

Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association: NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2000

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2000 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Featured Speaker and Chapter Presentations

The Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA) had its annual meeting in Kodiak. This is the first time the annual meeting has been held in Kodiak. The meeting was held on August 21 & 22, 2000, at the Fishery Industrial Technology Center (FITC).

Dr. Bryan Manly was our guest lecturer this year. Dr. Manly is a Professor of Statistics at the University of Otago, New Zealand. Dr. Manly is also the editor for the Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics (JABES). Dr. Manly has written three books of notable reputation: "Multivariate Statistical Methods: A Primer"; "Randomization, Bootstrap and Monte Carlo Methods in Biology"; and with Dr. Lyman McDonald and Dr. Dana Thomas, "Resource Selection by Animals: Statistical design and analysis for field studies". Dr. Manly spoke in the mornings each day.

During the afternoon of August 21 presentations by Chapter members were given. Joel Reynolds talk was on bootstrapping, Mark Udevitz talk was titled "New Survival Rate Estimators for Ages-at-Death Data", Jay Ver Hoef talk was titled "Hierarchical Models for Monitoring Trends in Ecological Populations", Milo Atkison and Terry Quinn tag-teamed a talk called "Redesigning the Alaska Harbor Seal Survey: A Simulation Study", and Zhemming Su gave a talk called "A Bayesian Hierarchical Model for Estimating Historical Salmon Escapement and Escapement Timing".

Business Meeting

Chapter President Ivan Vining brought the meeting to order at 2:10 pm on 22 August, 2000.

Old Business:

The 1999 Business Meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ivan Vining, substituting for treasurer Allen Bingham, presented a status report of the treasury at the time of the meeting.

Membership Directory: Joel Reynolds volunteered to update our membership directory.

New Business:

Council of Chapters: Jay Ver Hoef, our representative to the ASA Council of Chapters, described several ways in which the national ASA will support involvement of interested chapters in local schools. The programs include a Quantitative Literacy program, an Adopt-a-School program, and science fair poster competitions. The ASA can send staff to Alaska to discuss any of these programs with local chapter members. Jay also reported that the travelling short course remains a possibility, although most agreed it was not well-suited to Alaska because our members are so dispersed.

Public Statistical Issues: Joel Reynolds triggered a lengthy discussion of what, if any, role we should play in public statistical issues, such as the controversy over use of sampling techniques for the census. Possibilities discussed included (1) using the local chapter as a conduit for dissemination of materials produced by the national ASA, and (2) authoring position letters that could be signed by our members as individuals. In the end, it was agreed that Ivan Vining would check with the ASA for advice regarding how to set up a process for responding to such issues, Mark Udevitz would check with the Wildlife Society, and Greg Rosenkranz would check with the American Fisheries Society.

Election of Officers: Election results for 2001 officers included: Brian Taras (btaras@ims.alaska.edu), Institute of Marine Science-University of Alaska, Fairbanks, who was elected Vice President. Bob Sutherland will become President for 2001. Joel Reynolds (joel\_reynolds@fishgame.state.ak.us), Commercial Fisheries Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage, was elected Executive Committee member-at-large and will be responsible for maintaining the Chapter's web site. Allen Bingham (allen\_bingham@fishgame.state.ak.us), Division of Sport Fish, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Anchorage will begin his second year of a two-year term as Secretary/Treasurer. Jay Ver Hoef (jay\_ver\_hoef@fishgame.state.ak.us), Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks will begin his third year of his current three-year term as our representative to the Council of Chapters. Ivan Vining (ivan\_vining@fishgame.state.ak.us) Commercial Fisheries Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Kodiak, as immediate Past-president will remain on the Executive Committee in 2001. Terms will begin on January 1, 2001.

Year 2001 Meeting, in Anchorage: Bob will poll members by email about suggested speakers for the 2001 meeting. Possibilities include:

Scott Zeger (GEE)

David Hosmer (logistic regression)

George Box (time series)  
David Cox  
Wishart  
George Milliken  
Trevor Hastie  
Carol Gotway Crawford (spatial statistics, multivariate GLM)  
Dale Zimmerman  
Jose Pinheiro (mixed models in Splus)  
Brad Carlin (BUGS)  
Russell Millar (Selectivity, Bayesian applications?)

