Four Arizona Chapter members met at the recent Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto.

Melissa Kovacs, founder of FirstEval, mentioned the ASA’s Statistical Consulting Section has been dominated by isolated statisticians in academia (such as the lone statistician in a math department), who have a dissimilar experience than a lone consultant.

Rodney Jee, of USAA credit risk model development, reviewed the history and future of the Arizona DataFest competition for undergraduates. He noted how it has been an anchor event for the chapter since 2018 and said he hoped it will continue to be so for at least a few more years. It has participants from all three public universities in Arizona and attracts business and industry as sponsors and resources for mentoring students in the competition.

Sally Morton, of Arizona State University and 2019 ASA president, shared her vision of effective leadership and training opportunities within the community of statisticians and data scientists.

XueYing Tang, of the University of Arizona, commented that the Arizona DataFest has provided her unique experiences working and interacting with students that are notably different from her classroom lectures. Having been a workshop lecturer for two DataFests, Tang also noted such participation helps fulfill her service requirements.
Furthermore, Arizona Chapter President Hao Helen Zhang of the University of Arizona who also served as program chair for JSM 2023, commended the contributions from chapter members from academia, industry, and government. Following are presentations by statisticians from Arizona:

- Lingling An (UA), Session Organizer and Chair, “High-Dimensional Variable Selection for Multivariate Responses Bayesian Modeling, Distributed Learning, and Manifold Learning for Sufficient Dimensional Reduction”
- Jennifer Broath (ASU), Speaker, “Windows and Mirrors: Promoting DEI in a Statistics Classroom Through Meaningful Examples”
- Ning Hao (UA), Session Organizer and Chair, “Inference for Sequence Data and Applications”
- Toby Hocking (NAU), Speaker, “Efficient Line Search Optimization of Penalty Functions in Supervised Changepoint Detection”
- Robert McCulloch (ASU), Speaker, “Multidimensional Monotonicity Discovery via mBART”
- Sally Morton (ASU), Panelist, “Fostering Career Growth Through Leadership”
• Yue Niu (UA), Speaker, “Inference for Gaussian Multiple Change-Point Model via Bayesian Information Criterion”
• Mark Reiser (ASU), Speaker, “Step-Wise Goodness-of-Fit Testing for High-Dimensional Cross-Classified Tables”
• Xueying Tang (UA), Speaker, “Adaptive Bayesian Shrinkage of Random Effects in Small Area Estimation”
• Lori Selby (ASU), Poster Presenter, “18 Random Effects Logistic Regression Models for Time-Dependent Covariates”
• Hao Helen Zhang (UA), Panelist, “Late Breaking Session: It Takes More Than a Village: Capacity-Building Efforts for the Statistical Community”