



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. Please keep an eye on our website for more details on upcoming events. <https://community.amstat.org/nevadachapter/home>

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The President’s Corner
Alicia Hansen



Happy 2026! As we begin this new year, I’m honored to be serving as Chapter President for 2026-2027. I have had the privilege of previously serving as President twice, in 2018-2019 and 2012-2013. I’m looking forward to a productive term.

In February, our Southern VP, Miguel Fudolig, is planning another session of the "Reacting to the Past" Role Playing Game series. The game titled "The Cigarette Century: Tobacco and Lung Cancer, 1964-1965" explores this question in the context of the congressional debates

surrounding tobacco and lung cancer after the publication of the 1964 Surgeon General's Report. Shout out to Miguel for supporting this unique approach to exploring statistics!

This spring we will hold our 22nd K-12 Statistics Poster Competition! Competition rules and submission guidelines will be available soon. Please help us spread the word to K-12 students and mentors across Nevada. We welcome support with logistics, judging, and securing grants or donations for the prize fund.

This fall, our Annual Symposium and Business Meeting will take place in Las Vegas. Stay tuned for more information!

May 2026 will mark 24 years since our Chapter got its start. All we have accomplished would not have been possible without the volunteers who have helped along the way. If you are interested in attending or organizing an event, assisting with the poster competition, newsletter, or website, or serving on the Board, please reach out, at achansen@sbcglobal.net. Here’s to an amazing 2026! Alicia

Alicia Chancellor Hansen, MS



Farewell Note from
Past President Cheryl Hightower:



As I pass the NV-ASA President baton into the capable hands of Alicia Hansen, I want to share my heartfelt gratitude with everyone who has served or supported our chapter over the past

two years. In the classic “live and let live” spirit of Nevada, our chapter is powered by a motley crew of statisticians from both the public and private sectors, often separated by hundreds of miles of basin-and-range landscape. And yet, our organization is strong, bringing people together for continuing education, professional development, and networking, for the price of a little money and a bit of travel. In this rapidly shifting time, when anyone can ask generative AI to write code for R or SAS or Python, or to summarize statistical methods and analyses, it is the insights, judgment, and confidence we gain from personal interactions that help us move toward the best approximation of the truth available to us. Thank you to all who have interacted with me in the past two years. I have gained more than I can say, and I look forward to continuing to serve the chapter in the role of Past President. I’m excited to see NV-ASA thrive under Alicia’s leadership in the years ahead.

2025 Annual Meeting
and Symposium

The 2025 NV-ASA Annual Meeting and Symposium was held on October 4, 2025, at the University of Nevada-Reno. Attendees were also able to access the meeting online. Activities included a keynote address, presentations by UNR and UNLV graduate students, lunch, NV-ASA business meeting, networking, and a “pair with an ASA member” mentoring session for graduate students in attendance.

The Chapter was pleased to host Dr. Ji-Hyun Lee as its keynote presenter. Dr. Lee is the 2025 President of ASA and Associate Director for Cancer, Quantitative Sciences & University of Florida Health Cancer Center, Professor, Department of Biostatistics. Her presentation was titled **ASA Nevada Chapter Conversation: The Power of an Everyday Statistician.**

The keynote address was followed by morning faculty/professional presentations. The presentations were

- Discovery of Attribute Hierarchy in Cognitive Diagnostic Models, Dr. Yinghan Chen.
- Dimension Reduction Method for Functional Neuroimaging Data, Dr. Mihye Ahn.
- Validating the three-factor structure of the Muscle Dysmorphic Disorder Inventory among FilAm Male University Students. Dr. Miguel Antonio Fudolig.

Afternoon sessions were devoted to presentation by graduate students and postdoc participants. Those presentations were

- A modified maximum likelihood estimation algorithm for modeling threshold exceedances with the generalized Pareto distribution by Jeffrey Harkness, Advisor: Dr. Hokwon Cho.
- Analysis of COVID-19 cases and comorbidities using machine learning algorithms: A case study of the Limpopo Province, South Africa by Charles Gyamfi, Advisors: Dr. Alexander Boateng and Dr. Daniel Maposa.
- A spatio-temporal evaluation of major environmental risk factors affecting COVID-19 prevalence in Reno and Las Vegas by Emmanuel Annan, Advisor: Dr. Yoon-Bae Jun.

