



Positions that will be up for elections this coming fall are Southern Vice President, Treasurer, and Chapter Representative. ♦

Our Fall Symposium took place on the UNR campus October 17, 2015. The general theme of the Nevada Symposium was “Statistical Analysis in Public Policy Formation in Nevada”. This theme was chosen to parallel several initiatives being pursued in recent years by the American Statistical Association. The 2015 JSM proceedings highlighted the use of statistics and data analysis to promote better decision making.

The afternoon sessions focused on “Statistical Analysis in Public Policy Formation in Nevada”. The first two speakers focused on water policy in Nevada. We heard from Shawn Stoddard of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, on the importance of using appropriate data collections methods as a building block on providing analysis leading to good decision making. Kim Rollins of the Department of Economics, UNR, provided an analysis of factors related to water demand. Some of

The water policy presentations were following by a discussion entitled “The Use of Statistical Sampling On Urban Planning and Development”. The speaker, Fred Steinmann of the UNR Center for Economic Development, discussed the use of data collection to assist with decision making related to downtown development projects in Reno. Dr. Steinmann was followed by Tabor Griswold, Health Services Research Analyst with the University of Nevada School of Medicine, on “Health Workforce Trends and Policy in Nevada and the United States”. She presented data on the growing demand, both in recent history and projected, for healthcare professionals and on the workforce shortages. Regarding the latter, NV was ranked 50th or even 51st among states for practitioners per capita for certain categories (surgeons, RNs, certified nurse anesthetists). These data help inform policy decisions such as those concerning education leading to careers in health care, particularly in NV, budgeting, and loan repayment policies. ☺

Erick, our new Northern Vice President, is an AP Statistics teacher at Churchill County High School in Fallon, NV. Originally from Las Vegas, Erick received his Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education Mathematics from the University of Utah in 2007 and his MA from Western Governor's University in 2011. He is excited to be teaching statistics and helping the Chapter. We leadership role!



helping the Chapter. We welcome Erick to his new leadership role!

Gayle Allénback

Gayle is our new Secretary. She has over 20 years experience in the medical field, having begun her career as a clinical healthcare professional (occupational therapist) in hospital, school system, and home health settings before pursuing in Epidemiology/Biostatistics and changing focus to a more far-reaching non-clinical role as the data analyst for the Infection Prevention department at Valley Health System. She



is currently the data analyst/biostatistician for the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Office of Medical Research in Las Vegas. She has made multiple oral and poster presentations of her research at national and regional conferences and has submitted several manuscripts for publication in medical journals. ❧

Statistical Consulting as a Career

On November 5, 2015 the NV-ASA held an event on the UNLV campus focusing on consulting as a career, with subtitle "What's It Like Out There?". The evening began with brief presentations by NV-ASA members with some years of experience in the field, and then turned to discussions of questions that had been posed by UNLV graduate students. These had been passed on to colleagues elsewhere for their input; the discussion was wide-ranging and productive. Some of the questions were:

"Briefly, how did you arrive at being a consultant? What skills and talents do you have that particularly apply to this sort of work? Do you have a particular field of application, and if so how did that come about?"

"Does a consultant specialize in a particular area of application? How do you promote your services? (advertising, word-of-mouth, papers in subject-matter publications) How do projects come to you? Describe typical first and last steps for a project."

"How do you deal with customers who are 'statistician shopping' in hopes of finding someone with credentials who will give the 'right' answer?"

One important answer that came from the discussion was that there are different types of positions: a staff position in a company that is funded as a resource freely available to all; a staff position in a company that operating units may utilize but are charged against their budgets for; a position with a consulting company, where everything depends on sales of the services; or an independent consultant or micro-business. The question that was discussed but not answered well was that all-important one of "How do you find customers who need your expertise?"



July 30-August 4, 2016
Chicago, Illinois

UNLV Statistics Colloquium/Seminar Series

The Department of Mathematical Sciences announces several statistical seminars, all Fridays at 11:30am in CBC C-138, preceded by refreshments:

March 11: HK Tony Ng, Southern Methodist University
March 18: J Kim, Moffitt Cancer Center & University of South Florida
April 22: M Mulekar, University of Southern Alabama
May 6: PK Choudhary, University of Texas at Dallas.

For more information go to
<http://faculty.unlv.edu/cho/statseminar.htm>. ❧

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 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. *

NV-Chapter Officers and Others

Elected and voting officers are

President:	Debra Stiver (2014-2017)
Past President:	Alicia Chancellor Hansen (2014-2017)
Southern Vice President:	Charles Davis (2015-2016)
Northern Vice President:	Erick Gremlich (2016-2017)
Secretary:	Gayle Allenback (2016-2017)
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.

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For contact information, please see our website.



www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/