BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

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Homepage: http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston

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SCHEDULED EVENTS & MEETINGS		
January 28, 2017,	**BCASA Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party**	**Carlisle, MA**
February 23-25, 2017	Statistical Practice: Innovations and Best Practices for the Applied Statisticians	Jacksonville, FL
March 8, 2017	**Annual Mosteller Statistician of the Year Award Banquet**	**Simmons College**
April 8, 2017	**Short Course: Introduction to Statistics for Spatio-Temporal Data**	**Cambridge, MA**
April 21-22, 2017	**The New England Statistics Symposium (NESS)**	**Storrs, CT**
May 5, 2017	**Adaptive Designs in Clinical Trials**	**Cambridge, MA**
May 22-25, 2017	Modern Modeling Methods (M3) Conference	Storrs, CT
May 2017	**Annual Meeting and Spring Social**	**TBD**
July 29 – August 3, 2017	Joint Statistical Meetings	Baltimore, MD
September 23, 2017	**2017 New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports**	**Cambridge, MA**

Event schedule at the chapter website: http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston

Detailed announcements appear later in this newsletter. All events are announced in advance to members on our email list. We are currently planning events for the coming year. If you have suggestions please contact Program Chair Fotios Kokkotos, fkokkotos@hotmail.com

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A NOTE FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Welcome back. And Happy New Year to All!

This edition of the newsletter begins with Presidents' Reports from outgoing president James McDougall and incoming president Greta Ljung. We thank Jim for his excellent service as president during the past two years and we welcome Greta as our new president. Greta is a long-time member of the Boston Chapter of the ASA and we are very pleased that she has agreed to serve as president starting this January. The members of the Planning Committee look forward to working with her to provide an interesting program to our members during the year.

As usual, the newsletter provides further details about the events listed on the cover page above. Information about upcoming conferences and other events of interest to our members is also included. A new feature in this newsletter is the Member Spotlight, which is intended to provide biographical profiles of Chapter members in an effort to learn more about them and highlight their contributions. The first member to be featured in this series is Herman Chernoff who is a longtime member of the chapter. In addition to being a prominent researcher, Herman has participated in many of our past activities and served as Vice Program Chair for the chapter. We appreciate his contributions and we are grateful to Stan Morse for preparing the write-up about Herman. Stan has graciously volunteered to serve as editor for this series. However, to further strengthen the effort, we invite others to contribute as well. The work involves soliciting nominations, encouraging the nominees to participate, developing questions, and compiling the answers into a member profile for publication. Members of the Planning Committee are excluded but nominations of other members as well as self-nominations are welcome.

The Chapter is also looking for volunteers willing to help with event planning, web development, and a number of other tasks. If you are interested and available to help, please contact Greta Ljung at greta.ljung@verizon.net or any of our other officers.

- Boston Chapter Planning Committee

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

From Jim MacDougall, Outgoing President:

It has been my privilege to have been the Boston Chapter ASA President for the last two years. 2016 was a very active year for the chapter with short courses, panel discussions, and multiple lectures. We also successfully initiated both an undergraduate teaching and undergraduate student award. I would like to thank all the members of the Boston Chapter who volunteered their time and energy to make these events happen.

I hope everyone will be sure to attend our winter potluck dinner being held on January 28th from 6-9 p.m. (details in this newsletter). This is an excellent opportunity to catch up with old colleagues and meet new friends.

It is my pleasure to welcome Greta Ljung as the incoming president of the Boston Chapter ASA. I look forward to an eventful year for the Chapter under Greta's leadership

- Jim MacDougall

From Greta Ljung, Incoming President:

First, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Jim MacDougall for his excellent service as President of the Boston Chapter over the past two years. I also want to recognize his earlier service to the Chapter. Jim was an active planning committee member for many years, and served as our representative to the Council of Chapters. He also arranged some of our most popular events of recent years -- a short course on Bayes Methods by Brad Carlin, a conversation with Bob O'Neill, a short course on Patient-Reported Outcomes, a panel discussion on the Future of Clinical Trials, and, most recently, a short course on the Statistical Analysis of Network Data by Eric Kolaczyk. We thank Jim for his service and look forward to his continued participation in the Chapter.

As Jim indicated, the Chapter had a good year in 2016. Our membership remained strong and our finances were solid. We offered an active program of evening lectures, afternoon seminars, panel discussions, short courses, and other well-attended events. This was all made possible by the support of our members and the high level of effort of Jim and our hard-working Planning Committee. We truly appreciate these contributions!

We also we have many interesting activities planned for this coming year. We begin the program with our traditional Winter Potluck Dinner and Party that provides an opportunity to socialize with old friends and to make many new ones. This event will be held at the home of Tom and Judy Lane in Carlisle on Saturday January 28. It will be a fun and festive evening and we invite you all to attend. Another upcoming event is the annual Mosteller Statistician of the Year Awards banquet that will be held on March 8 at Simmons College. The honoree and speaker will be Dr. David Schoenfeld from the Biostatistics Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.

The Boston Chapter has many other events and activities upcoming in 2017, and we are counting on your help to make them all a success. In addition to attending our meetings and encouraging your colleagues to do the same, there are many other ways to contribute. These include participating in planning committee meetings, helping to organize or host an event, or becoming a chapter officer. Please contact me or any of the Boston Chapter officers if you are interested in assisting the chapter.

Finally, I would like to welcome Fotios Kokkotos as our new Program Chair. I look forward to working with him and the other BCASA officers during the year.