Abstracts for the presentations will be posted to the Chapter website.

NV-ASA thanks the UNR Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the national ASA organization for their co-sponsorship of the event!



2015 Symposium and Annual Meetings
 Above: NV-ASA participants tune into one of the many speaker presentations. Below: Current and former NV-ASA board members.



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 2025 Board Elections  
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The following 2025 NV-ASA Board election results were announced at the annual meeting. Newly elected officers are:

Alicia Hansen: President for the term January 2026 – December 2027. Mrs. Hansen is an independent consultant with interests in statistics, project management, and education.

Miyhe Ahn: Northern Vice President for the term January 2026 – December 2027. Dr. Ahn is an Associate Professor of Statistics and Graduate Program Director in Statistics and

Data Science, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Nevada, Reno.

Glenn Waddell: Chapter Secretary for the term January 2026 - December 2027. Dr Waddell is a Teaching Associate Professor, College of Education and Human Development, University of Nevada, Reno; Program Coordinator of the Lemelson STEM Program at UNR and Chair of the ATME GFO Task Force on Math Teacher Recruitment.

Miguel Fudolig: Chapter Representative for the term January 2026 – December 2028. Dr. Fudolig is an Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He also serves as the Southern Nevada Vice President.

NV-ASA thanks the outgoing Board members:

Outgoing President: Cheryl Hightower, Biomedical Research Scientist, Imgen Research Group, Imgen LLC, Las Vegas Nevada.

Out-going Northern Nevada Vice President, Deb Stiver, Economics Lecturer Emerita, University of Nevada, Reno.

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 NV-ASA K-12 Poster Competition  
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The Chapter is currently planning the 2026 annual statewide Poster Competition which invites K-12 students to showcase their statistical skills. Participants are tasked with collecting and analyzing data on a topic of their choosing and presenting their findings through creative and informative posters. Look for announcements in your mailbox on competition announcements.

For more information, visit <https://community.amstat.org/nevadachapter/home>

Other News Around the State

StatsChats is back at UNR! StatsChats is an informal, weekly gathering where you can bring any quantitative questions related to your research. Everyone is welcome and the sessions cover a wide range of topics, including Statistics, Experimental Design, Model Simulation & Analysis, Debugging R code, and more.

Spring semester sessions will be held every Tuesday from 12 – 1 p.m. @ Lilli Brant reading room, DeLaMare Science and Engineering Library on the third floor. Please reference <https://guides.library.unr.edu/StatsChats>. All are invited to join the StatsChats mailing list. Send emails to statschats-join@lists.unr.edu and in the subject field enter "subscribe" (without the quotation marks). Leave the email body blank.

NV-ASA welcomes new member Dr. Cho, assistant professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at UNLV, whose research interests include smoothing# splines, nonparametric inference, functional data analysis, and lifetime data analysis.

NV-ASA is on LinkedIn

We now have a LinkedIn page for our Chapter. Visit <https://www.linkedin.com/company/nvasa>. If you are already a LinkedIn member, you will go to our page directly. If not, you will need to join first. One feature is that our NVASA page will allow job postings. To do that, please contact our webmaster at the email address given on our website.

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. For full-time students at NV institutions, the cost is \$10 per year (\$2 for student members of the national ASA). Otherwise, it is \$20 per year (\$10 for members of the national ASA). One can become a Life Member for \$100. 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/chapters.

There are two ways to join NV-ASA:
- at amstat.org, while initiating or renewing your national ASA membership; or
- at Wild Apricot (<https://ncotasa.wildapricot.org/>).

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 help 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-ASA Officers & Others

Voting officers are		
President:	Alicia Hansen	(2026-2027)
Past President:	Cheryl Hightower	(2026-2027)
Northern Vice President:	Mihye Ahn	(2026-2027)
Southern Vice President:	Miguel Fudolig	(2025-2026)
Secretary:	Glenn Waddell	(2026-2027)
Treasurer:	Charles Davis	(2025-2026)
Chapter Representative:	Miguel Fudolig	(2026-2028)

Other Chapter Positions

Webmaster: Alicia Chancellor Hansen
Poster Competition Lead: Elizabeth Harris
Newsletter Editor: Deb Stiver

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, go to
<https://community.amstat.org/nevadachapter/home>

Our address for regular mail is
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