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Welcome to the spring 2019 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 third 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.

Please use the following url for the program details on the ASA website:

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

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 beginning of the spring 2019 semester is here for the academic members, with submissions to JSM due soon. Hope to see you in Denver this year.

John Keighley
Editor
COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS UPDATE ON TRAVELING COURSES

By Melina Holt

Last fall 18 chapters applied for the 2019 ASA Council of Chapter’s Traveling Course program for the opportunity to host one of five short courses. With the change in publication date of chapter chatter no courses have been completed yet so all of the course are either in scheduling, or TBA. The following list gives the course name and the list of chapters that will be offering the course. 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. Web link to COC Traveling courses is: http://community.amstat.org/coc/chapterresources/travelingcourse

- **Welcome to the Tidyverse: An Introduction to R for Data Science**
  - Florida
  - Hawaii
  - Kansas
  - Washington

- **Analysis of Big Healthcare Databases**
  - Connecticut
  - Nebraska
  - San Francisco

- **Big Data, Data Science and Deep Learning for Statistician**
  - Central Indiana
  - Oregon
  - San Diego
  - Snake River
  - Wisconsin

- **Practical Bayesian Computation**
  - Ann Arbor
  - Cleveland

- **Guidelines for Using State-of-the-Art Methods to Estimate Propensity Score and Inverse Probability of Treatment Weights When Drawing Causal Inferences**
  - Boston
  - Central Arkansas
  - Kentucky
  - Southern California
For the Chapter Officers Appreciation Workshop, held on July 31, 2018 in Vancouver, we talked about Mentorship at the Chapter Level. Prior to JSM, the following questions were sent to all Chapter officers to find out more about their interest as well as ongoing mentoring programs (if any).

a) What Chapter do you belong to? What is your role?

b) Are there any mentoring activities taking place in your chapter, currently or in the past?

c) For chapters with current mentorship activities, please describe them. How are the mentor-mentee relationships established? How many relationships have been established? Are they short or long-term relationships? How do meetings take place? How often?

d) For chapters who had mentoring activities in the past, but not current, please describe the activities and why they dissolved. How were the mentor-mentee relationships established? How many relationships were established? Were they short or long-term relationships?

e) For chapters without mentorship activities, would you be interested in starting a mentoring program?

f) If you do not have a mentoring program and are interested in one, is there someone in your chapter who would take the lead or champion the mentoring effort?

g) What do you see as barriers to implementing a mentoring program?

h) How do you think a mentoring program would benefit your chapter?

i) How do you think a mentoring program would benefit chapter members?

Twenty one Chapters responded to the survey. Four Chapters had already started a mentoring program, and 10 Chapters expressed an interest in starting one (among the 10, seven could identify a champion). A virtual workshop will be organized during the first quarter 2019 for the 10 Chapters who expressed interest.

During the Workshop, the 4 Chapters (represented by Elizabeth Mannshardt (North Carolina); Mark Otto (Washington Statistical Society); Tom Short (Philadelphia) and Wendy Lou (Southern Ontario)) who already have a mentoring program shared their experiences which are summarized below. In addition, David Morganstein (Past-President of ASA), Sujata Patil (Statistics in Epidemiology) and Ji-Hyun Lee (Women in Statistics and Data Sciences) shared their experiences. David Morganstein shared his experiences as a part of the ASA Mentoring and Docent programs.

David Morganstein (Past-President of ASA) gives an update on the ongoing ASA mentoring activities

Sujata Patil described the speed mentoring program that SIE held during JSM. During the SIE event, each mentee and mentor pair had about 5 minutes to talk.

Sujata Patil gives an update on the mentoring experiences from Statistics in Epidemiology
At the end of the event, everyone was asked to complete a survey (paper or online) indicating a first, second and third choice for mentor. The SIE Mentoring Committee would then go through all this information and match each mentee with a mentor. Ji-Hyun Lee indicated that Women in Statistics and Data Science have a similar program to identify mentor-mentee matches.

Ji-Hyun Lee (Florida Chapter) gives an update on the mentoring efforts by Women in Statistics and Data Sciences

North Carolina:
In April 2018, NC held a speed mentoring session for student and early career statisticians. This informal session was created to allow mentees to quickly connect with several other professionals in a small group setting. Activities were derived from professional mentoring programs. There were a dozen student/early career mentees, and several established statisticians from the community as mentors.

