



Fall 2021

A publication of the American Statistical Association Council of Chapters Governing Board

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the fall 2021 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 facilitate communication more effectively between chapters and enable you to use the COCGB as a resource. We are in the process of actively changing and updating Chapter Chatter so give COCGB feedback on the current changes and suggest additional options for the newsletter. For example, a form (<https://form.jotform.com/zzlalo/chapter-chatter>) to collect articles at your convenience has been created. You don't have to wait for a request for articles. Chapter Chatter will be published three times a year and major changes are also being made to the format.

In Chapter Chatter, contributors inform us of events and resources available to all chapters which we pass on to you. For example, we are finishing the fifth 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 chapter membership. To be eligible to participate in the program a chapter must file the annual report and if a chapter doesn't use their \$1,000 for given year then they lose it. Full details on the program, are posted on the COC website at: <http://community.amstat.org/coc/chapterresources/chapterstimulus>. Please read the details and start your planning for the remainder of this year as soon as possible. Again, this program uses reimbursement to provide funding from the national ASA to help your chapter fund events, etc to stimulate your chapter (e.g., increases in membership, bringing in a speaker that you might not have been able to bring otherwise, etc).

We recently completed the 2021 JSM and it was a successful online event. There, many upcoming events that you can enjoy. Events offered by ASA are listed [here](#). There isn't a single link that I direct you to for chapter events. They range from the COCGB traveling courses located [here](#) to events that are listed on the chapter's websites. While most events are

currently online, I believe that the quality on the online events is increasing as we learn more about presenting in this format.

John Keighley
Editor

Recent News & Highlights

ASA Detroit & Ann Arbor Chapters Give Statistical Awards at the 2021 Michigan Science & Engineering Fair

By Karry Roberts, ASA Detroit Chapter Secretary

Our ASA judging team successfully managed to develop a plan and do our judging online from the comfort of our own homes. From March 7 to 9, 2021, we reviewed all 52-state level qualified projects at the Michigan Science & Engineering Fair for our ASA professional awards encouraging the practice and profession of statistics. While we enjoyed reviewing the students' projects, the Zoom meetings don't really allow for the usual socialization.

We did individual reviews with a scorecard, then decided together on our award winners. We were looking for good study design, graphical displays, data visualization, use of basic statistical methods, interpretation, and discussion of limitations.

This science fair judging event is a long-standing annual joint chapter activity for the Detroit and Ann Arbor Chapters. Both chapters contributed funds to support monetary awards. All four Michigan Chapters are invited to participate.

This year's judging team included Lance Heilbrun, Karry Roberts, Bern DeBacker, Frank Murdock, Robert Podolsky, David Corliss, Nahid Keshavarzi, Jennie Jester, and Anamaria Kazanis. Anamaria is a Council of Chapters Representative to the ASA Board of Directors.

We encourage our award winners to continue learning about statistics and applying good statistical practices to your science projects. We want to extend a big thank you to the teachers who teach and encourage these students. We really appreciate you!

Award of Excellence (\$200):

- Arnav Nikam, "Development & Statistical Validation on an Integrated Stock Trading Algorithm", Salem High School, Canton, MI, Teacher: Marcia Lizzio

Award of Merit (\$50):

- Aaryan Chandna and Mick Gordinier, West Bloomfield High School, West Bloomfield, MI, Teacher: Nicolas Fraylick

- Alexander DeMattei, Mount Pleasant High School, Mount Pleasant, MI, Teacher: Jordan Krell
- Malak Elayyan, Dearborn Center for Math, Science & Technology, Dearborn Heights, MI, Teacher: Jennifer Gorsline
- Jibraan Rahman, Canton High School, Canton, MI, Teacher: Heather Duff
- Zeinab Zreik, Dearborn Center for Math, Science & Technology, Dearborn Heights, MI, Teacher: Jennifer Gorsline
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We also gave 9 Certificates of Recognition.

