



Summer 2022

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

Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the Summer 2022 issue of **Chapter Chatter**, the newsletter for and about ASA chapters. The Council of Chapters Governing Board (COCGB) established this publication to foster improved communications between the COCGB and chapters and 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 suggestions for this newsletter (e.g., content, format, distribution, etc.). We are interested in suggestions for facilitating communication more effectively between chapters and enabling you to use the COCGB as a resource. For example, a [form to collect articles](#) at your convenience has been created, *Chapter Chatter* will be published three times a year, and major changes are being made to the format. Please provide feedback on these changes and suggest additional ones.

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 being offered from the national ASA to ASA chapters. This program, titled “Chapter Stimulus Funding,” is meant to increase chapter enthusiasm and grow chapter membership. To be eligible to participate, a chapter **must file the annual report** and, if a chapter doesn’t use its \$1,000 by December 31, they lose it. [Learn more](#) about the program on the COC website. Read the details and start 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 that stimulate your chapter (e.g., increases in membership, bringing in a speaker you might not have been able to bring in otherwise, etc.).

There are many upcoming events you can enjoy. [View events](#) offered by the ASA; you can also add events to the calendar. There isn’t a single link I can direct you to for chapter events. They range from the [COCGB traveling courses](#) to events listed on individual chapter websites. While many events have been online, more are moving back to in person. I believe the quality on the online events is very good but you can’t replace the associated contacts of an in-person event.

John Keighley
Editor

Recent News & Highlights

Arizona Chapter

By Rodney Jee

DataFest Competition

The Arizona Chapter held a successful ASA DataFest competition for the three public universities in Arizona the weekend of March 25. The event was held virtually using Zoom and Slack.

The decision to continue with a virtual event was made easier in part by a favorable satisfaction survey conducted at the end of the 2021 event. Seventy-five percent of the students who responded said they were somewhat or very satisfied, and 63 percent said they would recommend DataFest to others. Also, the very satisfied rating was dominant in all specific elements rated.

DataFest's success was due to the work of a strong planning committee comprised of faculty representatives from each participating institution (Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University); the return of a majority of the previous year's planning committee, which provided continuity of processes; access to last year's written procedures for working the many (and more complicated than expected) virtual aspects of the event; and adequate leftover funds from previous sponsorships, which relieved the committee of having to spend time on soliciting sponsorships.

However, with DataFest funds now near depletion, the core committee members plan to work on developing new sponsor relationships. The committee is preparing formal presentation material they can use with prospective sponsors as early as this summer to raise funds for 2023.

DataFest for the Arizona Chapter has been the main event for the chapter, drawing the best participation in the community in recent years (even before COVID). All chapter officers actively served on the planning committee, with President Helen Zhang taking the lead on judging coordination, Secretary Tierra Stimson involved with registration and judging, and Treasurer Rodney Jee serving as co-chair and sponsor relations contact. ASA members Yi Zheng of ASU was a returning co-chair and managed much of the behind-the-scenes IT infrastructure, including the satisfaction survey, and Xueying Tang of the University of Arizona served as a judge. Overall community participation included 70 undergraduate students registered for the competition from all three universities, 30 mentors from academia and industry, and six judges from academia and industry.

Formation of Advisory Board

The Arizona Chapter officers held their first meeting with the newly formed advisory board on March 8. Short-term goals from the meeting include drafting new chapter by-laws and advertising ASA membership to students and professionals.

Central Arkansas Chapter

By Ruofei Du

In March 2022, the Central Arkansas Chapter (CASA) participated in the [40th Central Arkansas Regional Science & Engineering Fair \(CARSEF\)](#), the state's largest STEM research competition for children in primary and secondary schools.

Our chapter sponsored awards for exceptional application of statistical and data science techniques for analyzing, tabulating, and/or visualizing data.



From left: Shelly Lensing, Chary Akmyradov, Jeff Thostenson, Jing Jin, Weijia Jia, Shawn Hartley, and Ruofei Du. Not pictured: Di Chang, Zhuopei Hu.