-- Greta Ljung

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Herman Chernoff

by Stan Morse

Herman Chernoff, shown last December with his wife of 68 years, Judy, at a celebration of Boston's longest married couples, is the doyen of local statisticians. He is usually pictured at one of his many desks in a more somber pose. Prof. Chernoff, from the Bronx, earned a Bachelor's degree in math at City College of New York and both an M.S. and Ph.D. in applied math from Brown University. After a brief stint in Chicago (where he worked with people who later left for Stanford) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he was recruited by Stanford, where he remained for 22 years. "I was known there as the axe," he quips, for failing some football players in his classes. He also says: "I realized that unless I took a chance to do something different somewhere else, I might remain at Stanford forever".

Professor Chernoff was lured east by MIT in 1974, where he had earlier visited. He established a Statistics Center; after 10 years, the program offered 18 different courses and had four faculty members and was also training graduate students. Despite this success, Chernoff encountered frustrating administrative difficulties and left MIT for Harvard in 1985.

Chernoff is currently Professor Emeritus at both Harvard (1997) and MIT (1985). Amazingly he somehow also found time in his busy schedule to support the BCASA in various ways, including two years as the vice-chair of its program committee. He frequently attended BCASA events, spoke about statistics for the BCASA at several small northeastern colleges, and was the second recipient of the Mosteller Statistician of the Year award.

Professor Chernoff's successive academic posts and titles, without doubt, mirror the development of academic statistics itself. He has moved from math, through applied math, and finally to statistics.

In addition to his deceptively mild manner and gregariousness, his charming "hostess with the mostest" wife (at least in California) and his two daughters (one of whom is currently vice president of the BCASA), Chernoff is probably best known for the *Chernoff Faces*, the *Chernoff Bound*, his work in sequential analysis, and his book with Lincoln Moses on *Elementary Decision Theory*, first published in 1959.

Professor Chernoff says he was first attracted to statistics by papers left with him to read while his City College professor, Selby Robinson, was away. One was the original paper by Neyman and Pearson on their Lemma (1933). This, according to Chernoff, provided the "missing" philosophical justification for the need to test alternative hypotheses. Later, under Henry Mann at Brown, Chernoff was introduced to Abraham Wald's work on *Decision Theory*, which emphasized the need to consider the actual benefits and costs of pursuing different strategies in dealing with issues of public concern. While still studying at Brown, Chernoff worked on his dissertation with Wald at Columbia. Wald died in an airplane crash in India in 1950.

Other major advances in statistics, according to Chernoff, are work by Robbins and Stein on *Empirical Bayes*, well-illustrated by Morris and Efron using baseball statistics; on *Bootstrapping* by Efron; and on *Causality* and on *Missing Data* by Rubin.

Professor Chernoff's strong advice to undergraduate students entering the field, though, is "don't specialize!" Learn math and a substantive field in which statistics may be useful.

For a more extensive interview with Herman, see

Bather, John (1996). A conversation with Herman Chernoff. *Statistical Science*. 11 (4): 335–350. doi: 10.1214/ss/1032280306.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party

Date: Saturday, January 28, 2017
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: 128 Bingham Rd, Carlisle, MA

Directions: This event is at the home of Judy and Tom Lane:
https://www.google.com/maps/place/128+Bingham+Rd,+Carlisle,+MA+01741/@42.4782312,-71.4136992,12z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x89e39830c69fd423:0xc50c6116c51e5e2a!8m2!3d42.526323!4d-71.365634

From the south (Route 2), go to Concord Center and take Lowell Road, which is to the left of the Colonial Inn. Follow the road five miles and take a left onto Bingham Road. From the north (Route 3 or Route 225), go to Carlisle Center and take Concord Road. Follow the road a little over a half mile and take a right onto Bingham. Go about a quarter mile to #128 on the right, and take the long driveway to the house.

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new colleagues and greet old friends.

Registration: Please sign up for your potluck items by Thursday January 26 at http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/BCASA2017WinterParty. Be sure to include your e-mail address so we can contact you in case of snow.

Drinks, plates, and so forth will be provided. Please bring serving dishes and serving utensils.

2017 Mosteller Award Event to Honor David Schoenfeld

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2017
Time: Social 6:15 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Presentation 7:30 pm
Presentation Title: The Infrequent Bayesian
Location: Kotzen Room, Beatley Library and Lefavour Hall, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA
Directions: http://www.simmons.edu/about-simmons/contact-us
Parking: Free with tickets distributed at the event
Registration: http://bcasa2017mar.eventbrite.com by March 3
Cost: $30 for chapter members, $40 for non-members, and $10 for students.

Dr. **David Schoenfeld** will be recognized as the 2017 Mosteller Statistician of the Year by the Boston Area Chapter of the American Statistical Association (BCASA) at a dinner in his honor at Simmons College on March 8. The award is presented to Dr. Schoenfeld in recognition of his impact on medical applications and statistical methodology and for having built a strong statistical unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. He has also had impact as an educator, both in guiding the educational program in the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard School of Public Health over the past 30+ years and in mentoring and training many junior biostatisticians.

In regards to medical applications, David has an international reputation in pulmonology, developed through the role he served for the past 15 years as the Principal Investigator for the Clinical Coordinating Center for the Acute Respiratory Distress (ARDS) Network. In neurology, he has served as the Principal Biostatistician for the North East ALS consortium which is the world's largest cooperative group focused on Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He has also provided leadership in clinical trials in cancer, AIDS, cardiology, radiology, immunology, endocrinology and psychiatry. He has served as a member of an FDA advisory committee and on two major international Data Safety and Monitoring Committees.

David's other research contributions include his paper on the Schoenfeld Residuals in 1982 that has been cited over 1100 times. He has four papers on sample size calculation and he is the author of a popular website for sample size calculation (http://biostatistics.mgh.harvard.edu/biostatistics/node/13). He is also coauthor of the commercially available package Power and Precision.   He has nine other papers on the design of clinical trials, with at least one related to every disease network that he has been associated with. His research accomplishments are well-recognized by the NIH grants he has been awarded.

