

BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Serving

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont

Volume 24, No. 3, January 2006

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

SCHEDULED EVENTS

January 21	Winter Party	Newtonville, MA
February 23	Award Banquet	Boston, MA
March 4	Symposium	Waltham, MA

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

Detailed announcements appear inside 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 Tom Lane.

ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK DINNER AND PARTY

At the home of Katherine Monti

Date: Saturday, January 21, 2006

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: 30 Lothrop Street
Newtonville, MA 02460

RSVP: By January 19 to Sue Perry (sperry@rhoworld.com or 617-965-8000 x22). Please provide your name, how many people will be in your party, what you would like to bring (appetizer, entrée, side dish, salad, or dessert), and phone or email contact information.

Directions: For a map, [click here](#). Lothrop is off Crafts Street between Washington Street and Watertown Street. Crafts is off Washington Street, between Pike Exit 17 and Walnut Street.

Kathy's condo is at the end of Lothrop, on the right. The first few guests can park in the double bay associated with the condo (turn right immediately after passing the condo), or in one of a few spaces at the far end of the condo lot, or alongside the condo, in the driveway. Those who arrive later can park on Lothrop or Jennison or even Judkins, if necessary. Lothrop dead ends just past the condo. If it has snowed, parking may be tight since the streets are narrow.

In Case of Snow: In case of light snow on the 21st, the show will go on; in case of moderate snow, we might reschedule to January 28. In case of very heavy show, we may cancel because the snow will still impede parking on January 28. Please feel free to call if you have questions. Check the chapter web site for cancellation information.

MOSTELLER STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Seeing Statistical Structure

Carl Morris
Professor of Statistics
Harvard University

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2006

Time: 6:00 - 6:30 PM: Social
6:30 - 7:00 PM: Dinner
7:00 - 8:00 PM: Presentation

Cost: Dinner is \$30 for chapter members, \$25 for students, \$35 for others. The presentation is free.

RSVP: Required by noon on Friday, February 17 to Sue Perry at sperry@rhoworld.com. Please note whether you will attend the dinner, or just the talk.

Location: Frontier Science
900 Commonwealth Ave
Boston, MA 02215

Frontier Science is at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and St. Paul Street. There is a Green Line (B) stop at this intersection. On-street parking is available on St. Paul and Commonwealth. A Boston University parking lot is across Commonwealth, on Buick Street. Please enter the building on St. Paul and go to the second floor where someone will be available to let you in.

Abstract: The universality of statistical thinking makes statistics exciting. Statistics provides structures, both broad and specific models, used to answer questions in many fields. Statistics also generalizes new specific solutions for wider use. We consider these issues and what can be learned from statistical structures that connect medicine and sports, especially hospitals and baseball players.

SYMPOSIUM

Distance Education in Statistics and Biostatistics

Date: Saturday, March 4, 2006

Location: Bentley College
175 Forest Street
Waltham, MA

Organizers: Dominique Haughton and Scott Evans

Details: BCASA members will receive emails with additional information as it becomes available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Consulting Website

The chapter has established an email list known as BCASA-Consultants. Anyone looking for a statistical consultant can request help by sending an email to the list. Statisticians wishing to provide consulting services are welcome to join the list to receive consulting requests. This can be a good resource for headhunters as well. Currently, list membership is around 100 and the posting rate has been around two per month. Visit www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/consult.html for more information.

Missing Data Day at Amherst

There will be a Missing Data Day on January 23, 2006 at UMass Amherst. It will be a hands-on practice for practitioners who often need to use software for missing data. The website is <http://www.umass.edu/family/Summer%20Institute.htm>. Other workshops will be offered on related topics in the late spring.

New England Statistics Symposium

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at Worcester Polytechnic Institute will host the twentieth annual New England Statistics Symposium on Saturday, April 22, 2006. There will be theme sessions in Applied Statistics, Bioinformatics, and Genetics, as well as contributed paper sessions. Talks on all aspects of statistics and probability are invited. April 11, 2006 is the closing date for abstracts. The conference web site is www.wpi.edu/News/Conf/NESS.