Bylaw Ballots by Email: Jay moved that we allow the bylaws to be changed by email ballot. Brian seconded it and the motion passed in a show of hands.

Chapter Website and Newsletter: The necessity of maintaining a chapter website was discussed. Jay moved that we do continue to do so, Brian seconded it, and the motion passed. Joel will look into a new location for the site. Jay moved that we change the bylaws such that the board member-at-large position be converted to webmaster with a 3-year term. Vote will be by email. Mark moved that future newsletters be sent by email, Joel seconded it. Vote will be by email.

Video Short Course: Ivan Vining will try to get out a list of videos this fall, poll members as what they want and when they want it. The best tentative date for a video short course is now Feb. 2001.

Chapter Recognition Award: Allen Bingham will receive the Chapter Recognition Award as voted by chapter members.

Short Course Presentation: Jay Ver Hoef is to present a short course on Spatial Statistics at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Does the Chapter want to sponsor Jay and share in the profits (or loss)? The vote to sponsor Jay passed unanimously.

Tax Free Status: There was discussion as to whether we are violating our tax free status by having too much money in the bank. Bob Sutherland will bring this up with Allen Bingham.

## 2000 Video Short Course

This years short course was “Bayesian Hierarchical Modeling”, by Dr. David Drapeer (1997). The course cost \$65 for sponsored individuals and \$5 for students

## ASA Related or Co-sponsored Conferences or Meetings

Year 2001 Meeting, in Anchorage: Bob has polled the members by email about suggested speakers and we will be having for the 2001 meeting

November 13 - 17, 2002: International conference on questionnaire development, evaluation, and testing. Southeastern United States.

DEADLINE: Abstracts for monograph papers are due by May 1, 2001

CONFERENCE WEBSITE: [www.jpsm.umd.edu/qdet](http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/qdet)

The goals of the first international conference devoted exclusively to the methods used for questionnaire development, evaluation, and testing are to bring together researchers and survey practitioners working in this area, to stimulate research papers that contribute to the science of reducing measurement error through questionnaire evaluation, to provide documentation of the current practices, and to stimulate new ideas for future practices. Both invited and contributed sessions are planned. An integrated volume representing the theoretical, methodological, and statistical contributions to the field will be produced after the conference.

#### Other Statistically-related Meetings, Conferences or Courses

University of Alaska Anchorage, Spring 2001:

Elementary Statistics  
Scientific Sampling (AS 402)  
Analysis of Variance (AS 312)  
Intermediate Statistics (AS 308)

University of Alaska Fairbanks (Fairbanks), Spring 2001:

Elementary Probability & Statistics (STAT F200)  
Statistics (STAT F300)  
Regression and Analysis of Variance (STAT F401)  
Time Series (STAT F611)  
Statistical Theory II (STAT F652)  
Statistical Consulting Seminar (STAT F654)  
Sampling Theory (STAT F661)

University of Alaska Fairbanks (Juneau), Spring 2001:

Exploratory Data Analysis (STAT F640)

March 19-29, 2001 MSRI Workshop on “Nonlinear Estimation and Classification”, in Berkeley, California. Website: <http://cm.bell-labs.com/who/cocteau/nec/>; email: [nec@research.bell-labs.com](mailto:nec@research.bell-labs.com)

SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE: R. Baraniuk, L. Breiman, B. Cleveland, D. Cox, I. Daubechies, T. Deittrich, R. DeVore, D. Donoho, J. Friedman, D. Mumford, T. Poggio, A. Raftery, R. Schapire, C. Stone, G. Wahba, M. West, and L. Zhao.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: David Denison (Imperial College), Mark Hansen (Bell Labs), Chris Holmes (Imperial College), Robert Kohn (Univ. of New South Wales), Bani

Mallick (Texas A&M), Martin Tanner (Northwestern), Bin Yu (Bell Labs and UC Berkeley)

GOALS: Researchers in many disciplines face the formidable task of analyzing massive amounts of high-dimensional and highly-structured data. This is due in part to recent advances in data collection and computing technologies. As a result, fundamental statistical research is being undertaken in a variety of different fields. Driven by the complexity of these new problems, and fueled by the explosion of available computer power, highly adaptive, non-linear procedures are now essential components of modern "data analysis," a term that we liberally interpret to include speech and pattern recognition, classification, data compression and signal processing. The development of new, flexible methods combines advances from many sources, including approximation theory, numerical analysis, machine learning, signal processing and statistics. The proposed workshop intends to bring together eminent experts from these fields in order to exchange ideas and forge directions for the future. It also intends to introduce the research topics to graduate students by providing travel support and by requiring the last speaker of each session to give an overview of the field.

