## **BCASA NEWSLETTER**

## Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Proudly serving
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

Volume 38, No. 3, January 2020

Homepage: <a href="http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/home">http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/home</a>

E-Mail: <u>BostonChapterASA@gmail.com</u>

| SCHEDULED EVENTS & MEETINGS |  |                |  |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| January 21-24, 2020         | ComputeFest 2020                                     | Cambridge, MA  |  |
| January 25, 2020            | Annual Potluck Dinner and Party                      | Carlisle, MA   |  |
| February 10, 2020           | Mosteller Statistician of the Year Awards Dinner     | Boston, MA     |  |
| February 28, 2020           | <b>Analytics Without Borders Conference</b>          | Boston, MA     |  |
| March 6, 2020               | Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference              | Cambridge, MA  |  |
| April 25, 2020              | Student Research Symposium in Statistics and Data    | Boston, MA     |  |
|                             | Science  |                |  |
| <b>April 27-May 8, 2020</b> | May Institute on Computation and Statistics for Mass | Boston, MA     |  |
|                             | Spectrometry and Proteomics                          |                |  |
| May 8, 2020                 | Pharmaceutical Symposium                             | Cambridge, MA  |  |
| May 21-23, 2020             | New England Statistics Symposium (NESS)              | Providence, RI |  |

<sup>\*</sup>Events in bolded letters are sponsored by BCASA

| 2020 BCASA AWARD Nomination Submission Deadline |   |             |  |
|---|---|-------------|--|
| April 30, 2020                                  | Statistical Outreach and Literacy Award | See page 11 |  |

Event schedule at the chapter website: http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/home

Detailed announcements appear later in this newsletter. All events are announced in advance on our website and through emails to our members. We are currently planning events for the coming year. If you have suggestions, please contact Program Chair Olga Vitek at <a href="mailto:o.vitek@northeastern.edu">o.vitek@northeastern.edu</a>.

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## **JANUARY 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Happy New Year! Just as 20/20 denotes clear vision, I hope that 2020 will bring you clear visions into how to solve the statistical problems you are working on and bring the public clearer visions of the value and meaning of statistics. Along these lines, please consider nominating someone for the inaugural BCASA Statistical Outreach and Literacy Award (details appear later in this newsletter).

The year 2019 was lively for the chapter, with events illustrating the wide range of applications of statistics, ranging from forensic analysis to sports analytics and from clinical trials to algorithmic fairness. Two recurring themes were the connections between statistics, machine learning, and causal inference, and the interplay between statistical modeling and domain scientific modeling. Many of our events were well-attended, though I hope for further increases in 2020 and welcome any suggestions for better ways to advertise our events and make sure our events are interesting and engaging for as many members (and future members!) of the chapter as possible.

As is traditional, our first event of the new year will be a winter party and potluck dinner. You're invited! It will be the evening of Saturday, January 25, at the home of Judy and Tom Lane in Carlisle (full details are later in this newsletter). Thank you so much to Judy and Tom for hosting this event, and we hope to see many of you there.

Congratulations to Eric Kolaczyk (Boston University), winner of the Mosteller Statistician of the Year Award for 2020. On Monday, February 10 there will be an awards celebration with a presentation by Eric on the implications for statistics of the rise of data science, and the "central role of practice" in statistics. Numerous symposia will then take place throughout the rest of the winter and spring, with additional seminars and social events still being scheduled. I expect 2020 to be even busier than 2019 and hope you participate in and enjoy the program.

Thank you to all our members for fostering both statistical thinking and statistical community. And thank you so much to all the BCASA officers and Planning Committee members for working hard to organize and run such rewarding symposia, short courses, seminars, and social events. If you have ideas for future events or are interested in volunteering in any of various ways that could help bring exciting new events to fruition, please contact me at blitz@fas.harvard.edu.



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## **UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS**

BCASA Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party



Dear Members: You are all invited to attend our Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party that will be held in Carlisle, MA on Saturday January 25. In addition to celebrating the new year, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet new colleagues and catch up with old friends. Please come and join us in the fun!