ICSA Applied Statistics Symposium

The International Chinese Statistical Association (ICSA) will sponsor an applied statistics symposium June 14-17, 2006 at the University of Connecticut. There will be a variety of invited and contributed sessions, keynote and plenary speeches, and full and half day courses. The website is www.icsa.org.

ASA Membership Drive Competition

Chapters are the grassroots of the American Statistical Association. Please help ASA grow by participating in the *Chapter-Get-a-Member Challenge*. Every time our chapter recruits a new member, the ASA grows stronger, resulting in expanded resources; greater recognition, influence, and support of the statistical profession; more career opportunities; and the overall advancement of statistics. Currently ASA is providing incentives for member recruitment, and our chapter is in a competition with other chapters to recruit the most new members through June 30, 2006. It's easy to participate. Simply submit potential new member names online. For details visit <http://www.amstat.org/membership/cgm/>. Help our chapter win this competition!

Chapter Elections

During the spring of 2006, BCASA members will elect the President and Program Chair for two-year terms starting in January 2007. The President must be a full member of the ASA. Anyone who would like to nominate a candidate for any position is invited to contact Robert B. Smith by email (rsmithphd@comcast.net) or any officer listed at the end of this newsletter. Self-nominations are accepted.

BCASA Events Outside the Boston Area

The mission of the Boston Chapter of the ASA includes service to statisticians in all of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Members from throughout our geographic region are encouraged to contact the Planning Committee with ideas for events (lectures, short courses, career nights, social events, etc.) that they are planning or would like the Chapter to consider planning in their area. The committee is happy to help with event planning, publicity, and in sometimes funding. Please contact any planning committee member or any of the officers listed at the end of this newsletter.

Summer Internships

If your company would like to offer summer internships to students studying statistics or mathematics, the BCASA can help locate candidates. We can announce the internship on our website, through our email list, and in the newsletter (next issue: March 2006). Contact Katherine Monti (kmonti@rhoworld.com) for details.

Nominate a Student for Mu Sigma Rho

Mu Sigma Rho is the national honorary society for statistics. Its purpose is to encourage scholarly activity in statistics and to recognize outstanding achievement among students in statistics. For further information, visit the website <http://www.math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html>.

50th Anniversary of “How to Lie With Statistics”

Time flies. It has been a little more than 50 years since the publication of *How to Lie with Statistics* by Darrell Huff. Statisticians and others may want to take another look at this little book and to the special section in *Statistical Science* devoted to the occasion: Volume 20, Number 3, August 2005 at <http://projecteuclid.org/Dienst/UI/1.0/Summarize/euclid.ss/1124891285>.

OFFICER REPORT

Secretary

The officers, planning committee, and chapter members have had a busy year. This was also a year of transition. Michael Posner, Treasurer for over 5 years, accepted a faculty position at Villanova University and turned over his treasurer responsibilities to Rui Wang, our current treasurer, and his local consultant newsgroup (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BCASA-Consultants/>) moderation role to me, the chapter secretary. With 101 members, this newsgroup has gained several new members and soon hopes to join forces with the national directory of statistical consultants by area of expertise currently being formed by Sue Devlin the National Committee on Committees Liaison. A message was posted referring our local group to the ASA national statistical consulting section and their e-newsletter available at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/cnsl/>.

Nick Horton, our council of chapters representative and founding member of Mu Sigma Rho, moved to western Massachusetts prior to this year, and accepted a faculty position at Smith College in Northampton. Long time chapter member and past president Kathy Monti was elected to the ASA Board of Directors as Council Chapters Board Representative.