Elizabeth Mannshardt discusses the ongoing mentoring activities of the North Carolina Chapter


The speed mentoring session was meant to be a short-term relationship with long term relationships possible. Each of the 12 mentees had a chance to "speed mentor" with each mentor at the session. However, based on a paragraph of interest that they submitted ahead of time, they were given extended time with one mentor. In the extended time they worked on activities including goal structuring. At the conclusion, mentees were encouraged to stay in contact with mentors if there were mutual interests. NC ASA has provided several follow-ups to encourage this. This was a one-time event, but future speed mentoring events will likely be planned.

In November, NC had a mentoring and early career development workshop that was coordinated in conjunction with their NC ASA Fall dinner. The Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop was structured differently, with several types of mentoring and professional interactions planned throughout the day-long workshop. The workshop is a joint effort of the NC ASA Executive Board, the NC ASA Industry Interests Group, several student volunteers from the NC ASA Scholastic Council, and several professionals in the NC ASA community. The hope is that these will help to establish networks and lasting relationships.

Southern Ontario:
The Southern Ontario Chapter of the ASA and the Southern Ontario Regional Association of the Statistical Society of Canada (SORA) currently have a mentoring program. Members of SORA particularly interested in a mentoring program (both as a mentor and a mentee) have been accessing this service through the Mentorship Program for Accredited Statisticians of the Statistical Society of Canada (SSC) (https://ssc.ca/en/accreditation/mentorship-program).

SORA also supports mentoring through a Career Advice Panel held during the annual full-day workshop, and indirectly through networking at several workshops held each year. The SSC Mentorship Program is important in Canada and it is deemed best to concentrate on supporting it rather than creating a second or duplicate mentorship program within SORA. One idea to break the ice and connect mentors and mentees is the use of ‘Ask Me’ badges worn by potential mentors during meetings. This makes it easy for potential mentees to connect with mentors.
Washington Statistical Society:
WSS started a mentoring program in December 2017, and currently have about 10 relationships (hoping to increase next year). Ideally, they would like to let the current pairs stick together for one more year since it's been so short. They hope to gain new members to the program who can have a match for the coming academic year. The matched pairs meet on their own time maybe three times by phone, in person, or online. They understand that some occasional members see this as only a job finding activity. They explicitly state this isn’t the goal of the program and maintain the philosophy that it is to build an ongoing and growing professional relationship with mentors to help build a successful career. They continue to try and recruit more mentors. There are many ASA fellows in the DC area and the mentoring program would be happy to recruit more fellows to help with this program.

Mark Otto provides an update from the Washington Statistical Society

Philadelphia:
The Philadelphia mentoring program started by sending an announcement to all chapter members asking them to fill out a questionnaire to become a mentee or mentor. Mentors and mentees were then matched based upon their responses to the questionnaire. Guidelines were sent out on how mentors-mentees should interact and start their relationship, then followed up periodically with suggestions for continuing to enhance the relationship. They had about 26 participants, paired up by specialty area. At the conclusion of the mentorship program, a survey was sent out. Although the response rate was low (n=6), the overall feeling was that the program was worthwhile. They hope to do it again next year.

During the workshop discussion period at JSM 2018, there were questions from Chapters on how to start one and what could be done moving forward. In summary, mentor-mentee relationships can bi-directionally increase our professional network, accomplishments, job satisfaction and self-awareness, and can positively impact career organization, planning, growth, and direction. A successful mentoring initiative should be judged on quality and not quantity. It is not about providing technical support or ‘coaching’. These relationships can be short or long term, formal or informal, workplace driven or not, in-person or virtual or both. Typically, the details of the interaction are determined by the mentor and mentee.

I want to say a big THANK YOU to all who came to present and share their experiences. Many thanks to all chapters who participated in the 2018 COCGB workshop, and to those chapters who will use this as a step towards establishing their own mentoring program. We learned that mentorship programs can take all forms. The COCGB wishes you all a successful year!

Here is a link to some mentoring resources https://sites.google.com/view/asamentoring/home curated by the ASA. In addition to the ten chapters who previously expressed interest in starting a mentoring, those who are also interested should let me know. The next steps are to determine how best ASA can support all Chapters in this endeavor.

