

NEWSLETTER OF THE ALASKA CHAPTER
OF THE
AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

4 October, 1988

1988 ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting began Monday, September 12 at the Egan Convention Center in downtown Anchorage with a series of lectures on discriminant analysis, factor analysis, and clustering by Dr. Richard Johnson, senior author of the text "Applied Multivariate Statistical Methods." Twenty-four people attended these lectures. Later that evening, Brian Bue, Beverly Cross, Hal Geiger, and Drs. Dennis Fisher and Paul Skvorc were members of a round-table discussion describing their experience with multivariate statistics. The following day, Earl Becker, Dr. Sam Thiru, and Dr. Pham Quang presented their current work on log-linear models, partial correlation coefficients, and line-transect theory. Later that morning, Allen Bingham and Alan Johnson gave us their thoughts on the three short courses they took while attending the national meeting in New Orleans.

President Allen Bingham brought the business meeting to order late in the morning of 13 September in the Egan Convention Center. Dr. Pham Quang was elected Vice President for 1989 while Dave Bernard became the new President. Allen Bingham retained his seat on the Executive Committee, and Linda Brannian continued into the second year of her two-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. Dan Reed was elected to the Executive Committee and Alan Johnson was retained as our representative on the Council of Chapters. During the meeting the following resolutions were passed by voice vote:

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.

Guest lecturers for the annual meetings will be invited one year in advance. 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 membership in attendance at the business meeting named Drs. Raymond Carol (transformation and regression), Robert Hogg (mathematical statistics), Bruce Lindsley (likelihood), David Cox (analysis of binary data), Jerome Friedman (Classification And Regression Trees), and William Cleveland (graphical techniques) as candidates to be the guest lecturer for the meeting in 1990.

The President shall appoint an ad hoc committee to study ways to obtain more members for the Chapter from academia and from business. The committee members are Allen Bingham (chair), Dr. Marianna Alexandersdottir (465-4250 or 267-2379), and a yet-to-be-named third

member. A draft report will be available to the Executive Committee by 1 April and to the membership by the next business meeting.

The Chapter will lease a videotape from the parent society for presentation to interested parties during spring, 1989 for a fee as set by the Executive Committee. If you have any suggestions for a topic, please contact Allen Bingham (267-2327). The Executive Committee will select a tape from those available from the national organization.

The Chapter will send a letter through the Council of Chapters to the national organization expressing our concern over the lack of new short courses on video tape. Alan Johnson will draft the letter and send copies to the Executive Committee. Please send any comments you may have to Alan (486-4791).

A history of the Alaska Chapter will be written in honor of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the American Statistical Association. Allen Bingham will author the history. Please send any comments you may have to Allen (267-2327).

PRESIDENT'S SOAP BOX

I want to nip one misconception in the bud right now. During this last meeting, staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were the majority of the attendees. Since statisticians by nature are perceptive creatures, it's not surprising that the minority tended to select topics for discussion and presentation that were tailored to the perceived desires of the majority. Speaking for this majority, I want to assure those members that are not staff of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that, professionally, we in the agency have said about all there is to say to one another long before the annual meeting. We welcome a fresh outlook and new topics. Put a little serendipity in our professional lives.

NATIONAL NEWS

The American Statistical Association will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary in 1989 with its meeting in Washington D. C. (the meetings in 1990 and 1991 will be in Anaheim and Atlanta, respectively). As with any milestone such as this, there will be a fair amount of hoopla. If you are interested in any of the special events, phone Alan Johnson for more information (486-4791).

NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

There have been some new additions to our ranks. Dr. Dennis Fisher is a new Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage in the Health Sciences Department. Dennis moved to Anchorage from California where he worked on a post-doctoral fellowship on the rates of drug abuse among elementary and high school students in California.

Dr. "Sam" Thiru joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Alaska, Anchorage as an assistant professor last year. Sam moved north from California; his specialty is the study of stochastic processes.

Dr. Marianna Alexandersdottir is the new Biometrician II for Sport Fisheries Division, the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game in Anchorage; she was the old regional biometrician for Commercial Fisheries Division in Douglas.

Brian Bue is the new Biometrician II for Region II, Commercial Fisheries Division, Alaska Dept. Fish and Game; Brian was the Biometrician I for that region.

Sadly for us, Dr. Dana Thomas of the Mathematical Sciences Department of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks has left us for awhile. Dana took a two-year leave of absence from the University to consult for the government of South Yemen.

OPPORTUNITIES

There is a new position for a Biometrician I opening in the Central Region of the Commercial Fisheries Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game based in Anchorage. Please contact Linda Brannian at 267-2118 if you are interested or know of anyone who might be.

There is a new position for a Biometrician II opening in Research and Technical Services branch of the Sport Fish Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game based in Juneau. Please contact Mike Mills at 267-2369.

There is a new position for a Biometrician II opening in the Southeast Region of the Commercial Fisheries Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game based in Juneau. Please contact Dave Cantillon at 465-4250 if you are interested or know of anyone who might be.

With Dana Thomas leaving the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, the Mathematical Sciences Department is looking for a replacement. If you are interested in the position, or know of a good candidate, please contact Dr. Clifton Lando, Chairman (474-6103).

The University of Alaska, Anchorage, is offering an expanded curriculum in statistics this year. Courses on regression, nonparametrics, and methods are being offered through the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Contact Dr. "Sam" Thiru (786-1958) for more information on these courses. The Health Sciences Department will offer two quantitative courses next semester: Biostatistics for Health Professionals (HS 625) and Assessment and Treatment Planning for Substance Abuse (HS 491). Call Dr. Dennis Fisher for more details (786-1805).

TREASURY REPORT

Currently the Chapter has a balance of \$1,906. Costs of the 1988 annual meeting were \$1,560, \$1,250 was encumbered for transportation, per diem, and honorarium of the guest lecturer and \$310 for the room at the Egan Convention Center. There should be some more accrual to our account from the lectures in that two of the attendees have yet to pay.

DUES

Please note that the number next to your name on the mailing label is the last year for which we have received dues. Also the letter represents your type of membership (R-Regular, S-Student). Please renew your membership if you have not done so. Annual dues are \$10 for regular members and \$1 for students. Make your checks payable to AK ASA and send them to Linda Brannian, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518. You can also renew your membership to the Chapter by adding your dues to those for the national organization.

The Chapter needs your dues. These monies defray the costs of the annual business meetings and newsletters as well as some of the costs of continuing education. Remembering to pay dues is easy when attending the annual meeting, but the Chapter needs your dues whether you attend the annual meeting or not. Please send your dues directly to Linda or indirectly to the Chapter as part of your dues to the national organization.

David Bernard (President) 267-2380
Pham Quang (Vice President) 474-6103
Linda Brannian (Secretary-Treasurer) 267-2118