

CHAPTER CHATTER

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James J. Cochran, Editor

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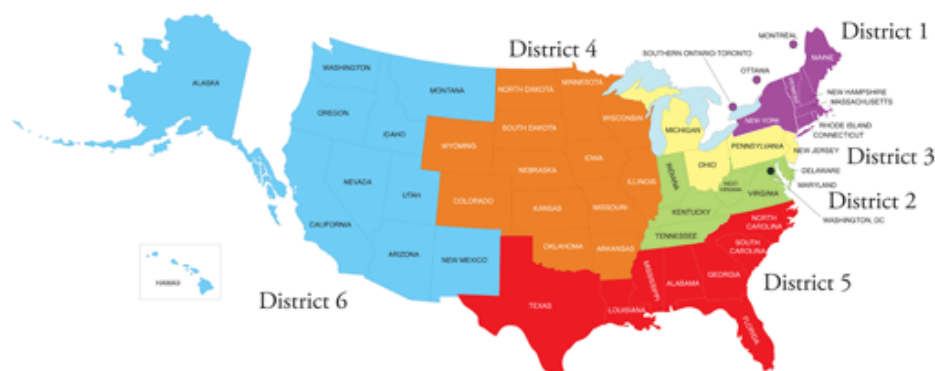


TABLE OF CONTENTS (WITH HYPERLINKS)

- [**A BRIEF INTRODUCTION**](#)
- [**INTERVIEW WITH ASA 2013 PRESIDENT-ELECT MARIE DAVIDIAN**](#)
- [**COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS HOLDS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT 2012 JSM IN SAN DIEGO**](#)
- [**COCGB OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD**](#)
- [**COC CHAIR SHANE REESE PRESENTS 2012 CHAPTER SERVICE RECOGNITION AND COC SERVICE AWARDS**](#)
- [**ASA PRESIDENT BOB RODRIGUEZ AND 2012 PRESIDENT-ELECT NAT SCHENKER ADDRESS THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS**](#)
- [**ASA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RON WASSERSTEIN SPEAKS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS**](#)
- [**ASA TO PUBLISH TWO NEW JOURNALS**](#)
- [**ASA INSTITUTES PROGRAM OF REGULAR INFORMATIVE EMAIL MESSAGES FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS**](#)
- [**IS YOUR CONGRESSPERSON ENGAGED ON STATISTICAL LITERACY? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WORTHWHILE ACTIVITY FOR YOUR CHAPTER?**](#)
- [**GENERAL INFORMATION ON COC TRAVELING COURSES**](#)

- [2012 CONNECTICUT ASA POSTER COMPETITION APRIL 14TH JUDGING AND APRIL 28TH AWARDS CEREMONY](#)
- [EDUCATION OUTREACH AT THE 2012 JSM](#)
- [STATISTICS WITHOUT BORDERS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS](#)
- [DPRK WORKING GROUP PLANS RETURN TO PYONGYANG](#)
- [SUMMER INSTITUTE](#)
- [2012 ASA FEATURES TRAIN THE TRAINER: HOW TO PRESENT A SHORT COURSE ON EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS](#)
- [ASA VOLUNTEERS JUDGE MICHIGAN SCIENCE FAIR](#)
- [CHAPTER REPORTS](#)
- [COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD](#)

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Hello to all and welcome to the autumn 2012 issue of ***Chapter Chatter***, the newsletter for and about ASA chapters. The COCGB established this publication to foster improved communications i) between the COCGB and chapters and ii) among chapters by providing a forum for spreading news throughout the statistics community about ASA chapter initiatives and activities.

This issue features an interview with ASA 2013 President-Elect Marie Davidian, who spent time with me during the recent Joint Statistical Meetings to discuss several initiatives the ASA is undertaking during her upcoming presidency and how these initiatives and chapters can support each other. The issue also includes reports on several

activities of the 2012 JSM in San Diego, including the August 2012 COCGB meeting. You will also find additional information from 2012 CT Poster Competition Chairperson and District 1 Vice Chair Marianne Messina on the Connecticut Chapter's 2012 Poster Competition and Awards Ceremony. Finally, several chapters have checked in with interesting reports on recent and upcoming activities.

As always, please let me know if you have any suggestions about this newsletter (its content, format, distribution, etc.). I am also interested in suggestions on how to facilitate more effective communication between chapters and enable you to use the COCGB as a resource. Finally, please

send me information about guest speakers, short courses and seminars, symposia, and other exciting events that are planned for by your chapter so that I can inform other chapters about your

activities through this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this issue of ***Chapter Chatter***.

INTERVIEW WITH ASA 2013 PRESIDENT-ELECT MARIE DAVIDIAN

In addition to his role as Senior Director of Statistical R&D at SAS, Robert N. Rodriguez currently serves as the President-Elect of the ASA. During the 2011 JSM I asked Marie to reflect on ASA chapters as she prepares to serve as President in 2013.

JC: Good morning, Bob, and thank you for spending some time with me to discuss ASA chapters.

BR: I am very happy to do so and appreciate this opportunity, Jim.

JC: What is your history with ASA chapters? What is your perception of the state of the ASA chapters?

MD: As an undergraduate at the University of Virginia, after having been a mechanical engineering major for three years, I took my first statistics course in the fall of 1979 and promptly decided to switch my major to applied mathematics (there

was no statistics department or major back then) so that I could focus on statistics. I immediately joined the ASA in 1980 and have been a member ever since. After graduating in 1980, I stayed to do a master's degree, and it was during 1981 that I attended a meeting sponsored by the Virginia Academy of Sciences with some fellow students and my thesis advisor, Dave Harrington (now in the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard). Unfortunately, my memory of this event is very hazy, but technically it could very well count as my first ASA chapter activity.

I am more certain about my ASA Chapter involvement during my time as a student in the PhD program in the Department of Statistics at the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill. I joined the North Carolina Chapter and attended regular Chapter meetings with my fellow students, which during that time (1982-1987) were held regularly in Research Triangle Park and featured lectures by both local and out-of-town speakers. When I took my first position in the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University in 1987, several of my colleagues were active participants in Chapter activities, some serving as officers, which only heightened my interest in continued Chapter involvement.

Through the Chapter, I became acquainted with many members of the statistical community in the Triangle whom I would not have met otherwise, providing me, a very junior faculty member, with a great sense of community (this was before Interstate 40 made the trip between Chapel Hill and Raleigh trivial...). I was elected to serve sequentially as At-Large Representative, Treasurer, and President of the Chapter during 1989-1991, during which time the Chapter continued to be very active,

with regular meetings hosted at Research Triangle Institute featuring talks by many distinguished statisticians. My fondest memory is snaring Katherine Wallman, who was ASA President-Elect at the time, to speak to the Chapter in 1991, after which I had the honor of driving her to the airport. After my election as ASA President-Elect, I had the pleasure of meeting her again in 2011, and I was thrilled that she remembered the visit and my role as her chauffeur!



ASA 2013 President-Elect Marie Davidian (left) during an interview with ***Chapter Chatter*** Editor Jim Cochran

I have been a member of the North Carolina Chapter continually since then, and I encourage all of my students to join. I have attended Chapter meetings and been a presenter at a few over the years. The level of activity of the Chapter has waxed and waned through the

last two decades, in part (perversely) because of the expansion of statistical activity across the state, meaning that North Carolina statisticians are no longer clustered mainly in one place and thus making regular meetings less accessible to all. Recently, the Chapter has experienced a surge of activity; for example, it is a sponsor of the upcoming International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics (www.uncg.edu/mat/aisc), to be held at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro October 5-7, 2012, whose list of plenary speakers features leaders of our field. I am delighted to see the Chapter flourishing and leading such events.

From my conversations with colleagues across the country, it is my impression that many chapters are quite robust, sponsoring regular lectures and workshops to benefit members and events such as “career days” for high school students to reach out to the greater local community. The ASA is a large

organization, with over 18,000 members in the US and elsewhere, and it does an excellent job providing key member benefits such as continuing education and conferences and reaching out to government, academia, and business to promote the importance of our discipline at the national level. ASA chapters are perfectly positioned to do the same locally. Indeed, chapters can play a critical grassroots outreach role to enhance the visibility of statistics to students, teachers, local and state officials, and the local community. I am looking forward to visiting chapters during my term and learning more about their efforts.

JC: Each new ASA President has an agenda or set of initiatives she or he would like to tackle during her or his term. On what initiatives do you plan to focus during your ASA presidency?

MD: I have three formal initiatives so far, each connected to one of the elements of the ASA Strategic Plan, on which efforts by work groups I have appointed are ongoing.

The first is focused on taking an initial step toward improving the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). This one was cemented for me immediately upon learning I had been elected – I quickly lost count of how many people said something to me along the lines of “Congratulations, and what are you going to do about the JSM?” Although I hastened to point out that the “J” in JSM stands for “Joint,” so that ASA is not solely responsible for the meeting, as the largest partner society and the one overseeing management of the meeting, ASA is well positioned to take the lead on spearheading possible enhancements.