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The AZ Chapter completed the 2018 year by hosting its first Beyond AP Statistics (BAPS) workshop for AP Statistics teachers at Arizona State University West Campus in Glendale on July 20. Using stimulus funding from the CoC the Chapter was able provide breakfast and lunch for the 13 teachers mostly from Arizona but also California and Washington. Three of the four instructors for the workshop came from within the state while Roxy Peck of Cal Poly/SLO was both the program chair and instructor. Jennifer Broatch of ASU West Campus was both host and instructor for the event. The other instructors were Roy St. Laurent and Derek Sonderegger both of Northern Arizona University. The BAPS program introduces AP statistics teachers to material just beyond that covered by the AP syllabus and is a welcome enrichment opportunity for experienced AP statistics teachers. The Chapter hopes to provide similar workshops on an annual basis to teachers throughout the state at locales besides the Phoenix area.

The Arizona Chapter will again work with the Mathematical and Statistical Sciences Department at Arizona State University to host an ASA DataFest undergraduate data analysis competition. Following last year’s very successful initial participation in this nationally coordinated competition ASU has arranged to host this year’s data hackathon on the weekend of March 22nd. The chapter will provide assistance in sponsorship solicitation, mentor recruitment, and event planning and execution. Contact chapter president Rodney Jee if you’re interested in participating.

With the city of Phoenix playing host to this year’s Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) the Arizona Chapter will take on the responsibility of judging and awarding special category prizes in statistics. As the ISEF is a premier international science fair the winners at this level are often conducting sophisticated projects using university level statistical methods and analyses. The lead judge/coordinator for the ASA will be our chapter representative Anne Hansen who participated in last year’s ISEF in Pittsburgh. This will be a great opportunity for Arizona area statisticians to review many amazing projects and interview some students who will likely be future leaders in science and technology. The event and judging will be held May 12-17.

The judging for ASA’s annual K-12 Data Visualization Poster Competition will again be held in Phoenix in early May. The judging coordinator and head judge for the competition will be chapter member Jennifer Broatch who is on the statistics faculty at ASU-West Campus. The event will likely be held in early May at ASU/West and chapter members and statistics professionals in industry and academia are sought to take part in this national event where the winning posters from the various regionals are forwarded to the final national round of judging.
It has been a pleasure to serve as president of the Boston Chapter president for the last two years. This has been a very active period for the chapter. Our membership has increased and we have continued to offer our members a series of diverse and informative programs. In addition to evening lectures, awards dinners, and social events, we have held short courses on the analysis of longitudinal data analysis, analysis of incomplete data, and teaching statistics with R and RStudio. Another very special event in 2018 was a symposium organized to celebrate the 95th birthday of Herman Chernoff. This was a joyous event featuring presentations by former students, colleagues, and friends of Professor Chernoff. A photo from the event is included below.

Some of our recent events have been co-sponsored by the Boston University Student Chapter of the ASA (BUSCASA) and the Student Chapter of the ASA at Tufts (ASAT). They have been terrific! During this period, we have also developed collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry in our area. In May 2017, we organized a one-day workshop on the “Design and Monitoring of Adaptive Clinical Trials” co-sponsored by Cytel, Inc, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, and Pfizer. This was followed by a one-day pharma symposium held at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge in May 2018. We value the collaboration and look forward to working with them again in 2019.

Other events planned for this spring include:

- A Winter Potluck Dinner and Party to be hosted by the Chernoffs in January,
- The Mosteller Statistician of the Year awards dinner honoring Constantine Gatsonis of Brown University in March
- A visit by ASA President Karen Kafadar in May.

Further information about these events will be posted on our website [https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/upcoming-events](https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/upcoming-events) as it becomes available.

We appreciate the support provided to us by the ASA’s Council of Chapters. This includes web support, traveling short courses, and stimulus grants. The traveling short courses have been excellent and the stimulus money has helped us keep the registration fees at other events low, thereby increasing the attendance. Finally, I am pleased to report that Professor Joe Blitzstein from the Statistics Department at Harvard is taking over as president in January. The chapter will be in good hands with Joe and we are delighted to have him onboard.
CENTRAL INDIANA CHAPTER

by Ed Brizendine, Chapter Secretary

In October the Central Indiana Chapter participated in the ninth annual Celebrate Science Indiana event held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The purpose of CSI is to promote the STEM disciplines to school-aged children. This year we used a roulette table and the game of chuck-a-luck to demonstrate some basic concepts of probability (and to admonish why gambling is bad!). The kids (and parents) had fun playing these games. As we played the games we explained the importance of having a basic understanding of statistics and the numerous career possibilities. Along with information about a career in statistics, we gave to the kids a pair of dice to take home. We interacted with nearly 200 kids and their parents. A big thank-you to the newly formed IUPUI student ASA chapter for their enthusiastic help in manning our table. ASA members helping out but not shown in the picture include Ed Brizendine, Billy Fadel, Matt Rotelli, Natalie Hall, and Maggie Christy.

