

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

10 November, 1989

1989 ANNUAL MEETING. This year's annual meeting began Sunday, September 17 with the introduction of Dr. Cliff Clogg of the Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Clogg presented two lectures titled "Latent Class Models" and "Analysis of Sets of Two-way Contingency Tables with Association models." The following day, Dr. Alan Agresti of the University of Florida taught a tutorial titled "Log-linear Models" followed by a laboratory during which Marianna Alexandersdottir presented a current application of log-linear models. Sixteen people attended the tutorial.

The morning of Tuesday, September 19, the following presentations were given:

- Earl Becker: Residual diagnostics: some graphical pitfalls?
- Hal Geiger: Habitat considerations as prior information for sockeye salmon management.
- Steve Thompson: Adaptive cluster sampling.
- Pham Quang: Size-bias in line transect sampling.
- Earl Becker: Log-linear models for agreement among raters.
- Bob Marshall: The computer program "SCA" for time series analysis.

BUSINESS MEETING. See the attached minutes, prepared by Allen Bingham.

1990 AND 1991 SPEAKERS. Little progress has been made towards inviting a speaker for our 1990 annual meeting. Topics for the meeting are still those decided during the 1988 meeting (see the 4 October, 1988, newsletter). Possible speakers and/or meeting topics for our 1990 annual meeting include George Box (time series), David Oakes (survival rates and hazard models), and Kenneth Pollock (creel surveys and mark-recapture experiments). Please contact any member of the executive committee if you have suggestions for the 1991 meeting and speakers.

A NOTE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT. Another year has past, and a new "administration" begins. During my tenure as President, I was privileged to work with Linda, Alan, Allen, Quang and Dan on several issues and activities concerning the growth of our organization. Whenever I needed help (which was often), these people were always there. I want to especially thank Norma Jean for organizing our activities in Juneau during the 1988 annual meeting and the spring short course in 1989. Our effectiveness would have been considerably reduced without her help. To all of these people and to the membership at large, thanks for your support and patience during the past year.

CALL FOR NOMINATION OF AWARD RECIPIENT. Following a resolution passed at the meeting, Chapter Members are requested to nominate a recipient for an award in honor of the sesquicentennial of the American Statistical Association. The award is in the form of a plaque. The nominee must be the author of a statistical manuscript judged to be of the greatest value to statistics in Alaska. Publication of the work must be within the past 10 years. Pham Quang is putting together a special committee to choose the award recipient. Nominations can be directed to him.

OTHER NEWS. The Executive Director Barbara Bailar has asked Alan Johnson to chair the Ethics Committee of the national organization. Alan will serve from 1990 to 1992. Congratulations to Alan.

NATIONAL NEWS

NOMINATION OF NEW FELLOWS. The committee on Fellows of the ASA is asking local Chapters and Sections to help in the nomination of new Fellows. Guidelines for nomination and justification can be obtained from Pham Quang. The deadline is March 1, 1990.

GUESS. A new Government Statistics Section (GSS) is being formed. See the enclosed copy of the newsletter of the Section (GUESS) for further details.

TREASURY REPORT

Currently the Chapter has a balance of \$1,349. Costs of the 1989 annual meeting were \$1,459 for transportation, per diem, and honorarium for Alan Agresti and per diem for Cliff Clogg. We also have \$1.125 outstanding from attendees who have not yet paid for the tutorial.

DUES. Please note that the number next to your name on the mailing label is the last year for which we have received dues and the letter represents the type of membership (R=Regular, S=Student). Please renew your membership. Dues may be sent to Linda Brannian, or included with your membership dues for the national organization. Regular annual membership is \$10, and \$1 for students. Make checks payable to AK ASA.

Chapter Officers

PHAM QUANG (President), Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK 99775, (474-6550).

DON MARX (Vice President), School of Business, Univ. of Alaska Anchorage, 3211 Providence Dr., Anchorage, AK 99508 (786-1755).

LINDA BRANNIAN (Treasurer-Secretary), Alaska Department of Fish and Games, Commercial Fisheries Div., 333 Raspberry Rd., Anchorage AK 99518 (267-2118).

MINUTES OF THE 1989 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

The 1989 annual business meeting of the Alaska Chapter of the American Statistical Association was held during the afternoon of 19 September 1989 in the Memorial Conference Room, Wood Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Our chapter president, Dave Bernard, convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Dave Bernard opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of gratitude to Pham Quang for his efforts in organizing the 1989 annual meeting.