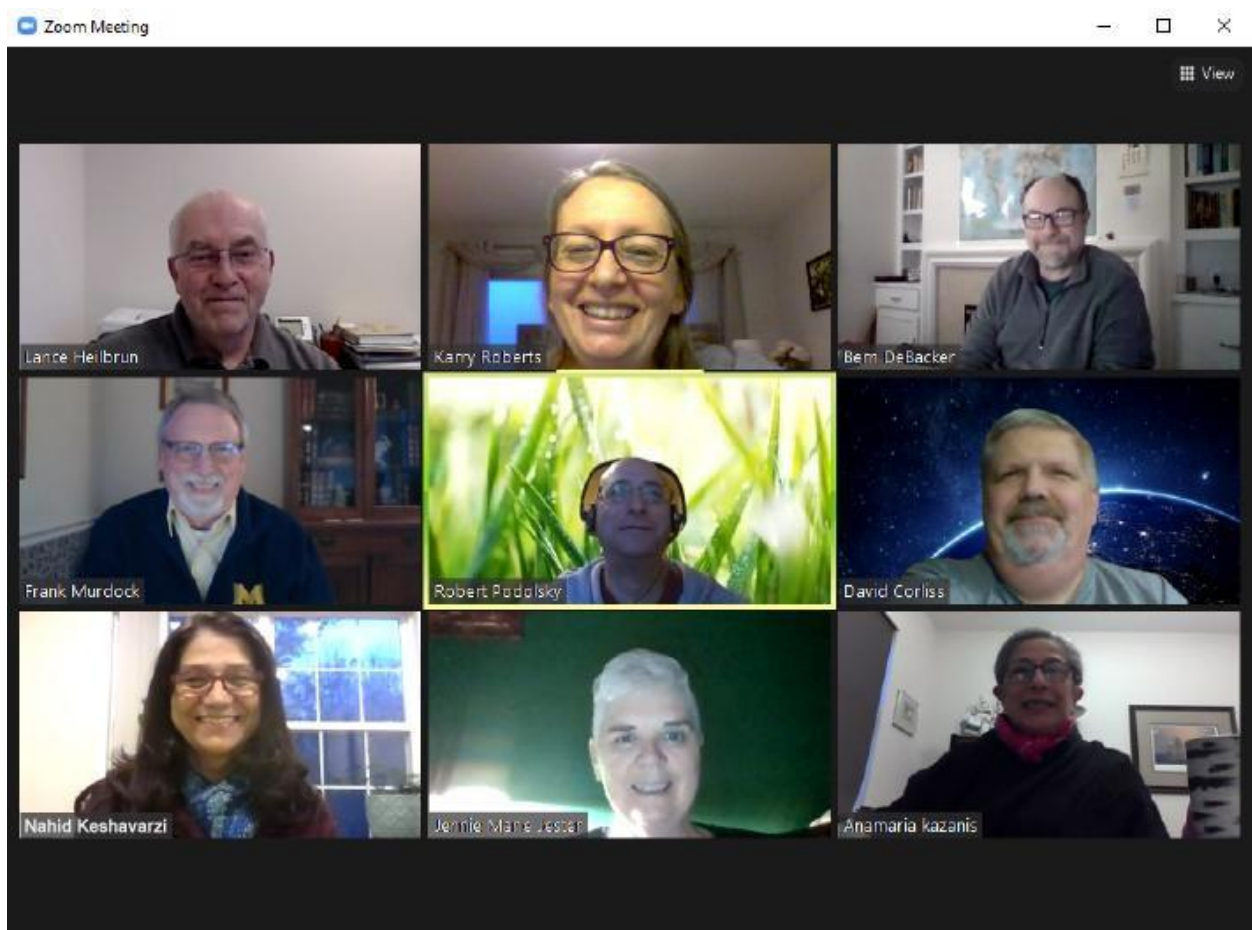


Photo By: Karry Roberts

Pictured on the Zoom screen are award judges (left to right and top to bottom): Lance Heilbrun, Karry Roberts, Bern DeBacker, Frank Murdock, Robert Podolsky, David Corliss, Nahid Keshavarzi, Jennie Jester, Anamaria Kazanis

