

CHAPTER CHATTER

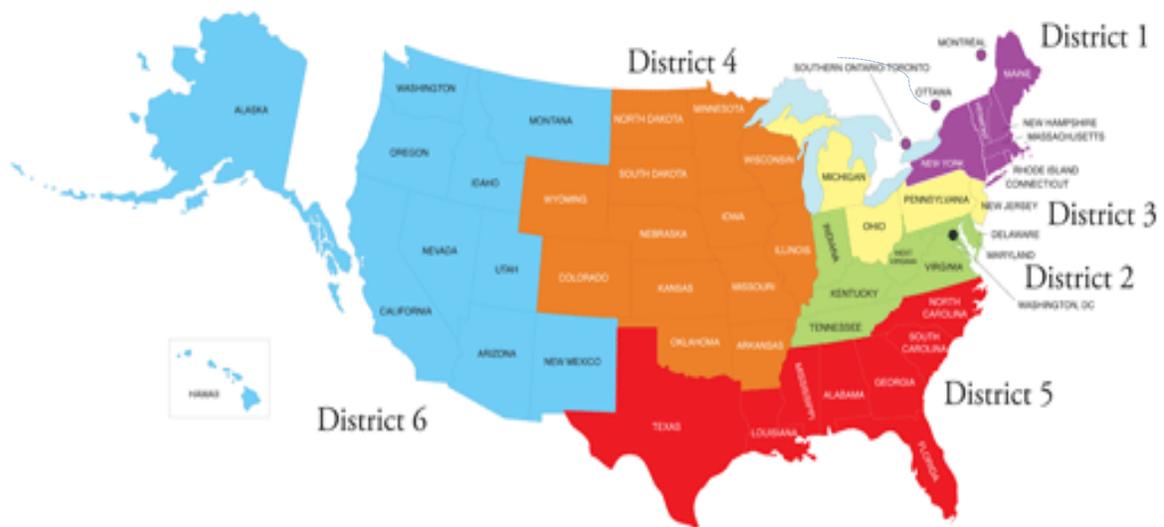
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John D. Keighley, Editor

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A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the spring 2018 issue of *Chapter Chatter*, the newsletter for and about ASA Chapters. The Council of Chapter Governing Board(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.

Let the Council of Chapters know if you have any suggestions about this newsletter (its content, format, distribution, etc.) We are interested in suggestions on how to more effectively facilitate communication between chapters and enable you to use the COCGB as a resource.

In this issue of *Chapter Chatter*, contributors are informing us of events and resources available to all chapters. We are entering the second full year of a program that is being offered from the national ASA to the ASA chapters. This program titled

“Chapter Stimulus Funding” is meant to increase chapter enthusiasm and grow in membership. A short comment on the program which I have included from the initial announcement is included again in this issue, which includes a link to the program details on the ASA website. Please read the details and start your planning for this remainder of this year asap. Again, this funding is being provided by ASA to help your chapter fund events, etc to make your chapter “better”. There are many different measures of better. Increases in membership, bringing in a speaker that you might not have been able to bring otherwise, etc.

The end of the Spring 2018 semester is here for the academic members is here, in conjunction with the opening of registration for JSM 2018 in Vancouver Canada.

John Keighley
Editor

ASA CHAPTER STIMULUS FUNDING PROGRAM

From Council of Chapters Governing Board

A new national ASA program, called “Chapter Stimulus Funding,” has begun that allocates funding to chapters designed to elevate chapter enthusiasm and growth in the membership. A key component to the program is that the funds can only be spent on chapter activities that have the potential for a broad impact across the chapter and for the chapter membership. Complete details on how the program works can be found at <http://community.amstat.org/coc/chapterresources/chapterstimulus>

The ASA and the COCGB hopes this new program will spur excitement and growth in chapter memberships and chapter activities. The program will be reviewed at year-end 2017 to measure its effectiveness. Chapters are encouraged to take advantage of the great opportunity to inject fun and usefulness into their events.

This is a reprint of the announcement from fall 2016.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR COC BOARD

JSM 2017, Baltimore, MD

The Use and Impact of the ASA Chapter Stimulus Program: Chapter Experiences in the First Year

By Alexandra Hanlon

During the 2016 JSM COCGB Workshop in Chicago, chapters were encouraged to take advantage of the new national “Chapter Stimulus Funding” program designed to elevate chapter enthusiasm and membership growth. Funds are intended to support new initiatives, or to support ongoing initiatives but in a bigger and better way, with the stipulation that the activity has the potential for a broad impact across the chapter and for chapter membership. All chapters were eligible to receive a maximum of **\$1,000** from the ASA to support one or more such activities. Details and specifics can be found at

<http://community.amstat.org/coc/chapterresources/chapterstimulus>.