26 - 29 June 2001, THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON IMPRECISE PROBABILITIES AND THEIR APPLICATIONS (ISIPTA '01) Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

Imprecise probability is a generic term for the many mathematical models which measure chance or uncertainty without sharp numerical probabilities. These models include belief functions, Choquet capacities, comparative probability orderings, convex sets of probability measures, fuzzy measures, interval-valued probabilities, possibility measures, plausibility measures, and upper and lower expectations or previsions. Such models are needed in inference problems where the relevant information is scarce, vague or conflicting, and in decision problems where preferences may also be incomplete. See the IPP web site <<http://ippserv.rug.ac.be>> for introductory articles about imprecise probabilities, an extensive bibliography, and a collection of survey articles on special types of imprecise probability models.

Symposium web site: <http://ippserv.rug.ac.be/~isipta01>

Important dates (still tentative)

Paper submission deadline: 15 January 2001

Notification of acceptance: 9 March 2001

Deadline for revised papers: 30 March 2001

Symposium: 30 June - 2 July 2001

October 17 to 19, 2001, XVIIIth International Symposium on Methodological Issues Statistics Canada: "Achieving Data Quality in a Statistical Agency: A Methodological Perspective" held at the Palais des congrès in Hull, Quebec.

Web site: [www.statcan.ca/english/services/smnrs.htm](http://www.statcan.ca/english/services/smnrs.htm)

With its eighteenth annual symposium, Statistics Canada continues its successful series of conferences on methodological issues, attracting renowned statisticians, researchers, academics, and data analysts and others interested in meeting the challenges of a statistical agency. Symposium 2001 will feature both invited and contributed sessions, and will provide an ideal forum for exchanging your experiences and knowledge of

methods to achieve data quality. Papers of this conference will be published in the proceedings of the Symposium.

Simon Cheung, Symposium 2001 Co-ordinator, 16th Floor, R.H. Coats Building, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Canada, K1A 0T6

E-mail: [symposium2001@statcan.ca](mailto:symposium2001@statcan.ca) Telephone: (613) 951-1482 Fax: (613) 951-3100

TOPICS: Registers and Frames, Data Collection and Capture, Data Processing, Estimation, Data Analysis and Dissemination, Sector-specific, Cross-cutting Issues

November 14-16, 2001, The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology is planning a research conference to be held on at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, VA.

Information on the conference can also be found on the FCSM web site, [www.fcsm.gov](http://www.fcsm.gov).

The conference will consist primarily of contributed papers, most of which will receive formal discussion at the conference. The conference will feature papers and software demonstrations on topics related to a broad range of government statistical research interests. Papers and demonstrations may address methodology, empirical studies, or relevant issues. Final papers will be due prior to the conference. Papers must be original and not previously published or disseminated.

November 29 - December 2, 2001, ICDM '01: The 2001 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining Sponsored by the IEEE Computer Society, Silicon Valley, California.

Home Page: <http://kais.mines.edu/~xwu/icdm/icdm-01.html>

The 2001 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM '01) provides a forum for the sharing of original research results and practical development experiences among researchers and application developers from different data mining related areas such as machine learning, automated scientific discovery, statistics, pattern recognition, knowledge acquisition, soft computing, databases and data warehousing, data visualization, and knowledge-based systems. The conference seeks solutions to challenging problems facing the development of data mining systems, and shapes future directions of research by promoting high quality, novel and daring research findings. As an important part of the conference, the workshops program will focus on new research challenges and initiatives.