ASA members having a good time explaining the probability of winning in the games of chuck-a-luck and roulette. Pictured from the left are Vahid Andalib, Alex White, Aida Yazdanparast, Yifei Zhang, Becca Gorman, Kyle Harris.
There was a lot going on this Spring and Winter for the Chicago Chapter as we held monthly board meetings, hosted a number of speaker luncheons, and celebrated the 2018-2019 Statistician of the Year.

The chapter welcomed a number of speakers on a wide range of topics for our luncheons over the past several months. The September luncheon featured Mei Najim who gave a presentation on using machine learning and analytics in finance and insurance which was structured for both technical and non-technical attendees. Katie Ferguson, Flora Jiang, and Stefan Vallentine from Burtch Works, a local data science and analytics recruiting agency in Chicago provided valuable lessons for students and practitioners on advancing their careers in our November luncheon. Topics focused on which skills are in demand, which analytic and modeling tools are being widely used, and how to evaluate different career options. In December, we welcomed the father and daughter team of Stephen and Margaret Stigler of University of Chicago and Northwestern University who gave a fascinating talk on analyzing sports data, and specifically on the extent to which luck is a factor in winning professional golf tournaments and why.

The chapter is already planning monthly speaker luncheons for 2019 including a January 23rd talk by Grace Sleyko and Abigail Vanderploeg (daughter of one of our board members) on creating IMPACT (Information Motivating Public Activism) in high schools through data journalism. In addition, on February 15th, Mike Chapple will give a talk on Security and Piracy in the world of analytics. Mike is the Academic Director of Notre Dame’s MS in Business Analytics program.

In October, we celebrated our 46th Statistician of the Year honoree, C.F. Jeff Wu of the Georgia Institute of Technology with a gala dinner and award presentation. Jeff is the Coca-Cola chair in Engineering Statistics and has conducted extensive work on the EM algorithm, resampling methods like bootstrap and jackknife, and experimental design. He is widely credited with coining the term “Data Science”. Following the award presentation, Jeff gave an informative and entertaining talk entitled, “A Saga of the Conditional Main Effect (CME)”

Jeff Wu Receives the 2018 SOY Award

Our one-day conference in March will feature several speakers giving presentations on the statistical analysis of crime data. Keep an eye out for details!

The Chicago Board renewed our commitment to support students interested in statistics in 2019 by providing sizeable student discounts on our luncheons, conferences, and workshops. In addition, Chicago Board members remain active in student-focused activities such as, judging science fairs, and giving talks on statistical topics to students at both the college and high school levels.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Olson, Chicago Chapter Council of Chapters Representative
The Cincinnati Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA) sponsored and organized a couple of exciting events this past fall. We are already in the process of planning events for the winter and spring, and are happy to welcome Rong Zhou as our newly elected secretary/treasurer!

In August, we hosted an ASA traveling short course, *An Introduction to the Analysis of Incomplete Data*. The instructor was Ofer Harel, Professor of Statistics, University of Connecticut. The day-long course was held at the University of Cincinnati. Attendees found the course a valuable learning experience. Thank you to ASA and Dr. Harel for making this wonderful opportunity possible!

Ofer Harel engages attendees at an ASA Short Course on the analysis of incomplete data that was hosted by the Cincinnati Chapter.

For our November 2018 meeting, we held a talk on statistical engineering at Procter & Gamble’s Mason Business Center. Allison Jones-Farmer, Van Andel Professor of Business Analytics and Professor, Farmer School of Business, Miami University, and William A. Brenneman, Research Fellow and Global Statistics Discipline Leader, Data and Modeling Sciences, Procter & Gamble Company, gave an engaging talk on the current state of the theory and practice of statistical engineering for solving large, complex, unstructured problems. The talk included a Proctor & Gamble case study and ended with some great ways to get involved in the Statistical Engineering movement.

Allison Jones-Farmer shares developments in statistical engineering at the November meeting of the ASA’s Cincinnati Chapter.