In 1986, David founded the Biostatistics Center at Massachusetts General Hospital and directed it for the next 20 years until 2006. Under his direction, the Center successfully grew to a staff of 25 people, supported largely from NIH funding. He has been a mentor to a great many statisticians at the center. His door is always open and he is often the first person that people go to for help with statistical problems.

David is a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.   He was one of the first statisticians to be promoted to such a position. In addition, David has been on the faculty at the Biostatistics Department at Harvard School of Public Health since 1977. He helped to develop the curriculum of the doctoral program there, and has had six graduate students at the School of Public Health, either as their principal advisor or as a co-advisor.

David also has provided considerable support to industry as a statistical consultant. He was the co-founder with Philip T. Lavin of Boston Biostatistics which is now part of Aptiv Solutions, a major contract research and consulting company. He has represented companies before numerous advisory committees and worked on pharmaceutical product liability suits and intellectual property disputes.

The Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association is proud to recognize David for his many professional contributions.

--We thank Dianne Finkelstein and others for providing information about David.

Award history:
Every year the Boston Chapter presents the Statistician of the Year award to a distinguished statistician who has made exceptional contributions to the field of statistics and has shown outstanding service to the statistical community. In 1997, this award was renamed the Mosteller Statistician of the Year award in honor of the 80th birthday of its first recipient, Fred Mosteller. Individuals from academia, industry, and government who have contributed to the Boston Chapter are considered for the award. A list of past award winners can be found at http://ww2.amstat.org//chapters/boston/awards.html.

ASA Short Course: Introduction to Statistics for Spatio-Temporal Data

Instructor: Professor Christopher Wikle, University of Missouri

Date: **April 8, 2017**
Time: 9:30 to 4:00 PM

Location: Harvard University
Room: TBD
Registration information: To be posted in February

Abstract: The course gives a contemporary presentation of spatio-temporal processes and data analysis, bridging classic ideas with modern hierarchical statistical modeling concepts. From understanding environmental processes and climate trends to developing new technologies for mapping public-health data and the spread of invasive-species, there is a high demand for statistical analyses of data that take spatial, temporal, and spatio-temporal information into account. This course presents a systematic approach to key quantitative techniques for the statistical analysis of such data that features hierarchical statistical modeling, with an emphasis on dynamical spatio-temporal models. The material follows the book by Cressie and Wikle, Statistics for Spatio-Temporal Data (2011) - John Wiley and Sons, Hoboken, NJ. Many examples will be included, along with some basic applications from various R packages.

Note: Lunch will be provided and a copy of Cressie and Wikle (2011) will be raffled out at the end of the day.

Prerequisite: The course material assumes Masters level knowledge of probability and statistical inference and good understanding of matrix algebra.

About the Instructor: Christopher K. Wikle is Professor of Statistics at the University of Missouri, with additional appointments in Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences and the Truman School of Public Affairs. He received a PhD co-major in Statistics and Atmospheric Science in 1996 from Iowa State University. He was research fellow at the National Center for Atmospheric Research from 1996-1998, after which he joined the MU Department of Statistics. His research interests are in spatio-temporal statistics applied to environmental, ecological, agricultural and federal survey applications, with particular interest in dynamics. Awards include elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association, Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from Iowa State University, ASA ENVR Section Distinguished Achievement Award, the MU Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity in the Physical and Mathematical Sciences and the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award from the UM Graduate School. His book Statistics for Spatio-Temporal Data (co-authored with Noel Cressie) was the 2011 PROSE Award winner for excellence in the Mathematics Category by the Association of American Publishers and the 2013 DeGroot Prize winner from the International Society for Bayesian Analysis. He is Associate Editor for several journals and is one of six inaugural members of the Statistics Board of Reviewing Editors for Science.

2017 New England Statistics Symposium at University of Connecticut, April 21-22

The 31st New England Statistics Symposium (NESS) will be hosted by the Department of Statistics, University of Connecticut, on April 21-22, 2017. We will be celebrating the 30th anniversary since the NESS was started at UConn in 1987! The purpose, as usual, is to bring together statisticians from all over New England and beyond to a central location to share research, discuss emerging issues in the field and network with colleagues.

The 2017 symposium will feature three short courses, two invited plenary talks, invited paper sessions, and posters. There will a student paper competition and a student poster competition sponsored by our industrial partners. The invited talks will include a presentation on "New Vistas in Statistics with Applications" chaired by Aleksey Polunchenko, Binghampton University. The keynote speakers will be Xihong Lin from Harvard University and David Madigan from Columbia University. The three full-day (8:30am-5:00pm) short courses, to be held on Friday, April 21, are:

1) Mixed-Effects Models and Applications: Douglas Bates, University of Wisconsin

2) Statistical Learning and Applications: Robert Aseltine, University of Connecticut Health Center, and Kun Chen, University of Connecticut

3) Subgroup Analysis and Treatment Scoring with Application in Precision Medicine: Menggang Yu, University of Wisconsin

Call for Invited Session Proposals:
The program committee is inviting session proposals on all aspects of statistics and probability. Each invited session will have 105 minutes. A proposal should include the session title, the session organizer (name, affiliation, email), the session chair, and 4-5 invited speakers (name, affiliation, email, and talk title). Please submit your proposal to Prof. Haim Bar (haim.bar@uconn.edu) as soon as possible.