In 2016 and through July 2017, 27 and 15 chapters, respectively, had taken advantage of the stimulus fund program. The ASA and the COCGB hope this new funding program has generated excitement and growth in chapter membership and chapter activities. To gauge its effectiveness, this year’s JSM COCGB Workshop in Baltimore took the opportunity to provide a forum for discussion of chapter initiatives and their impact on chapter engagement.

Prior to JSM 2017, an email was sent out to all chapters who received stimulus funds, requesting their participation in the workshop. For those who agreed to participate, guiding questions were provided to facilitate discussion and allow for fellow chapters to identify in terms of size, demographics, and experiences. Guiding questions were related to chapter membership (size and type—academic, industry, etc.), activity details, impact, lessons learned, and plans for future stimulus funding use. Nine chapters shared their experiences and are summarized in the table below.

After JSM, Southern California (SCASA) provided more details on their reading club initiative that was facilitated by stimulus funds and the purchase of a professional recording microphone. The idea is to have a couple people read a book of interest and then produce a digital podcast review that can be shared through the various chapter outreach vehicles. In the first of these podcasts, Shemra Rizzo and Dan Jeske review Nate Silver's book, 'The Signal and the Noise,' through casual discussion of the successes and failures of prediction methodologies. Please check out their

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28-minute podcast at <https://youtu.be/K6ye7d3bJ2c>

. If you are interested in being a host for a future podcast episode, Dan is happy to show you what he learned about the technology side of producing the podcast. The software needed to record, edit and mix the recordings are all downloadable free software. So other than your time, it costs nothing to produce and contribute your own podcast to the initiative.

To summarize, it is too early to observe significant increases in membership. However, the impact on membership enthusiasm is clear. The Oklahoma chapter shared the exciting news that after years of inactivity, their use of stimulus funds revived the chapter! They are up and running and they don't think this would have been possible without the stimulus support. The Boston chapter noted that stimulus funds are useful for supporting events that are interesting, affordable, and provide good value to members, and thus will have a positive impact on membership in the long run. They resourcefully used some of their funds to organize activities outside of the Boston area to give those at a distance the opportunity to attend chapter events. Alabama boasted the attraction of new members, especially students from universities in Alabama and Mississippi, and were happy to receive positive feedback from long-term members excited about resuming chapter activity. Additionally, Alabama expanded chapter leadership to include a Secretary, Vice President,

and Treasurer to coordinate future activities.

Southeast Texas stated that their event demonstrated to students, our future officers and board members, the importance of the ASA to our local chapter. Kansas Western Missouri contributed to the discussion by reporting that they had their first ever career day for high school and college students. They felt it was very successful and plan to continue it.

Participating chapters provided examples of activities that others might consider when requesting stimulus funding. These activities include hosting a short course, full day symposium, big-name speaker, awards dinner, catered dinner with a speaker, potluck dinner with a speaker, events at rotating locations to serve members in differing geographic members, career day, student poster competition with prizes, and a data competition. Advice shared by participating chapters included the following: plan ahead, carefully attend to your budget, reserve a room larger than needed, advertise well in advance and send out reminders, maintain communication between your chapter and the ASA, and do not request reimbursement for alcoholic drinks!

Finally, chapters stressed their desire to keep event registration fees low, so that anyone interested in attending can do so. Stimulus funds ease the financial burden of events, providing chapters the opportunity to experiment with new activities or to

enhance ongoing activities, both of which can result in elevated enthusiasm and membership.

And lastly, a huge THANK YOU to Dan Jeske for proposing the stimulus idea, and to the ASA Board

and Staff for acting on it! Many thanks to chapters who participated in the 2017 COCGB workshop, and to those chapters who use the content of this article as a basis for their own event planning. The ASA COCGB wishes you all a successful year!



Jeff Szychowski, Alabama Chapter President, Chair Elect – Section of Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences



Naomi Brownstein, Florida Chapter Representative



Mark Payton, Oklahoma Chapter, COCGB District 4 Vice Chair



Scott McClintock, Philadelphia Chapter President



Jeremy Gaskins, Kentucky Chapter Secretary



Michael Longnecker, Southeastern Texas Chapter Treasurer



Harold Dyck, Southern California Chapter Representative

COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS UPDATE ON TRAVELING COURSES

By Mark Peyton

Last winter, 20 chapters applied for the 2018 ASA Council of Chapter's Traveling Course program for the opportunity to host one of seven short courses. The courses are either completed, scheduled, or TBA. The following list gives the current status of the 20 courses. If you are in the area, we hope that you will consider supporting the local chapter by attending the Traveling Course. Please contact the chapter executive committee to obtain current information – time, cost (prices will vary by chapter), etc. Updates will be provided in the summer issue of Chapter Chatter, immediately prior to JSM. Details might change for courses that haven't been presented yet so please check with local chapters for current details. Link to COC Traveling courses is:

<http://community.amstat.org/coc/chapterresources/travelingcourse>

March:

