

# SILVER STATE-ISTICS



**NEVADA Chapter of American Statistical Association** 

Nevada Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 12 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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Our Annual Meeting and Fall Symposium will take place October 17 in the North; see the discussion below.

# From the President's Desk

Debra Stiver

Summer greetings to our Nevada ASA colleagues and friends! As I write this message, the national American

Statistical Association (ASA) is preparing for the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) to be held the second week of August in Seattle, Washington. JSM and ASA provide something for everyone. ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and refers to itself as the "Big Tent for Statistics". If you've never visited the national website (amstat.org), please take a look at the site to get a sense of how many disciplines are represented by the sections and offices that are part of ASA. Some may think it's all about academia; however a sampling of ASA programs shows otherwise. There are sections for business and economics, agriculture, biological and environ-mental sciences, behavioral sciences, sports, defense, statistical education at all levels, public policy and government, biostatistics and pharmacology, forensics and criminology, and more. JSM 2015 will offer sessions and continuing education for each of the disciplines.

ASA has long been a strong promoter of programs to enhance data-driven decision-making, and organization has developed a national lobbying effort to those ends. ASA's Policy and Advocacy link on amstat.org states the following: "In March of 2008, the ASA created an Office of Science Policy to better integrate statisticians into the policymaking process. With the ASA's office located so close to Washington, DC, the opportunity to interact with national policymakers beckoned and creation of this office took advantage of the opportunity to make the ASA's presence and interests known to Congress and more broadly. The office also actively advocates for statistics research funding and funding for the federal statistical agencies". The advocacy push has created many lively and sometimes controversial discussions among the ASA membership, as one can see from the frequency of blogs, postings and other communication addressing ASA's role in the formulation of public policy using sound scientific data collection and statistical analyses.

This year's NV-ASA annual meeting and symposium, to be held on the University of Nevada, Reno campus in October, will mirror the national advocacy by presenting round-table discussions on the use of statistical analysis in formulating some of Nevada's public policy decisions. Please see the article below on the 2015 symposium speakers and their presentations. We hope that a national ASA officer will keynote ASA's public policy advocacy, and local experts will discuss statistical analysis in the formulation of water policy, urban planning and economic development and possibly public health policy in Nevada. We hope to see you at the symposium for some fellowship and enlightening discussions, so look for further detail and announcements on the 2015 NV-ASA Annual Meeting and Symposium.

Spring Events in Northern Nevada

#### Alicia Chancellor Hansen

**T**he Chapter hosted two events in Northern Nevada this spring. The first was a Networking Mixer on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. The second was a Dinner Speaker event on Friday, May 1, 2015.

The Mixer was held in Reno at Vino 100. This was the Chapter's first Networking Mixer, featuring appetizers and WINE! Two Chapter officers, Deb Stiver and Alicia Hansen, attended, as well as three additional people. The environment was delightful and the conversation stimulating. Since only a few people participated, we are wondering whether events of this nature are of interest to Chapter members and others. Any feedback you would be willing to share would be appreciated; please contact Alicia Hansen, Northern Vice President, at alicia@chansenstats.com.



The Dinner Speaker event was held at the Little Waldorf Saloon in Reno. Our speaker was Dr. Ilya Zaliapin, Associate Professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UNR, speaking on What's for Tomorrow? Statistically Speaking about Nature's Catastrophes. His fascinating talk presented challenges with analyzing and predicting 'rare' natural phenomenon or disasters. Events such as tornadoes and earthquakes present unique challenges for researchers. The earthquake simulations presented were especially

fascinating. Would you like to learn more? Look up the Finley Affair for a little taste of what was discussed! ©

We greatly appreciate Dr. Zaliapin taking time out of his busy schedule to speak on such an interesting topic and we thank everyone who joined us for the event. Nearly a dozen people attended the dinner. Due to a double-booking, we were able to enjoy the use of the entire patio for our event. The weather was beautiful. The setting sun did provide a few challenges for viewing Dr. Zaliapin's slides, but that issue resolved when the sun went down. The event was greatly enjoyed by all attendees.



Dr. Zaliapin's research interests include random selfsimilar networks, aggregation phenomena, and applied statistical analysis of dynamical systems with applications in geosciences and biology. Ilya received his PhD in Mathematics and Physics from the Russian Academy of Sciences in 1999 and joined the UNR faculty in 2006. He enjoys teaching a variety of Statistics and Mathematics classes at UNR and participating in the life of a broader Statistical Geosciences community. Dr. Zaliapin serves as the Chair of the Committee on Probability and Statistics in Physical Sciences of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, the Secretary of the Commission on Mathematical Geophysics of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, a member of the Planning Committee of the Southern California Earthquake Center, and an Associate Editor of Nonlinear Processes in Geophysics and Environmental Statistics. Dr. Zaliapin has published 50 papers in academic journals.

Are you looking forward to future Chapter events, both in Northern and Southern Nevada? We need your support if events like these are to continue. ◆

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### Elections 2015

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Four Chapter Offices will be up for election this fall: President, Northern Vice President, Southern Vice President, and Secretary. Are you interested in serving the Chapter in one of these critical roles? Nominations are being sought. Please send them to Alicia Hansen at <a href="mailto:alicia@chansenstats.com">alicia@chansenstats.com</a>. The current officers are listed at the end of the newsletter and would be happy to answer any questions you may have about their positions.