IBM Student Paper Competition:
Students are encouraged to submit posters for consideration of 3 student paper awards sponsored by the IBM Watson Research Center. Manuscript needs to be received no later than Monday, March 20.
Student Poster Competition:
Students are encouraged to submit posters for consideration of 3-5 student poster awards sponsored by one of our industrial partners. The abstract needs to be received no later than Monday, April 3, 2017.

Timelines: The on-line registration system is now open. Abstracts, posters, and student papers should be submitted by March 2.

Conference Organizers: The 2017 NESS organizing committee consists of Professors Haim Bar, Jun Yan (chair), and Yuping Zhang. The webpage of the conference is at http://ness.stat.uconn.edu, with further details to be filled as they become known. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Jun Yan at jun.yan@uconn.edu.

2017 Conference on Statistical Practice: Innovations and Best Practices for the Applied Statisticians to be held in Jacksonville, Florida, February 23-25

This conference, which is the ASA's sixth annual conference on Statistical Practice aims to bring together hundreds of statistical practitioners—including data analysts, researchers, and scientists—who engage in the application of statistics to solve real-world problems on a daily basis.

The goal of the conference is to provide participants with opportunities to learn new statistical methodologies and best practices in statistical analysis, design, consulting, and statistical programming. The conference also will provide opportunities for attendees to further their career development and strengthen relationships in the statistical community.

The program offers courses, tutorials, concurrent sessions, electronic poster sessions, an exhibit hall, and many opportunities to network. Conference attendees also have access to our online Career Service. The sessions will focus on the following four themes: (i) Communication, collaboration, and career development, (ii) Data modeling and analysis, (iii) Big data and data science, and (iv) Software, programming, and graphics.

Further details about the conference program along with registration information can be found at https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/csp/2017/

2017 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, July 29-August 3

JSM is the largest gathering of statisticians held annually in North America. In regards to the program, it is also one of the broadest, with topics ranging from statistical applications to methodology and theory to the expanding boundaries of statistics, such as analytics and data science. JSM also offers a unique opportunity for statisticians in academia, industry, and government to exchange ideas and explore opportunities for collaboration.

With a focus on the 2017 theme, *Statistics: It's Essential*, the JSM program consists not only of invited, topic-contributed, and contributed technical sessions, but also poster presentations, roundtable discussions, professional development courses and workshops, award ceremonies, and countless other meetings and activities. Spanning the better part of a week, the 2017 JSM runs from Saturday, July 29, to Thursday, August 3, with the technical sessions beginning Sunday afternoon.

For further details about conference and key dates for conference participation and registration, please see https://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2017/conferenceinfo.cfm

2017 New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports (NESSIS)

CONTACTS
Mark Glickman, Ph.D. (glickman@fas.harvard.edu)
Scott Evans, Ph.D. (evans@sdac.harvard.edu)

NESSIS LOCATION
Harvard University Science Center
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

NESSIS DATE AND TIME
Saturday, September 23, 2017
~9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

DESCRIPTION
The 2017 New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports will be a meeting of statisticians and quantitative analysts connected with sports teams, sports media, and universities to discuss common problems of interest in statistical modeling and analysis of sports data. The NESSIS format will be a mixture of talks, posters, and a panel discussion. NESSIS is held biannually with the inaugural NESSIS held in 2007.

The mission of NESSIS is to foster statistics and its application in sports, promote unity and effectiveness among all concerned with statistical problems in sports, and to increase the contribution of statistics in sports. NESSIS aims to address these objectives by promoting research on statistics in sports, encouraging interaction and collaboration among statisticians and other quantitative analysts in the sports arena, and providing an educational opportunity for students and others to learn about statistical methods and applications in sports.

NESSIS WEBSITE
http://www.nessis.org

PROJECT LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION
Mark Glickman and Scott Evans are Co-organizers of NESSIS. Dr. Glickman and Dr. Evans co-organized each of the five NESSIS events beginning in 2007.

COMMENTS
A call for abstracts will be announced via the NESSIS website and e-mail listserv, AmStat News, ASA's e-newsletter *Statbits*, the SIS Section email list, the Boston Chapter email list, local Harvard lists, and other possible outlets.

DISSEMINATION
The event will be digitally video-recorded, and media files of the talks will be linked from the SIS web site (www.nessis.org) for unrestricted viewing. NESSIS has been highlighted in a feature article in AmSTAT News in prior years and a summary article will again be written for AmSTAT News regarding the 2017 NESSIS. As was the case in prior years, non-academic media outlets will be invited to the 2017 NESSIS to cover the symposium and report in public media.

2017 MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference to be held in Boston, March 3-4

This conference provides a forum for industry professionals (executives and leading researchers) and students to discuss the increasing role of analytics in the global sports industry. MIT Sloan is dedicated to fostering growth and innovation in this arena, and the conference enriches opportunities for learning about the sports business world. The conference is open to anyone interested in sports. The conference is chaired by Jessica Gelman and Daryl Morey who oversee the MIT Sloan students in the planning and operating of this yearly conference. This year's conference, which is the 11th in the series, will be held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston.

The conference will begin the morning of Friday, March 3 and conclude early evening Saturday, March 4. The full agenda will be released in the weeks leading up to the conference. For registration information and details about the program, please see http://www.sloansportsconference.com/

Course on Computation and Statistics for mass spectrometry and proteomics

Date and place: May 1-12, 2017, Northeastern University, Boston MA
Organizers: Meena Choi and Olga Vitek

This course offering focuses on computational and statistical aspects of quantitative mass spectrometry-based proteomics. The course combines keynote presentations, introductory lectures, practical training, and informal personal discussions.

Instructors of the course are leading experts in this field, who contributed numerous experimental and computational methods and software. The target audience are both beginners and experienced scientists, who would like to strengthen their computational and statistical expertise. We also welcome computer scientists, bioinformaticians, data scientists, statisticians and engineers interested in learning about working with data from modern biotechnologies. The participants will have many opportunities to ask questions, and will be able to present their research.