Date: Saturday, January 25, 2020

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: 128 Bingham Rd, Carlisle, MA. Google Map

**Directions:** This event is held at the home of Judy and Tom Lane. The directions are as follows:

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.

Registration: Please sign up for your potluck items by Friday, January 24 at

http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/BCASAJanuary2020HolidayParty

Be sure to include your e-mail address so we can contact you in case of snow. Also, please check this website for possible cancellations.

**What to bring:** Please bring a favorite dish (appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert) to share along with serving dishes and serving utensils. Drinks, plates, and so forth will be provided.

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## Mosteller Statistician of the Year Awards Dinner on February 10th

Honoree and Speaker: Professor Eric Kolaczyk, Department of Statistics,

**Boston University** 

Presentation Title: On Moving 'Practice' to the Center of Statistics

**Date**: February 10, 2020

**Time:** Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, Presentation 7:15 pm

**Location:** Boston University, room TBD

**Directions and Parking: TBD** 

**Registration:** <a href="https://bcasa2020feb.eventbrite.com">https://bcasa2020feb.eventbrite.com</a> no later than February

10, 2020

Cost: Dinner \$20 for Chapter members; \$25 for non-members; students \$5; Presentation free



It has, of course, been widely remarked upon by now that we are in the midst of a data science revolution -- one which is already having profound implications on the field of Statistics. Emerging from the 2018-19 NSF-sponsored workshop series Statistics at a Crossroads: Challenges and Opportunities in the Data Science Era, the number one finding and recommendation in the corresponding report is "the central role of practice". Specifically, the authors state, "Today it is imperative for us to put practice at the center of our discipline with relevant computation and theory as supports." But what exactly does this mean? And, more importantly, how might we go about pursuing this charge, both individually and as a discipline?

In this talk, I offer some thoughts in answer to these questions, based upon my own experiences, which in hindsight arguably have been practice-centric for some time. I will comment from both a research perspective, in the context of my work on statistical network analysis, and from an education perspective, drawing on the example of Boston University's MS in Statistical Practice (MSSP) program and its unique Statistics Practicum.

## **Speaker Biography:**

Eric Kolaczyk obtained a BS degree in mathematics from the University of Chicago, and MS and PhD degrees in statistics from Stanford University. He has been a faculty member in statistics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Boston University since 1998. Currently he serves as director of the department's MS in Statistical Practice. He was named a Data Science Faculty Fellow at BU in 2018. Professor Kolaczyk's current research interests revolve around the statistical analysis of network-indexed data, and include both the development of basic methodology and inter-disciplinary work with collaborators in bioinformatics, computer science, geography, neuroscience, and sociology. In addition to numerous research articles, he has also authored two books in this area: Statistical Analysis of Network Data: Methods and Models (Springer, 2009) and, joint with Gabor Csardi, Statistical Analysis of Network Data in R (Springer, 2014). Dr. Kolaczyk is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), an elected senior member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), an elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), and a member of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS).

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## The 5th Analytics Without Borders Conference: Call for Submissions

Date: Friday, February 28, 2020

Location: Tufts University, Boston, MA

You are invited to submit your presentation to the 5<sup>th</sup> Analytics Without Borders conference. This conference provides a forum for participants involved in data analytics in a variety of different fields (corporate institutions, academia, government organizations etc.) to present and discuss their work. In addition to formal presentations, the conference will allow participants plenty of opportunity to interact with each other and thereby increase their knowledge of analytics in other disciplines.

Topics are broad and can include applied statistics, optimization, data science, etc. Anyone involved in some aspect of data analytics is invited to present their work. Sessions will include a blend of corporate, academic and government researchers and practitioners.

Submission due day is **Feb 14<sup>th</sup>**, **2020.** Please visit our online submission page: <a href="https://www.bentley.edu/analytics-without-borders/call-presentations-and-posters">https://www.bentley.edu/analytics-without-borders</a>. Please visit our conference website for more details. <a href="https://www.bentley.edu/academics/analytics-without-borders">https://www.bentley.edu/academics/analytics-without-borders</a>.