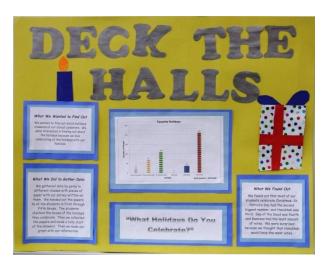
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# K-12 Poster Competition

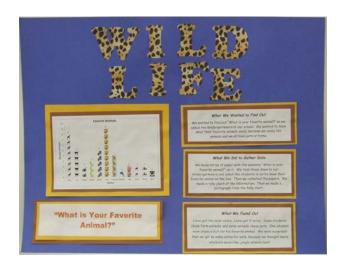
A total of 339 students from 22 schools submitted 189 posters to our 12<sup>th</sup> annual NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition. First, second, and third places were awarded at all grade levels, along with several honorable mention awards. Here are the first and second place winners. All of the winning posters may be viewed on our website.

#### K-3

First Place: Parker Semenza, Filip Pececnik, Epiphany Song, and Namrata Kantrowicz, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, The Meadows School, Las Vegas: *Deck The Halls* (Advisor: Amy Ostby).



Second Place: Ibraheem Hito, Adelmo Calvo, Aiden Watt, Benett Viczko, and Ryan Roxarzade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, The Meadows School, Las Vegas: *Wild Life* (Advisor: Amy Ostby).



#### 4-6

First Place: Alex Ballin and Billie Ballin, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Hyde Park Middle School, Las Vegas: *Lacrosse: Overhand vs Sidearm* (Advisor: Judy Kraus).



Second Place: Joanna Yi, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Hyde Park Middle School, Las Vegas: *Consuming Meat* (Advisor: Judy Kraus).

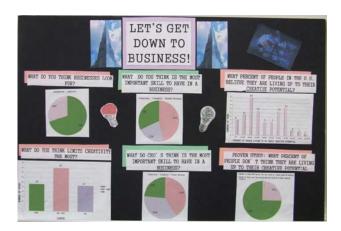
Ms Yi's poster took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the ASA National Poster Competition.



7-9

First Place: Margaret Luna, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Hyde Park Middle School, Las Vegas: *Let's Get Down to Business!* 

(Advisor: Denise Romonoski).



Second Place: Ashlyn Henriod 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Hyde Park Middle School, Las Vegas: *Oh, Snap! "Break"ing it Down* (Advisor: Denise Romonoski).



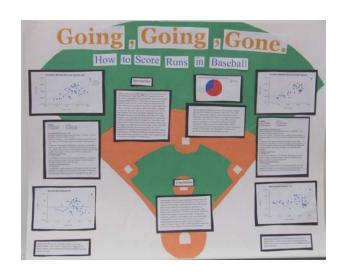
#### 10-12

First Place: Casey VanHoose and Katrina Marks, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, West Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas: *Liberty, Justice, and Gender* (Advisor: Barbara Pratt).



Second Place: Timothy Twelker and Marshall Potts, 12<sup>th</sup> grade, Moapa Valley High School, Overton: *Going, Going, Gone. How to Score Runs in Baseball* 

(Advisor: Robin Fulmer).



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Our Fall Symposium will take place in Room 107 of the Ansari Business Building on the campus of UNR October 17, 2015. The general theme will parallel that of the Joint Statistical Meetings: *Statistics: Making Better Decisions*, on the role statistical science can/should play in helping determine public policy. The keynote speaker is expected to be an ASA national officer affiliated with the ASA Office of Science Policy.

Local speakers include the following:

Frederick Steinmann, currently an Assistant Research Professor and Leadership and Economic Development Specialist in the Department of Economics/University Center for Economic Development in the UNR College of Business. Since earning his doctorate in Policy, Planning, and Development from USC, he has worked with a variety of agencies and consulting firms in the Reno area and in California. He is also currently a member of the International Economic Development Council, the American Society for Public Administration, and the American Planning Association. His tentative title: *Use of Statistical Analysis in Urban Planning and Economic Development*.

There will be a joint presentation by the next two speakers, tentatively titled *Use of Econometric Modeling in the Development of Water Resource Management.* 

Shawn Stoddard, Senior Water Resource Planner for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. He joined the water division of Sierra Pacific in 2000. He holds a Master's in agricultural economics and is completing his doctorate in hydrology at the University of Nevada, Reno. Shawn is a native Nevadan; he also serves as an adjunct faculty for the UNR Department of Economics.

Kimberly Rollins is an Associate Professor for the Center of Resource Economics in the College of Business at UNR. She received her BA in Zoology at the University of Main in Orono and her Doctorate in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Her study emphases include allocation of public goods, mechanisms to align social and private incentives, and non-market valuation. Her applied work has provided opportunities to work with ecologists and other natural scientists, policy-makers, resource managers and others working in fields related to natural resources and environment. ##

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# New Faculty at NSC

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Chapter Representative
Chad Cross will be
joining the full-time
mathematics faculty at
Nevada State College in
Henderson this Fall. The
mathematics degree
program recently
approved by NSC will be
accepting new students
this academic year. The
program currently offers



several standard math courses for those desiring a degree in math or those planning to become math educators. Dr. Cross will be helping develop the applied math and statistics courses, and will be developing a cross-disciplinary data science and informatics minor. **#** 

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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.

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

### ዾጜ<mark>፞፞፞፞፞፞፞፞ጜቝጜጜጜዀጜጜዀጜጜዀጜጜጜ</mark> Joining NV-ASA! ዾጜጜቝቝጜጜጜዀፚጜጜዀጜጜጜጜ

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 <a href="www.amstat.org">www.amstat.org</a>. Otherwise, whether a national ASA member or not, you can join through PayPal on our website <a href="www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/">www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/</a> 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 Dr. Shan 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. \*\*

# ECONOMIC CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER

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.



www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/