Looking forward, we are planning a February chapter meeting with a talk that should be of interest to many local statisticians. Stay tuned for an announcement with the speaker, time, and location soon. Additionally, the Cincinnati Chapter is looking forward to participation in the annual *Southwest District Science and Engineering Expo* which will be held on March 16th at the University of Cincinnati. We will be awarding prizes to students in grades 5-12 for proficiency in the application of statistical methods. If other chapters have interest in either of these events and/or are able to help spread the word, please contact Ashley Clark, Council of Chapters Representative, at afbowers@indiana.edu, or Annette Christianson, Chapter President, at annette.christianson@uc.edu.

Our last piece of news is to thank our group of officers (listed below) who are willing to serve our chapter this year and to welcome:

*Chapter Chatter, Vol 9, No 1, Spring 2019*
• Annette Christianson (University of Cincinnati), President
• Nanhua Zhang (Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center), Vice President
• Rong Zhou (Medpace, Inc.), Secretary/Treasurer
• Ashley Clark (Indiana University), Chapter Representative

We also want to extend a special thanks to outgoing president Jeremy Christman for his outstanding dedication and service to the Chapter.

The Cincinnati Chapter looks forward to an exciting year of opportunities for professional development and networking with our chapter members, and with other chapters in our area!
The Cleveland Chapter of ASA held its annual Fall Workshop on October 15, 2018. Dick DeVeaux from Williams College presented, “Data Mining Using JMP Pro” to approximately 25 Chapter Members and local university students. On March 12, 2019, Cleveland Chapter members will award prizes at the annual Northeast Ohio Science Fair for students grades 7 – 12. The Chapter gives prizes for projects across the science disciplines that make use of sound statistical analysis. In April 2019, the Chapter will sponsor the annual AP Statistics Review Day. Nearly 200 AP Statistics students from across Northeast Ohio participate in this Saturday morning event where students review multiple choice items, and the topics of probability, inference, and design of experiments. On May 10, 2019, the Cleveland Chapter will host its annual Spring Conference. The speakers are Mark Ward and Doug Crabill. The focus of the workshop will involve analysis of big data.
The Kansas-Western Missouri chapter of the ASA association sponsored two events in the fall of 2018. 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 October 26th, 2018. The title of the course was “Randomized Clinical Trials – Replacing Traditional Analyses with Better Alternatives”. The study was designed to give recommendations on how to design studies to increase efficiency in clinical trials. Increasing the efficiency is intended to give benefits to entire healthcare ecosystem. Almost 70 attendees were at the event with representation from private industry, academia, and a couple of government attendees.

The short-course was followed by chapter’s fall meeting at the same location. Jeffrey Thompson a new faculty member in the University of Kansas Medical Center, Department of Biostatistics gave the chapter meeting’s talk. It was titled “A New Statistical Approach to Functional Genomic Analysis”. The talk was presented at a level that a statistician with no experience in this area received a good introduction with multiple examples. We had 62 attendees for the chapter meeting.

Future events in the Kansas-Western Missouri chapter of the ASA: We plan on holding the 13th annual symposium cosponsored by our chapter, the KUMC Dept of Biostatistics, Cerner Corporation, and Hallmark on the KU-Edwards campus on April 25th and 26th. The name of the symposium has changed to Frontiers in Biostatistics and Data Science: Innovations in Design, Analysis, and Dissemination. The spring chapter meeting will be held in Manhattan in April time TBD. This fall we will have another COC sponsored traveling course in association with our fall chapter meeting. It will likely be in October.
Our annual chapter meeting took place on Thursday, December 6th at the University of Missouri – Columbia campus. We also invite the members who cannot attend in person to join us remotely. We announced the newly elected ASA Mid-Missouri Officers for 2019 at the meeting:

- Past-President:
  Erin Schliep
  University of Missouri, Statistics

- President:
  Larry Ries
  University of Missouri, Statistics

- Vice-President:
  Shih-Kang Chao
  University of Missouri, Statistics

- Treasurer:
  Meggie Wen
  Missouri Science & Technology, Mathematics & Statistics

- Secretary:
  Gayla Olbracht
  Missouri Science & Technology, Mathematics & Statistics

- Council of Chapters Representative:
  Suhwon Lee
  University of Missouri, Statistics

The chapter is going to sponsor ASA DataFest in Mid-Missouri, which is organized by the department of Statistics at the University of Missouri on April 5-6, 2019. We expect to have more than one hundred students from several institutions including, University of Missouri, Missouri Science & Technology, Truman State University, and Westminster College.

