



SILVER STATE-ISTICS

NEVADA Chapter of American Statistical Association



Nevada Chapter Newsletter

Vol. 9 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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COMING EVENTS

Look for these events to come this year:

- Fall Symposium and 11th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Saturday, October 6 – **SAVE THE DATE!**
- Elections 2012

President's Message

Alicia Chancellor Hansen

Greetings! It is my privilege to write my first President's Message for the newsletter as the 2012-2013 NV-ASA President. I am excited about our upcoming

activities. My goal is to continue the work of previous Presidents to invigorate our chapter. With that in mind, I would like to share my thoughts and ask for yours in return.

The Executive Committee has been discussing many possible avenues for enhancing the value of your membership and recruiting new members, including picnics and socials. To begin, we are looking to enhance collaboration with other professional organizations. Our first step is to jointly hold our Annual Meeting this October with the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA). Our Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 6 in Las Vegas, following the NPHA Annual Conference on Thursday and Friday, October 4 and 5. For additional information on NPHA, please visit their website at: <http://www.nphaonline.org/>.

Are there activities the chapter could host you would enjoy participating in? I welcome your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me at achansen@sbcglobal.net.

Recently, the chapter sponsored a couple of wonderful events. The 9th Annual K-12 Poster Competition was a great success! Many thanks to David Thiel for his ongoing efforts. You can view the winning posters on our website at:

<http://www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/k12postercompetition/k12postercompwinners2012.html>.

The Northern Nevada Career Day on Saturday, May 5th was an exciting event with a dozen speakers! Many thanks to Anna Panorska for all her work in organizing it.

Speaking of the website, a lot of work is being done to update it and enhance its utility as a resource. Please check it out at:

<http://www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/index.html>.

The Joint Statistical Meetings are being held fairly close to home this year, in San Diego, CA, July 28 through August 2. I am planning on attending and hope to see you there!

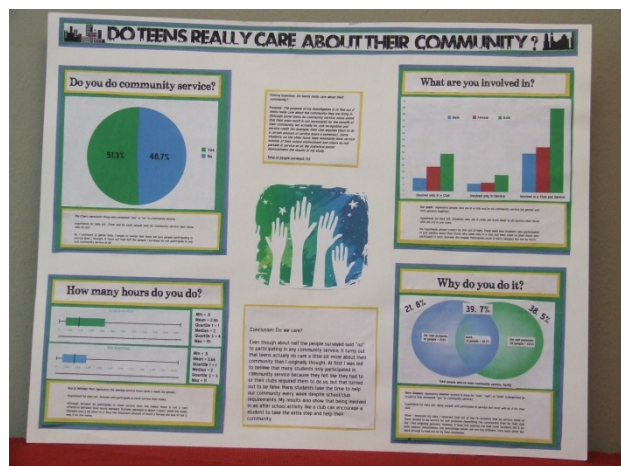
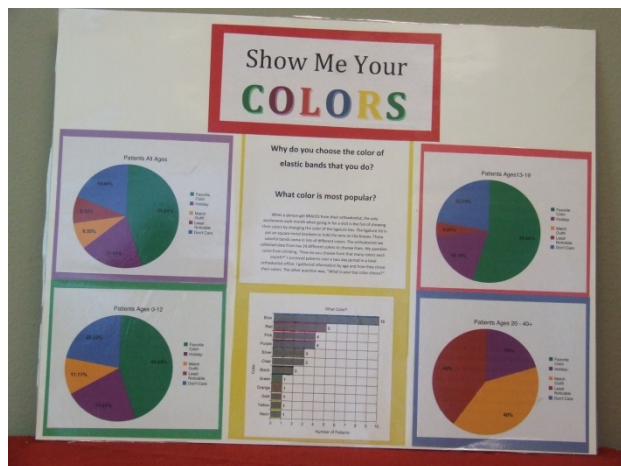
Next time, I hope to talk more about new activities and members. I hope to hear your thoughts. Until next time!



2012 K-12 Poster Competition



The 2012 Nevada K-12 Poster Competition winning posters are now available for viewing on our website. These winners were selected from 333 posters prepared by 475 students in 15 schools.



We are particularly proud of the continued success of our Nevada K-12 Poster Competition winners in the National Poster Competition. This year “Do Teens Really Care About Their Community?”, prepared by Layla Barati of the East Career and Technical Academy in Las Vegas, won third prize in the National 10-12 grade category. “Show Me Your Colors”, prepared by Andrew Wyatt of the Lied Middle School, won first prize in the National 4-6 grade category.