The participants included 4th–8th-graders (junior division) and high-school students (senior division). Nine chapter members helped with this public outreach event, most serving as judges.

The roughly 200 projects presented in CARSEF fell into categories such as environmental science, electrical and mechanical engineering, and plant sciences. The best use of statistics for all the projects was assessed, quantified by judging scores, and horizontally compared within each division. The judging rubrics included whether questions were formulated with sound statistical background, how data was collected and how useful it was for answering the questions, data visualizations and analyses, and data-driven conclusions and interpretations.

Three students from each division were selected for first-, second-, and third-place prizes in the form of a cash award and certificate. It was impressive that many students not awarded this time mentioned they would “do better statistics” next time.

Our chapter had a table display. The fliers introducing and promoting statistics and data science careers were distributed to attending students, teachers, and parents. The CARSEF organizers

also expressed their appreciation for our efforts in participating in the science fair and promoting STEM education to school children.



CASA members Jing Jin and Zhuopei Hu judge science fair posters (photos 1 and 2). Student receive a CASA award (photo 3).

Cincinnati Chapter

By Ashley Clark

The Cincinnati Chapter has had a busy award season this spring! At the college level, we recognized outstanding undergraduate and graduate students with the Comer-Reynolds Memorial Award. Award recipients for 2022 include the following:

- Ayesha Ekanayaka, *University of Cincinnati*
- Sierra Hessinger, *Miami University*
- Coby Warkentin, *Miami University*
- Ashton Wine, *Xavier University*

Our chapter also participated in the Southwest Ohio Science and Engineering Expo for local middle- and high-school students that was held virtually this year. We awarded four prizes for proficiency in the application of statistical methods.

Winners at the Grade 5–8 level include the following:

- Ansley Warnecke, *iPhone Cameras and Eyesight*
- Aaron Dorsey, *The Green Light: What Type of Lighting Is Best for Growing Basil Plants Indoors?*

Winners at the Grade 9–12 level include the following:

- Haasini Mendu, *A Novel Machine Learning Approach for the Early Detection of Parkinson's Disease Using Acoustic Measures*
- Laasya Acharya, *Ceres: A Novel Device Utilizing Raspberry Pi & Neural Networks to Detect Crop Diseases Using Imaging*

We are planning an exciting speaker event for the fall and looking forward to our ASA traveling course that will be offered in the fall, as well. The traveling course will be the day-long *Adaptive Design* course with Frank Bretz and Dong Xi as instructors. We will share details as they become available.

We wish all of our fellow ASA chapters a wonderful summer! *Please contact us if we can assist with publicizing your event among our chapter members.*

Detroit & Ann Arbor Chapters

By Karry Roberts

Detroit, Ann Arbor Chapters Promote Statistical Practice at Michigan Science & Engineering Fair

Chapter members would like to recognize our 2022 award winners from the Michigan Science and Engineering Fair (MSEF), held March 18–21 as a virtual event. Continuing our traditional joint chapter activity, members of the Detroit and Ann Arbor chapters and our District 3 vice chair served as a professional awards judging team at the MSEF.

Our top award, the Award of Excellence (\$200), went to Olivia Wagner for her project that emphasized innovative measurement techniques of Olympic uniforms and provided detailed explanation of statistical analyses. We also gave six \$50 merit awards and 16 recognition certificates.

Projects that receive our awards show effective use of statistics. In giving these ASA awards, we strive to promote the practice and profession of statistics.

The MSEF is the state level of the science fair, and there were 66 high-school projects that qualified from regional fairs to compete. Students posted presentations, videos, and supporting materials to the science fair website. We divided all projects among our judges for initial assessments with a scorecard, and then brought the best ones into our Zoom discussions.