Topics of Interest: Design, analysis and implementation of data mining theory. These include, but are not limited to the following areas:

Foundations and principles of data mining, Data mining algorithms and methods in traditional areas, and in new areas, Data and knowledge representation for data mining, Modeling of structured, textual, temporal, spatial, multimedia and Web data to support data mining, Complexity, efficiency, and scalability issues in data mining, Data pre-processing, data reduction, feature selection and feature transformation, Statistics and probability in large-scale data mining, Soft computing (including neural networks, fuzzy logic, evolutionary computation, and rough sets) and uncertainty management for data mining, Integration of data warehousing, OLAP and data mining, Man-machine interaction in data mining and visual data mining, Artificial intelligence contributions to data mining, High performance and distributed data mining, Machine learning, pattern recognition and automated scientific discovery, Quality assessment and interestingness

metrics of data mining results, Process centric data mining and models of data mining process, Security and social impact of data mining, Emerging data mining applications, such as electronic commerce, Web mining and intelligent learning database systems

#### Important Dates

June 15, 2001	Paper submissions.
July 31, 2001	Acceptance notices.
August 31, 2001	Final camera-readies.
Nov 29 - Dec 2, 2001	Conference.

#### Other Miscellaneous Meetings

October 23-26, 2001, The First Asia-Pacific Conference on Web Intelligence (WI'2001) in Maebashi TERRSA, Maebashi City, Japan . Home Page: <http://kis.maebashi-it.ac.jp/wi01>. Paper Submission Deadline: March 20, 2001.

WI'2001 will be jointly held with The Second Asia-Pacific Conference on Intelligent Agent Technology (IAT'2001)

WI'2001 and IAT'2001 Joint Keynote Speakers: Edward A. Feigenbaum (Turing Award Winner), Stanford University Benjamin Wah (2001 IEEE Computer Society President), University of Illinois

WI'2001 Invited Speakers: W. Lewis Johnson (University of Southern California, USA) Riichiro Mizoguchi (Osaka University, Japan) Patrick S. P. Wang (Northeastern University, USA)

The Asia-Pacific Conference on Web Intelligence (WI) is a high-quality, high-impact biennial conference series. It will be jointly held with the Asia-Pacific Conference on Intelligent Agent Technology (IAT).

#### TOPICS

Web Human-Media Engineering, Web Information Management, Web Information Retrieval, Web Agents, Web Mining and Farming, Web Information System Environment and Foundations, Web-Based Applications,

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

March 20, 2001 Paper submission deadline  
May 20, 2001 Notification of paper acceptance mailed  
June 20, 2001 Camera-ready copies of accepted papers due  
July 2, 2001 Demo submission deadline  
August 3, 2001 Notification of demo acceptance mailed  
October 23-26, 2001 Conference technical sessions

#### TREASURERS REPORT

Financial Statement for the Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association, 2000.

Description	Income	Expenses	Balance
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<b>Opening Balance</b>		5,914.87
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Dues</b>	397.00	6,311.87
<b>Donations</b>	20.00	6,331.87
<b>Interest Income</b>	191.64	6,523.51
<b>Total Annual Meeting Registration Fees</b>	2,225.00	8,748.51
<b>Total Video Short Course Registration Fees</b>	2,591.73	11,340.24
<b>Total Income</b>	5,425.37	11,340.24
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Annual Meeting Costs:</b>		
<b>Food &amp; Beverage Breaks</b>	-86.14	11,254.10
<b>Banquet Costs (Rental on Chalet)</b>	-30.00	11,224.10
<b>Photocopying Handouts</b>	-143.06	11,081.04
<b>Postage</b>	-4.95	11,076.09
<b>Speaker Related Costs:</b>		
<b>Honorarium</b>	-300.00	10,776.09
<b>Hotel</b>	-533.12	10,242.97
<b>Per diem</b>	-200.00	10,042.97
<b>Phone</b>	-25.00	10,017.97
<b>Travel</b>	-1,100.00	8,917.97
<b>Total Speaker Related Costs</b>	-2,158.12	8,917.97
<b>Total Annual Meeting Costs</b>	-2,422.27	8,917.97
<b>Continuing Education Costs</b>		
<b>Printing</b>	-350.33	8,567.64
<b>Video Rental</b>	-268.00	8,299.64
<b>Postage</b>	-100.44	8,199.20
<b>Total Continuing Education Costs</b>	-718.77	8,199.20
<b>Total Expenses</b>	-2,284.33	8,199.20
<b>Total Income/Expenses (Closing Balance)</b>		8,199.20