Those congratulatory comments were generally followed by the same observation – for many attendees, the meeting feels too large and inaccessible, with too many concurrent sessions. While I know that this view is not uniformly held, after talking to many people involved in the program over the years, including several Program Chairs, I was convinced that it is widespread enough that the time is

ripe to try some new approaches to content delivery, with the proviso that the long tradition of presentation at JSM being open to all who wish to do so be upheld.

I asked the Committee on Meetings, which has already been discussing enhancements to the structure of the JSM and which includes members from all the partner societies, to take the lead on identifying new strategies that ideally could be piloted in 2013. I am delighted to report that the COM and the 2013 Program Committee have already obtained agreement of five large Sections to each sponsor one contributed “SPEED session.” This format, which is used at conferences in other fields, involves roughly 20 speakers giving five-minute oral summaries of their work in a dedicated “teaser” session followed by a poster session in which they present their work via this medium. The details are still being worked out, including incentives for presenters, optimal scheduling, and a plan for evaluation of success, but JSM attendees can definitely look

forward to novel presentation formats in Montreal!

A second initiative is borne of my experience the past nine summers directing our six-week Summer Institute for Training in Biostatistics (SIBS) program here at NC State, joint with Duke Clinical Research Institute, sponsored by grants from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The importance of our field to science and society and the demand for statisticians with advanced training is well-documented (e.g., see http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/mgi/research/technology_and_innovation/big_data_the_next_frontier_for_innovation), but U.S. students are not undertaking graduate training in our field in the numbers required, and we can no longer count on our international students electing to remain here upon graduation with increasing opportunities for them at home.

I have seen firsthand in SIBS, which was conceived to address the shortage of US students pursuing training in biostatistics to meet our

nation's health sciences research needs, how exposing students to the opportunities presented by our field can inspire their interest, with more than 65% of SIBS alumni going on to graduate school. More generally, NIH and NSF funded training programs and industry internships are key experiential opportunities that not only develop essential skills but also attract US students to graduate study. I believe that it is critical that expanded initiatives to draw the attention of US students to our field be forged through partnerships among all stakeholders, in academia, industry, and government. I have tasked a work group of committed individuals from all three sectors with considerable experience in this area to prepare a report documenting the need and outlining strategies for increasing the pipeline that will serve as both a tool for outreach to stakeholders and a roadmap for action.

My third initiative is inspired by our Association's continued efforts to improving the visibility and impact of our discipline. Despite the

enormous potential of our discipline to contribute significantly to the advance of all the sciences, statistics often does not garner recognition; witness the issues of *Science* and *Nature* devoted to “data” in 2011, in which the field of statistics was not even mentioned. One might say we have an “image problem” among some scientists, who view statisticians as technicians who run software packages and increasingly do not connect us with the “Big Data” challenges they face. If we are to overcome this misconception and get our message out to our fellow scientists, we need to take proactive steps.

A good start can be made by enhancing our visibility within the largest general scientific society in the world, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), which publishes *Science*. The next two years present an important opportunity with the International Year of Statistics and the 175th anniversary of the ASA; moreover, this year, the AAAS Section U on statistics celebrates its

50th anniversary. I have asked the leadership of Section U and the Committee of Representatives to Sections of the AAAS to develop and carry out efforts to increase the visibility of statistics and statisticians within AAAS.

A first step was taken at the JSM in San Diego by the Section U leadership, which noted that increasing the number of statisticians who are members of and aware of AAAS is one key way to enhance our recognition among fellow scientists (there is definitely strength in numbers!). You may have seen the flyer regarding AAAS membership in your JSM conference materials, the scrolling poster presentation, and the many JSM attendees wearing buttons commemorating the 50th anniversary of Section U; all of these were the result of this effort.

JC: What role or roles can chapters play in these initiatives and how can chapters help you achieve your goals as ASA President in 2013?

Chapters can play key roles in all of these efforts! Chapters can

publicize the JSM pilot formats to their members in the next few months and encourage them both to volunteer to present in one of the SPEED sessions and to attend the sessions and participate in their evaluation.

Chapters can canvass their members for novel ideas for session formats, scheduling, and so on that could be piloted at future JSMs. For the pipeline initiative, chapters can share their experiences hosting pipeline events such as “career days” with the work group. And I would be thrilled to see chapters sponsoring more events like this to expose local high school and undergraduate students to our field and to engage local stakeholders.

Chapters with diverse membership across sectors could host “brainstorming” sessions on ways members and organizations could partner to create mechanisms to introduce students to our field and to provide training opportunities.

Finally, chapters can publicize the effort to enhance our visibility among our fellow scientists and

encourage chapter members to consider the benefits of AAAS membership, which go far beyond a subscription to Science and include numerous resources such as webinars, online lectures, and articles. Chapters can undertake their own initiatives in this spirit, perhaps spearheading outreach to scientists at local schools, universities, and research organizations, and to the media. I encourage chapters to think creatively about ways they can translate these efforts locally.

JC: If a chapter wants to get involved with/support any of these initiatives, how should the chapter's officers proceed?

MD: Chapter officers should feel free to contact me directly (davidian@ncsu.edu) if they and their members would like to get involved or have ideas they would like the work groups to consider. I can pass along the ideas or put them in touch with the appropriate individuals. Alternatively, chapter officers should feel free to send ideas for possible JSM

enhancements directly to the COM Chair, Xuming He. Chapters wishing to contribute ideas or experiences for consideration by the pipeline work group should contact the Chair, Lance Waller. Chapter officers wishing to publicize the visibility initiative should contact me; I can arrange for the chapter to receive promotional materials and put chapter officers in touch with Section U leaders.

JC: The ASA is understandably placing great emphasis on commemorating the International Year of Statistics in 2013. Do you have suggestions for how individual chapters (or perhaps chapters working in partnership) could commemorate the International Year of Statistics?

MD: The International Year is a grand opportunity for our discipline to highlight its impact on virtually every aspect of society and science, to policymakers, educators, scientists, and the public! While the ASA and other organizations can undertake publicity and outreach efforts nationally and internationally, chapters are uniquely positioned to

spread our message at the grassroots level. Chapters can contact local media outlets and draw attention to the International Year, perhaps taking advantage of resources on the official website (<http://statistics2013.org/>), in Significance magazine, and created by the chapter itself to spark interest.

Are members of your chapter involved in interesting collaborative research where statistical principles are critical? Are there local businesses relying on statistics and statisticians? I encourage chapters to brainstorm on identifying “statistical stories” and profiles that could be pitched to local media. For example, the Research Triangle of North Carolina is home to four of the last five ASA Presidents, which might be sufficiently intriguing to our local newspaper to create an “in” to a story on statistical activity in the region, of which there is plenty!

Chapters or several chapters in partnership can sponsor events highlighting statistics careers, advances made possible by

statistics, and the like and invite students, educators, and local government and business leaders. Chapters can contact local government and business leaders and pitch the idea of such a “Statistics Day.” The ASA itself will be promoting the International Year; if we succeed in inspiring a Science Friday or TED Radio Hour program about statistics and statisticians, we will be counting on chapters to spread the word!

JC: What message would you like to deliver to officers and members of ASA chapters?

MD: This is both an exciting and challenging time to be a statistician! Our discipline has never been more critical in all facets of science and society; at the same time, we

sometimes are not as visible as we should be, and our contributions are not as appreciated as they should be. The ASA should be and is leading the charge, in partnership with other statistical organizations, to highlight what we do. While the ASA is doing all it can, for example, with Science Policy Director Steve Pierson’s significant efforts on Capitol Hill, chapters are best positioned to reach out at the local level to students, educators, business leaders, and policy makers and to draw attention to our contributions and the opportunities for statisticians.

I encourage each chapter to consider ways to take advantage of the International Year of Statistics and to undertake one initiative along these lines during 2013.

COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS HOLDS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT 2012 JSM IN SAN DIEGO

The COC held its annual business meeting on Tuesday, July 31 at the Hilton San Diego Bay Front Hotel in conjunction with the 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego,

California. COCGB Chair Shane Reese called the meeting to order at 7.30 am.

After approval of the minutes from the COCGB annual winter business meeting

of February 17, 2012 which was held at the ASA headquarters in Arlington, VA, Shane called the meeting to order and announced the COC election results:

- John Stevens, Chair-Elect 2013
- Jeffrey Dawson, VC, District 4
- Alexandra Hanlon, VC, District 3
- Mary Kwasny, COC Representative to the Board 2013-15

Shane also announced that the COC Nominations Committee is fully formed. With regard to the 2013 JSM, Shane disclosed that John Watts will organize a COC sponsored session for JSM 2013 and he (Shane) has already contacted members of the local chapter to discuss the organization of a session.

