



SILVER STATE-ISTICS

NEVADA Chapter of American Statistical Association



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/

have received information about costs and registration by email already!) We look forward to seeing you there!

Our **Annual Meeting** will be coming up in the Fall in the North.

From the President's Desk

Debra Stiver

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Coming Events

In the South, be looking for a continuation of the P -value discussion in late April in the South. A brief questionnaire has been sent out to help plan date, time, and location.

And in the North, there will be a Networking Mixer - Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 5:30-7:00pm at Vino 100 - 1131 Steamboat Pkwy, Ste 830, Reno, NV 89521. This event will feature networking, appetizers, and WINE! Please join us to meet other people working or studying statistics in the Northern Nevada Area. (You should

We've greeted a new year and it's now February. Plans are well underway for the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) to be held this August in Seattle, Washington. In fact, the deadline for submitting papers, panels and posters at this ASA-sponsored convention has



already passed! If you've never been to the national convention, consider attending this year since it's being held at a west coast location. JSM is the premier event for all things statistical and offers a wide range of activities useful for the practitioner, consultant, academic, or student. General registration for this event (available at www.amstat.org) begins in April. Nevada chapter current and past members try to get together for a group lunch or dinner, so let us know if you'll be attending. The get-together is always planned "impromptu" during week.

Our NV-ASA chapter is planning statewide activities for the 2015 year. Our functions often take place on the campuses of UNR and UNLV, and events are open to all. We encourage participation regardless of your position or statistical interest. The southern region offers periodic seminars, sometimes at dinner or weekend meetings, and at least two activities are being discussed as I write this message. In the north, plans are underway to present a

session on “Careers in Statistics”. ASA “Career Days” are a staple outreach activity of its chapters. Attendees can see the diversity of statistical careers and applications by listening to professionals discuss how they apply concepts and techniques in their employment and/or research. Our Annual Meeting is statewide; our custom of our chapter is to alternate its location between the south and the north. In October, the Annual Meeting, joined to a Fall Symposium, will take place at the University of Nevada, Reno. The meeting usually ends with a group dinner at one of Reno’s fun restaurants. Be sure to check the NV-ASA website for the event announcements and updates.

New NV-ASA Officers

We have two new officers. The Treasurer is now Guogen Shan of the UNLV Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. The Southern Vice-President is now Charles Davis of EnviroStat. We thank outgoing officers Kaushik Ghosh and Eyal Dubovy and all others who have helped out for their efforts on behalf of the Chapter in the past years. ♦



NV-ASA

K-12 Poster Competition

The 12th annual NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition is approaching. Entries are due by March 17, 2015; winners will be announced by April 10. See our website for more information. The website also has images of winning posters from all years beginning with 2004. ☺



Aug. 8-13, 2015
Seattle, Washington

NV-ASA Fall Symposium 2014 and Annual Meeting

Our Fall Symposium took place Saturday, October 18, on the campus of UNLV. The keynote talk was given by Dr. **Javier Rojo**, the new Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of UNR. He spoke on “Body Mass Index, Obesity, Haseman-Elston, Orders by Dispersion, and Estimation Under Constraints”, featuring statistical models related involving obesity, genetic linkage, and type II diabetes risk.



The afternoon session featured a round-table discussion prompted by the article “*P* values, the ‘gold standard’ of statistical validity, are not as reliable as many scientists assume.” by Regina Nuzzo (*Nature* v. 506, 13 February 2014, 150-152). We learned that in at least one field (epidemiology) scientific articles that used *P*-values were for a time automatically rejected by the editor! We were also (re-)introduced to such terms as *P*-hacking, data torturing, statistician shopping, and publication bias. Sharang Chaudhry (UNLV DMS) discussed the (non-Bayesian?) nature of the distributions of *P*-values. Chad Cross (Veterans Administration biostatistician, among other interests) told us about some of the things that actually go on between the time a study is designed and its results are prepared for submission for publication, as well as how results (including *P*-values and estimated effect sizes) are often interpreted. And Charles Davis (EnviroStat) discussed the opposite sort of situation, where the customer really wants to avoid statistically significant results; he also introduced ideas of multiple comparisons (how many tests did you run before finding a “significant” result?).



His research integrates techniques from the fields of dynamical systems, stochastic processes and statistics to develop and analyze mathematical models motivated by questions in population ecology, infectious disease and immunology.

Deena Schmidt, Assistant Professor, coming most recently from Case Western Reserve University. Her research interests are in mathematical biology, applied probability, neural networks, and population and evolutionary genetics, with particular interest in developing and analyzing mathematical models to understand the roles of stochasticity, structure, and evolution in shaping the dynamics of biological systems.

Raul Rojas, Visiting Professor. Dr. Roja's homepage identifies him as a Professor of Artificial Intelligence in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Free University of Berlin, and describes various projects in robotics, neural networks, and even automated mathematical formula recognition.

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 Guogen Shan. Any way you do it, please obtain an information form from our website, complete it, and send it to Guogen 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. *

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: Charles Davis (2015)
 Northern Vice President: Alicia Chancellor Hansen (2014-2015)
 Secretary: Jessica Jaynes (2014-2015)
 Treasurer: Guogen Shan (2015-2016)
 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

Co-Editors:
 Charles B. Davis
 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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For contact information, please see our website.



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