## Student Research Symposium in Statistics and Data Science on April 25th

**Date:** April 25, 2020

**Location:** Boston University, Charles River Campus (close to the Boston University East stop of the

green B-line)

Registration and abstract submission: Open in February

The Boston Chapter of the ASA, in collaboration with the Boston University Student Chapter, is organizing a Student Research Symposium in Statistics and Data Science at Boston University on April 25. The goal of the event is to create an opportunity for students in the Boston area to meet peers from other institutions, and to share research interests and career plans. In addition to a keynote speaker, the event will include ample opportunities for oral and poster presentations in all areas of research involving statistics, biostatistics, and data science. Whether you are a current graduate student interested in presenting your research, or an undergraduate student curious about graduate programs, please consider joining us for a day of presentations on the exciting work being conducted by students in the greater Boston area! For general inquiries, please contact bostonSRS2020@gmail.com.

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# May Institute on Computation and Statistics for Mass Spectrometry and Proteomics

**Date:** April 27 – May 8, 2020

Location: Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Organizers: Meena Choi and Olga Vitek

**Website:** https://computationalproteomics.khoury.northeastern.edu/

The May Institute 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, 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.

New this year is a "Future developers workshop", a 2-day program that brings together developers (and aspiring developers) of R/Bioconductor-based tools for mass spectrometry and proteomics. We invite you to submit an abstract and present your research at the workshop.

#### **Program Overview:**

- April 27 April 29, 2020: Targeted proteomics with Skyline
- April 27 April 29, 2020: Proteomics and metabolomics with OpenMS
- April 29 May 1, 2020: Beginner's statistics in R
- April 29 May 1, 2020: Intermediate R and data visualization
- May 2-3, 2020: Future Developers Meeting
- May 4-6, 2020: Statistics for quantitative mass spectrometry
- May 6, 2020: Scientific writing
- May 6-8, 2020 : Capstone case studies in data-independent acquisition (DIA)

Tuition fee waivers and travel fellowships will be available for students and postdocs affiliated with academic institutions in the US. Accepted presenters at the Future developers meeting will have a free admission to this part of the program.

More information is at https://computationalproteomics.khoury.northeastern.edu/

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## Fourth Annual Boston Pharmaceutical Symposium

**Date:** May 8, 2020

**Location:** Pfizer, Kendall Sq, 610 Main Street, Cambridge, MA 02139 **Organizer:** Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

**Co-Sponsor:** Cytel, Inc. (https://www.cytel.com/)

Website: https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/upcoming-events/fourth-annual-boston-pharma-

symposium

We invite you all to attend the Fourth Annual Boston Pharmaceutical Symposium that will take place on Friday, May 8, 2020, on the campus of Pfizer, Kendall Sq., 610 Main Street, Cambridge, MA. The event is organized by the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association in collaboration with researchers from several pharmaceutical companies in the Boston area. Financial support from Cytel (https://www.cytel.com/) is gratefully acknowledged. The symposium will feature presentations by prominent researchers and industry professionals, and will include refreshments and networking opportunities.

#### **Scientific Committee:**

Alyssa Biller, Cytel Wenting Cheng, Biogen Tim Clough, Novartis Geoffrey Grove, Cytel Inc. Hrishikesh Kulkarni, Alexion Zhonggai (Kevin) Li, Boston Biomedical Jianchang Lin, Takeda Jameson Luks, Cytel Olga Vitek, Northeastern University Huyuan Yang, Boston Biomedical Weidong Zhang, Pfizer

Registration information and additional details about the event will be posted at https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/upcoming-events/fourth-annual-boston-pharmasymposium. Contact Olga Vitek o.vitek@neu.edu for general inquiries.

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## OTHER LOCAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

## ComputeFest 2020 on January 21-24, 2020

Registration for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual <u>ComputeFest</u> event is now open. ComputeFest 2020 will take place January 21 – 24 at Harvard University and will feature four days of advanced applied machine learning workshops; keynote talks from Xiao-Li Meng, Harvard, and Fernando Pérez, Berkeley; as well as an evening networking reception with event attendees, sponsors, and presenters.