Our judging team this year consisted of Jessica Kohlschmidt, District 3 Vice Chair Karry Roberts, David Doane, Xianggui (Harvey) Qu, Jacob Manis, Bern DeBacker, Andrew Ekstrom, and David Corliss from the Detroit Chapter and Frank Murdock and Jennie Jester from the Ann Arbor Chapter. Funds were provided by the Detroit and Ann Arbor chapters.

Seven of our ASA winners' projects will continue to the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair in May, having received the Grand Award in their field of science at the MSEF or regional fair. Nine of our ASA award winners received Grand through 4th-place category awards at the MSEF, and four were repeat winners of our award.

Congratulations to all our ASA award winners and a special thank you to their teachers. Please see our list of ASA winners below.

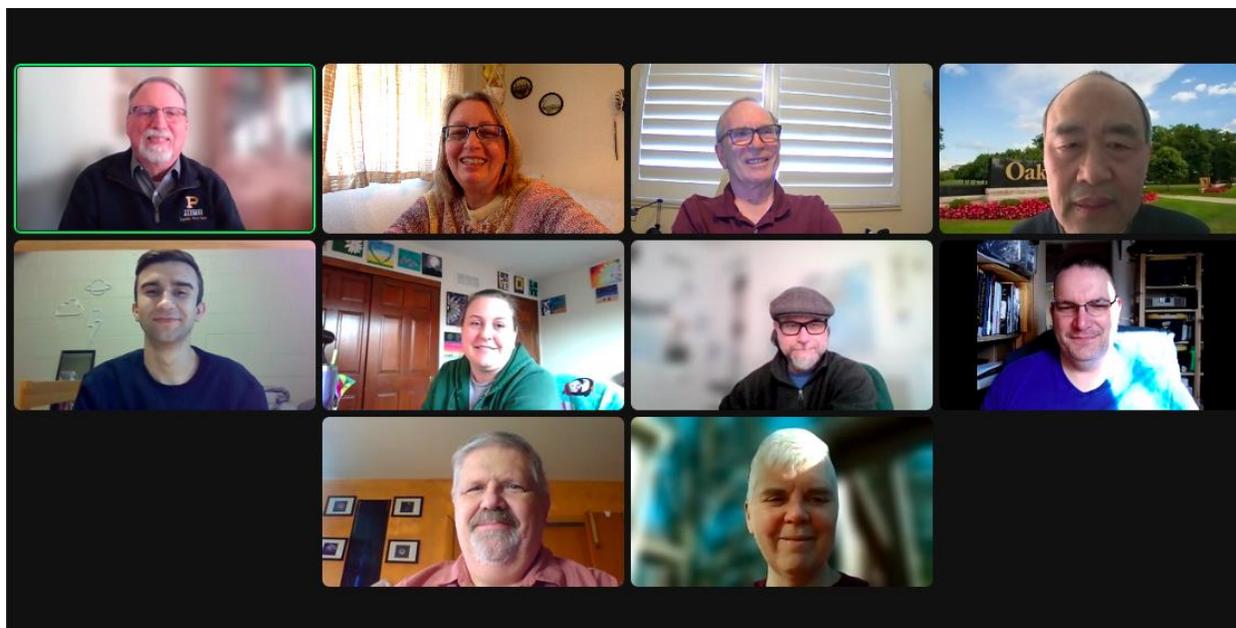


Photo courtesy of Karry Roberts. ASA judges from left to right, top to bottom: Frank Murdock, Karry Roberts, David Doane, Xianggui (Harvey) Qu, Jacob Manis, Jessica Kohlschmidt, Bern DeBacker, Andrew Ekstrom, David Corliss, Jennie Jester