- March 24: Georgia (Incomplete Data Analysis: Ofer Harel)

April:

- April 6 : Florida (Bayesian : Fang Chen)
- April 20 : Central Arkansas (Bayesian : Fang Chen)
- April 27: Nebraska (Incomplete Data Analysis: Ofer Harel)

May:

- May 3 : Houston (Clinical Trials : Devan Mehrota)

June:

- June 15: Toronto (Network Meta-Analysis: Chris Schmid)

- June 20 : San Francisco (Clinical Trials : Devan Mehrota)

September:

- September 28: Trenton (Clinical Trials : Devan Mehrota)

October

- October 6: Kansas-Western Missouri (Clinical Trials : Devan Mehrota)
- October 12: Philadelphia (Longitudinal Data Analysis: Garrett Fitzmaurice)
- October 13: Kentucky (Data Mining: Richard DeVeaux)
- October 19: Boston (Incomplete Data Analysis: Ofer Harel)
- October 21: Southern California/San Diego (Bayesian : Fang Chen)

November

- November 8: Chesapeake (Longitudinal Data Analysis: Garrett Fitzmaurice)
- November 8: North Texas (Network Meta-Analysis: Chris Schmid)
- November 9: San Antonio (Network Meta-Analysis: Chris Schmid)

Fall/Winter (Exact Date TBD)

- Dayton (Data Mining: Richard DeVeaux)
- Washington (Bayesian : Fang Chen)
- Hawaii Jan 2019 (Network Meta-Analysis: Chris Schmid)

ANN ARBOR AND DETROIT ASA CHAPTERS 2018 MICHIGAN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

By Karry Roberts, Detroit Chapter Secretary

*Photos Courtesy of Karry Roberts, Mary Ann Ritter and
Tim Fino, Michigan Science and Engineering Fair Director*

Promoting statistical analysis in high school science projects, members of the Detroit and Ann Arbor Chapters of ASA enjoyed being professional awards judges at the Michigan Science & Engineering Fair (MSEF). This was our second year at the state level, extending a tradition our two chapters had maintained for many years at the regional level.

This year our team of seven judges for the statistical special awards included Anamaria Kazanis, District 3 Vice Chair; Karry Roberts, David Corliss, Xianggui (Harvey) Qu, and Rob Kushler from the Detroit Chapter; and Mary Ann Ritter and Nicholas Moloci from the Ann Arbor Chapter.

The MSEF displays the best high school level posters from the regional science fairs throughout the state. The fair was held at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan on Saturday, April 7. Winners in various science categories at this fair go on to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Pittsburgh. This year, the MSEF had a total of 50 posters. At each poster, the student was present, giving us the opportunity to interview him or her and learn about their scientific approach to their data. Initially we worked in review teams; afterward all seven of us reviewed the best posters to determine our higher awards.

At the end of the event, we kicked off the awards ceremony by calling all our certificate and award winners up on stage. We encouraged the students to take statistical courses to ensure proper statistical analysis of their data for all college majors. This year our award winners were:

One \$200 Award of Excellence

- “The Effects of Commercial Pesticides Upon *Vanessa cardui*” by Mallory Snyder from Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, Saginaw

Five \$50 Awards of Merit

- “The Effects of Boron Compounds on Amyloid-beta 42 Plaque Aggregation” by Zaid Haque, Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy, Saginaw
- “Genome-wide Analysis of Histone Modifications in *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*” by Rohit Mital from Indus Center for Academic Excellence, Lathrup Village
- “Effectiveness of Homemade Activated Carbon Water Filter in Removing Pollutants” by Neha Narayan an independent high school student
- “Econometric Model of USGDP through Artificial Neural Networks” by Shivan Prasad from Detroit Country Day Upper School, Beverly Hills

- “Quantifying the Effects of Novel Mutations in Putative T2D Regulatory Loci” by Collin Wang from Detroit Country Day Upper School, Beverly Hills

Nine Recognition Certificates

- The following students received recognition certificates: Sai Anantapantula, Melissa Beyrand, Maria Fields, Jared Freeman, Samuel Maher, Bhuvna Murthy, Vihaar Nandigala, Salena Prakah-Asante and Akash Rathod.

Students at all three award levels received certificates and a copy of Significance magazine which Rick Peterson (ASA Chapters Liaison) had kindly provided.



Photo of all of the winning students

The Detroit Chapter obtained reimbursement from the ASA Chapter Stimulus Funds for their contribution to this activity, which covered much of the award expenses. The Ann Arbor Chapter also contributed to the awards.

Eight of our ASA Professional Awards winners were recognized with MSEF Category Awards. One of these students was Samuel Maher who received one of our

Recognition Certificates and will be attending the ISEF as a MSEF Grand Award recipient.

We enjoyed getting our two chapters together and judging at the MSEF. It was a great opportunity to promote statistical education and it was fun to see the amazing work that our Michigan high school students were doing!



