

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

17 April, 1989

SPRING AND VIDEO TAPES

The Alaska Chapter is offering a short course based on a series of video tapes entitled "Measurement Error Models" for three weeks in May, a week each in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. The course was taped in 1987, and its instructors are Wayne A. Fuller, Stephen Miller, and Dan Schnell. The national ASA office describes the course as follows:

Most data available for statistical analyses are collected subject to measurement error. Often the practical solution has been to ignore measurement error and hope that it will have little effect.

This course is devoted to statistical models and methods that recognize the presence of measurement error. Focus is on models of the regression type, containing explanatory variables that are observed subject to measurement error. Topics include analysis of survey data subject to response error, instrumental variables, latent variable models, factor analysis, calibration, heterogeneous error variance, nonlinear models and small area estimation. Procedures for residual analysis and model checking will be presented. Newly developed software for the personal computer will be demonstrated.

Course content includes both statistical methods, presented at a level for professional statisticians, and illustrative applications drawn from biology, economics, survey sampling and the physical sciences. Statistical consultants and teachers of statistical methods are encouraged to attend. Participants are expected to be familiar with the ordinary linear regression model. Theoretical discussion will be limited to developments required for the methodology.

The course will cost \$50 for non-students and \$10 for students; this price includes the lecture notes. The location of the course, time offerings, and contact persons are as follows:

Time	Location	Contact Person
May 10-12	Fairbanks	Pham Quang (474-6550)
May 16-18	Anchorage	Allen Bingham (267-2327)
May 22-26	Juneau	Norma Sands (456-4250)

These people will schedule the course (14 tapes) for the convenience of the students. People interested in attending the course should inform the appropriate contact person ASAP.

1989 BUSINESS MEETING

The next annual meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska sometime after 12 September, 1989 and before 1 November, 1989. Dr. Alan Agresti of the University of Florida has accepted our invitation to talk on

applications of log-linear models in late September, 1989. The exact dates have yet to be set, but will be available for the next newsletter this summer. Also, the chances of a visit by a representative of the Board of Directors of the Council of Chapters is quite good. The lucky visitor has yet to be selected.

GADFLIES

The chapter's concern for the shortage of short courses on video tape have been detailed in a letter sent to Barbara Kamm, the Governor of District 7, Council of Chapters. She has endorsed our call for more video-taped short courses, and contacted Jeffrey Schwartz, the chairman of the Council. Hopefully, other chapters have similar concerns, and the national chapter will respond by taping short courses this year during the national meeting in Washington, D. C.

SESQUICENTENNIAL (sp?)

This is the 150th birthday of the American Statistical Association, and as such, there are special events. Alan Bingham is writing a history of our chapter (this is the year of our 7th birthday) in honor of the sesquicentennial anniversary of our national organization. Please send any comments you may have to Allen (267-2327).

Also in honor of the sesquicentennial anniversary, the national organization has asked that each chapter select a member that has had the most influence on its development. This individual will be honored at this year's national meeting in August. The Executive Committee has selected David Hall. David was a founder of our chapter and its president for its first two years of existence. Since David moved to Atlanta in 1986, most of you have not had the pleasure of knowing him. However, our senior members will testify to the debt of gratitude we owe to David for his efforts.

Get your mugs here! Mugs with logos commemorating the sesquicentennial anniversary are available from the Council of Chapters. Some orders have been taken, some of which have been multiple (one member wanted several to give to his "unstatistical" fellow workers). The mugs cost \$5 apiece with shipping and handling. If you want one (or more), please contact Dave Bernard (our mug man) at 267-2380.

The Council of Chapters is holding a contest to see which chapter celebrates the sesquicentennial anniversary with the most historical perspective, ingenuity, innovation, creativity, etc. A written description of our sesquicentennial events is due 15 January, 1990. The Chapter needs your ideas on possible events for discussion during our business meeting in September. If you have ideas for any of special events, write or phone Alan Johnson (486-4791) or Dave Bernard (267-2380).

NATIONAL NEWS

The American Statistical Association will hold its national meeting 6-10 August, 1989. Watch for the meeting and short course schedules in the AMSTAT News.

The Board of Directors of the Council of Chapters have rescinded the requirement that each chapter in good standing have at least 50% of its membership belong to the national organization. This rule has been a thorn in our side since its inception. Ironically, the rule was rescinded because not enough new services had been provided to encourage membership in the national organization.

NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

There have been some new additions and deletions to our ranks. Tim Baker is a new biometrician in Anchorage working for Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Tim comes to us from the University of Alaska after a short stint in Fairbanks working as a biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Bob Conrad is leaving the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to take a position in Olympia, Washington. We will miss Bob and his family and wish them well in his new job and their new life.

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