Program Overview:
       May 1-3 : Targeted proteomics with Skyline
       May 1-3 : Proteomics and metabolomics with OpenMS
       May 3-5 : Beginner's statistics in R
       May 3-5 : Advanced R
       May 8-10 : Statistics for quantitative mass spectrometry
       May 8-10 : Visualization of biomolecular data
       May 10-12 : Capstone – case studies in quantitative mass spectrometry

This program is supported by the 1R25EB023929-01 award from the National Institutes of Health, and by German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure. For further information and course registration, please see https://computationalproteomics.ccis.northeastern.edu/

2017 Modern Modeling Methods Conference, May 22-25

The Modern Modeling Methods (M3) conference is an interdisciplinary conference designed to showcase the latest modeling methods and to present research related to these methodologies. The 7th annual M3 conference will be held May 22-25, 2017 at the University of Connecticut. Our keynote speakers for the 2017 conference include Dr. Steven Boker (UVA) and Dr. Kenneth A. Bollen (UNC). In addition, Steven Boker will conduct a full day pre-conference workshop on Monday (May 22); on Dynamic SEM. Kenneth Bollen will offer a half day post-conference workshop on Thursday (May 25), on Model implied instrumental variables using MIIVsem. In addition, Craig Enders will offer a 3-hour session on Wednesday afternoon (May 24) on Multiple Imputation for Multilevel Data. There is no additional charge to attend the featured double session- it is open to all conference attendees.

We are currently soliciting presentations and we welcome both methodological research papers and papers that illustrate novel applications of methodological techniques in the area of modeling, broadly defined. Papers related to multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, mixture modeling, longitudinal modeling, and item response theory are especially encouraged. Given the interdisciplinary focus of the conference, it is completely acceptable to present papers that have been published or presented elsewhere. Presenters may select the length of the session that they prefer: 30 minutes, 60 minutes, or 90 minutes. We also welcome proposals for multi-paper symposia on thematically grouped topics. Generally, symposia sessions will be 90 minutes in length. Finally, there is a poster session and reception at the end of the first day of the conference, and we are seeking submissions for the poster session. Graduate students are also encouraged to submit proposals, especially for the poster session.

Conference proposals for the Modern Modeling Methods conference may fall into one (or more) of four categories: Methodological Innovation, Methodological Application, Methodological Illustration, or Methodological Evaluation. Methodological Innovation proposals introduce a new technique. Methodological Evaluation proposals present the results of empirical research evaluating a methodology. Most often, these will involve simulation studies. Methodological Application proposals present the methods and results of a real research study in which the technique was used. Methodological Illustration proposals provide a pedagogical illustration of when and how to use the technique; these papers are designed to help the audience be able to implement the technique themselves.

There are three different types of presentations: Paper sessions (in which authors submit a paper), Symposia (in which a group of authors submit a set of related talks/papers), and posters. Methodological Research paper proposals should be no longer than 1000 words and should include purpose, background, methods, results, discussion, and significance. Methodological Illustration paper proposals should be no longer than 1,000 words and should include a description of the methodology to be illustrated as well as an outline of the paper/talk. Proposals for symposia should be include titles, authors, and brief descriptions/abstracts for all of the paper presentations within the symposium. Symposium proposals may be longer than 1000 words if needed, but they should be less than 2000 words. Proposals for the poster session need only submit an abstract: the 1000 word proposal is not required for poster session proposals.

Proposals for the 2017 conference are due February 1st, 2017. Notifications of presentation status will be emailed by February 18th, 2017.

All proposals should be submitted electronically at the MMM website. The proposal submission portal is available at https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_diHHTwNeH31cnoV. For more information about the conference, please go to http://www.modeling.uconn.edu/. For additional information, contact Professor D. McCoach (betsy.mccoach@uconn.edu).

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don Rubin Honored by the Faculty of Medicine at Uppsala University in Sweden

On December 5, 2016, Don Rubin, was appointed an honorary doctor by the Faculty of Medicine at Uppsala University.

According to the press release:

"Professor Donald Bruce Rubin is one of the most influential and cited statisticians in the world and holder of the John L. Loeb Professorship in Statistics at Harvard. His primary contributions to the field show how conclusions about cause and effect, for instance in medication or treatments, can be drawn without experiments. He has developed concepts and methods which today are used by all researchers in medicine but also in social sciences. These methods and concepts are now known as the Rubin Causal Model. This model clarifies not only causalities but also the assumptions made in order to allow conclusions to be expanded to entire populations. Professor Rubin's contributions are of particular importance to Swedish researchers because we have unique population registries which can help us understand causalities in clinical practice, especially for patient groups who often are not included in double blind randomised clinical studies, such as the elderly and those with multiple diagnoses."

Congratulations to Don!

Ralph D'Agostino Honored by a Fully Endowed Fund at Boston University

If you had to name the one professor who had the biggest impact on your life, who would you pick? Dan Freeman (CAS'68, GRS'70) has an easy winner: without Ralph B. D'Agostino, a professor of mathematics & statistics, he might never have become a teacher himself—or met his wife. Dan and Jean Freeman helped establish a fully endowed fund in honor of Professor Ralph B. D'Agostino.

D'Agostino's classes were "basically two full semesters of TED talks by one person," says Freeman. "You wanted to come back every day because he would build the topic from day to day, and it would all hang together."