Old Business

Dave then read the minutes (as prepared by our Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Brannian) from the 1988 annual business meeting.

The Council of Chapters report (prepared by Alan Johnson) was then read by Dave Bernard. Items of interest included the following:

1. A new proposed constitution for the national ASA is (will be) published in the most recent AMSTAT News. Association members will be balloted by mail for acceptance of the proposed changes.
2. Alan Johnson has sent a letter to the Council of Chapter's commenting on the "dearth" of videotapes from the annual national meeting short courses. A reply was received, and our concerns were passed along to the national office.

Following this report, Marianna Alexandersdottir, Pham Quang, and Clifford Clogg (The Pennsylvania State University) gave reports on their experiences while attending the annual meeting of our parent society, held this year in Washington, D.C.

The treasurer's report (by Linda Brannian) was then read by Dave Bernard. Prior to the annual meeting our balance (after deducting the meeting costs of \$1,450.00) was \$1,102.89. We anticipate an gross income of \$1,200.00 from the 16 short course participants. Accordingly, our balance after receipt of course fees should be approximately \$2,300.

Clifford Clogg then gave a report from the national organization. Items of interest in his report included the following:

1. He (Cliff) will be preparing a report on his impressions regarding his visit with our chapter for submittal to Barbara Bailar (Secretary and Executive Director of the ASA).
2. Cliff summarized the proposed changes to the constitution, indicating that the changes were primarily directed at making the Association more responsive to membership needs.
3. A new section of the ASA on Environmental Statistics and Statistical Ecology is being formed and will be (has been) reported in AMSTAT News.
4. Discussions in the national office regarding various journal options (e.g., unbundling) have been and will be continued.

Allen Bingham then reported on the Ad Hoc committee "to study ways to obtain more members from academia and business". Allen's report was in draft form. President Dave Bernard directed Allen to complete the draft report (ASAP) for the next President's review. Following Allen's report both Dan Reed and Earl Becker commented on aspects of the report and/or contributed ideas as to how to reach additional candidates for membership.

Allen Bingham reported on a draft report on the history of our chapter (being prepared in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the parent association). President Dave Bernard directed Allen to complete the draft report by the end of the year.

Dave Bernard reported on the status of attempts to "line up" a speaker for our 1990 annual meeting. He reported that little if any progress has been made. Dave reiterated the chapter's priorities for speakers and/or topics as decided during the 1988 annual meeting.

Dave then reported on the awarding of the "Outstanding Chapter Member" to David Hall, our first president.

November 1989 has been declared as "Statistics Month" by Alaska Governor Steve Cowper (as reported by Dave Bernard). Alan Johnson was instrumental in obtaining this declaration from the governor's office. Three major newspapers in the state will be approached to run a short announcement regarding the governor's

declaration. Dave Bernard volunteered to approach the *Anchorage Daily News*; Dan Reed will approach the *Fairbanks News Miner*; and Bob Marshall will approach the *Juneau Empire*.

Dan Reed as volunteered to update our membership directory (last compiled in 1987).

New Business

The membership as a whole discussed time and place priorities for our 1990 annual meeting. A motion was proposed by Earl Becker and seconded by Hal Geiger that we:

Meet at Anchorage, but reserve final decision authority to the executive committee, with the proviso that we should possibly attempt to meet with another professional society (e.g., Arctic Science Conference, but not with the American Fisheries Society), sometime during the 1 September-1 November time period.

New officers were nominated and elected:

Linda Brannian was nominated as Secretary/Treasurer. No other candidates were nominated. Linda won unanimously.

Steve Thompson was nominated as our at-large executive committee member. No other candidates were nominated. Steve won unanimously.

Don Marx was nominated as Vice President. No other candidates were nominated. Don won unanimously.

Accordingly our new chapter officers are as follows:

President
Vice President
Secretary/Treasurer
Executive Committee Members

Pham Quang
Don Marx
Linda Brannian
Dave Bernard
Steve Thompson

The meeting participants then discussed possible speakers and/or meeting topics for our 1991 annual meeting, the following suggestions were made: George Box (time series); David Oakes (survival rates and hazard models); and Kenneth Pollock (creel surveys and mark-recapture experiments).