Thanks are due to all of the students, teachers, and judges who participate in this event each year, and particularly to Dave Thiel for organizing this most worth-while event. ♦



Mathematics and Statistics

Career Day in Reno



A Mathematics and Statistics Career Day was held in Reno Saturday, May 5, hosted by NV-ASA and the UNR Department of Mathematics and Statistics. There were a dozen brief presentations on applications of mathematics and statistics in wide variety of areas: Wei Yang (biostatistics), Kelly Redmond (climate and hydrology), Pavel Solin (applied math), Laurel Saito (environmental science), Kim Rollins (economics), Ryan Dotson (private industry), Ilia Zaliapin (geosciences), Stacie Tatman (gaming applications), Matthew Forister (biology and ecology), Theophilus Djanie (actuarial and insurance), Mariah Evans (sociology/psychology), and Amrutha Buddana and Prashanth Pothula (business).

There were about 50 participants, including students from Reno area high schools and UNR along with members of the local business community. There were many questions and interesting discussions regarding careers during the lunch break. We are looking forward to the next event during 2013. ☺



NV-ASA Fall Symposium 2012 and Annual Meeting



Our 2012 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 6, 2012 in Las Vegas. This will mark the 10th anniversary of the Chapter; the first Annual Meeting was held October 5, 2002. During that first Annual Meeting Richard Sheaffer of the University of Florida presented “Statistics for a New Century: Meeting the Needs of a World of Data” and June Morita of the University of Washington presented “The Joy of Being a Statistician”, both courtesy of the National ASA. In addition, there was a panel discussion on Careers in Statistics, a Student Poster Competition, Exhibitor Booths, and of course lunch.

Annual Meetings alternate between North and South, and are accompanied by another event, following the pattern of that first Annual Meeting in 2002. Plans for our 11th Annual Meeting, accompanied by a Fall Symposium, are underway. The date was selected to follow the meetings of the Nevada Public Health Association (October 4-5). Look for announcements of the details.

If you would like to present a talk during the Symposium, please contact Chapter President Alicia Hansen (achansen@sbcglobal.net). ☼

World of Statistics

If you or one of your colleagues would be interested in presenting a *World of Statistics* workshop, please contact David Thiel, dthiel@interact.ccsd.net. ☿


Book and Film Review: Moneyball

Moneyball earned six Academy Award nominations, including best picture, but found itself shut out at the conclusion of the ceremony on February 26. Nonetheless, the film has received nearly universal acclaim; that praise is richly deserved. There are some departures from the book—as is the case with nearly every screen adaptation—and the movie entirely skips the compelling story of the 2002 baseball draft. The creative license taken by Hollywood is relatively minor, however, and does not detract from the book's overall message: to compete against richer clubs, the A's had to

The result of Billy Beane's success a decade ago may have led to Oakland's recent demise. The last five years have not been good to the As, with the team finishing

last or next-to-last four times. A possible reason for the downfall could be that other teams have begun using data in more meaningful ways to evaluate player performance. Consequently, the undervalued players that Beane snatched away from teams for small sums now command higher salaries than Oakland can now afford.

Moneyball is highly recommended for baseball fans and statisticians alike. The movie is entertaining; the book provides a similar edge-of-your-seat experience. Those wanting to know more about *Moneyball* and how it changed the evaluation of players and the way the game is played may consider the October 23, 2006 and January 29, 2007 episodes of the podcast *EconTalk* at www.econtalk.org/archives.

By the way, the book also provides an introduction to the field of SABeRmetrics (from the Society for American Baseball Research). 

Election 2012

Our Constitution provides for a staggered election of officers in order to ensure continuity. The Chapter Representative is a three-year position, consistent with national ASA rules; the others are two-year positions. Current officers are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

The Southern Vice President and Treasurer offices will be up for election at the end of this year. Nominations will be sought this Fall; results will be announced during our Annual Meeting.

Thanks are due to all of the officers and others who contribute generously of their time and talent!

UNLV Statistics Colloquium/Seminar Series

The UNLV Mathematical Sciences Department maintains an active seminar series, meeting on Fridays at 11:00-12:00 every few weeks. Notices are sent to the NV-ASA email list; for more information go to <http://faculty.unlv.edu/cho/statseminar.htm>. ❖



July 28 - August 2, 2012
 San Diego Convention Center
 San Diego, California

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: at most \$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.” ♣

NV-Chapter Current Officers

President: Alicia Chancellor Hansen (2012-13)
Past President: Hokwon A. Cho (2012-2013)
Southern Vice President: Andy Chance (through 2012)
Northern Vice President: Anna Panorska (through 2013)
Secretary: Hong Wei (through 2013)
Treasurer: Kaushik Ghosh (through 2012)
Chapter Representative: Debra Stiver (through 2013)
Education Committee Co-Chair: David W. Thiel
Webmaster: Alicia Chancellor Hansen

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Charles B. Davis

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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/