Detroit Chapter

By: Karry Roberts, ASA Detroit Chapter Secretary

The Detroit Chapter of ASA has held several interesting Chapter Meetings this year via Zoom and we have a good line up of speaker for the Fall. While we have not been able to meet in person, holding our events via Zoom makes it easier for members to join in from home for topics that interest them. We appreciate that we were able to fund our Zoom license through ASA Chapter Stimulus Funds. It allows us to reach out to all our Chapter Members and is easier to use than previous communication tools we had available to us. Here is a list of our Chapter Meeting presenters and their topics in 2021:

- February: Ed Caughell, AP Statistics Teacher at Birmingham Seaholm High School, "Teaching Statistics at the High School Level"
- March: Video team meetings and online judging for special statistical awards for the Michigan Science & Engineering Fair – Joint activity with Detroit & Ann Arbor Chapters
- April: Dr. Nathan Soderborg, Principal Scientist at Exponent, "Better before Bigger Data"
- September: Dr. Hon Yiu (Henry) So, Assistant Professor at Oakland University, "Statistical Inference for One-Shot Device Testing Data"
- October: Dr. Jay Herson, Senior Associate in Biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland, "Bias and Randomization 1980 – 2020 – 2060 ", we will watch a recorded video and follow with a live discussion
- November: Dr. Rod Little, Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, Discussion related to his course "Seminal Papers and Controversies in Statistics"

Kansas Western-Missouri Chapter

By John Keighley

The Kansas-Western Missouri chapter of the ASA event schedule for spring 2020 to fall 2021:

- cancel all events in the spring of 2020.
- The fall chapter meeting was also canceled.
- We were able to host an ASA traveling course "*Empowering the Statistician with Spark, Machine Learning and Deep Learning*" taught by Drs. Hui Lin and Ming Li in fall 2020.
- The spring chapter meeting was canceled
- We were able to hold the 14th annual symposium in a virtual format. We were able to use University resources distance learning resources in holding the event as a virtual event. It was both challenging and very interesting to select to activities to include in the symposium. You can't really get the one-on-one interaction in a virtual format. I believe that the symposium as presented was very good, some parts were good enough that we want to keep them even when we go back to an in-person format. When the organizers meet this fall to start planning, they will have to determine in-person only, online only, or a mix of both.

- The chapter spring meeting was held as a virtual event on April 29th. The Keynote Speaker was Professor Kosuke Imai from the Department of Government and the Department of Statistics at Harvard University. His talk title was *Experimental Evaluation of Algorithm-Assisted Human Decision-Making: Application to Pretrial Public Safety Assessment*. New officers for 2021-2022 were also elected at the event.
- We will host a traveling course “*Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling with Health-Related Outcome*” taught by Drs Douglas D. Gunzler, Adam T. Perzynski, and Adam C. Carle on Friday October 15th, from 9 AM – 1 PM CST.
- We will hold an abbreviated chapter meeting that will report the status of the chapter to the members.

Kentucky Chapter

By Amanda Ellis

The Kentucky Chapter normally hosts two events a year. The only change this last year was, like most chapters, that the events were virtual.

In the fall of 2020, we held officers’ elections. We are pleased to announce the new officers of the chapter.

President – Jeremy Gaskins, University of Louisville
 Vice-President – Amanda Ellis, University of Kentucky
 Treasurer – Bereket Kindo, Humana
 Secretary – Qi Zheng, University of Louisville
 Representative to the Council of Chapters – Donna Levy, Syneos Health

Also, in the fall of 2020, we hosted the ASA Traveling Course *Analysis of Big Healthcare Databases* presented by Dr. Rebecca Hubbard, from the University of Pennsylvania. The short course was presented virtually and well attended. As the event was virtual, we were able to expand our reach for attendance. In attendance were participants from University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, Pennyroyal Center, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, General Dynamics Information Technology, Duke University, Humana, University of Arkansas, and Syneos Health. Each year, we hold a raffle with prizes for attendees. We would like to again congratulate this year’s prize winners:

- Wendy Archer - ASA-KY Short Course Registration Fee Waived - 2021
- Qian Xu - \$25 Amazon Gift card
- Sagnik Bhadury - \$25 Amazon gift card