Workshops will be taught by IACS researchers, students, alumni, and industry partners: AWS, Weights & Biases, Microsoft Azure, Amazon Alexa, and MathWorks. Topics include:

Notebook to Cloud Sequential Data

Transfer Learning Understanding and Diagnosing Deep Models with Visualization

Registration can be found on the event website: <a href="https://www.computefest.seas.harvard.edu/">https://www.computefest.seas.harvard.edu/</a>

## Women in Data Science (WiDS) Conference on March 6, 2020

**Date:** March 6, 2020, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Location: Microsoft New England, One Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02142

Website: <a href="https://www.widscambridge.org/">https://www.widscambridge.org/</a>

Women in Data Science (WiDS) is a one-day conference featuring thought leaders in data science from academia, industry, non-profits, and government. The goal of WiDS is to inspire and educate data scientist worldwide, regardless of gender, and to support women in the field of data science. The conference, which started in 2015 at Stanford, now includes a global conference with approximately 150+ regional events, a datathon encouraging the participants to hone in their data analytic skills using a social impact challenge, and a podcast featuring leaders in the field talking about their work, their journeys, and lessons learned.

For the fourth year, Harvard, MIT, and Microsoft Research New England will collaborate with Stanford University to bring the Women in Data Science (WiDS) conference to Cambridge, Massachusetts on March 6, 2020. As in past years, the conference will feature an all-female line up of speakers from academia and industry to talk about the latest data science-related research in a number of domains, to learn how leading-edge companies are leveraging data science for success, and to connect with potential mentors, collaborators, and others in the field.

The speakers at the 2019 WIDS held in Cambridge included Esther Duflo of MIT, who this fall was awarded the 2019 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics along with two co-researchers "for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty". At age 46, Professor Duflo is the youngest person and only the second woman to win this prize.

Additional information about the 2020 conference will be posted on the conference website as it becomes available. https://www.widscambridge.org/

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## RECENT CHAPTER EVENTS

## NEISM24 held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Wellesley College

For the 24th consecutive year, statistics educators came together for the annual New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting (NEISM24), which was held at the Clapp Library Lecture Room on the campus of Wellesley College on November 2, 2019. In all, 52 full-time and adjunct faculty from 2- and 4-year colleges and institutions across New England participated.

The meeting started with a panel discussion, moderated by Rob Carver of Brandeis University, on how our introductory statistics course has changed/should change. Three panelists, Joseph Blitzstein of Harvard University, Albert Kim of Smith College, and Wendy Wang of Wellesley College shared their perspectives on what the Intro Stat course of 2025 should look like. A second morning session was led by Amy Wagaman of Amherst College about how we should prepare the next generation of statisticians and data scientists.

After a lunch break filled with productive conservations among the attendees, the afternoon started with a session on recruiting, mentoring, and tenuring statisticians and data science/analytics faculty, led by Katherine Halvorsen of Smith College. Katherine shared strategies for job ads, job ad placement, initial selection of candidates, candidate interviews, and campus visits. She also discussed some complications in the hiring process and faculty retention, and what one can do to support junior faculty's development into a productive member of the faculty who is prepared for tenure. In the end, Casey Pattanayak of Wellesley College and John McKenzie of Babson College led a thought-provoking discussion on how to craft a data science or analytics major/minor. In particular, the following items were discussed: Why the ASA Section on Statistics Education is now the ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education? What Data Science/Data Analytic topics, not in conventional statistics courses, should be included in a Data Science or Analytics Major/Minor? What departments should be involved in the creation of these programs of study?

The NEISM24 organizing committee is grateful for the continuously generous support from BCASA, which made the success of NEISM24 possible. We look forward to the BCASA's support in 2020, when NEISM celebrates its 25th anniversary.