COCGB OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS GOVERNING BOARD

COCGB Communications Officer Jim Cochran's Report

COCGB Communications Officer Jim Cochran reported that:

- During the past year two additional issues of ***Chapter Chatter*** have been published and are available on the ASA website;
- The latest ***Chapter Chatter*** has 57 pages featuring stories on a wide variety of topics.
- Chapters are now participating eagerly, and are encouraged to submit chapter reports of 2-5 pages (with photos and captions, if available) for future issues;

- He is currently in communication with the Council of Sections for more avenues to distribute the publication; and
- The next issue of ***Chapter Chatter*** (autumn 2012) will be published soon and will feature a report about the JSM 2012 and honors and awards presented during 2012 JSM, an interview with 2013 President Elect Marie Davidian (see [Interview with ASA 2013 President-Elect Marie Davidian](#) earlier in this issue of ***Chapter Chatter***).

Jim concluded by asking the COC to add link ***Chapter Chatter*** to chapter webpages.

COCGB Chapter Status Committee's Report

Chapter Board Representative Bonnie LaFleur of the Chapter Status Committee reported that a new chapter has been approved for Orange County Long Beach by the COCGB. She also asked that Vice-Chairs focus on sharing their knowledge about activities in neighboring chapters with COC members, and COC members communicate about their chapters' activities more frequently.

Report on Travelling Courses

Ananda Jayawardhana reported that three courses have been available in 2012:

- Applied Mixed Models by Linda Young
- Principles of Statistical Design by George Casella
- Analysis of Survival Data by Suzanne May.

Courses have already been conducted in New Jersey, Houston, San Antonio, Albuquerque, Ottawa, Northeastern Illinois, Chesapeake Bay & Delaware, and Philadelphia chapters. Hawaii, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Cleveland,

Central Indiana, Mid-Missouri, and San Diego chapters will host short courses during fall. Feedback has again been very favorable, and chapters are encouraged to consider hosting a short course in 2013.

ASA Board Activities

COC Board Representative Tom Short reported that:

- Two major themes that emerged from Board Meetings over the past few years are i) Increasing the visibility of the profession and ii) preserving and expanding the role of the ASA as the "Big Tent" for statistics.
- The theme for the JSM 2013 will be the International Year of Statistics (IYS).
- Board members are glad to assist in any initiative, and especially there is a pilot program (Chapter Member Recruit Pilot Program) to fund about \$400 for one chapter in each district for innovative chapter activities. Each of the vice-chairs may nominate a chapter from her/his district to receive a grant. Tom encouraged COC Members to communicate with their respective vice-chairs regarding nominating a chapter.

- “In-reach” Work Group is collecting ideas to recruit new members and the COC members were invited to provide information.
- the ASA is proceeding with its plans to celebrate the association’s 175th anniversary from the 2013 Joint Statistical Meetings in Montréal through the 2014 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston.
- the ASA will soon begin considering 2013 Member Initiative proposals.

This program is a means for members to request funds from the ASA to develop unique programs that other chapters can duplicate. The Board favors initiatives that can also be submitted for additional more funding from other funding agencies, and a list of proposals approved by the Board is available online (<http://www.amstat.org/about/MemberInitiativesInstructions.cfm>).

COC CHAIR SHANE REESE PRESENTS 2012 CHAPTER SERVICE RECOGNITION AND COC SERVICE AWARDS

COC Chair Shane Reese distributed the 2012 Chapter Service Recognition awards. The following members were recognized for their distinguished service to ASA chapters:

- James H. Albert, Northwest Ohio Chapter
- Gerald Beck, Cleveland Chapter
- Allen Bingham, Alaska Chapter
- John Chen, Hawaii Chapter
- Phyllis Curtiss, Southwest Michigan Chapter
- Ernest Fokoue, Rochester Chapter
- Alexandra L. Hanlon, Philadelphia Chapter
- Mike Jay, S. California Chapter
- Ananda Jayawardhana, Kansas-Western Missouri Chapter
- Robert E. Johnson, Virginia Academy of Sciences Chapter
- Stan Lipovetsky, Twin Cities Chapter
- Jorge Moel, Cincinnati Chapter

In addition, Shane presented COCGB Service Recognition Awards to the two Vice-Chairs served from 2010-12, Delray Schultz and Tom Short; Past-Chair 2012, Kathy Morrissey; and Secretary/Treasurer 2007-12, Ananda Jayawardhana.

ASA PRESIDENT BOB RODRIGUEZ AND 2012 PRESIDENT-ELECT NAT SCHENKER ADDRESS THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Bob Rodriguez, President of the ASA, spoke to the COC during its 2012 annual meeting. Bob expressed his appreciation for the support he has received from the chapters and council members. He also offered to aid chapters with their ongoing efforts.



2012 ASA President
Bob Rodriguez

Nat Schenker, 2012 President –Elect of the ASA, discussed plans for his upcoming term, acknowledged the importance of the contributions made by the COC to the ASA, and urged the members of the COC to think about new initiatives and let him know.



2013 ASA President
Nat Schenker

ASA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RON WASSERSTEIN SPEAKS TO THE COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS

Ron Wasserstein, Executive Director of the ASA, reported that the 2013 election candidates for President are Christy Chuang-Stein and David Morganstein, and the candidates for Vice President

are Jeri Mulrow and Anna Nevius.

Ron then requested help from the COC for enlisting members to serve as candidates for the 2014 election. In accordance with ASA policy, the 2014

the candidates for President will be selected from the academic sector the candidates for Vice President will be selected from the Business and Industry sector.



ASA Executive Director
Ron Wasserstein

Ron also reminded everyone that

- the *StatTr@k* website is now available;
- the Conference on Statistical Practice (<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/csp/2013/index.cfm>) will be held in New Orleans in February 2013;
- the ASA continues to plan ways to commemorate the International Year of Statistics in 2013. Committees are welcome to become participating organizations in the International Year of Statistics, and nearly 600 organizations from over 90 countries have signed on as participating organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.statistics2013.org/>.
- the *Statistical Significance* webpage (<http://www.amstat.org/outreach/statisticalsignificance.cfm>) has ongoing updates;
- the ASA is planning to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the ASA throughout 2013 and 2014;
- the ASA has conducted a workshop “Stats for Staffers” and will continue to organize such courses to educate the staffers on the Capitol Hill. See <http://www.amstat.org/policy/statsforstaffers.cfm> for more details on this exciting and valuable program.

Ron concluded by expressing his appreciation to the COC for its valuable contributions to the ASA.

ASA TO PUBLISH TWO NEW JOURNALS

The ASA has entered into a publishing partnership with the [Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics](#) to create the *Journal of Uncertainty Quantification in Simulation, Prediction, and Optimization*. The ASA has also

entered into a publishing agreement with the [American Association for Public Opinion Research](#) to create the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*. Each journal is slated to release volume 1, number 1 in 2013.

ASA INSTITUTES [PROGRAM OF REGULAR INFORMATIVE EMAIL MESSAGES FOR CHAPTER OFFICERS]

Rick Peterson, Continuing Education & Chapter and Sections Associate

Jeff Myers, the ASA's new full-time, Public Relations Coordinator, and I are working on a program to send brief email messages to chapter officers with information on relevant ASA national activities and programs. The intent is to engage chapter leaders and members and complement ***Chapter Chatter***. We hope to send something at least once a month. We thought it would be nice to increase the number of emails from national that provide tangibles rather than emails with the message "we need for the chapter to do this." Here is what the first message will look like:

In an effort to better inform and engage chapter officers and members, the ASA

is launching a program in which we regularly will send announcements and press releases about relevant national activities, initiatives and programs to ASA Chapter leaders. We encourage you to integrate this information into your Chapter's newsletter, post it on the Chapter's website, or forward it directly to your Chapter's members. You may find many of these announcements and press releases useful as discussion topics at your chapter's upcoming meetings.

The focus of the first of these communications is a press release on ASA President Bob Rodriguez's keynote address at the recent Joint Statistical

Meetings where he called on the association to become the “Big Tent” for all statisticians. You can view the press release on the ASA website at (http://www.amstat.org/news/pdfs/RodriguezSpeech8_13_12.pdf).

We urge you to post the link to your Chapter’s website.

Initially, these emails will come from me as your chapter liaison. Soon the notices will come directly from Jeff.

We hope you will find this new communications program a valuable source of information about ASA that will enhance the ASA membership experience of all your Chapter’s members. The more members are aware of the many benefits of ASA membership, including promotion of the profession, the better chance they will increase their involvement with your local chapter and ASA on a national level.

IS YOUR CONGRESSPERSON ENGAGED ON STATISTICAL LITERACY? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A WORTHWHILE ACTIVITY FOR YOUR CHAPTER?

The COCGB again asks your chapter to meet with your U.S. Representative(s) to ask them to sponsor the STAT Act, a bill that promotes statistics education through teacher professional development. Meeting with your Congressperson and/or her/his staff is an excellent opportunity to share your enthusiasm for statistics education and introduce the local statistical community.