Information about the Chapter and our activities can be found at

http://community.amstat.org/midmissouri/home
The North Carolina chapter hosted and sponsored several events throughout the second half of 2018 culminating with a Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop and “Stories of Significance” Fall Dinner both on November 30. The workshop gave students and early career professionals a chance to hear from prominent local statisticians about building a career (from David Banks), presentation best practices (Sonia Davis Thomas), promoting statistics (Richard Zink), and how to be more successful (Bob Starbuck). Attendees also participated in speed mentoring, peer mentoring, interaction with a panel of local statisticians, and development activities such as goal structuring and planning career next-steps. The event was well received with many participants wishing there had been more time.

In August, the chapter co-hosted two socials with SAMSI that corresponded with SAMSI program opening workshops.

In September, the chapter partnered with the NC School of Science and Math, SAS JMP, and RTI International to offer a one-day workshop for high school statistics teachers designed to provide training in topics relevant to the AP curriculum. The NC chapter aimed to connect with local statisticians with many smaller events throughout 2018 as well.

In October, NC ASA sponsored the International Conference on Advances in Interdisciplinary Statistics and Combinatorics (AISC), where NC ASA recognized several statisticians. Breda Munoz of RTI and Sujit Ghosh of NCSU were presented with awards for their outstanding service to NC ASA. David Banks of SAMSI and Duke University, David Dickey of NCSU, and Maura Stokes of SAS were honored for their major contributions to the field. Additionally, 15 students received the AISC and NC ASA Young Researcher Award. The chapter also co-hosted a mixer in October in Asheville with the ASA’s Section on Statistics and the Environment.

Our “Stories of Significance” fall dinner was partially supported by SAS, Xylem, RTI International, Rho, and by the ASA’s stimulus funding. The event was attended by over 90 local statisticians and featured talks by ASA President Lisa LaVange and Duke University Associate Professor of the Practice and 2016 ASA Waller Education Award recipient Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel. Both speakers shared stories about significant events in their careers that led them to where they are now. President LaVange also discussed the importance of statisticians having a voice and taking on leadership roles.
In November NC ASA also held a Social Meet and Greet with Duke University’s Cynthia Rudin.

“Stories of Significance” Fall Dinner

The NC chapter has already begun planning events for the start of 2019. Aric LaBarr’s webinar “What Does Data Science Mean to an Executive” will be the first of four webinars on data science and machine learning as part of NC ASA’s Professional Webinar series, based on feedback from NC ASA’s 2018 Statistician’s Interest Survey. The chapter has also begun planning our second Recycled Poster Session. Last year’s event was attended by over 50 statisticians. This year’s event will include a professional career fair. The chapter will also host a pop-up social January 29 and a Meet and Greet Social with NCSU’s Eric Laber on February 25.

Mentoring and Early Career Development Workshop participants meet with ASA President Lisa LaVange
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER

Provided by Ron Yu

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (SFASA) celebrated its 90th anniversary and presented a career development discussion panel on December 8, 2018, at the Seven Hills Conference Center of San Francisco State University (SFSU). More than 200 chapter members attended this event.

Dr. Kathy Zhang of BeiGene, who is the current Past President of SFASA, made opening remarks and welcomed all the attendees.

Two eminent keynote speakers, Professor Bradley Efron of Stanford University and Professor Michael Jordan of UC Berkeley, gave their talks in the afternoon. The title of Prof. Efron’s keynote presentation is “Easy-to-Use Programs for Bootstrap Confidence Intervals”, and the title of Prof. Jordan’s keynote presentation is “Machine Learning: Dynamics, Economics and Stochastics”.

Between the keynote speeches, several past and current chapter officers shared their experience in volunteering for the local chapter with the audience. Professor Li Zhang of UC San Francisco, who is the current Chapter President, reviewed the history and the recent activities of SFASA. Dr. Ruixiao Lu of Genomic Health, who was the Chapter President in 2014-2015 and is currently serving as the Vice Chair of District 6 of the ASA Council of Chapters Governing Board, gave an informative talk on the many ways in which the ASA is able to help its local chapters. Dr. Chris Barker of Statistical Planning and Analysis Services, presented the AP Statistics Program, a volunteer initiative that he initiated and has been organizing since he became the Chapter President in 2011-2012. Through this program, statisticians from the chapter volunteered their time and gave one-hour lectures on careers in statistics to AP statistics students at local high schools. Dr. Jing Huang of Veracyte, who was the Chapter President in 2015-2016, is the founding president of DahShu and is also currently the Council of Chapters Representative for SFASA. She reviewed the close collaborations between the two organizations.