ASA Judges from left to right: Karry Roberts, Rob Kushler, Nicholas Moloci, Xianggui (Harvey) Qu, and David Corliss. Posing with our Award of Excellence Poster.



ASA Judges from left to right: Mary Ann Ritter and Anamaria Kazanis, District 3 Vice Chair

ARIZONIA CHAPTER HOSTS DATAFEST

By Rodney Jee, PhD

The Arizona Chapter concluded its first ASA DataFest competition on March 25 with excellent participation from students of Arizona State University from both the main Tempe campus as well as the West campus. A total of 15 teams comprised of 49 students finished the weekend long competition. Referred to as a data hackathon, ASA DataFest challenges undergraduates to analyze a large dataset from industry over a weekend and present their results before judges.

Many of the students began learning R for the competition but at least one of the teams relied heavily on their training in SAS for their data preparation and analyses. Visualization was one of the judging criteria but it was still surprising to find teams learning on the spot to use a commercial package like Tableau for their analyses and presentations. A few teams ventured into building quick models ranging from logistic regressions, time series, to machine learning models. Clearly, many of the students took up the challenges and used the competition as a way to strengthen their technical skills while conducting data analyses.

Over 30 mentors signed up for the DataFest held at ASU to help the students overcome the challenges. Most of the mentors were graduate students and faculty at ASU, but the Chapter was pleased to see many data professionals from local business and industry participate. An attempt was made to find mentors that could help with specific languages or software tools and such effort was not wasted. Python and Tableau experts were announced upon arrival and immediately found teams seeking assistance in applying those tools to their analyses. The Chapter took it as a strong sign of

satisfaction when a few professionals told organizers that their company would want to help sponsor the next DataFest.

The competition finished Sunday afternoon with student presentations of their key findings. The ASU site was fortunate to have a representative of the data donor among the panel of five judges. A senior analyst from the health care sector provided another perspective in judging. ASA members Steve Robertson of SMU, John Stufken of ASU, and Ji-Hyun Lee of UNM rounded out the panel.



Networking at DataFest Arizona State (left to right): AZ Chapter Officers Jie (Jane) Pu, Yongzhao Peng, Shuo Jiang, Rodney Jee, District Vice-Chair Ji-Hyun Lee, and Jennifer Broatch of ASU-West Campus

Dr. Lee, who is also the current Council of Chapters District Vice-Chair, not only judged but also was present for the entire weekend event. Besides working

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with the students, she also took time to talk with members about the needs and opportunities for leadership roles in the chapters and ASA. In total,

DataFest is a great event for the student competitors, the university and its supporters, and ASA members. participation in chapter activities.

BOSTON CHAPTER

By Stan Morse and Miriam Chernoff

As in past years, the Boston Chapter maintained an active program of evening lectures, short courses, and social events in 2017-18. The kick-off event for the fall was a short course on R and RStudio given by Nick Horton at Holy Cross in Worcester in September. This was followed by a short course on Applied Longitudinal Analysis given by Garrett Fitzmaurice at Boston University in October, and a Mini-Conference and Fall Social at the University of New Hampshire in November. In December, the Chapter held a dinner to honor Professor Joe Blitzstein of Harvard University, who was this year's winner of the BCASA Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching of Statistics Award. Our spring term began with a Winter Party and a Potluck Dinner in January, followed by the Mosteller Statistician of the Year awards banquet in February. This year's winner of the Mosteller award was Professor Sharon-Lise Normand from the Harvard Medical School. On April 27, the Chapter co-sponsored a Statistics Symposium at Harvard University to celebrate the 95th birthday of Professor Herman Chernoff who has been an active participant in our chapter. Our final events for the spring were a Pharmaceutical Symposium at Takeda Pharmaceuticals

in Cambridge on May 4 and an evening event at Tuft University on May 16. The Tufts event was co-sponsored by the ASA Student Chapter at Tufts and included the election of five new chapter officers for 2019.

The Chapter Stimulus grant received in 2017 supported our New Hampshire outreach event in November, while the 2018 grant supplemented the cost of our Mosteller event in February. The funding allowed students to attend for free or at highly reduced cost.

Our Chapter covers five New England states, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island, and has close to 600 members. There are an additional 500+ ASA members in our region who do not belong to the Chapter. In spring 2017, the Chapter conducted a survey to obtain input for program planning and to learn why some ASA members have not joined our chapter. The survey was sent to 1,164 participants and resulted in 308 responses.

The most frequent reason for not joining the chapter was not knowing that there was a chapter, followed by unclear benefit of membership. These issues are ultimately addressable with outreach and public

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relations efforts. Among current chapter members, the most commonly perceived value of chapter membership was professional networking, exposure to novel applications, and learning new methodology.