In the spring of 2021, we hosted our spring meeting. The meeting was held virtually and featured a student research symposium, and statistics career panel representing industry and academia. During the research symposium portion of the meeting students were invited to present their work. We had eight excellent students who presented on a variety of theoretical

and applied topics. Monetary awards were given to the two top presenters. We would like to congratulate both Sudaraka Tholkage, from the University of Louisville for his presentation on Personalized Treatment Selection using Observational Data and Sagnik Bhadury, from the University of Louisville for his presentation on Sparse Graph Estimation in Higher Dimensions with Parallel Computation! We would also like to thank our volunteers for the career panel and engaging discussion:

- Hyoyoung Choo-Wosoba, FDA
- William Cipolli, Colgate University
- Sophie Jentzsch, Synoes Health
- Nick Wan, KFC US

In the fall of 2021, we are excited to host the ASA Traveling Course Introduction to Structural Equation Modeling with Health-Related Outcome Measures presented by Douglas Gunzler, Adam Perzynski, and Adam Carle. If you would like to join us please visit <https://kyamstat.regfox.com/ky-asa-presents-introduction-to-structural-equation-modeling-with-health-re> for additional details and the registration page.

We have also begun to reach out to AP statistics teachers in the local high schools. If other chapters have participated in outreach programs with high school students, we would love to hear what success or challenges you have had. Contact Amanda Ellis at amanda.ellis@uky.edu.

Nevada Chapter

By Christopher Tong, 2020-2021 President

The Nevada Chapter's last submission to *Chapter Chatter* was in 2014; since then we've had many interesting activities and events in both northern and southern Nevada. In this update I will just focus on our endeavors during the COVID-19 pandemic, which (not suprisingly) required a complete switch to virtual programming.

K-12 Poster Competition. Our chapter has hosted a regional K-12 poster competition as part of the ASA's Data Visualization Poster Competition since 2004, in recent years with support from the Southern Nevada Mathematics Council. In 2020 well over 200 submissions were received, but our school system locked down just days prior to the scheduled judging event in March. A delayed virtual judging event took place in June, and awards were distributed in the fall. All this required a colossal effort from our coordinator, Tia M. Price, in the year of her retirement from the Clark County School District. One of our 2020 state-level winners received an honorary mention at the national-level competition. Sadly, in 2021, based on feedback from stressed teachers and parents, we suspended our statewide competition for the first time since its founding, though individuals were invited to participate directly in the national level competition. We hope to resurrect our statewide competition in 2022.

Annual Meeting. We typically alternate our annual meeting between northern and southern Nevada, but in 2020 we switched to a completely virtual format for the first time in chapter history. That year's theme was "State of Data Science", a statewide sequel to a highly successful in-person special event we hosted in 2019, "State of Data Science in Las Vegas". Both the 2019 and 2020 data science events were spearheaded by our then-Southern Vice President, Shar Chaudhry. Invited speakers included the Director of Football Analytics of the Las Vegas Raiders, David Christoff, as well as guests from Wells Fargo (Mengling Cao), Employers Insurance (Jackie Zuker), and DataRobot (Ari Kaplan). The symposium began with a series of rapid introductions to eight of our state's statistics, data science, and analytics academic programs, covering departments of mathematics/statistics, business, biostatistics, and educational psychometrics. Over half of these programs have new degrees introduced within the last year or two, reflecting tremendous demand from both students and employers within our state. The symposium also included research presentations from three graduate students and a short course on "Live Data Pipelines" by Jonathan Sims of NOW Insurance. Our 2021 annual meeting on Oct. 16 will include a mini-State-of-Data-Science session, a roundtable discussion on software for teaching statistics and data science, and a session highlighting cross-pollination with sibling fields such as psychometrics and bioinformatics. We also look forward to celebrating the chapter's 20th anniversary in 2022.

Careers in Data Science and Statistics. In 2021 our chapter began a collaboration with the University of Nevada Reno's Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, sponsoring a series of three virtual symposia on careers in data science and statistics. Each symposium featured a speaker describing their career path, current duties, and career advice for students. Our speakers included data scientists from Cigna (health insurance), ADM Associates (energy efficiency), and Wells Fargo (internal audit data analytics). The discussion/Q&A for each session ran half an hour past the scheduled end time, reflecting high engagement with the virtual participants.