Dave Bernard then introduced a series of motions regarding ways that the chapter could honor the sesquicentennial of the parent association. A short summary of each motion and the chapter's votes on each motion follows:

- 1- Chapter would present a one-time scholarship award to a resident of Alaska currently enrolled in a graduate program of statistics.
Motion failed.
- 2- Chapter would present a one-time cash award to the authors of a statistical manuscript judged to be of importance to the profession.
Motion failed.
- 3- Chapter would sponsor the travel cost to the next chapter annual meeting of some "deserving" member.
Motion failed.
- 4- Chapter would sponsor the travel cost to the next national ASA annual meeting of some "deserving" member.
Motion failed.
- 5- In honor of the sesquicentennial celebration of the American Statistical Association, the Alaska Chapter will present a plaque to the author(s) of the statistical manuscript judged to be of greatest value to statistics in Alaska. Publication of the work must have been within the past 10 years. Only the membership of the Alaska Chapter can nominate candidates; a special committee of five members will be selected by the Chapter president; composed of two members representing government agencies, two members from non-government agencies, and the President as a non-voting tie-breaker member; membership choices for the committee will be approved by the executive committee.
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was then adjourned.

G U E S S *

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICS SECTION

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TWO ASA COMMITTEES JOIN TO FORM NEW ASA SECTION

The Government Statistics Section was born in January 1989 after a long dialogue between two standing ASA Committees -the Committee on Government Statistics (COGS) and the Committee on Subnational Statistics (once known as the Committee on Small Area Data). Members of each committee for some years had been collaborating on projects with cross-over among those concerned with Federal statistics and those with interest in statistics originating with other governmental units. An amalgamation seemed to be the natural and most timely thing to propose - and so the mating was achieved.

In a forthcoming new ASA promotional brochure, the purpose of the new Section is stated:

The Government Statistics Section is concerned with the promotion of higher standards in the development, use, interpretation, and distribution of statistics at all government levels: federal, state and local; with improving the skills of statistical practioners in these government agencies; and with encouraging the

production of relevant and timely statistics that meet user needs as well as the formal requirements of the producer agencies.

But this is only the skeleton which the members must clothe with exciting and stimulating projects. While the approval process goes on, there is a continuation of a COGS project concerning Federal Statistical Agency Advisory Committees; the report of the first phase of that project should appear in the American Statistician later this year. A proposed future project, involving survey of state level agencies, will be discussed at the Annual Business Meeting.

The two Committees have become subcommittees of the new section - COGS has become the Subcommittee on Federal Statistical Systems and Subnational is renamed again, more explicitly, the Subcommittee on State and Local Statistics. Other subcommittees and ad hoc committees will be added as programs are developed. Please join us!

* SEE PAGE THREE

OPEN MEETINGS OF THE GSS AT THE ASA ANNUAL MEETING

There will be two opportunities for ASA members to meet other members of the Government Statistics Section and to voice your suggestions. On Monday, August 8 at 12:30 pm, there will be a joint meeting of the two GSS Subcommittees at an open buffet "dutch" lunch. The price of the luncheon is not yet known, but if any GSS member or prospective member wishes to attend, please let Philip Cartwright know early Monday morning (or sooner at 312 498-6300).

The open Business Meeting of the Government Statistics Section will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:00 pm (check the final printed conference program for the room number). All are invited to help shape the GSS's projects.

INVITED PAPER SESSIONS TO BE SPONSORED BY GSS AT THE 1989 ANNUAL ASA MEETING

Your Executive Committee is very excited about these invited paper sessions as our debut on the ASA program. We hope you will share our enthusiasm and look forward to seeing all of you in the audience at the following:

"Digging for Gold: Mining the Riches of the 1990 Census,"
Monday, August 7, 2:00 - 3:50 pm.

"Access to Federal Statistics: Issues for the 1990's," Tuesday, August 8,
2:00 - 3:50 pm.

In addition, the Government Statistics Section is cosponsoring several other sessions with subjects of significance and

timeliness including:

The Washington Statistical Society
ASA 150th Anniversary Session:
"Contributions to the Development
and Evolution of Statistics: The
Federal Government."

Social Statistics Section:
"Statisticians, Statistics and the
Congress" and "Making a Difference:
Data for Decisions."

Please check the final program for the days, times and places of these sessions and others cosponsored by the Government Statistics Section. There are also several GSS contributed paper sessions.

For additional information contact GSS
1989 Program Chair: Patricia Becker
(313) 535-0499

Ideas for Next Year?: Call Constance F.
Citro, GSS 1990 Program Chair (202) 334-
3093

WHO ARE GSS MEMBERS?