Big Data/Data Science had the most interest for future event topics followed by Biostatistics/Clinical trials,

and Health Care/Public Health. Statistical consulting and statistical education were also areas of interest. A number of more specialized topics were also suggested. A report on the survey results is in preparation and will be posted to the chapter website in the near future.

CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

By Ed Brizendine Secretary

The 2018 Hoosier and Science Engineering Fair (HSEF) was held on March 24, 2018 at The Center in Indianapolis. Members of the Central Indiana Chapter screened nearly 100 middle school (junior division) and about 80 high school (senior division) projects to identify the finalists. The young researchers of these projects were then interviewed by our statistical judges to assess their understanding of the statistical techniques they used. After much discussion the judges selected 3 senior and 3 junior projects to be recognized for their use and understanding of statistics. Congratulations to the chosen recipients and thanks to our members for volunteering.

Award recipients

Senior division, First Place (\$200)

Anthony Weng, grade 12, Terre Haute South Vigo HS
Project title: Satellite modeling of wildfire susceptibility in California by using artificial neural networking

Senior division, Second Place (\$100)

Sepehr Asgari, grade 11, Carmel HS

Project title: Engineering of fusion protein therapeutics to efficiently combat neurological damage caused by E.coli K1 meningitis

Senior division, Third Place (\$50)

Jacob Martin, grade 9, Northwestern Senior HS
Project title: The effect of oscillatoria on flooded glycine max

Junior division, First Place (\$50)

Albert Rajwa, grade 6, Happy Hollow Elementary
Project title: How does temperature affect magnetism

Junior division, Second Place

Ben Edwards, grade 5, Prairie Vista
Project title: Dog mania

Junior division, Third Place

Alayna Jacobus, grade 4, Van Buren Elementary
Project title: Penny Wars: The cleanest penny



ASA award recipients pose with their awards alongside HSEF executive board member Keith Anliker. Picture courtesy of Steve Chase at Timeless Perspective.



Statistical judges from the Central Indiana Chapter
Vipin Arora, Chandan Saha, Luke Settles, David Fluharty, Christopher Breen, Ed Brizendine, Stewart Fosseco, Aida Yazdanparast, Alex White

CINCINNATI CHAPTER

Provided by Ashley Clark Chapter Representative

The Cincinnati Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA) has organized and sponsored a number of exciting events this academic year.

For our February 2018 meeting, we held two talks at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Cole Brokamp, Assistant Professor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, gave an engaging presentation on ensemble machine learning for air pollution exposure assessment. Karl Sieber, Senior Research Health Scientist with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), presented an interesting overview of surveys in the US federal statistical system, including findings from CDC's National Survey of US Long-Haul Truck Driver Health and Injury.

At our February meeting, we also recognized chapter member Eileen King who was inducted as an ASA Fellow in 2017. Eileen is a faculty member in biostatistics and epidemiology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. In addition to serving as a leader in the Cincinnati Chapter for many years, Eileen has been very active in ASA at the national level. Currently, she is serving as chair of the Council of Sections Governing Board and as an associate editor for the Journal of Statistics Education.

The Cincinnati Chapter continued its participation in the Southwest District Science and Engineering Expo, which was held on March 10th at the University of Cincinnati. We awarded 3 \$50 prizes for proficiency in

the application of statistical methods. The award winners were as follows (see [Expo website](#)):

Grades 5-6: Kendall Weber, The Stroop Effect

Grades 7-8: Gayatri Rajan, Predicting Likelihood of Alzheimer's using Neural Networks (PLANN)

Grades 9-12: Maanasa Mendu, A convolutional neural network based approach to plant disease diagnostics

It was awesome to see the rigor, creativity, and thoughtfulness of these students. A big thank you to Yiren Wang, Si Cheng, and Ashley Clark for serving as judges!

Moving on to awards to those pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees, we wish to congratulate the 2018 Comer-Reynolds Memorial Award winners:

Shaobo Li, University of Cincinnati

Pulong Ma, University of Cincinnati

Winston Kunkel, Xavier University

Jiayu Wu, Miami University

Michael Creutzinger, Miami University

We also are happy to report that the University of Cincinnati's ASA Student Chapter (BearStats) welcomed new leadership. Yan Yu and Yichen Qin are serving as co-advisors. PhD students Shaobo Li and Brittany Green served as co-presidents.

This past fall, we had a great visit from Anamaria Kazanis, Vice Chair of District 3, who talked with our chapter officers about ways to better serve our membership and to attract new members. Thank you, Anamaria!

Our chapter was recently awarded the Traveling Short Course, "Analysis of Incomplete Data." The course will be presented by Ofer Harel from the University of Connecticut in August 2018. Stay tuned for more information!

Saving the best for last -- Marty Levy will receive the 2018 ASA Chapter Service Recognition Award at the upcoming Joint Statistical Meetings in appreciation of his dedicated service to the Cincinnati Chapter. Thank you, Marty, for your many contributions to the professional development of Cincinnati-area students, academics, and professionals!