ASA will assist you with requesting the meeting and preparing for the meeting. ASA will also provide you with materials for the meeting. Sign up at <http://www.amstat.org/outreach/statliteracy/index.cfm> and contact ASA Director of Science Policy Steve Pierson at pierson@amstat.org or (703) 302-1841 for more information or to discuss this issue in more detail.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON COC TRAVELING COURSES

The Council of Chapters Traveling Courses provides low cost, local courses for ASA Chapters. The Council of Chapters sponsors this activity by covering speaker travel expenses, speaker honoraria, and course materials. Chapters in turn cover advertising, local arrangements including hotel and local travel and registration with \$25 for each attendee or \$500 minimum, whichever is larger, returned to the ASA.

The Traveling Course committee is made up of at least one member of each of the six Chapter Districts and ASA staff liaisons. The Travel Course committee meets once a year at the JSM to review the current year course activities and discuss course offerings for the next calendar year. Committee members confirm/secure speakers resulting from the JSM committee

meeting as timely as possible.

Once the courses and speakers are confirmed, an announcement with the upcoming courses, course abstracts and applications are distributed via e-mail to all Chapters. This announcement is typically in the Fall with applications due back to ASA by the end of the year or January.

The Committee Chair, in consultation with ASA, awards courses to Chapters and works with the speakers and Chapters to select dates for each course. Each course is typically given more than once in one trip by the speaker. The courses are awarded according to geographical proximity to keep travel cost low, with special consideration given to smaller Chapters and Chapters that have not hosted a traveling course recently..

2012 CONNECTICUT ASA POSTER COMPETITION APRIL 14TH JUDGING AND APRIL 28TH AWARDS CEREMONY

Marianne Messina

2012 CT Poster Competition Chairperson and District 1 Vice Chair

April 14th Judging: While the number of posters to be judged this year was less than the previous years, that did not deter the twelve volunteer judges from tackling this annual activity. As in the previous years, the judges were a diverse and well represented mix of working statisticians from academia (both students and professors) as well as industry. The 2012 judges were:

- Robert Gerwien of Tethys Bioscience
- Jennifer Boyko, Chantel Larose*, Valerie Pare, Yue Wang*, and Xin Yang* of the University of Connecticut
- Josie Hamer of Western Connecticut State University
- Laura McSweeney of Fairfield University
- Joann Shapiro of Bayer
- Carrie Li* of Boeringer Ingelheim
- Victoria Wirtz and Marianne Messina of Bristol-Myers Squibb

* First time judge

106 posters were sent in from students across the state in Grades K through 12. The topics covered the gamut and include the following:

- Do cars really stop for stop signs?
- How quickly did CL&P restore Power?
- Price of detergent versus stain removal
- Effect of winter road salts on roadside plants
- Reading routines of Sixth grade students
- Are you at risk for diabetes?

The entire task of judging was completed in approximately 2 hours!

April 28th Awards Ceremony: This year's award ceremony was held at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Wallingford. Proud parents, siblings and other relatives attended to see their 'student-winners' accept their winning certificates. Laura McSweeney,

Professor at Fairfield University, and multiple-year judge, provided the audience with an overview of what the judges look for in a winning poster. Joann Shapiro of Bayer interacted with the students to see what they learned from this exercise and what can be done to improve this activity.



First time mentor-winner Barbara Ehmer (far right) and her students from Fawn Hill Elementary School in Monroe, CT

ASA National Competition: Two of the Connecticut Posters which were sent to

the 2012 National Judging came up winners! They are:

- Beecher Road School, Woodbridge - 3rd Place in the K-3 category for *World Pollution*
Advisor: Kristina Hart Rooney
Students: Oren Aviad, Peter Berganross, Iesa Khanji, Kabir Khwaja, Victoria McNelis, Arnav Paliwal, Ava Pfannenbecker, and Cole Wissink
- Jockey Hollow Middle School, Monroe - 1st Place in the 7-9 category for *Which storm caused the worst power outages in Connecticut?*
Advisor: Belinda Battista
Student: Benjamin Townson

To see all winning CT posters as well as helpful hints about what makes a good presentation, please visit

www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/Poster/poster_judging_2012.htm.

EDUCATION OUTREACH AT THE 2012 JSM

BAPS - Beyond AP Statistics



The ASA/NCTM
Joint Committee

sponsored the Beyond AP Statistics (BAPS) workshop at the annual Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, California on August 1, 2012. Organized

by Roxy Peck, the BAPS workshop was offered for experienced AP statistics teachers and consisted of enrichment material just beyond the basic AP syllabus. The course is divided into four sessions led by noted statisticians. Topics in recent years have included experimental design, topics in survey methodology, multiple regression, logistic regression, what to do when assumptions are not met, and randomization tests.

Presenters for the 2012 BAPS were:

- Allan Rossman, Cal Poly - Randomization Tests
- Tom Short, John Carroll University - Logistic Regression
- Robin Lock, St. Lawrence University - What Do We Do When Assumptions Are Not Met?)
- James J. Cochran, Louisiana Tech University - Engaging Students in Statistics

Approximately thirty teachers, most from the San Diego area, participated in the BAPS workshop, and feedback was extremely positive. Unsolicited comments received by the presenters and organizers included:

“I learned a lot and really enjoyed your presentation today at the BAPS session.”

“I wanted to thank you for your excellent presentation yesterday at BAPS!”

“Thanks for a great presentation!”

“Wonderful presentation today at BAPS!”

“Thank you again for sharing your knowledge and work with us yesterday!”

Statistics Workshop for Mathematics and Science Teachers



Sponsored by the ASA, the 2012 Statistics Workshop

for Mathematics and Science Teachers was held on Tuesday, July 31 and Wednesday, August 1, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel (near the San Diego Convention Center).

The primary goal of this Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) in 2012 was to provide an opportunity for middle and high school teachers who teach mathematics and science courses to discuss and apply the data analysis and statistical concepts embodied in the

Common Core Standards for Mathematics and in the Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education (GAISE) Pre-K-12 Curriculum Framework endorsed by the American Statistical Association. Teachers had an opportunity to explore problems that required them to formulate statistical questions, collect, organize, analyze, and draw conclusions from data and apply basic concepts of probability. The objective of enhancing the understanding and teaching of statistics within the mathematics/science curriculum was consistently promoted through conceptual understanding, active learning, real-world data applications, and appropriate technology.

The MWM program include examining what students can be expected to do at the most basic level of understanding and what can be expected of them as their skills develop and their experience broadens. Content was consistent with Common Core standards, GAISE recommendations, and NCTM Principles and Standards for School Mathematics.

The presenters were GAISE Report authors and prominent statistics

educators. The target audience for this MWM was middle and high school mathematics and science teachers, and multiple mathematics/science teachers from the same school were especially encouraged to attend. The Program featured separate tracks for High School and Middle School Teachers. The program for High School Teachers featured:

- Katherine Halvorsen, Formulating Statistical Questions and Recognizing the Purposes of and Differences Among Sample Surveys, Experiments, and Observational Studies; Explain how Randomization Relates to Each. (Common Core Standards for High School S-IC)
- Pat Hopfensperger, Interpreting Categorical & Quantitative Data (Common Core Standards for High School S-ID) and Becoming a Data Detective: Investigating Patterns in Data. (Common Core Standards 8.SP)
- Robert Gould, Using Randomization Tests to make Inferences & Justify Conclusions (Common Core Standards for High School S-IC)

The Middle School program included

- Christine Franklin , Overview of GAISE Pre-K–12 Report and Common Core State Standards for Middle School Mathematics and Univariate Analysis of Measurement Data: Focus On I) Understanding Measures of Center and Spread and II) Understanding of Statistical Variability and Summarizing and Describing Distributions (Common Core Standards 6.SP.2)
- Pat Hopfensperger, Formulating Statistical Questions (Common Core Standards 6.SP.1)
- Jerry Moreno, Use Random Sampling to Draw Inferences about a Population and to Draw Comparative Inferences about Two Populations (Common Core Standards 7.SP.2)

and Categorical Data Analysis (Common Core Standards 8.SP.4)

- Katherine Halvorsen, Bivariate Measurement Data Analysis. (Common Core Standards 8.SP.1)

Both programs also featured welcoming remarks by 2012 MWM Program Chair Katherine Halvorsen, ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein, ASA President Bob Rodriguez, ASA Director of Education Rebecca Nichols, and local ASA representatives. Over thirty teachers participated in the 2012 Statistics Workshop for Mathematics and Science Teachers, and feedback was extremely positive and cited both the quality of the presentations and the organization of the workshop.