In 2011, Dan Freeman and his wife, Jean Freeman (GRS'71), made a gift to BU in D'Agostino's name; by 2016, they and other donors had helped establish the fully endowed Ralph B. D'Agostino Fellowship. It's dedicated to supporting a graduate student in math and statistics, with a preference for a candidate in applied sciences. Graduate research support such as this is deeply needed and often tough to find elsewhere.

When Dan Freeman entered the BU master's program in mathematics after completing his undergraduate work in 1968, he became a teaching assistant for Professor D'Agostino. "It was an opportunity to watch a truly great teacher," says Freeman. Then, serendipity. A young woman named Jean Louise Otis arrived at BU from Mount Holyoke College to begin master's studies in statistics. Sitting near each other on the day when the teaching assistant assignments were made, Freeman turned to Jean. "In those days," he says, "you could pick the professor you wanted to work for. I told Jean I

thought she should select Dr. D'Agostino, promising that she'd learn a great deal about teaching." She did. And pretty soon, the two TAs began dating, fell in love, and eventually married.

D'Agostino encouraged Dan Freeman to continue on to a PhD in biostatistics—he earned a doctorate in 1975 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jean later earned a doctorate at Yale University and was part of a team that developed a system for medical reimbursements called diagnostic-related groups, the basis for most reimbursements for hospital care around the world. They've both taught at Yale, Dartmouth College, and the University of Texas in Galveston, where they now live.

Freeman remembers D'Agostino's classes filling with ever-increasing numbers of students as the year progressed—despite the daunting subject matter. At the time, the BU social science departments each had their own one-semester, required statistics program. Students were offered a choice: they could take either the one-semester statistics course from their own departments, whether in psychology, sociology, or economics, or they could take the math department's two-semester statistics course, taught by D'Agostino.

"When he began teaching it, there were 25 students in it," Freeman says. "By the time Jean and I were TA-ing for him, there were more than 200."

Word had spread about his knowledge and ability to connect with students. "He presented the material in such a straightforward way, with such directness—and you could feel his love for statistics. That's the best way to describe it. And the students picked right up on it.
"He didn't mince words or water anything down. He didn't tell dumb stories or use tricks. Everyone had to learn the hard material. He just made sure every single student understood what he was saying— and every TA, too."

When the Freemans, who had been making modest gifts to BU over the years, decided to be more deliberate in their giving, Dan Freeman says he "thought back to the things that had meant a lot to me at BU, and immediately Ralph's name came to mind. That's how it started."
Since they launched the fund, many other former graduate students have joined them in honoring D'Agostino with gifts in his name.

"When former students honor a professor through this kind of moving tribute, they do so much," says Dean Ann E. Cudd. "Not only do such gifts express the transformative impact an inspiring professor can have on a student's life, they also represent support for new scholarship from those who have already made that tough slog through graduate school. In a broader sense, named fellowship funds enable BU to compete for the very best graduate students.

"I think a fund like this one is among the most moving and humbling messages a teacher can receive."

The above were quoted from an article entitled *Honoring Favorite Teachers (New Funds Celebrate Treasured Professors and Support the Next Generation of Students)* by Francie King

The 21st annual New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting (NEISM21)

October 2016

by Bob Carver, Stonehill College

The 21st annual New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting (NEISM21) was held at Stonehill College on October 29, and was one of the largest gatherings we have held to date, with 39 colleagues from across New England in attendance. The primary focus of the discussion was on the continuum of statistics education from K-12 through undergraduate majors in statistics, as well as areas of expected change and opportunity.

The highlight of the morning session was a talk by Katherine Halvorsen of Smith College who has been an influential participant in elevating the extent and quality of statistics education in primary and secondary education. The college instructors were not all familiar with the many changes taking place, and Katherine's presentation set the stage for the rest of the day.

We enlisted four volunteers to record minutes of the morning and afternoon sessions, and these are available upon request from the organizers. Participants remained fully engaged throughout the day, and we made sure to know that the event was made possible by the generosity of the Boston Chapter and the JMP division of SAS. As one of our minute takers summarized the day, "All in all, another great NEISM!"

After many years of John McKenzie (Babson) and Bob Goldman (Simmons College) doing the heavy-lifting to organize and plan NEISM, this year's event was again organized by John and Bob with considerable assistance by Michael Salé and Rob Carver, both of Stonehill College, who also acted as hosts.

In terms of expenses, Stonehill waived the costs of facilities rental and custodial support. The two primary financial sponsors were the Boston Chapter and JMP. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

We look forward to next fall, and NEISM22 which will most likely take place at Stonehill once again. If you would like additional information about the meeting or plans for next year, please contact any of this year's organizers:

Rob Carver, rcarver@stonehill.edu
Bob Goldman, robert.goldman@simmons.edu
John McKenzie, mckenzie@babson.edu
Michael Salé, msale@stonehill.edu

Boston Chapter American Statistical Association Invites Nominations for the 2017 Outstanding Undergraduate Statistics Teaching Award

The criteria for the award are intentionally few and non-specific. The aim is to ultimately acknowledge as wide a variety of statistics education accomplishments as possible. For instance, the winner may have published widely on statistical pedagogy; may have created an exemplary undergraduate program in statistics; may have inspired several generations of undergraduates to pursue careers in statistics, and so on.

The awardee will:

- Be a faculty member at a two-or-four-year college or university in MA, RI, NH, VT, or ME whose primary responsibility is teaching statistics to undergraduates. Those on approved leave during the academic year in which they are nominated qualify if they fulfilled the requirement the previous year.
- Hold membership in the ASA and the BCASA.
- Have more than three years of experience in teaching statistics.

Further:

- Winners of the BCASA's Mosteller Award will not be eligible for this teaching award.
- Nominees unsuccessful in one year will be automatically reconsidered in the three succeeding years.