For additional information about this meeting or plans for next year, please contact any of this year's organizers:

Wendy Wang – qwang@wellesley.edu Cassandra Pattanayak - cpattanayak@wellesley.edu Robert Carver – rcarver@stonehill.edu Bob Goldman – goldman@simmons.edu John McKenzie – mckenzie@babson.edu Michael Salé – msale@stonehill.edu

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# ASA Short Course on "Guidelines for Using State-of-the-Art Methods to Estimate Propensity Score and Inverse Probability of Treatment Weights When Drawing Causal Inferences" held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at Northeastern University

On November 16, the Chapter hosted a traveling short course of the ASA on guidelines for using state-of-the-art methods to estimate propensity score and inverse probability of treatment weights when drawing causal inferences. Taught by Beth Ann Griffin, a senior statistician at the RAND Corporation, the course provided a comprehensive introduction to causal modeling within the potential outcomes framework, and the use of propensity scores and weighting to estimate causal effects from observational data. The course took place on the campus of Northeastern University and brought together nearly 80 participants. The organizers are particularly grateful to the student volunteers Guomei Mu, Heyao Wang and Yuanyuan Zhang from Bentley University, and Manthan Shah from Northeastern University, for the thorough administrative support. Please keep an eye out for announcements of other Chapter-sponsored short courses in the near future.

## AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION HISTORY

#### 180 YEARS AGO

On November 27, 1839, five men organized the American Statistical Society in Boston, which was then the fourth-largest city in the U.S. Its purpose was to collect, preserve, and diffuse statistical knowledge. The founders were trained in the law, medicine, theology, literature, and education. The organization's name was quickly changed to the American Statistical Association in 1840. It is now the second-oldest, continuously professional association in the United States and the second-oldest statistical association in the world to the Royal Statistical Association.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Nicholas Reich, Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts – Amherst, will receive up to \$3 million in funding over the next five years from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to operate a UMass-based CDC Influenza Forecasting Center of Excellence, one of two in the nation. Reich's flu forecasting collaborative has produced some of the world's most accurate models in recent years. His team will work closely with the CDC to identify new methods and data sources that will sharpen the accuracy and improve communication of seasonal and pandemic flu forecasts.

**Joe Blitzstein**, Professor of the Practice of Statistics at Harvard, has been awarded Harvard's "Fannie Cox Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching" by Harvard University's Division of Sciences. The award honors outstanding teaching in introductory science courses. Recipients are recommended by a faculty committee and are chosen based on their ability to inspire students, instill in them a passion for science, and effectively communicate complex ideas.

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## BOSTON CHAPTER NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Nominations for the Statistical Outreach and Literacy Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the first BCASA Statistical Outreach and Literacy Award. The aim is to acknowledge contributions to statistical literacy and outreach in the public domain. For instance, the candidate may have furthered the understanding of statistics through utilizing statistical or graphical methods in electronic or print media, in conference presentations or other public forums, or by offering training courses on statistical topics in the US or abroad. The candidate may have reached out to further the use of statistics in other disciplines. He or she may have inspired an understanding of a public issue through the use of statistics. Candidates need not be affiliated with academia. This award will ordinarily be given every two years.

The deadline for nominations for the 2020 award is April 30, 2020. The awardee will be asked to give a presentation in the fall of 2020.

#### The awardee will:

- Have a connection with the BCASA catchment area of MA, RI, NH, VT, or ME. This could include:
  - o Having lived or worked in the area;
  - o Having been a member of the BCASA;
  - o Having studied or reported on an issue that is relevant to persons living in the area.
- Have made a substantial contribution to statistical literacy and outreach through the print or electronic media or through public forums. This could include but is not limited to:
  - o Framing a public problem using effective use of statistical reasoning
  - o Making statistical reasoning accessible to a public audience
  - o Illustrating social trends with statistical graphics

#### Further:

- Winners of the BCASA's Mosteller Statistician of the Year Award and the Undergraduate Outstanding Teaching Award will not be eligible for this Literacy/Outreach Award.
- Nominees unsuccessful in one year may be reconsidered in succeeding years.