STATISTICS WITHOUT BORDERS ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



Statistics Without Borders (SWB) is an ASA outreach group of over 500 volunteers who provide entirely *pro bono* statistical assistance to non-profit projects. The organization recently held elections, and the newly elected officers took office immediately after the 2012

JSM in San Diego. The 2012 officers of SWB are:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • Justin Fisher | Chair |
| • Rebecca Scherzer | Vice-Chair |
| • Sowmya Rao | Secretary |
| • Steve Pierson | Ex Officio Board Member |

SWB currently receives requests for assistance at a rate of about once every 3 weeks. Currently most requests involve surveys in one way or another. Membership is open to everyone, whether or not members of ASA, and regardless of experience. See www.community.amstat.org/StatisticsWithoutBorders/home for more information

or to join. SWB particularly needs to cultivate relationships with other organizations. If you know of an organization that could benefit from the expertise of SWB volunteers, email SWB Chair Justin Fisher at fisherjs@gmail.com.

DPRK WORKING GROUP PLANS RETURN TO PYONGYANG SUMMER INSTITUTE

Plans are being made for ASA volunteers to return to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to serve as *pro bono* instructors in the [Pyongyang Summer Institute](#) (PSI) in Survey Science and Quantitative Methodology. The PSI is an intensive international teaching program at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST), the first and only private and international university in the DPRK, which was launched in the fall of 2010.

Beginning as a three-year pilot program from July 2012-July 2014, the Summer Institute is an international program administered by the DPRK Working Group formed by multiple partners: Statistics Without Borders (SWB)

members, the International Strategy and Reconciliation Foundation (ISRF), a 501(c)(3) organization recognized by the U.S. Departments of Treasury and Commerce for its humanitarian and educational programs in DPRK, and PUST. SWB is an Outreach Group of the American Statistical Association. American Evaluation Association has been added to the DPRK Working Group.

PSI is the first program of its kind in DPRK, which in 2012 approved visas for 15 visiting faculty. PSI students are expected to be upper level undergraduate and graduate students with academic credentials comparable to students in Ivy plus schools.

The primary goals of PSI include, but are not limited to: 1) fully supporting PUST's mission and goals for crafting cooperation with the global community and collaboration with world-class universities to nurture emerging leaders of innovative research and scholarship; 2) preparing DPRK students, scholars and professionals in the public sector to use basic and advanced survey research techniques to help meet their academic goals and pragmatic professional goals; and 3) fostering international and academic collaboration by having preeminent researchers of survey methodology and interdisciplinary science work with DPRK students and emerging leaders of science and technology and trans-disciplinary science. Major tasks at hands include: coordination among key PSI stakeholders in DPRK and abroad; integration of PSI faculty members in diverse disciplines; and sound and transparent management of human and capital resources.

The three components of the mission of the Summer Institute are:

- To offer instruction in sample survey methods to graduate students,

college and university faculty and research scientists from the public sector.

- To furnish pragmatic training for those who expect to use survey methods in their professions in business, international trade, public health, education, agriculture, natural resources, law, medicine, nursing and many other interdisciplinary professional domains such as bioinformatics, infographics and data visualization.
- To provide opportunities that facilitate creative and innovative ideas related to the development of methodologies on the frontier of inter-disciplinary or trans-disciplinary research in partnership with researchers and professional and research associations and institutions in North America and Europe.

SWB members will again likely make up the majority of the instructors who will provide pro-bono instruction during July for a series of four-week courses that will provide training in areas such as sampling, statistics, survey methods, census methods, questionnaire design, computer-assisted data collection and

analysis, both fundamental and advanced courses. The courses are modeled after those of the 65-year-old Michigan Summer Institute, a renowned international survey training program.

The DPRK Working Group of SWB, all ASA members, was formed for planning and implementing the PSI. Co-chairs of the working group are Dr. Gary Shapiro, past chair of SWB and a former mathematical statistician with the U.S. Census Bureau; Justin Fisher, chair of SWB; and Dr. Asaph Young Chun, Program Chair of SWB. Other members of the group are: Professor Duncan Thomas, Director of the Biostatistics Division, and Verna R. Richter Chair in Cancer Research, University of

Southern California; Dr. Griffin; Dr. James J. Cochran, past chair of SWB and Professor, Louisiana Tech University; Michael Costello; Dr. Sunghee Lee, Professor in the University of Michigan Joint Program in Survey Methodology; Dr. Dominique Haughton, Professor, Bentley University; and Dr. Mary Gray, Professor at American University, Washington, D.C.

For more information contact Program Director Asaph Young Chun at yunchun2@gmail.com or visit the program website at <http://www.pyongyangsummerinstitute.org/index.html>.

2012 ASA FEATURES TRAIN THE TRAINER: HOW TO PRESENT A SHORT COURSE ON EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS

Train the Trainer: How to Present a Short Course on Effective Presentations was offered by the ASA on Sunday, July 29 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in conjunction with the 2012 Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego. This was the first course to be offered in support of one of the 2012 ASA

presidential initiatives (developing a set of “soft skill” courses that will have a positive impact on the careers of statisticians, regardless of employment sector). The content of the course was prepared and presented by Jeanine Buchanich (University of Pittsburgh) and Jennifer Van Mullekom (DuPont).

This session was limited to 40 attendees who learned how to train statisticians to make more effective presentations and communicate more effectively with an audience (including clients and customers). Topics covered included:

- Communication
- Delivery Dimensions
- Room Setting & Arrangement
- Audiences
- Visual Communication
- Oral Communication
- Use of Pointers
- Proofreading

In order to participate, registrants had to meet the following criteria:

- The attendee is willing to teach short courses on effective presentations to statisticians in the local area where the attendee lives
- The attendee has acquired presentation skills through either prior attendance of a course on how to make effective presentations, or from giving

numerous presentations

Those completing the “train the trainer” course now form a pool of instructors for teaching the one-day course on effective presentations. Instructors are expected to teach the course at least annually, and primarily in their local area to minimize the costs of course registration fees and travel expenses.

In several instances, a chapter provided support for one of its members to participate. What do these chapters receive in return for their \$40 investment (the cost of registration for this short course)? Access to a terrific (and affordable) speaker and topic for a chapter meeting - a topic that will benefit all members of your chapter (no matter their career interests) and certainly could be repeated every few years.

The moral of this story –various ASA initiatives and JSM events are terrific opportunities for chapter officers to develop potential speakers (and potential officers)!

ASA VOLUNTEERS JUDGE MICHIGAN SCIENCE FAIR

Karry Roberts

Continuing a two decade long tradition as a joint Special Awards team at the Southeast Michigan Science Fair, nine members of the Detroit and Ann Arbor ASA Chapters judged projects on Friday March 9, 2012. Our team gave out three levels of special awards for projects exhibiting varying levels of use of statistics. The awards were Certificates of Recognition, Certificates of Merit, and Awards of Excellence.



Special Awards team at the Southeast Michigan Science Fair!

Initially, our judges individually reviewed the 203 Middle School projects and the 176 High School projects on display at the fair and gave out recognition and merit certificates. From these reviews, a select few projects were nominated by

individual judges for further consideration by our entire panel. By consensus decisions about the nominated projects, we chose which ones would be given the Awards of Excellence. This year, four projects received Awards of Excellence, each with a certificate and a statistical book.

High School Excellence awards went to a Hillsdale Academy student for "The Effects of the Hormone Mimics Zeranol and Bisphenol A on the Rate of Flatworm Regeneration" and an H & M Skyline student for "Lung Capacity".

Middle School Excellence awards went to a St. Francis of Assisi student for "How Does Changing the Launch Angle and the Pull-back Angle on A Ping Pong Catapult Affect How Far the Ping Pong Ball Travels?" and a South Arbor Charter student for "Strong Cookies".

We also gave 65 Certificates of Recognition and 4 Certificates of Merit for use of statistics among the 379 projects on display at the 2012 Southeast Michigan Science Fair.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Syracuse Chapter Report

The Syracuse chapter draws heavily from the academic community at Syracuse University and its neighbor schools, SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry and SUNY UpState Medical University, as well as regional area schools, LeMoyne College, Onondaga Community College and SUNY Oneonta. It was suggested that we host something like a speed-dating session where local area statisticians give a very short talk about their background and their work. It was agreed that the session would be beneficial to the students in attendance, require minimal preparation from participants (slides optional) and be enjoyable for the broader group of attendees as we reintroduce ourselves after a few years of dormancy.

The session was held at the chapter annual meeting on April 25 at the SUNY-ESF campus. The participants included Phil Goodrum (Cardno ENTRIX), Amy Kemp (Harbridge Consulting Group), Liz Morgenthien (ICON Clinical Research), Joe Viscomi

(LeMoyne College) and Dongliang Wang (SUNY UpState Medical University). The session was well received, so much so that the chapter is considering a similar session for the upcoming year – this time with a statistics education focus: area teachers giving short presentations on what strategies/technologies work well.