For more information about the award contact Robert Goldman at robert.goldman@simmons.edu. Nominations forms may be found on the BCASA website at http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/. The deadline for nominations for the 2016-17 award is February 15, 2017.

2017 Lagakos Alumni Award

The Annual Lagakos Distinguished Alumni Award has been established in memory of Dr. Stephen Lagakos, a faculty member and former chair of the Department of Biostatistics who passed away in a tragic automobile accident in 2009. Professor Lagakos was a leader in the Department, the School of Public Health, and more broadly, in the international community of quantitative biomedical researchers. Steve's qualities of commitment, passion, intellectual brilliance, and personal generosity had a direct personal impact on our lives; and his contributions to biostatistics and to AIDS research were fundamental. This award serves to honor Steve's distinguished career, and to recognize Department alumni whose research in statistical theory and application, leadership in biomedical research, and commitment to teaching have had a major impact on the theory and practice of statistical science. The award will be open to all who have an earned degree through the department, regardless of length of time since graduation or type of degree. The award recipient will be invited to the school to deliver a lecture on their career and life beyond the Department.

Nominations are welcome for the next award, to be given in Fall 2017. Please send nominations via email or by mail to:

Lagakos Alumni Award Committee
Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics
Building 2, 4th Floor
655 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

Nominations should include contact information for yourself and your candidate, and the candidate's curriculum vita, if available. Please include a letter describing the contributions of the candidate, specifically highlighting the criteria for the award. Supporting letters and materials would be extremely helpful to the committee, but are not required. All nominations must be received by June 3, 2017.

Mu Sigma Rho Membership Nominations

It's not too early to start thinking about your outstanding statistics students and considering nominating them for membership in Mu Sigma Rho. Both undergraduate and graduate students can be nominated. Information can be found at http://math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html or by contacting Liam O'Brien at lobrien@colby.edu.

Please Join the BCASA Planning Committee

Chapter activities are planned and organized by a core group known as the Planning Committee. Please consider joining us. The committee is open to all interested chapter members, regardless of whether they are also members of the ASA. We meet approximately every six weeks to plan upcoming events of the chapter. The meetings are held in the evening and dinner is provided. For more information contact Chapter President Greta Ljung, greta.ljung@verizon.net.

WPI Data Science All-Expenses-Paid REU Opportunity

WPI Data Science, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, is offering an all-expenses paid REU opportunity for your students to become involved in data science research this summer 2017 for the second round.

The 10 week program is an interdisciplinary, undergraduate experience in Data Science Research for Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy Communities. The REU participants, working with WPI faculty, will learn state-of-the-art data science techniques and technologies and apply them to research focusing on societal challenges in healthcare, sustainability, security, and more. These are all interlinked concerns of critical national importance.

Selected REU students will receive a $5000 stipend, free on-campus apartment housing, a meal allowance, and an opportunity to interact with intellectual peers from a variety of disciplines. We are currently accepting applications from sophomores and juniors who have a strong interest in research; especially research focused on furthering smart communities including their health, well-being, mobility, sustainability, social media, and so on.

We rely on you notifying your best students about this opportunity and to encourage them to apply. Help them prepare for a promising future in data science. Students who are members of groups underrepresented in STEM fields, or who are enrolled in a non-doctoral institution are particularly encouraged to apply. Please find attached the flyer to advertise in your department.

Full details and application forms are found at:

https://www.wpi.edu/academics/departments/data-science/funding#nsf

Application and Important Dates

WPI Data Science faculty will begin the review process as noted below and may consider applications beyond the deadline until the projects are filled.

Application deadline: February, 3rd, 2017
Notification of acceptances begins: February, 27th, 2017
Move in: May 30th, 2017
Program starts: Wednesday, May 31st, 2017
Program ends: Friday, August 4th, 2017
Move out: Saturday, August 5th, 2017

Contact Us
Email: wpi.ds.reu@gmail.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Boston University School of Public Health
Faculty Positions in Biostatistics

Date posted: December 19, 2016

The Department of Biostatistics at the Boston University School of Public Health seeks candidates for one or more faculty positions to lead on innovative biostatistical scholarship and to work collaboratively with Biostatistics faculty and investigators from various biomedical disciplines, and to teach and mentor students. Preference will be given to the Assistant Professor level, but exceptional candidates at Associate or Full Professor will receive consideration.

The Department of Biostatistics is comprised of 29 full-time faculty, who are internationally recognized for their innovation in research and scholarship in various areas of biostatistics including statistical genetics, clinical trials, surveillance, longitudinal studies, Bayesian statistics and risk prediction. Biostatistics faculty play leading roles in several large clinical trials and observational studies such as the renowned Framingham Heart Study, Long Life Family Study, and the Black Women's Health Study. Their work has contributed new knowledge on genetic and non-genetic factors for cardiovascular disease, dementia and Alzheimer's disease, osteoporosis and arthritis, nutritional epidemiology, healthy aging and extreme longevity. Many of these findings have been effectively translated into current clinical practice.

The department has a large and successful graduate program (PhD and MA), and a federally funded doctoral program for interdisciplinary training of biostatisticians. The department will also start a new MS in Applied Biostatistics in Fall 2017.

Successful applicants will actively engage in both methodological and collaborative research; participate in teaching and mentoring students in the Master of Science, Master of Arts, and Ph.D. programs in Biostatistics, in the Master of Public Health program, and in other programs across the university; and provide service to the department, university, and profession. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in Biostatistics, Statistics, or other quantitatively oriented field.

Applicants must have a demonstrated research record, a strong commitment to teaching, and excellent communication and writing skills.

Applicants should provide their curriculum vitae, a cover letter, a research statement describing their research interests and previous experience, a teaching statement, and three letters of reference at https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo /jobs/ 8721.