Cincinnati Chapter President Jeremy Christman recognizes Eileen King who was inducted as an ASA Fellow in 2017.



Karl Sieber from NIOSH discusses federal government surveys at a Cincinnati Chapter meeting in February 2018.

FLORIDA CHAPTER

By Naomi Brownstein, PhD

The Florida Chapter used its 2017 stimulus funding for a fall 2017 poster competition to facilitate involvement between high school students and teachers and the American Statistical Association. Four high school students submitted posters to the competition. Three winners were selected. Each winner received a plaque signed by the chapter president and a cash prize.

On April 6 and 7, the Florida Chapter held its 2018 annual meeting at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. The meeting kicked off with a full-day course on Bayesian data analysis taught by Fang Chen from SAS. Saturday events included a business meeting, faculty research talks, student posters and one talk, lunch and a keynote address by Michael Schell from Moffitt Cancer Center on a tool to better stay up to date on important statistical literature. Winning posters from the high school statistics poster competition were also displayed at the Saturday morning poster session. (Although the winning high school students were encouraged to attend the meeting, none did.) The chapter officers judged all presentations by student attendees and selected two winners to receive a certificate and a cash prize. Photos are included of meeting attendees and student winners. Additional information on the 2018 annual meeting may be found at <http://lebesgue.fgcu.edu/FLASA2018/index.html>. Locally, the FSU ASA Student Chapter jointly co-organized and co-sponsored a conference on machine learning along with the FSU department of scientific computing and FSU department of statistics. The conference, held on April 21, 2018, featured research presentations by local faculty, lunch, refreshments, and

opportunities for networking. Meeting details and videos of the presentations are available at <https://mlx.sc.fsu.edu/2018/>.

The Florida chapter is also planning to apply for the stimulus funding for 2018. Currently, the chapter is in the process of organizing a fall 2018 mini-conference or workshop, including an appearance by ASA President Lisa LaVange through the ASA Chapter Visitation program. Details will be announced at a later date.



Florida chapter meeting attendees at Florida Gulf Coast University on April 7, 2018.



Student award winner Michael Katarinos from University of South Florida and Professor Subhash Bagui from the University of West Florida. The photo was taken at the conclusion of the chapter meeting on April 7, 2018 at Florida Gulf Coast University.



Student award winner Kai Qi from Florida State University and Professor -- and former Chapter President -- Eric Chicken from Florida State University. The photo was taken at the conclusion of the chapter meeting on April 7, 2018 at Florida Gulf Coast University.

KANSAS WESTERN-MISSOURI CHAPTER

By John Keighley

The Kansas-Western Missouri chapter of the ASA association sponsored a total of three events in the fall of 2017. The first event was a one day short course that was held on the University of Kansas Edwards campus located in Overland Park, KS on September 29th, 2017. The title of the course was “*GLMM-Based Tools for Planning and Design of Research Studies*”. The study was designed to give recommendations on how to calculate sample size and power for studies that will use GLMM-Based tools in the analysis of the study results. The course was primarily designed around SAS PROC GLIMMIX but R was also considered in the course. A total of 66 attendees were at the event with a mix of private industry, academia, and a couple of government attendees.

The short-course was followed by chapter’s fall meeting at the same location. Walter Stroup also agreed to give the chapter meeting’s talk. It was titled “*From graduate student at Kentucky to ‘gray hair’ on the Nebraska faculty: How I got from there to here and what I learned along the way*”. The talk was an interesting discussion about Walt’s life experiences and the impact that those experiences had in his life as a statistician. We had 60 attendees for the chapter meeting.

The final chapter event for the semester was a membership drive that was held on the Cerner Innovations Campus in Kansas City, MO. This was a free event for attendees that was funded by ASA chapter stimulus money. The event was planned with the goal of increasing chapter membership at both the student level and hopefully to convince the students to stay in the ASA after they graduate and go on to their careers. Cerner was a very good host and gave a guided tour of the facility and gave presentations on how statistics and visual analytics are used in the daily operations in their company. Just under 40 attendees came to the event with a majority of students but a few attendees came from industry. We picked up a couple of new chapter members but this type of event will hopefully pay large dividends over time as we hope that a large percentage of the students will be ASA members.

Future events in the Kansas-Western Missouri chapter of the ASA: We have held two events in the spring of 2018 that will be in the Chapter Chatter released immediately prior to JSM 2018. In the fall of 2018 we will host an ASA Traveling course in October which means the chapter meeting for the fall will also be in October. We always hold a scheduled short-course and chapter meeting on the same day to reduce travel for attendees across the region.