Biostatistics at UMDNJ, held its 32nd annual Spring Symposium in June. This year's symposium revolved around Bayesian and Frequentist Adaptive Designs in Clinical Trials. Over 70 people from industry and academia attended informative talks by Scott Evans (Harvard), Scott Berry (Berry Consultants), Gene Pennello (FDA), and Qing Lu (Johnson & Johnson). In addition, Ram Kamath (Vsoft Infoware) demonstrated a randomization software with capabilities of implementing eDC, ePRO, IVRS/IWRS, and design adaptations useful in clinical trials.

South Carolina Chapter Report

The South Carolina chapter of the ASA holds regular meetings in the fall and spring. The Spring 2012 SC-ASA

Palmetto Symposium was held on April 10 and April 12, 2012 at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Attendees included members from Clemson, Charleston, and Columbia, SC. Dr. Ed George from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania provided the keynote address on April 12th. A student paper competition was held during the meeting. Six students were selected and invited to provide oral presentations. The best presentation award was given to Christopher S. McMahan, who is now an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, at the Clemson University and honorable mention was given to Tharanga Wickramarachchi, a graduate student at Clemson University. The next meeting of the SC-ASA will occur on November 8, 2012 in Clemson.

San Diego Chapter Report

The San Diego Chapter of the ASA (aka SDASA) is active! On September 11, 2012, we hosted the ASA traveling course *Workshop on Applied Survival Analysis*. Susanne May, PhD, was the speaker and it was held on the Pfizer La Jolla campus.



Attendees Paying Close Attention!

The course was a hit! We had sixty-one registrants who came from as far north as Los Angeles (Amgen), San Bernardino (Cal State University San Bernardino), Orange County (Univ. of California Irvine, Allergan), and from all over San Diego County (Synteract, UCSD, CalOptima, Pfizer, Celgene, Biotheranostics, Balboa Naval Hospital, etc.). Several attendees were students and professors from a number of schools; UC San Diego, University of San Diego, UCI, CSUSB and Bridgepointe University were well represented. The presentation was not extremely mathematical but provided a good review/overview on survival analysis. Dr. May is a great speaker; her slides were well organized, she presented the topic well, she held

everyone's interest, and the topics covered generated many questions.



Dr. Susanne May

Everyone who attended received an advance e-mail message with the slides attached (275 pages!). At the conclusion, as time was running out, attendees were allowed to vote on which additional topics to cover. Feedback from the attendees leaving the course was extremely positive.

October will be a busy month for the SDASA. Our first event will be our annual picnic, which is free to members and their families. It will be on October 6, 2012, at Crown Point North on Mission Bay in San Diego. At this site we will be able to swim (yes, it still will be warm enough to swim in October), play games, network and eat. Previous

picnics have been held at a variety of venues including San Dieguito Park and Kit Carson Park. Attendance is often 40-50 or more (depending on location and weather).

On October 16, 2012, we will conduct our Fall Statistics Roundtable, which will be hosted this year by Pfizer La Jolla. Professor Fang Liu of the Notre Dame University Department of Statistics will be discussing Missing Data Issues in Statistics Analysis. Attendance at these events is generally 30+.

Pittsburgh Chapter Report

The Pittsburgh Chapter will be hosting the ASA-sponsored travel short course on Applied Mixed Models by Linda Young. It will take place on October 8.

The registration fee is \$65 for regular Chapter members and \$50 for students. An additional fee of \$10 will be charged for registrations received after September 28th or for non-Chapter members (the additional \$10 will be applied toward Pittsburgh Chapter local membership). Lunch is included.

To register, please RSVP to Gong Tang by email: got1@pitt.edu and mail the registration form (see attached) and a

check with the appropriate registration fee to the ASA Pittsburgh Chapter.

Chicago Chapter Report

The Chicago chapter of the ASA is excited for another great year. Our members actively participate in the chapter's conferences, workshops, and luncheons and this year will surely be no exception. Keeping up with relevant topics is always a point of interest, and this past May a conference on statistics in politics was held that attracted members and non-members alike.

Special thanks to John VanderPloeg who organized the event which featured David W. Moore, Senior Fellow at the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire, Forrest Nelson, one of the founders of the Iowa Electronic Market, and Allan Lichtman, professor at American University and author of the "13 keys" that have successfully predicted every presidential election winner since 1984.

Last March, chapter board member Tony Babinec organized a well-attended and informative workshop on machine learning that focused on building models to study social and behavioral sciences. Richard Scheines and Joseph Ramsey

of Carnegie Mellon led the talk which helped attendees get acquainted with Tetrad software. In addition, our chapter is proud to hold regular luncheons which have included presentations by Steve Ziliak on statistical significance and Nelson Zamora, Managing Director of PPM America, and an expert on corporate bonds.

We are looking forward to all the great events we have planned for the coming year such as the Statistician of the Year award dinner where our guests of honor will include past presidents and secretaries of the Chicago chapter. Our members are full ideas and happy to ring in the International Year of Statistics.

Hawaii Chapter Report

The Hawaii Chapter celebrated its 65th anniversary (Editor's Note: WOW!) in 2012 by inviting ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein who spoke at a lunch seminar co-sponsored by the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine, Biostatistics & Data Management Core. About 50 people attended this seminar which was also recorded for broadcasting to the broad audience of RTRN (<http://www.rtrn.net/>),

a network of biomedical researchers of all minority institutions. In his presentation titled *Promoting the Practice of Statistics through Research Support, Education, and Service*, Ron shared information regarding ASA national programs and insights on the trends and uses of statistics. Later that afternoon, Ron provided valuable guidance and insight to University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) faculty by participating as a guest speaker in a *Statistics Education and Statistical Capacity in the University of Hawaii System* discussion facilitated by Chapter officer Russell Yost, himself a faculty member at UHM.

The Hawaii Chapter continued its commitment and support of statistics and STEM education by sponsoring Best Use of Statistics awards at the 2011 and 2012 Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fairs and by initiating a state legislative bill intended to assist with K12 STEM funding. In April 2011, Chapter officers Russell Yost and Elaine Lee represented the Chapter by choosing the Best Use of Statistics award recipient at the 2011 Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair. Paul Hurst of Kahuku High School was

identified as the award recipient and received an award certificate and \$100 award monies for his research project *Salinity and Electrolytic Cells*. Paul was very appreciative of the award and confidently presented his research methods and findings at a June 2011 Chapter meeting. In April 2012, Chapter officer Russell Yost represented the Chapter at the annual Fair and identified two award recipients who each received \$50. Danten Inouye of Waipahu High School received the co-award for his research project *Analyzing the Optical and Electrical Properties of Variable Deposition Volumes of Carbon Nanotubes to Optimize the Efficiency of Thin-film Photovoltaic Cells*. Savanah Frisk of Kapaa High School was the co-award recipient for her research project *Behavioral and Social Sciences: Who do you listen to? An Exploration on the Effect of Gender and Age on Listening Comprehension*.

In addition to these awards, the Chapter actively advocated for K12 STEM funding by leading a state senate bill during the 2012 legislative session. Chapter officer Elaine Lee led these efforts by drafting the bill through its many renditions, acquiring co-

sponsorship from both house and senate members, and being the bill's Chapter representative throughout the entire legislative session. In March 2012 both Elaine Lee for the Chapter and officer Russell Yost in his capacity as a UHM faculty member spoke in front of the senate education committee in support of bill 2482 - Public Schools Science & Technology Trust Fund - which proposed to allow taxpayers an opportunity to voluntarily contribute \$5 to this fund via their state tax refund. Although the bill did not pass, it served as an important vehicle to inform legislators regarding the need to provide financial support to public schools' teachers and students to conduct their research and science fair experiments.

Since our last report in Spring 2011, the Chapter has had nine lunch meetings on topics such as measuring the effect of windfarms on wildlife mortality, results from a Samoan diet and health questionnaire, associations among sleep and selected health indicators, design of experiments, dasymetric population mapping, the new Biostatistics & Data Management Core at the University of Hawai'i, and a statewide longitudinal data system for

tracking and linking education and employment. A complete list of speakers and their presentation titles and dates can be found on the Chapter's ASA microsite, under Meetings.

In addition to lunch meetings, the Chapter continued to communicate through email with members and non-members interested in keeping abreast of local statistical happenings (the most frequent type of news shared was job opportunities, followed by local data-related workshops). These types of communications and networking/information sharing through lunch meetings were the most frequent activities supporters were interested in, based on a 2006 informal survey sent to the email list. In order to update our pulse check on the local statistics community regarding how the Chapter could support them professionally, an online survey form was developed and then fielded in August 2011 by Chapter officer Elaine Lee. This updated survey resulted in similar findings, with respondents indicating "Education/Professional Development" and "Networking" as the most important goals for the Chapter. "Community

Service" and "Advocacy/Policy" were rated as moderately important.

The Chapter continues to organize lunch meetings and speakers and communicate via email and our microsite about statistical news. In addition, in early 2013 and to kick off local International Year of Statistics events, the Chapter will welcome Linda Young and her ASA traveling course on Applied Mixed Models. We will continue to be involved in these areas through participating in local, national, and international events and advocacy efforts, such as the International Year of Statistics, supporting the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, and supporting or leading local STEM efforts, such as the state senate bill introduced earlier this year and mentioned previously.