Application review begins January 15, 2017 and will continue to be accepted until the positions are filled.

Boston University is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. We are a VEVRAA Federal Contractor.

Assistant Teaching Professor of Applied Mathematics
Northeastern University

The Department of Mathematics seeks an Assistant Teaching Professor to assist in the Master of Science Programs in Applied Mathematics and Operations Research (MSAM/MSOR). The Assistant Teaching Professor will be expected to have a normal teaching load of up to five courses per year in addition to service related responsibilities. Primary service responsibilities may include recruitment, admissions, advising, scheduling and outreach to industry, under the direction of the Math Department Chair and the MSAM/MSOR Director, as well as other administrative responsibilities determined by the department chair. Specific service tasks will include developing contacts with industrial partners, developing and implementing recruitment strategies for the MSAM and MSOR programs, and developing online marketing tools for the programs.

The applicant must have a PhD degree in mathematics/applied mathematics/statistics or a related field by the start of the appointment. Industrial experience is preferred but not required. Prior teaching experience required at the university level. Position requires excellent communication skills and the ability to work productively and successfully interact with students, faculty and staff.

Please apply here: neu.peopleadmin.com/postings/44572

Please include a list of at least three professional references with your application.

Northeastern University is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action Educational Institution and Employer, Title IX University.

Northeastern University particularly welcomes applications from minorities, women and persons with disabilities. Northeastern University is an E-Verify Employer. Research statements, reference letters, and teaching statements can be submitted to www.mathjobs.org along with the other materials requested there for preliminary review by the Search Committee.

Associate/Full Professor – Quantitative Methods
Northeastern University

The Department of Health Sciences at Northeastern University invites applications for a faculty member at the Associate/Full Professor rank with expertise in applying advanced quantitative research methods to any of the following areas: urban health, population health, global health, environmental health, health economics, or other health fields. The principal responsibilities of this position are to maintain an active, funded research program in health sciences, mentor students at all levels, teach in the department's undergraduate and/or graduate programs, and perform service for the department and university at an appropriate level for senior faculty. Engaging in intra-university research collaborations is strongly encouraged.

For a complete job description and application procedures, visit https://neu.peopleadmin.com/postings/45418. For questions about the search, please contact Sharon Harlan, PhD, Search Committee Chair (s.harlan@northeastern.edu).

Assistant Professor in Statistics
University of Rhode Island

The Department of Computer Science and Statistics in the College of Arts and Sciences (A&S) at the University of Rhode Island invites applications for a Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Statistics position with appointment to begin the academic year 2017-2018.

The selected candidate for this position will be expected to teach a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses in statistics, develop new statistics classes at the undergraduate and graduate level, keep an active research program, seek external funding, supervise capstone projects for undergraduate students, advise graduate students in statistics or related fields (through joint supervisions), participate in service activities and provide consulting services to students and other faculty in the Department, College and University.

While all areas of research in statistics or related fields will be considered, statisticians with research focus/interest in areas such as missing values, functional data analysis, stochastic processes, penalized regression, multilevel modeling, hierarchical modeling, meta-analysis, environmental statistics or social statistics are especially encouraged to apply.

Application Deadline: Search is open until filled. First consideration will be given to applications received by January 20, 2017. Second consideration may be given to applications received by February 20, 2017. Applications received subsequent to second consideration date (February 20, 2017) may not be given full consideration. Visit the URI jobs website at https://jobs.uri.edu to apply and view complete details for posting (F00009). APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE ONLY. The University of Rhode Island is an AA/EEOD employer. Women, persons of color, protected veterans, individuals with disabilities, and members of other protected groups are encouraged to apply.

BCASA REGION STATISTICS SEMINARS

Below is a list of the regional statistics (& mathematics) and biostatistics departments that often offer statistics seminars, along with URLs for each department and its seminars. It your institution would like to appear on this list, please contact John McKenzie (mckenzie@babson.edu).

Boston University College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
http://www.bu.edu/stat/
http://www.bu.edu/stat/seminar/

Boston University School of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics
https://sph.bu.edu/Biostatistics/department-of-biostatistics/menu-id-617603.html
https://sph.bu.edu/Biostatistics/seminars/menu-id-617654.html

Brown University
Division of Applied Mathematics
http://www.dam.brown.edu/
http://www.dam.brown.edu/dam_seminars.shtml

Brown University School of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics
http://www.stat.brown.edu/

Harvard University
Department of Statistics
http://statistics.fas.harvard.edu/
http://statistics.fas.harvard.edu/calendar

Harvard University T. H. Chan School of Public Health
Department of Biostatistics
http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostatistics/
http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostatistics/seminars-events/

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Institute of Data, Systems, and Science
http://idss.mit.edu/index.php/event/stochastics-and-statistics-seminar-series/

University of Maine
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
http://umaine.edu/mathematics/
http://umaine.edu/mathematics/colloquium-schedule/

University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
https://www.math.umass.edu/
https://www.math.umass.edu/~gile/Seminar/

University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences
Department of Biostatistics
http://www.umass.edu/sphhs/biostatistics

University of New Hampshire
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
http://www.math.unh.edu/
http://www.math.unh.edu/seminars

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University of Rhode Island
Department of Computer Science and Statistics
http://www.cs.uri.edu/

University of Vermont College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences
Department of Mathematics & Statistics
http://www.uvm.edu/~cems/mathstat/

Worchester Polytechnic Institute
Department of Mathematical Sciences
http://www.wpi.edu/academics/math/
http://www.wpi.edu/academics/math/news.html

The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to current BCASA members. Send comments or suggestions to any of the individuals listed below.

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