Some 1,100 American Statistical Association members voted in July 1988 to create the new Government Statistics Section and indicated that they would like to be Section members. A twenty percent sample of the voters revealed that the majority of them were not employed by government agencies; the largest group, (only 31 percent) worked for Federal government and a mere 4 percent for either state or local government. The ASA Directory indicated that for every state or government worker who voted, nine did not. (Where are you?) The second largest group who joined the new Section were from academic institutions, reflecting the composition of general ASA

membership. The remaining 35 percent of the voters were divided among members from business and industry and from the nonprofit sector; they are also self-employed, retired, students and others for whom current professional association could not be determined.

With such a broad based membership, it is not easy to define a precise mandate. The Executive Committee needs your advice on the types of projects that you wish to undertake in the first years of the Section's life. Come to the open meeting and tell us (or write to us if you can't be in Washington in August).

We also hope that more members will join GSS in 1989. You may let the ASA Membership Office know at any time that you wish to add code "L" to your computerized record.

SUCCESSFUL WORKSHOP "ASA AND STATISTICS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR" HELD AT THE 1989 WINTER CONFERENCE

Under the auspices of the former ASA Committee on Subnational Statistics (now the Subcommittee on State and Local Statistics) and the Government Statistics Section, a special invitational workshop was conducted in San Diego over two half-days on January 3rd and 4th. Some twenty persons, joined by ASA staff and executives, developed recommendations to the ASA Planning Committee, to various other ASA committees and to the new Government Statistics Section. The workshop conducted a thorough review of problems and opportunities for improving and redeveloping ASA activities in support of the needs of statistics and of statisticians in state and local government and in Federal regional settings. The

workshop findings and recommendations will be discussed at the open Business Meeting of GSS at the annual meeting; we hope you will join us. For an advance copy of the report, please write Dr. Wray Smith, Harris-Smith Research, Inc. 3030 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 305, Arlington, VA 22201

HISTORY OF GSS TO BE WRITTEN FOR ASA REPORT

The new Section, as such, does not yet have a history, but its two long-standing Committees do. Any members interested in submitting anecdotal material or reports produced, please send them to the address below.

WHAT DOES THE "U" AND THE "E" STAND FOR IN GUESS? THERE WILL BE A PRIZE FOR THE BEST ENTRY SUBMITTED BY OCTOBER 1, 1989. SEND SUGGESTIONS TO:

JOSEPH SALVO, Co-Editor GUESS
22 Reade Street / 4 West
New York, N.Y. 10007

ATTENTION LOCAL ASA CHAPTERS

If there are members of local chapters who are not now also national ASA members, the new Government Statistics Section provides a focus for their interest in state and local government statistics. We welcome and encourage the participation of all such members. For more information, write to Evelyn Mann, CHAIR, GSS, 22 Reade Street / 4 West New York, NY 10007

POPULATION ESTIMATION
TECHNIQUES TUTORIAL
SPONSORED BY THE ASA
COMMITTEE ON SUBNATIONAL
STATISTICS IS NOW AVAILABLE
ON VIDEOTAPE FOR CHAPTERS
AND GROUPS

"Estimating Subnational Population Characteristics" was a one-day tutorial produced at the 1987 Annual Meeting that is now available on videotape for rental. A presentation by Donald Starsinic provides instruction on methods for producing state, county and city population estimates, including age, sex, race and household characteristics. In the second portion of the tutorial, Paul Levy, covers a number of expansion ratio and regression estimates for subnational population characteristics. Reproducible workshop materials are available.

For more information, write or call ASA Continuing Education, 1429 Duke Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3402, (703) 684-1221

PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR COMMENTS TO ANY OF GSS CURRENT OFFICERS:

Evelyn S. Mann, CHAIR: (212) 720-3434

Philip Cartwright, CHAIR-ELECT GSS and CHAIR, Subcommittee on Federal Statistical Systems (312) 498-6300

Edward J. Spar, SECRETARY-TREASURER (212) 986-4800

Wray Smith, ASA BOARD REPRESENTATIVE (703) 528-2772

Betty S. Mahoney, REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COUNCIL ON SECTIONS (212) 896-5826

Lorraine H. Amico, CHAIR, Subcommittee on State and Local Statistics (202) 624-5346

Robert G. Lehnen, PUBLICATIONS OFFICER (317) 274-3466

(see page 2 for 1989 and 1990 PROGRAM CHAIRpersons)

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