Cleveland Chapter Report

on Applied Survey Sampling by Patricia Cirillo. Pat is president of Cypress Research which funnels formal training of statisticians, research methodologists, and analysts into solving business problems for a few industries including telecommunications,

health care, primary education, higher education, and the arts.

In March, Gerry Beck from the Cleveland Clinic did his usual excellent job in organizing about ten chapter members as special judges to award the best use of statistics in the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair. Over 500 projects were reviewed and we gave a total of \$650 and certificates to nine worthy students. At the lower grade levels, typically creative graphs and use of descriptive statistics are rewarded. Although inferential procedures are often displayed, not all students really have an understanding of what they mean. "My teacher (or parent) told me to put in a p-value" is often heard. We are hopeful that as the Common Core Standards become implemented that we will see an increase in the use of inference but with (even conceptual) understanding. By the way, the chapter chose Gerry to receive the ASA 2012 Chapter Service Award for his outstanding work in organizing judges for science fair for many years.

The Chapter judged the ASA national Poster Competition this year. Chapter member Linda Quinn is the chair of the

national competition. We are hopeful that another chapter will volunteer to judge the national competition for 2013-2015.



Professor Heping Zhang Addresses the Cleveland Chapter

Our 26th annual one-day spring conference in Tools for Regaining the Competitive Edge was held on May 11th. Our speaker this year was Heping Zhang whose topic was Recursive Partitioning and Applications. Over 50 participants thoroughly enjoyed Heping's presentation. The conference is our main fundraiser that provides funding for our outreach activities as well as our effort to try and meet the needs of those who use statistics in the workplace. Heping continued our string of excellent presenters over the years; the first three included Bob Hogg, Stu Hunter, and George Box.



Professor Heping Zhang Responds to Questions from Members so the Cleveland Chapter

Sacramento Chapter Report

The Sacramento Statistical Association (SSA) held its 33rd Annual Institute on Research and Statistics on May 21, 2012 on the campus of the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). The daylong event was co-sponsored by the CSUS Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the Student Chapter of SIAM at CSUS, SSA, and the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District. The institute featured diverse presentations for statistics practitioners and researchers of all levels of expertise from CSUS, the University of California, Davis, local and state government, and private industry.

Current SSA President, Dr. Thomas Stopka, and Dr. Edward Shea, Chair of the CSUS Department of Mathematics

and Statistics, kicked off the day's events, which included presentations on applications of statistical and geostatistical methods and analysis, statistical and analytical software, and statistics education. Featured speakers included Mr. Dennis Meyers, an Economist with the California Department of Finance, Dr. Este Geraghty, Assistant Clinical Professor at UC Davis, Dr. Laurel Beckett, Professor at UC Davis, Dr. Nuriddin Ikromov, Faculty at CSUS, and Dr. Webster West, Professor at Texas A&M University. CSUS student, Mr. Shawnee Anderson, won the prize for the best student presentation with his presentation entitled, "*Hierarchical Logistic Regression: Parameter Estimation Techniques through Monte Carlo Simulation*."

Dr. Coskun Cetin, CSUS faculty, SSA Vice President, and 2012 SSA Institute Chair, indicated that the 33rd Annual Institute was a great success, "providing an excellent opportunity for local experts to meet colleagues and learn more about statistical methods, applications, and research projects in the Sacramento area." Dr. Cetin, and Dr. Rafael Diaz, CSUS faculty and SSA

Secretary, thanked all SSA Board Members and Speakers for their tremendous efforts in making the Institute successful.



Mr. Dennis Meyers of the California Department of Finance Addresses the Sacramento Chapter

They indicated that SSA Board Member elections would be scheduled during the Fall of 2012, and the 34th Annual SSA Institute meeting is scheduled to take place during the last week of March, 2013.

Nebraska Chapter Report

Members of the statistical community in Nebraska have been working hard to revive the Nebraska Chapter of the American Statistical Association after a long period of inactivity. The Nebraska Chapter had been inactive for approximately a decade when contacted about the possibility of the Chapter

being dissolved if no activities were taking place. An email was circulated to past members, as well as any statisticians and others with an interest in statistics in the local area to determine if there was interest in reviving the Chapter. A meeting was organized and food was provided along with a very interesting talk about the life of R.A. Fisher given by Dr. Kent Eskridge of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Statistics. After the talk, we discussed the Chapter, potential activities, and elected officers. This first group of officers was tasked with resuming Chapter activities.

The officers had several meetings to discuss the approach to reinvigorating the Chapter. There were several necessary issues to address: the location of Nebraska's statisticians, the Chapter's target audience, and where and when to hold meetings, to name a few. In Nebraska, there are two major cities where statisticians are employed or educated, located about 50 miles apart. The goal was to reach both locations and statisticians in all areas of practice including academia, government, industry, students, etc. The officers decided to start by holding two

meetings per year, one in Lincoln, and one in Omaha. This allowed the Chapter to include everyone in both locations without putting the travel burden only on one group. We have also varied the location of meetings so they are not always held on a University campus. To date, we have held four meetings, and have had between 30 and 40 people per meeting. Since the initial meeting, we have hosted presentations by Ron Wasserstein of ASA, a group of statisticians from The Gallup Organization, and Dr. Andrew Finley, who was kind enough to address the Chapter while in Lincoln to give a Short Course on Hierarchical Modeling and Analysis of Spatial-Temporal Data.

Our first goal was to resume regular Chapter activities, and now we are working to sustain regular activities and to find and reach out to statisticians in Nebraska who may not be aware of the Chapter. Finding and contacting those with an interest in statistics has been one of the biggest challenges. We have been able to get contacts at some organizations and invite people to meetings, but this is still a work in progress. We would also like to identify areas of need and interest for

educational opportunities for members, as well as opportunities for members to become involved in outreach or educational activities to promote the field of statistics. Other Chapters will likely have their own goals and needs, but our approach was to recognize and discuss things we saw as potential barriers to participation in the Chapter and make a plan to try and address each of these. The process of reviving the Chapter has been slow and not without challenges, but we are working toward growing our membership and increasing opportunities for education and networking in the statistical community of Nebraska.

Nevada Chapter Report

The Nevada Chapter of the American Statistical Association has geared up for fall activities that include a celebration of the chapter's 10th anniversary during the Annual Meeting and Symposium and a Meet and Greet Pizza Social and Membership Drive at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas for students, faculty and off-campus guests.

Invitations were recently sent to members and other interested folks for the 2012-2013 Annual Meeting to be

held Saturday, October 6, at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Annual Meeting this year will be special for two reasons. First, the Nevada Chapter is celebrating 10 years of being a part of the American Statistical Association, with activities that include a wide range of speakers and, of course, an anniversary cake! Second, the chapter is being treated to a visit by ASA's Executive Director, Ron Wasserstein. His keynote speech is entitled, *Live! from the ASA*, an especially appropriate title for a Las Vegas meeting! The Chapter welcomes Ron and we look forward to his insights on the American Statistical Association. Symposium topics by member presenters during the meeting include an array of subjects ranging from health services research models to non-parametric procedures to sampling issues.

Earlier this year, Nevada ASA hosted several events. The 9th Annual K-12 Poster Competition was a great success! Long-time NV-ASA member David Thiel of the Clark County School District is the driving force behind this annual competition that gives budding statisticians the opportunity to learn

about the discipline. The winning posters can be seen at <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/nevada/k12postercompetition/k12postercompwinners2012.html>.

In the north, the Northern Nevada Career Day was held on Saturday, May 5 at the University of Nevada, Reno. NV-ASA annually holds at least one career day event in the state. This year's event included 12 speakers from a variety of disciplines including biostatistics, climate and hydrology, applied math, environmental sciences, economics and business, geosciences, gaming, biology and ecology, actuarial science, and sociology and psychology. Students attended from local high schools and the University.

Both the UNLV and UNR Math Departments maintain active statistical seminar series. Many of Nevada's ASA members participate in the series.

The Chapter looks forward to other events such as dinner speaking events and member recruiting activities.

Houston Chapter Report

The Houston Area Chapter meets every month and presents lectures that are

open to our members and the community. All meetings are located in Duncan Hall on Rice University Campus, and we thank the Rice Department of Statistics for their generous support of HACASA. Last April, we hosted an ASA Traveling Short Course, Applied Mixed Models, presented by Dr. Linda Young of the University of Florida. The University of Texas School of Public Health kindly sponsored this special event. It was such a success that we plan to do another one soon. To see what is happening, visit our new website at <https://sites.google.com/site/houstonasa>

This year, we have an exciting lineup for the lecture series. On September 12, Professor Erin Hodgess of the University of Houston showed us the use of R with a computer cluster called Little Fe that her group received for teaching and research purposes at SuperComputing 2011. Professor Hodgess discussed the history of the cluster and explained the installation/software. She also presented interesting empirical results for the analysis of time series data where the computation time can be reduced substantially by using R with the cluster.