Other speakers between the keynote speeches included Professor Serkan Hosten of SFSU, who welcomed everyone to the SFSU campus, and Jonathan Levy, a graduate student at UC Berkeley and the first-place winner of 2018 SFASA student travel award for JSM, who shared his story of going back to school after being a professional musician for more than 10 years and remarked on the impact of receiving the travel award.

Before the coffee break, a large custom cake with the written message “SFASA 90th Anniversary Celebration” was cut by Professors Efron and Hosten, marking a celebratory moment.
After the dinner, we continued with our new tradition of hosting a panel discussion in career development each year for statisticians and data scientists. The eight distinguished panelists from both academia and industry were:

- Chetan Gadgil, Global Director: Intel IoT RfP Ready Kits, Intel
- Alan Hopkins, Global Vice President of Biometrics, BeiGene
- Alan Hubbard, Professor and Division Head of Biostatistics, UC Berkeley
- Qi Jiang, Vice President, Head of Biometrics, Seattle Genetics
- Mohammad R Kafai, Professor and Director of Statistics, San Francisco State University
- Mi-Ok Kim, Professor of Biostatistics and Director of Biostatistics at UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, UC San Francisco
- Fei Long, Director of Data Science, Dropbox
- Michael Wulfsohn, Senior Vice President of Biometrics, Gilead Sciences

The panel discussion, which was facilitated by Professor Tao He of SFSU and Dr. Ron Yu of Gilead Sciences, who are the current Vice President and President Elect of SFASA respectively, began with a self-introduction from each panelist. During the self-introduction, the panelists recounted how they entered the field of statistics and described their career path. After that, the floor was open for questions. For more than one and half hours, the audience sought advice and insights from the panelists on topics such as applying for graduate studies, learning statistics on one’s own, highlights of a statistician/data scientist’s job in academia, pharma/biotech, and high-tech industries, success stories of real world data, communication and decision making at workplace, social responsibilities of statisticians and data scientists, the time ahead for automated machine learning, etc. The panelists addressed those concerns and questions with patience and warmth, and the audience responded enthusiastically.

Based on a follow-up survey that was sent out to the attendees after the event, more than 90% of the respondents rated this event above average and would recommend it to their colleagues and friends.

This event received financial sponsorship from ASA chapter stimulus funding program, Seattle Genetics, San Francisco State University, MagStone Law, Clindata Insight, and Viitai, whose support and generosity are greatly appreciated.
Several members from the Southern California Chapter (SCASA) chapter met in September in Pasadena for pizza before viewing the movie Science Fair. It was of particular interest because of the involvement of many southern California statisticians in judging the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) for the ASA’s special award.

SCASA held an ASA Travelling Course on Saturday, October 27th, 2018 with Fang Chen (from SAS Institute) sharing his work on “Practical Bayesian Computation) at CSU, Fullerton. This was a joint event with the Orange County/Long Beach chapter. Fang Chen reviewed differences between classical and Bayesian approaches to inference, fundamentals of prior distributions, and concepts in estimation. He went on to cover MCMC methods and related simulation techniques, emphasizing the interpretation of convergence diagnostics in practice. Finally, he provided examples using SAS (PROC MCMC), with a strong focus on technical details. survival analysis, Bayesian hierarchical models, and discrete choice models.

On Saturday, December 1, 2018, we held our annual Kick-off meeting at Azusa Pacific University. Twenty-two people attended. We had a marvelous time. There were three talks by UC Riverside folks: our keynote speaker—Dr. Shujie Ma, her graduate student Ms. Mingming Liu, and an undergraduate student Mr. Gordon David Mosher. We also had a chance to enjoy a talk during the lunch break by Dr. Sastry Pantula, the new Dean of College of Natural Sciences at CSU, San Bernardino (and a former ASA President). As always, the presentations were followed by a business meeting, where we discussed our plans for the next year and introduced the nominees for SCASA Board in 2019-2020. The culminating point of the event was the raffle of the books for the Book Club. Our first book is The Master Algorithm: How the Quest for the Ultimate Learning Machine Will Remake Our World by Domingos, Pedro, Basic Books, 2015.