NORTH CAROLINA

By Ryne VanKrevelen Chapter Representative

North Carolina features a wonderful and diverse community of statisticians, and the state's ASA chapter has been hosting a wide range of great events to bring them together. In December, the chapter used stimulus funding to host "The State of Statistics" Panel Discussion and Dinner. David Banks (Duke University) moderated the discussion with a panel that featured regional statisticians from academia, government, and industry who gave advice and answered audience questions. The panelists were Jim Blum (UNC-W), Ashley Kesler (PPD), Kristen Foley (EPA), Kirsten Doehler (Elon), Joe Ibrahim (UNC-CH), and past ASA president Bob Rodriguez (SAS). Nearly 75 statisticians from various career levels attended despite the snowy weather.

In March, the chapter hosted [ASA's Statistical Leadership Course](#) at the SAS campus in Cary, NC. Gary Sullivan from the ASA's ad-hoc Leadership Committee was joined by local leaders David Banks (Duke University) and Abie Ekangaki (Head, Global Statistical Sciences – Immunology, UCB). David Banks discussed his personal leadership development from working in government to his current position as Director of SAMSI. Abie Ekangaki explained the differences between leadership and leaders while addressing the implications those differences have inside an organization's structure.

March also featured a Social and Recycled Poster Session hosted by the chapter. The session allowed

local statisticians a chance to practice an upcoming poster presentation or to re-use a poster that may have otherwise been gathering dust while providing an informal setting for members to see what types of projects other NC statisticians are involved in. Over a dozen posters were presented with over 50 attendees gathering at an artisanal brewery for the event.



At a recycled poster session, attendees learned about some of the great statistical work being done across the state

In April, NC ASA held its first [Consulting Connections](#) lunch, providing a platform for statistical consultants to network and exchange ideas. Emily Griffith, Director of NCSU's Statistical Consulting Core and NC ASA Vice President, leads this initiative.

April also debuted NC ASA's first [Mentoring](#) event featuring several established statisticians from our community and a dozen student and early-career

mentees. The event, run by NC ASA President Elizabeth Mannshardt, provided a chance for questions on career paths as well as formal goal development.



Bob Rodriguez speaks as part of the panel at the "State of Statistics" dinner



Gary Sullivan sharing his knowledge at a Leadership Course for NC statisticians



Students and early career statisticians enjoy a speed mentoring session

The chapter holds informal “pop up” socials roughly once a month and has been actively working on ways to engage people who may not have been aware of how the NC ASA chapter can benefit them. In support of NC ASA’s focus on promoting leadership and excellence in statistics, the November social was a “Meet and Greet” featuring ASA Past President Marie Davidian.

The North Carolina chapter has several exciting [upcoming events](#). The International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics ([AISC](#)), sponsored by NC ASA, will take place in Greensboro, NC on October 5-7. AISC brings together statisticians from across the US and beyond. [Plenary speakers include 2017 ASA President Barry Nussbaum](#). Lastly, the chapter will host its “Stories of Significance” Dinner on Friday November 30. The NC ASA Fall Dinner will be in conjunction with NC ASA’s first [Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop](#).

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

By Andrew Althouse, PhD

It was a busy 2017-2018 academic year for the Pittsburgh Chapter! All of the action was recapped in the year's culminating event, the 2018 Chapter Banquet, held on April 10 with over seventy Chapter members in attendance including students, faculty, and professional members. The evening featured a student poster session, a keynote speech from Dr. Derek C. Angus (Chair of the Department of Critical Care Medicine and Director of the Clinical Research, Investigation, and Systems Modeling of Acute Illnesses (CRISMA) Center at the University of Pittsburgh) on adaptive platform trials and their future in medical research, before concluding with recognition of major Chapter accomplishments from the previous year:

- Dr. Rob Kass (Carnegie Mellon) for receiving the 2017 RA Fisher Lectureship from the Council of Presidents on Statistical Societies.
- Dr. Joel Greenhouse (Carnegie Mellon) for being named to the ASA External Nominations & Awards Committee
- Dr. Rebecca Nugent (Carnegie Mellon) for hosting the 2018 Women in Data Science Pittsburgh
- Doctoral student Jerzy Wiecek (Carnegie Mellon) for winning the Best Paper award at the 2017 NIPS Workshop on Machine Learning for the Developing World

- Dr. Kaleab Abebe (University of Pittsburgh) for being named Chair of the Program Committee for the 2018 Society for Clinical Trials meeting as well as being named Chair of the PCORI Clinical Trials Advisory Panel
- Doctoral student Lingyun Lyu (University of Pittsburgh) for winning the Lingzi Lu Memorial Award at the 2018 ASA Conference on Statistical Practice

We also recognized each department's Student of the Year:

- Lingxue Zhu (Carnegie Mellon, Statistics)
- Zheng Wang (University of Pittsburgh, Statistics)
- Li Zhu (University of Pittsburgh, Biostatistics)

Our 2017-2018 Chapter year will conclude with a bang by hosting the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair on May 15-16. So far over twenty Chapter members have stepped up and volunteered their time to judge this prestigious event on behalf of the ASA!