Traveling course. The ASA Council of Chapters has graciously awarded us a traveling course, "Introduction to Data Science, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning (in R and Python)" taught by Drs. Hui Lin (Google) and Ming Li (Amazon). Ming Li was also our 2017 annual meeting keynote speaker. We presented the course virtually on July 23-24, 2021, with around 40 participants.

Other events. In April 2020, we hosted a virtual symposium with speakers on two high-profile statistical topics for 2020: the census and the pandemic. Our chapter Treasurer, Alejandra Livingston, told us about our state Department of Corrections' efforts to count the incarcerated population in its prison system. Prof. Brian Labus (School of Public Health, University of Nevada, Las Vegas) spoke about modeling the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Prof. Labus is a member of the Governor's scientific advisory panel on the pandemic, and a frequent "go-to" for the local news media during their coverage of the pandemic.

In January 2021, we continued our tour of "hot 2020 statistics topics" with a symposium on "Perspectives on Polling Methodology", featuring Prof. Ole Forsberg (Knox College Math/Stats; author of *Understanding Elections through Statistics*, CRC Press, 2020) and Prof. Kenneth Miller (UNLV Poli Sci, and former pollster & market researcher prior to his academic career).

We are hosting a fall virtual event on data privacy and confidentiality, scheduled for the morning of Sept. 11, 2021, and featuring speakers from Penn State, Harvard, Purdue, and USDA.

NYC Metro Chapter Keeping Busy

By Cynthia Scherer

The New York City Metro Area Chapter of the ASA is vibrant and serves a diversified statistical community. Through these unprecedented times the Chapter has managed to remain active with its events and provide a service to our members, as well as recruit some new members. With the onset of the pandemic in 2020, we seamlessly transitioned to virtual events.

In 2020, we held four virtual events, with one being a Traveling Course. All events were well received and well attended. For additional information on these events please visit <https://nycasa.org/archives.html#2020>.

In 2021, we have already held two virtual events and are planning for two additional events, and possibly a third event, by year-end.

- We held a virtual lecture and demo on “[Mapping Covid-19 in QGIS](#),” that was taught by Mai Uchida, MPH, MS (The Knowledge Center, Columbia University Irving Medical Center) in March 2021.
- There was a virtual colloquium in June 2021, on “[Survival Data Extrapolation for Cost-effectiveness Modeling](#).” It was presented by Ben Li, PhD (Statistical Research and Data Science Center at Pfizer). Ben is a recipient of the Craig A. Saxton Clinical Development Excellence Award, Pfizer’s most prestigious award in clinical development, for the work he presented.
- We are looking forward to another year of hosting an ASA Traveling Course in October 2021. This year it is a full-day course over the span of two consecutive days. Hui Lin (Google) and Ming Li (Amazon) will be presenting an “[Introduction to Data Science, Machine Learning and Deep Learning \(in R and Python\)](#).”
- The Chapter will also be hosting a “Symposium on Teaching Statistics,” in the Fall 2021. The speakers tentatively include Sir David Spiegelhalter (Cambridge), David Draper (UCSC), Andrew Gelman (Columbia), and David Rindskopf (CUNY).

The Chapter’s website (<https://www.nycasa.org>) continues to be a valuable source of effective communication with our members and the statistical community at-large. We not only post information about the Chapter, but also post other events and information that may be of interest to our community. The information is current and our Chapter Archives are maintained

on it, limited to the past ten years. If anyone would like information prior to that time, please send an email to nycasa@nycasa.org.

For additional information about the NYC Metro Area Chapter, please send an email to nycasa@nycasa.org or visit the website at <https://www.nycasa.org>.

Events in San Antonio Chapter during 2020 -2021.

By Karen Bagg

1. First Colloquium of the San Antonio Chapter, American Statistical Association

Speaker:	Dr. Ram Shanmugam President, San Antonio Chapter, ASA (Also, Honorary Professor of Health Administration, Texas State University, San Marcos)
Title:	What does data science to do with cornea?
When & where:	Friday Oct 2, 2020, 3-4PM (Virtual)

2. On Wednesday, March 10th, the San Antonio Chapter is proud to virtually host the distinguished ASA President, Mr. Rob Santos.