We look forward to our October talk where Dr. Don Berry of MD Anderson Cancer Center will give a historical overview of Bayesian methods in clinical trials (Oct. 17). On Nov 14, Alan Feiveson from NASA will present a talk on cardiac study using convex hull growth. In December, we plan to host a potluck for our members to celebrate the holidays (Dec. 12). Next year on Jan 15, 2013, Diane Schaub of MD Anderson Cancer Center will talk about quality control, while on March 12, Stan Deming will present a lecture on *Masquerading as a Statistician*. Our own officers will give seminars on their recent work with Jose-Miguel Yamal on Feb 12 and Michael Swartz on April 9.

San Francisco Chapter Report

SFASA hosted a seminar on Sept. 20, 2012 in the Menlo Park office of Exponent. Duane Steffey, PhD, who is the Director of Statistical and Data Sciences in Exponent®, gave an interesting talk on *Statistical Issues in the Product Life Cycle of Implantable Medical Devices*. He stressed that statisticians are able to make important contributions in solving problems in engineering, clinical trials,

manufacturing and post-market surveillance of implantable medical devices. Various statistical techniques were discussed to tackle statistical issues. About 30 people attended the talk while 8 went out for dinner honoring the speaker. Questions and discussion after the talk indicated that the audience were interested and engaged.

SFASA will sponsor a one-day short course by Professor Don Rubin of Harvard University, to be held in University of California, Berkeley, on Oct. 19 (Friday), 2012. The course title is *Causal inference in experiments and observational studies using potential outcomes*. Techniques such as propensity scores, Bayesian posterior predictive inference, and more advanced topics such as principal stratification will be discussed by Professor Rubin who is an expert on the subject matter. Registration information for the course can be found on the Chapter's website www.sfasa.org.

Besides donating to Statfest 2012, SFASA will also have two past presidents, Dr. Chris Barker and Dr. Kelly Fan, speak in the conference to increase diversity in the statistical

sciences. Statfest will focus on encouraging minority undergraduate and high school students to go into the profession of statistics. This year, it will take place in San Francisco State University on October 6, 2012. Details can be found on www.statfest.com.

Connecticut Chapter Report

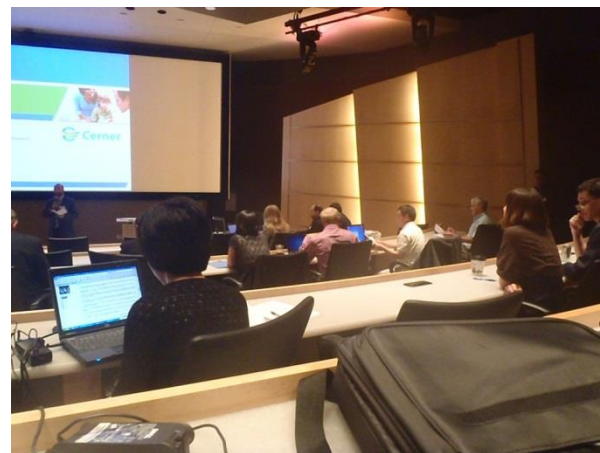
On March 22, 2012 the Connecticut Chapter held its 10th annual Mini-Conference at the Yale University West Campus. This one-day conference featured five presentations on emerging statistical issues in clinical trials. More than 80 attendees from academia and industry, from Connecticut and other states (New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts) attended this event.

Presenters were leading researchers in the field, including Dr. Susan Murphy from University of Michigan, Dr. Ajit Tamhane from Northwestern University, Dr. Jason Fine from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Lorenzo Trippa from Harvard University, and Dr. Aurelien Latouche from the Conservatoire National des arts et métiers, Paris, France. Topics included sequential multiple assignment (SMART) trials, Bayesian response

adaptive designs, and competing risks. A panel discussion on the role of adaptation in clinical trials rounded out the day's events. The conference was organized by the chapter's Vice President, Bingqing Zhou, with support from the executive committee members.

Kansas Western-Missouri Chapter Report

The Kansas Western-Missouri (KSWMO) Chapter held its annual symposium and its annual spring meeting in April and May, respectively, and will hold its annual fall meeting in October 11, 2012.



Session of the 5th Annual Symposium of the KSWMO chapter

The KSWMO chapter joint with Cerner Corporation and the Department of Biostatistics at The University of Kansas Medical Center held the 5th Annual

symposium entitled *Innovations in Design, Analysis, and Dissemination: Frontiers in Biostatistical Methods*.

This event took place on April 26th-April 27th, 2012 at the Cerner Vision Center on Cerner Corporations World Headquarters campus in Kansas City, Missouri. The Keynote Address entitled *Biostatistics for Discovery, Prediction, and Decision Making in Biomedical Research* was delivered by Dr. Richard Simon, Chief of the Biometric Research Branch of the National Cancer Institute. A pre-symposium short course entitled *Bayesian Adaptive Methods for Clinical Trials* were offered on site the morning of April 26th, 2012 by Dr. Bradley Carlin, Professor and Head of Biostatistics for the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. There were four invited presentations, four contributed presentations and two poster sessions. The four invited presentations were given by Drs. Tony Sun (MU), Michael Brimacombe (KUMC), Kendra Schmid (UNMC) and Yili L. Pritchett (Abbott); and the four contributed presentations by Drs. Baojiang Chen (UNMC), Kun Chen (KSU), Laura Hatfield (Harvard) and H. Morgan Scott (KSU). The event, organized by Harlen Hay (Cerner), John

Keighley (KUMC), Jo Wick (KUMC) and Yong Zeng (UMKC), attracted about 60 participants from universities and industries.



5th Annual Symposium of the KSWMO chapter Organizing Committee

The Chapter held its annual Spring Chapter meeting on May 3rd, 2012 at Kansas State University. The keynote address, entitled *The Statistical Nature of Satellite Retrievals*, was given by Noel Cressie, Distinguished Professor of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and director of the Program in Spatial Statistics and Environmental Statistics at the Ohio State University.

During the meeting, the Chapter inducted its first class of about 35 student honorees to Mu Sigma Rho, the National Statistics Honorary Society. Each honoree was given a certificate and a pin of the honor society, as well

as a one-year student membership in the American Statistical Association (ASA), paid by the chapter. Juan Du (KSU), the treasury of the chapter, organized the Spring meeting. A picture of the student honorees of Mu Sigma Rho is presented below.



KSWMO Chapter Student
Honorees of Mu Sigma Rho

In addition, the Chapter's annual Fall meeting, joint with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Missouri at Kansas City (UMKC), will take place on Thursday, October 11th, 2012 at Diastole Scholars' Center on UMKC Campus. A keynote address will be given by Xiaotong Shen, the John Black Johnston Distinguished Professor, University of Minnesota.

Rochester Chapter Report

It's an honor and a distinct privilege to report that the Rochester Chapter has had a very active and productive year

2012. Among other things, we hosted The First Mini Conference of Upstate New York chapters of the ASA (codenamed UP-STAT 2012), which was held on the beautiful campus of Rochester Institute of Technology on March 31st 2012. Based on the feedback received electronically and by word of mouth from some of the sixty attendants, this mini-conference was a great success. So great indeed was the success that we are putting in place the structure to make this an annual event. We have tentatively locked in March 30th 2013 as the date for UP-STAT 2013, the 2nd Annual Mini Conference of the ASA Chapters of Upstate New York. The success of the conference was due to the contributions of the officers and the remarkable input and help of our student members.

At the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, the need for a hosting institution for StatFest was expressed. Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Donald Baker, Director of the Center for Quality and Applied Statistics at Rochester Institute of Technology, ASA Rochester will proudly host Stat Fest 2013, bringing into Rochester Undergraduate and

beginning graduate students from minority and under-represented groups.

At its next meeting on September 28th, members of ASA Rochester will discuss the logistics and the structure for a Statistical Data Analysis Contest. This contest will bring together teams of young statistical data analysts from universities and colleges in Upstate New York, each team guided by a faculty mentor. Teams will vie for a gold medal, a silver medal, a bronze medal and some consolation prizes. ASA Rochester will adopt the competition model similar to the one currently used for Data Mining Competitions at many Knowledge Discover and Data Mining conferences.

ASA Rochester now has regular meetings almost every month, with

presenters ranging from university faculty members to professional statisticians. The chapter has succeeded in encouraging many of graduate students join the ASA, and we also encourage them to present their work at chapter meetings and take an active part in the chapter. Our vision for the chapter is to involve as many students and AP teachers as possible, and ultimately break into the high school platform with our mentor-mentee (M-square) initiative through which college students can become ambassadors of our profession.

All in all, the Rochester chapter of the ASA is currently vibrant with great energy and enthusiasm, and eagerly looking forward to taking an active part in the celebration of the International Year of Statistics.

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