Our 38th Annual Applied Statistics Workshop is scheduled for Friday, April 26th at CSU, Long Beach. Frank Harrell, from Vanderbilt, will be speaking on regression modeling strategies: verifying assumptions, presenting model results, methods for estimating the shape of the relationship between predictors and response, methods for data reduction, bootstrap and cross-validation, and more.
On November 9, 2018, the Southwest Michigan chapter of the ASA welcomed Justine Radunzel, Principal Research Scientist in the Validity and Efficacy Department at ACT, Inc. to give the talk “Validating Assessment Uses and Informing Policy: Reflections from a Statistician” on the Grand Rapids campus of Grand Valley State University. Dr. Radunzel spoke of her work on the ACT, a standardized achievement test taken by millions of high school students each year. Her talk went over very well with the audience of approximately 30 chapter members, 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 president was elected. Dr. Robert Pearson of GVSU, formerly chapter secretary, will serve as chapter president. Nichole Andrews retained the treasurer position, and Kirk Anderson will remain active as a chapter representative. After the talk, Dr. Radunzel and 20 current and potential future chapter members enjoyed a free dinner at a nearby restaurant. We are grateful for the ASA Chapter Stimulus Funding Program for making this event possible!

Dr. Radunzel addresses the audience
During the fall and winter of 2018, Washington Statistical Society (WSS) organized and sponsored several events and activities including seminars, short courses, social events, a mentoring program, and membership drives to increase membership diversity.

**Highlighted Seminar:**
The WSS 27th Annual Morris Hansen Lecture was held on October 11, 2018. Dr. Roger Tourangeau (Vice President, Westat) delivered this year's keynote address on "How Errors Cumulate: Two Examples". The lecture explored whether there are systematic relationships between different sources of survey errors. Focusing on two cases in detail, Dr. Tourangeau first discussed non-probability web panels, with overlap in factors affecting likelihood of Internet access, joining web panels, and responding to surveys. Thus, different errors accentuate each other, producing larger survey errors. With nonresponse and data quality, Dr. Tourangeau suggested that unit and item nonresponse seem to be related, but there is less evidence that reluctant or hard-to-reach respondents provide less accurate answers. Thus, there is at least partial independence between nonresponse and measurement error. Follow-up discussions were provided by Dr. Kristen Olson, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Dr. Jill Dever, Senior Research Statistician, RTI International. The lecture was well attended and followed by a reception.

**Social Events:**
WSS Happy Hour: Under its 2018 theme of “Lets get together”, WSS organized a Happy Hour on September 25, 2018. As a general cross-organization social event, this provided an opportunity for WSS mentor/mentee pairs and young professionals in our field to meet and socialize in an informal setting.
WSS Annual Holiday Party: The WSS annual holiday party was held on December 4, 2018. This year’s gathering was a huge success, with about 80 people attending the party, including several mentor and mentee pairs.

ASA Stimulus Fund and Membership Drive: The 2018 ASA stimulus fund was used to organize several membership drives at local universities to increase membership diversity. As a result, a substantial number of new student members joined the WSS and attended several events.

In 2019, the following highlighted events will help the WSS continue to offer opportunities to:

- **Learn** through seminars and workshops, and continuing your own statistical education,
- **Socialize** through networking with colleagues, and
- **Engage in service** by increasing the level of quantitative literacy in area schools, and motivating and developing the next generation of statisticians.

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<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Learn</th>
<th>Socialize</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1 2019</td>
<td>WSS President’s Invited Lecture Reception</td>
<td>President’s Invited Lecture Reception</td>
<td>Volunteer at Science Fairs</td>
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<td>Q2 2019</td>
<td>WSS Cox Award Seminar Annual Dinner</td>
<td>Annual Dinner</td>
<td>Award competition judging</td>
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The mentoring program and various receptions will continue to help build relationships and community. The WSS currently has 40 mentor-mentee pairs in our mentoring program and this is helping to increase the number of attendees at other events, because seminars are a great meeting opportunity for these pairs. The technical seminar program and short courses will continue to foster learning in our statistical workforce. Our monthly newsletter (*The WSS News*) and our website *washstat.org* also continue to provide announcements and descriptions of forthcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and listings of both job opportunities and the credentials of members seeking new positions.
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<th>Vice-Chair, District 1 (2018-2020)</th>
<th>Vice-Chair, District 4 (2019-2021)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sleeper, Lynn</td>
<td>Wick, Jo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saha, Chandan</td>
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<td>Cassidy, Ruth</td>
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