PRINCETON-TRENTON AND NEW JERSEY CHAPTERS

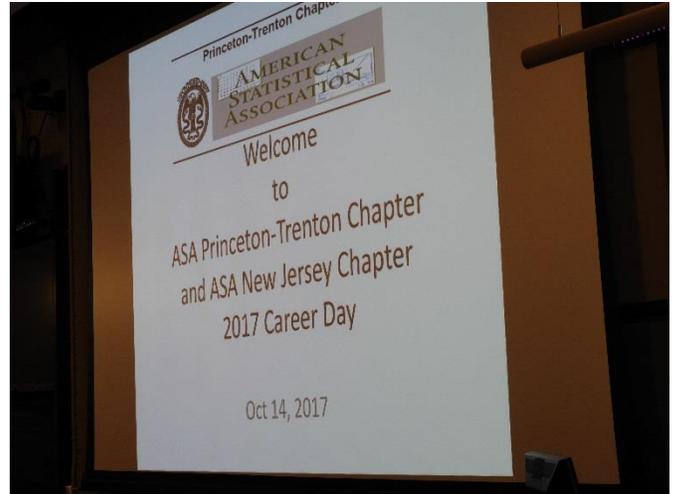
By Steve Ascher President, NJ Chapter

The Princeton-Trenton and NJ Chapters of the ASA co-sponsored a Career Day which was held on Saturday, October 14th 2017 at Rutgers University. Shou-En Lu, President of the Princeton-Trenton Chapter and Steve Ascher, President of the ASA NJ Chapter welcomed approximately 70 Statistics graduate students, who heard 6 talks about life as a statistician in academia, government, and various industries and the importance of oral and written communication skills. There was plenty of time for networking during lunch and breaks. In addition, 4 sponsors (Celgene, Janssen, Novartis, and Covance) generously supported the event and sent representatives to sit at booths and interact all day with the students. After the talks, the 6 speakers participated in a lively panel discussion led by CV Damaraju (Treasurer, ASA NJ Chapter). Shou-En and Steve concluded the day by thanking the speakers and participants. The speakers included: Min Chen (ExxonMobil), Tirthankar Dasgupta (Rutgers University), Robin Hildick (Bureau of Labor Statistics), Len Oppenheimer (Pharmaceutical), Dionne Price (FDA), and Steve Ascher (Communications). The organizing committee included: Josh Chen, CV Damaraju, Jing Gong, Shou-En Lu, Shiling Ruan, [Yaqun Wang](#), Yujun Wu, Haiyan Xu, Li-An Xu, Ming Zhou, and Steve Ascher.

Thanks.

Steve Ascher (President, ASA NJ Chapter)

Pictures:



Princeton-Trenton ASA Chapter Career day - Welcome



Steve Ascher, President ASA NJ Chapter, Welcomes the Crowd



Shou-En Lu, President ASA Princeton-Trenton Chapter



Panel Discussion (from left to right: Len Oppenheimer, Min Chen, Robin Hildick, Steve Ascher, Tirthankar Dasgupta, Dionne Price, and moderator CV Damaraju (treasurer – ASA NJ Chapter))



Speakers and Organizing Committee:
 (First row (speakers): Steve Ascher (also on organizing committee), Robin Hildick, Tirthankar Dasgupta, Len Oppenheimer, Min Chen, Dionne Price
 Second row (organizing committee): Shiling Ruan, Jing Gong, Haiyan Xu, Shou-En Lu, Ming Zhou, Yujun Wu, CV Damaraju, Yaqun Wang, Li-An Xu)



Princeton-Trenton ASA Chapter career day - Audience

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

By Kirk Anderson

On November 10, 2017, the Southwest Michigan chapter of the ASA welcomed Laura Kubatko, Professor of Statistics and Professor of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at The Ohio State University to give the talk “Computationally efficient genome-scale evolutionary inference: creating a sustainable future for African smallholder farmers” on the Grand Rapids campus of Grand Valley State University. She first explained the importance of cassava plant in East Africa, which is under threat from viruses spread by the whitefly, went on to describe phylogenetic trees, and discussed her work developing a computationally efficient method for inferring a robust estimate. Dr. Kubatko’s talk went over very well with the audience of approximately 40 chapter members and GVSU faculty and students, who asked several questions during and after the talk. Prior to the talk, the Southwest Michigan chapter held a business meeting, during which a new secretary was elected. Dr. Robert Pearson of GVSU will serve as chapter secretary. President-elect Laura Ring Kapitula is now chapter president, and outgoing president Kirk Anderson will remain active as a chapter representative. After the talk, Dr. Kubatko and 20 current and potential future chapter members enjoyed a free dinner at a nearby BBQ restaurant. We are grateful for the ASA Chapter Stimulus Funding Program for making this event possible.



Dr. Kubatko addresses the audience



Dr. Kubatko explains phylogenetic trees

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