#### Nominations should include:

- Nomination form
- Letter of nomination (no more than four pages)

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- Two or more (up to four) letters of support (no more than two pages each)
- Candidate's CV

For more information about the award please contact Shannon Stock at <a href="mailto:sstock@holycross.edu">sstock@holycross.edu</a> or Mariam Chernoff at <a href="mailto:mchernoff@sdac.harvard.edu">mchernoff@sdac.harvard.edu</a>.

Nominations forms may be found on the BCASA website at <a href="http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/awards/literacy.">http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/awards/literacy.</a>

## Nominations for Chapter Officers for Terms Starting January 1, 2021

This spring, we will be electing four new chapter officers. These officers are: President, Program Chair, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster. All four positions are for two-year terms starting January 1, 2021. We welcome nominations. For more information on officer responsibilities please see <a href="http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/aboutus/officers">http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/aboutus/officers</a>. Below is a brief summary of the responsibilities:

- President Oversees chapter activities; works to ensure an active program of lectures, short
  courses and other events; handles committee appointments; serves as chief spokesperson for the
  chapter
- Program Chair Chairs the Program Committee; suggests meeting topics and develops the event schedule with input from the President and Planning Committee; coordinates volunteers to organize each event; prepares event information for publicity
- Newsletter editor Chairs Newsletter Committee; ensures publication in a timely manner; solicits and sends reminders for contributions; does the final editing of the newsletter
- Webmaster Maintains and updates the BCASA web site

If you are interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact Miriam Chernoff (<a href="mailto:mchernoff@sdac.harvard.edu">mchernoff@sdac.harvard.edu</a>), Greta Ljung (<a href="mailto:greta.ljung@verizon.net">greta.ljung@verizon.net</a>), or any of our other officers. Also, please let us know if you wish to nominate someone else for one of these positions. The success of our chapter depends on volunteers and your help is much needed. Please submit your nominations by February 28, 2020, if possible.

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## New Student Chapter at Bentley University

The Bentley analytics student club (Bentley Analytics Society (BAS)) joined the American Statistical Association and become a Student Chapter of the ASA in the summer of 2019. This student club was established in January 2016. As a part of Bentley University's graduate student association, BAS aims to empower knowledge-sharing and innovation of analytical methods, as well as to enable the success of members and the rest of the analytics student body within the functional field at Bentley University.

Since 2016, BAS has successfully organized multiple career panel discussions, technical workshops, training sessions, and happy hour social events. With the growth of faculty and students interested in analytics at Bentley University, the demand of facilitating more events and communications increases. By joining the ASA as a student chapter in analytics, BAS aims to: (1) increase the communication of students with academia, industry and government; (2) increase the connections with students from other academic organizations; (3) facilitate faculty and student activities in analytics and data science.

As a student-led club at Bentley, BAS is guided by the program director of the MS in business analytics program at Bentley. It organizes events including social events, career panel discussions, technical workshops, student seminars, etc. With the support from the department of mathematical sciences at Bentley University, BAS will continue to provide opportunities to students on learning data analytic related skills for problem solving and communications to the real world.

## Mu Sigma Rho Membership Nominations Sought

Mu Sigma Rho is the national honorary society for statistics. Its purpose is to promote and encourage scholarly activity in statistics and the recognition of outstanding achievement among the students in eligible academic institutions.

Both undergraduate and graduate students can be nominated. Information about BCASA's chapter of Mu Sigma Rho is available at <a href="http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/awards/musigmarho">http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/awards/musigmarho</a>. Instructions on how to nominate students can be found at <a href="http://www.colby.edu/musigmarho/">http://www.colby.edu/musigmarho/</a> or by contacting Liam O'Brien at <a href="lobrien@colby.edu">lobrien@colby.edu</a>.

The deadline is **March 21, 2020** for this year's cycle. Nominations received after that date will be held until the 2021 cycle. If you have any questions, please email Liam O'Brien (<a href="lobrien@colby.edu">lobrien@colby.edu</a>).

Please note that the nomination process is being streamlined and will be slightly different beginning this year. Details can be found in the nomination instructions.

