

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

December 2, 1985

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The 1985 annual business meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association was held in conjunction with the meeting of the Arctic Science Conference on September 27-30, 1985. In addition, a two day ASA video workshop on nonparametric statistics was shown September 25-26. The Chapter business meeting was held in two separate segments, one on September 26 and the other on September 28, to accommodate those members that attended either the short course or Arctic Science Conference but not both. The following officers were elected:

President: Hal Geiger

Vice President: Linda Brannian

Secretary/Treasurer: Don Marx

Executive Board: Earl Becker and Gordon Kruse

It was decided that the position of Vice President be assigned the duties of program director and author the newsletter.

Several issues were discussed at the meeting. One of the most controversial was the recent ruling by ASA national that in order to remain a chapter at least 50% of local chapter members also be national members in addition to the primary officers of President and Secretary. Currently only 20% of Alaska chapter members are national ASA members and there is considerable resistance to joining the national organization as it is currently structured. In response to this warning by ASA, Hal Geiger and Dana Thomas will draft a letter to ASA expressing our concerns over not meeting these requirements. In addition, a motion was passed to pay ASA national dues for the officers of President and Secretary if these members choose not to.

DUES

A motion was passed to change the dues to \$10 per year beginning in 1986. Student membership will remain \$1. For those unable to attend the meeting, checks payable to Alaska Chapter ASA for 1986 dues may be mailed to Don Marx, University of Alaska, School of Business, 3211 Providence Dr. Anchorage, AK 99508 or included with your 1986 membership dues for the national organization. Please note that the most recent year of membership payment received is displayed on the mailing label for this newsletter.

NONPARAMETRIC STATISTICS WORKSHOP

An objective of the yearly chapter meetings has been the continuing education of ASA members. In the past this has included book reviews, the presentation of papers, selected discussion topics, and video tapes of guest speakers. This was the first year that an ASA statistics workshop video was rented and viewing was open to the interested public at \$10 for students and \$60 for all others. The video of the nonparametric statistics short course by W.J. Conover and R.L. Iman (1981) was well attended. Of the 31 participants, 9 were students and 17 were AK ASA members. A 368 page handout accompanied the video. The price of the video was initially quoted to be much higher than the final price of \$200 resulting in the creation of capital for future training. A motion was passed to reimburse Hal Geiger, Mike Thomas and Dana Thomas for expenses resulting from the workshop.

NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

Lastly, the location, date and content of the next meeting was discussed. It was generally agreed that Anchorage should be the next location unless some special circumstance as meeting jointly with another conference would make Juneau more attractive. As a guide it was suggested that beginning in 1986 annual business meetings be held in Anchorage in even numbered years. In the odd numbered years, the annual meetings should be held in Fairbanks or Juneau. As many member's travel is provided by their employers it was decided that fall was the best time, financially, to conduct meetings. Topics of interest for continuing education were ranked as follows:

1. Computer intensive methods - including bootstrapping, projection pursuits, etc.
2. Time series analysis
3. Multivariate analysis

It was hoped that a speaker could be arranged with or without an expository video tape. Paul Tukey was recommended since he would be appropriate for the first and third choices and has expressed an interest in coming to Alaska.

FRED E. CROMER REMEMBERED

A member of AK ASA, Fred E. Cromer was recently the victim of a hunting accident. A motion was passed to donate \$200 in statistic books in his memory to the UAA library. The following is a letter from the Daily News, Anchorage.

Fred E. Cromer remembered

When Dr. Fred E. Cromer was shot last Sunday on Kalgan Island the University of Alaska — and all Alaskans directly and indirectly served by it — suffered a great loss.

Fred thought that students and good teaching, not red tape, was what mattered. He had an outrageous sense of humor. Fred Cromer cared.

In his capacity as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Mathematics, he often cut red tape so that the hundreds of students he advised each semester could get their programs in order. During his years as associate dean and during this past year as acting dean he consistently and selflessly defended and advocated administrative policies that benefitted students and faculty.

As chairman of the statewide committee responsible for computing services, he pushed hard to decentralize the process so that computing services — so critical to both short-term and long-term academic programs — would be readily accessible on each of the campuses serviced by the university computer system, and, of course, at UAA.

But Fred was a man who, despite his dedication, his ideals, and his devotion to excellence, was often taken for granted. We could trust Fred and we relied on him to do the job behind the scenes that needed to be done. He did it without asking or expecting so much as a "Thank you." And yet, it was Fred who was responsible for originating and implementing many important developments at UAA since his arrival in 1978.

Fred E. Cromer touched the lives of those students and colleagues lucky enough to know him. In his personal life, too, Fred was a devoted father and husband. Moreover, he and his wife, Dee, fostered important family values by committing themselves to the care and love of foster children. Every way one looks at it, Fred was a man (just a farm boy from Nebraska) who made a difference to the people who knew him. He was an important influence in our community. We will miss him very much.

On behalf of the entire UAA Faculty Senate:

— Marvin D. Loflin, President
Ronald Spatz, First Vice President
Effie Graham, Second Vice President

ASA VIDEO WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE

The following is a list of two day video workshops available from ASA national. Some interest was shown in renting another video for display in Anchorage this spring. Members are asked to contact the program director (now Vice President) if you would be interested in a spring showing of one of the following videos and possible date preference.

"Data Analysis of Multivariate Observations" by Ram Gnanadesikan, Jon R. Kettenring and Paul A. Tukey (1977)

"Selecting and Ordering Populations" by Robert Bechhofer, Jean D. Gibbons, Shanti S. Gupta, Ingram Olkin (1979)

"Prediction Analysis" by D. Hildebrand, J. Laing, H. Rosenthal (1979)

"Nonparametric Statistics" by W.J. Conover and R.L. Iman (1981)

"Applied Life Data Analysis" by John I. McCool, William Q. Meeker, Wayne Nelson (1982)

"Generalized Linear Models" by Peter McCullagh, John A. Nelder, Daryl Pregibon (1983)

"Forecasting and Applied Time Series Analysis" by Johannes Ledolter and Bovas Abraham (1984)

"Analysis of Survival Data" by D.R. Cox and David Oakes (1984)