Topic for discussion:	The Crazy World of Rob Santos – Survey Statistician
When & where:	Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 2-3pm (Virtual)

3. On 14th April 2021, Dr. Ram Shanmugam, President of San Antonio Chapter of ASA and Honorary professor, School of Health Administration was elected to be a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) for his outstanding contributions to the statistical profession.

Officer Tips & Information

Council of Chapters Annual Workshop: “Virtual Technologies: From COVID to the Future”

By Jeff Dawson

Connected with the Joint Statistical Meetings, the Council of Chapters Governing Board (COCGB) hosted an online workshop on August 16, 2021, led by COCGB Chair-Elect Jeff Dawson. Forty-five individuals were in attendance in this Zoom meeting, representing dozens of ASA Chapters and the COCGB. The original intent of the workshop was to discuss some things that ASA chapter leaders had learned about virtual technologies during the COVID19 pandemic, and to see what aspects of such technologies would remain useful as we move beyond the pandemic. With the mid-summer increases in COVID19 cases, particularly due to the Delta

variant, the context of the workshop changed slightly since the pandemic is unfortunately not yet in the past.

There were multiple topics covered by the workshop.

First, the participants were asked to participate in an anonymous Google Forms poll regarding workplace practices, chapter activity formats, and technology platforms. Thirty-six attendees responded, and some of the interesting findings included:

- over 70% of the respondents were still working at home at least 80% of the time
- 96% reported some level of mandatory masking at their primary work location (when not working at home)
- 57% indicated that their chapters had at least 3 events during fiscal year 2020-21, with all such events being virtual only
- Many more events are anticipated in 2021-22 than in 2020-21, with the majority of anticipated events still being virtual only.

Also, Zoom was the most popular venue for virtual chapter events, with a few reporting using Microsoft Teams and a few other platforms, too. The most common ways of publicizing chapter events included:

- email messages (including Listserv registries), ASA and other web pages
- LinkedIn
- communications via educational staff and faculty
- Twitter.

In terms of scheduling chapter events, Google Calendar, 123SignUp, Doodle Polls, Zoom, Eventbrite, Microsoft Outlook, and MeetUp were all mentioned by at least four respondents.

After some discussion of the results of the poll, attendees were divided into nine Zoom breakout rooms, and asked to discuss and note “at least one specific hint or recommendation related to virtual meetings”, and “at least one ongoing frustration”. These were recorded in a Google Doc by the individual breakout room groups, with some very insightful discussion afterwards. This Google Doc can be viewed at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MI7dN_GYc6R41GP8x98u1mar3BegpZc-qZvklAexc3s/edit?usp=sharing.

Also, participants were reminded that the most recent version of the “Resources for Chapters” a PowerPoint presentation, which can be helpful when navigating the ASA and COC webpages, is still available. This can be found directly at https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/AMSTAT/b29d5b39-37da-4e94-b3b7-ea8bdb5e73c6/UploadedImages/JSM_2020_COC_Workshop.pdf

If you would like to watch the recording of the presentation it can be found [here](#).

Want to get more involved? Run for a position on the Council of Chapters Governing Board

By Julia Sharp, Council of Chapters Governing Board Chair

The Council of Chapters Governing Board Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for several positions. Elections for these three-year positions (2023-2025) will be held in March 2022. Positions available include Vice Chair for District 5 and District 6, Council of Chapters Representative to the ASA Board of Directors from District 5 and District 6, and Council of Chapters Governing Board Chair-elect (any District). Districts are illustrated [here](#), and roles and responsibilities are documented [here](#). There are also appointed positions including Secretary, Communications, or Nominations Committee member. Additionally, if you or someone you know are interested in serving as ASA President or Vice President, we can forward that information to the ASA Nominations Committee. Please send your nominations to Jeff Dawson (jeffrey-dawson@uiowa.edu), chair of the COC Nominations Committee by November 15.