Student	Project	School	Grade	Teacher
\$200 Award of Excellence				
Olivia Wagner	Quantitative Graphic and WSRA to Determine Olympic Gender Differences	Midland HH Dow HS, Midland, MI	9	Andrew Wagner
\$50 Award of Merit				
Vikram Goddla	AI Solution for Effective Treatment Planning for Brain Tumor Patients	Detroit Country Day Upper, Beverly Hills, MI	10	Patricia Hanlan
Jad Habhab	Statistical Nature of Modern Music	Dearborn Center for Math, Science & Technology, Dearborn Heights, MI	12	Jennifer Gorsline
Batule Hamka	Exploring the Potential Effect of PFAS on Plant Growth and Health	Dearborn Center for Math, Science & Technology, Dearborn Heights, MI	11	Jennifer Gorsline

Rohit Mahesh	Can Your Shoe Detect Concussion?	Salem HS, Canton, MI	9	Marcia Lizzio
Kush Parikh with Timothy Mathew	COVision: CNN for Classification of COVID-19 and Non-Viral Pneumonia Using CTs	Troy HS, Troy, MI	10	Rebecca Brewer
Brian Zhang	Mental Stress Detection in Social Media: A Machine Learning Approach	Northville HS, Northville, MI	9	Gabriel Pak
Certificate of Recognition				
Rahul Barpanda	Tranilast Mitigates ER Stress: Induced RPE Cell Dysfunction in AMD	Detroit Country Day Upper, Beverly Hills, MI	12	Karen Lamb
Charlie Chen with Dylan Agha	The Final Solar Eclipse	Detroit Country Day Upper, Beverly Hills, MI	11	Patricia Hanlan
Kira Collins	Frictional Forte	Pioneer HS, Ann Arbor, MI	11	Steve Armstrong
Vijay Daita	Indicators of Complications After Cardiac Surgery	Bloomfield Hills HS, Bloomfield Hills, MI	11	Noelle Collis
Simran Gupta with Nurayda Albeez	Diving into the Great Lakes	International Academy - East Campus, Troy, MI	9	Jackie Toepel
Dillan Lau	Pneumonia Detection Through Advanced Machine Learning	Detroit Country Day Upper, Beverly Hills, MI	12	Rami Baroodi
Donald Liveoak	Schrödinger Bridges on Discrete Domains	Allen Park Senior High, Allen Park, MI	12	Larry Dunlap
Ruisi Ma	Correlation Between Selective Hunger and Stress Level	Detroit Country Day Upper, Beverly Hills, MI	11	Patricia Hanlan

Razzi Masroor	Matching Preclusion and Bipartite Dual-Cube-Like Networks	Detroit Country Day Upper, Beverly Hills, MI	10	Mitchell Eithun
Angela Matta	Adolescents and Multilevel Marketing: How Susceptible Are They?	Dearborn Center for Math, Science & Technology, Dearborn Heights, MI	12	Jennifer Gorsline
Jett Miller	The Effect of Fracking on Thermal Conductivity and Seismic Wave Transmission	Saginaw Arts and Sciences, Saginaw, MI	10	Matthew Miller
Harish Narayan	Optimal Design & Development of a Photovoltaic Panel	Salem HS, Canton, MI	9	Marcia Lizzio
Arnav Nikam	Development and Statistical Validation of a Refined CAPE Ratio Algorithm	Salem HS, Canton, MI	11	Marcia Lizzio
Mikul Saravanan	Novel Multipurpose Air Handling Robot with AI-Based Anomaly Detection	Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, Bloomfield Hills, MI	11	Stephanie Kokoszka
Andrew Wagner	Hydrogen and Oxygen Gas Production from Water for a Marine Engine	Nouvel Catholic Central HS, Saginaw, MI	11	Mary Wagner
Margaret Yang	Engineering Compositionally Uniform Whole-Cell Biocatalyst for Biofuel	Cranbrook Kingswood Upper School, Bloomfield Hills, MI	12	Stephanie Kokoszka

Kansas Western-Missouri Chapter

By John Keighley

The 15th Annual Innovations in Design Analysis and Dissemination (IDAD): Frontiers in Biostatistics and Data Science Conference was held virtually April 21–22. This conference is jointly sponsored by the Kansas Western-Missouri Chapter of the ASA and the Department of Biostatistics and Data Science at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Some of the events were the following:

Keynote Address

Sparse Convolved Rank Regression in High Dimensions, presented by Hui Zou Professor, School of Statistics, University of Minnesota, and Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and American Statistical Association

Journey Lecture

There and Back Again: A Statistician's Tale, presented by Scott Berry President and Senior Statistical Scientist at Berry Consultants and Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and American Statistical Association

Mini Workshop

Sample Size Calculations for Clinical Trials with Time-to-Event Endpoint in the Case of Non-Proportional Hazards Using the Concept of Relative Time, presented by Milind Phadnis Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics & Data Science, University of Kansas Medical Center

Attendance was just under 100 with a mix of industry, government, and academic attendees. The largest group came from the academic sector.

The Kansas Western-Missouri Chapter was awarded an ASA Traveling Course for 2022. Leslie McClure will present the half-day short course, ***Charting Your Course for Leadership Success***, on October 28.

The chapter held an election in May 2022 to elect a new president and vice president. The new president is Jingru Mu, and the new vice president is Isuru Ratynayake. They will take office after JSM 2022. Perla Reyes and Michael Higgins will continue in the chapter representative and secretary/treasurer positions.

NYC Metro Area Chapter

By Cynthia Scherer

The NYC Metro Area Chapter hosted a virtual colloquium on time-varying effect modeling presented by Stephanie Lanza of Penn State on March 4. Links to a [recording of the presentation, the slides, and additional resources](#) are available on the event page of the chapter's website.

The chapter is looking forward to another year of hosting a virtual ASA Traveling Course in the fall. Fred Bretz of Novartis and Dong Xi of Gilead Sciences will present "Adaptive Design" October 13–14 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (US ET). [Event details and registration](#) information can be found on the course's event page.

Southern Ontario Chapter

By Tony Panzarella

The Southern Ontario Regional Association of the Statistical Society of Canada and the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health, in conjunction with the Southern Ontario Chapter of the ASA, held a virtual workshop on regression diagnostics May 19–20. The speaker was professor emeritus John Fox from McMaster University. The workshop was well attended, with more than 100 participants.

Preceding the workshop on May 12 was the Dalla Lana School of Public Health's Annual Biostatistics Research Day, featuring 36 virtual poster presentations. Presentations were given from students and postdoctoral fellows from the University of Toronto and other universities across Canada. Prizes were awarded to the presenters of the top three posters.

West Tennessee Chapter

By Yu Jiang

In 2022, the West Tennessee (WT) Chapter continues working to promote research and educational activities in the community. On March 30, the chapter offered a virtual workshop, titled “Combining Mediation Analysis with Mendelian Randomization” and delivered by Katlin Wade of the University of Bristol and her assistants. The workshop took advantage of virtual meeting platforms and offered hands-on practices. It was well accepted by students, faculty, and statistical data analysts, reaching 67 participants.

Our annual research symposium is scheduled for November this year. Due to the increased number of potential attendees, it will last a whole day instead of the previous half day. Hui Zou, professor of statistics at the University of Minnesota, is the keynote speaker. In addition, the symposium will have invited and contributed presentations, along with a poster session at lunch time. Students will share their research via poster sessions and participate in a poster competition.

Chapter officers also made strategic plans for 2023. In addition to our regular activities, including invited presentations and the research symposium, Haitao Pan from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Ying Yuan, Bettyann Asche Murray Distinguished Professor in the department of biostatistics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, have agreed to offer a short course on clinical trials. Tentatively, topics will include phase I dose-finding design, phase I/II seamless design, phase IIa single-arm design, phase IIb randomized two or multi-arm design, and master-protocol design (basket, umbrella, platform), with hands-on software demonstrations.

The WT chapter officers (listed below) will continue working hard to bring the community together on research and education in statistics.