Additional information about Mu Sigma Rho can be found at: <a href="https://www.stat.purdue.edu/msr/">https://www.stat.purdue.edu/msr/</a>.

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## 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 activities for the chapter. The meetings are held in the evening and dinner is provided. For more information contact Chapter Vice-President Miriam Chernoff (mchernoff@sdac.harvard.edu).

## How Do I Join the Boston Chapter?

You can join the Boston Chapter when you join the American Statistical Association (ASA) or renew your ASA membership. ASA members who wish to join the Boston Chapter at other times should complete the printed application form available at http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/joinbcasa and send it directly to the ASA.

However, you can be a member of the Boston Chapter without being an ASA member. To join the Boston Chapter without joining the ASA, write a check for \$10 (\$4 for students) made payable to BCASA, and send it directly to our Treasurer at:

Boston Chapter of ASA c/o Lisa Mukherjee PO BOX 200766 Boston, MA 02120

Provide your name, address, and email address. Members receive an electronic subscription to the chapter newsletter, discounts at some events, and an opportunity to join our e-mail list for other announcements. A membership application form is available at http://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/joinbcasa.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Note: Job opportunities sent to Elizabeth Kane, BCASA Newsletter Editor at kane1215@bu.edu will be included in a future BCASA newsletter.

## Tenure Track Faculty Position at Bentley University

#### **Job Description Summary**

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at Bentley University – private business-oriented university located in suburban Boston – invites applications for at least one tenure track position beginning Fall 2020. We seek candidates to add to our strengths in applied statistics, applied mathematics, data science and machine learning. Candidates with the ability and willingness to teach in more than one of these areas at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are especially attractive. Applications for both junior and senior positions are welcomed. The rank and salary will be commensurate with experience.

The Mathematical Sciences Department offers undergraduate degrees in mathematical sciences, actuarial sciences, and data analytics and an MS in Business Analytics, and it is involved in the PhD program in Business, both in teaching and in doctoral student supervision. We value collaboration with faculty in other departments and have a particularly strong record of cross-disciplinary scholarship. Candidates are encouraged to learn more about our department by visiting http://www.bentley.edu/mathematics/.

Minimum Qualifications: Applicants must hold a Ph.D. in Statistics, Mathematics, or a closely related discipline. Criteria for selection include: (a) Evidence of excellent teaching ability, and (b) High quality research skills and experience.

Candidates who possess organizational skills to foster and build academic programs consistent with the department's mission, strong communication skills for building research partnerships, and ability and willingness to supervise graduate student research and participate in activities related to our graduate programs are encouraged to apply.

**Preferred Qualifications:** Applied experience in academic or nonacademic spheres is highly desirable.

#### *Special Instructions to Applicants:*

Candidates should submit a cover letter (candidates should indicate how their research interests and expertise could integrate with the department's mission), current curriculum vita, research statement, teaching statement, and arrange for three letters of recommendation, at least one of which should address teaching. Names and contact information for three references are required upon application. Bentley will contact these confidential references for those candidates moving forward in the process. The review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled.

#### Please submit your application here:

https://bentley.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/faculty/job/Bentley-Campus/Tenure-Track-Open-Rank--Mathematical-Sciences\_R0000318

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#### 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 Shannon Stock (sstock@holycross.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://www.bu.edu/sph/about/departments/biostatistics/

https://www.bu.edu/sph/about/departments/biostatistics/seminars/

#### **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/

#### **Dartmouth College**

Department of Biomedical Data Science

https://bmds.dartmouth.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/

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#### **University of Maine**

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

http://umaine.edu/mathematics/

https://umaine.edu/mathematics/colloquium/

#### 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/seminars/statistics-and-probability-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

https://ceps.unh.edu/mathematics-statistics

#### **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/

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The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to current BCASA members. Copies of past newsletters can be found on our website at <a href="https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/newsletter">https://community.amstat.org/bostonchapter/newsletter</a>. Send comments or suggestions to any of the officers listed below.

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