- Hongmei Zhang (University of Memphis), President
- Yu Jiang (University of Memphis), Vice President
- Haitao Pan (St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital), Secretary
- Xueyuan Cao (University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center), Treasurer
- Dale Bowman (University of Memphis), Chapter Representative

Officer Tips & Information

Chapter Spotlight: the Washington Statistical Society's Mentoring Program Mentoring Continues in the WSS

Former ASA President David Morganstein challenged the WSS to start a mentoring program in 2015 using [An Eight-Step Guide to Creating and Sustaining a Mentoring Program](#). The purpose of the program was to [build community](#). It still is today.

At times, we thought maybe the 12-step program would have been more appropriate. The last couple of years' support during the pandemic was especially important. When the pandemic began, international students—especially Asian mentees—were going to classes online and applying to other programs from their apartments. One was afraid to go out because of a reaction to COVID-19 being called the Chinese flu. By the next fall, she had stayed three months after graduation because of grounded flights, finally made it to her family in Beijing, and is now in France in a PhD program. Having support from a mentor was especially important to her.

This year, we have an energetic committee with new members and a strong chair. We solicited mentors first because they are usually in short supply and have to be recruited. Following this, we solicited mentees.

Pairing is always a challenge but done to match those with similar backgrounds or interests. Virtual meetings make mentoring easy, even for out-of-state mentors in places like North Carolina, Colorado, and Florida. We ended up with more mentees than mentors but, surprisingly, many mentors offered to take two. We matched all 35 pairs.

After a couple of months, we checked in with our pairs and made any necessary adjustments. The rest has been easy: sending reminders of where they could be in their six-month formal mentoring period; pointing out events they could both attend; and offering support wherever needed. Of course, one of those events is JSM in DC this year.

Mentoring is a lot of work but satisfying. For a small chapter, it is a great way to build community. In fact, we have had fun meetings and supported each other. We share mentoring

experiences and brainstorm about ways to make the mentoring program more helpful to our members. We are all mentors, too!

We have done two additional activities that may be of use to other chapters: a [mentor workshop](#) and a [government hiring webinar](#). If you haven't seen them, take a look at the links above. We talked about the development of the program and how it works and told mentor and mentee stories.

Mentoring in the WSS is different from in-house mentoring within a workplace. In-house mentoring is mainly focused on helping new and less-experienced employees understand and grow within the organization. Mentorship may be through collaboration on the same projects or organization-specific activities. It improves the organization and increases employee satisfaction and talent retention.

The WSS mentorship focuses more on individuals' growth independent of their academic or work situation. The mentor-mentee pairs are typically not affiliated with the same organization. The mentees vary quite a bit in terms of background, training, interest, and experience. Mentees may include undergraduate students who are interested in many subjects and have no idea yet what type of career path they will eventually take. They may also include mid-career professionals who want to improve their current work or are considering switching careers. Depending on the mentee's background and interests, the mentorship may require taking different paths and approaches. Mentoring outside their organization forces mentor and mentee to work with a wider range of ideas and issues and gain new perspectives. It is more challenging, but eventually, we hope it benefits both our mentors and mentees.

At the end of the second month after the matching letters were sent out, we followed up with our mentor/mentee members through a simple Google form check-in questionnaire. Based on the responses received by the deadline (response rate=34.3 percent), the majority (71 percent) of the mentors/mentees had already met twice or more, as expected. About 25 percent had met once and one pair hadn't met because of communication issues.

Highlights of the mentorship meetings included discussions about student involvement in various activities, internship opportunities, setting short-term and long-term professional goals, attending professional events, career opportunities, different career paths, federal job searching, and resources. Many of the responding mentees showed appreciation for being part of the WSS mentoring program and praised their mentors. Some of the respondents showed interest in continuing the mentorship beyond the six-month formal commitment.

“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.”—John Crosby.

We will continue our efforts in maintaining and enlarging our mentoring program and making sure it's a good resource for our members who wish to grow through mentorship.