Program Chair Tom Lane received the 2005 Service Award from the Boston Chapter. Tom was selected in recognition of many years of dedicated service, in particular for substantial contributions as Program Chair, for developing and maintaining the chapter website and email lists, and for being an active member of the Planning Committee. Continued web site maintenance is undertaken by BCASA program chair, Tom Lane. (Please visit <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/index.html>) All comments and suggestions regarding our chapter's web site should be directed to Tom.

Our Mosteller Statistician of the Year Award for 2005 was Mei-Ling Ting Lee. The award was presented to Dr. Lee in recognition of her contributions to biostatistics and her service to the profession and our local chapter.

This year, 2006, is the year of education initiatives. There is a strong push by companies and organizations for outreach initiatives targeting kindergarten to 12th grade students. The National American Statistical Association Strategic Plan lists improving statistical education as part of its vision statement. Improving statistical literacy is a national focus. The chapter is following suit by currently pursuing the development of at least three initiatives aimed at different cross-sections of the K-12 statistics education curriculum.

Membership composition of our chapter remains largely academic, followed by pharmaceutical and biomedical. Across our chapter the largest representations are in the Biometrics (130 out of 410, 31.7%) and Bio-Pharmaceutical (104 out of 410, 25.4%) sections. BCASA this year saw biggest gains over last year's membership (Figure 1) in statistical computing (COMP, 152.4%), Joint Physics & Engineering Quality and Productivity (SPQP, 150%), and Risk Analysis (RISK, 53.8%) sections and a significant loss in the Government and Social Sciences (GOVT, -44%) section memberships. Only three sections showed losses of BCASA members and they were Government Statistics (GOVT, -4 members), Statistical Education (EDUC, -4 members) and Statistics in Health Sciences (TSHS, -1 member). We exceed the expected membership based on national section membership percentages in all sections except the sections Government Statistics (GOVT, -4 members from expected), Quality and Productivity (Qp, -3 members from expected), Physical and Engineering Sciences (SPES, -2 members from expected), and Government and Social Sciences (GTSO, -1 member from expected). Figure 2 details the expected number for our chapter subtracted from the number of members that our chapter actually has based on the 2.6% (410 of 15936) Boston Chapter to National members in the voluntary national registry. In the Biometrics section (BIOM, the Boston chapter represents 6.3 percent of the members) we have 76 members over expected, followed by BioPharmaceutical (BIOP, 5.3 percent BCASA representation) with 53 members over expected, and Statistics in Epidemiology (EPI, 6.8 percent BCASA representation) with 48 members over expected. In the Health Policy Statistics (HPSS, 37 over expected) section we have the highest national percentage representation of any of the section at 10.2% and the lowest representations are in Government Statistics (GOVT) at 1.5%, Quality and Productivity (QP) at 1.9%, and Physical and Engineering Sciences (SPES) at 2.1%. As of 21 December 2005 BCASA has 452 members (389 10-26-2004, 364 10-10-2003). Membership counts by state are 335 in Massachusetts (+40 member change from 4 January 2005), 33 in New Hampshire (+24), 10 in Connecticut (+1), 10 Vermont (+1), 9 in Rhode Island (0), 7 in Maine (0), 5 in New York (-1), 2 in New Jersey (0), and 1 in California (0). Membership reports exclude the 30 to 40 local chapter only members and those opting not to be included in the voluntary national membership registry (42 of them). Chapter members are encouraged to join through the national organization and to opt to have their information included into the membership registry.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

PRINCIPAL BIostatistician: Averion Inc. of Framingham, MA is seeking a Principal Biostatistician to analyze and interpret confidential data from a variety of sources, and provide senior statistical support and mentoring. Responsibilities include participating in the design and review of clinical protocols and case report forms including: preparation of Statistical Considerations sections, sample size calculations, interim looks, and study design recommendations; participating in database design, data collection guidelines, and computerized logic checks; creating analysis plans; generating and implementing prospective analysis validation plans; writing and reviewing statistical reports; designing and managing generation of randomization schedules; overseeing complex randomization designs; providing statistical expertise and support to clients and internal project team members; preparing and reviewing FDA statistical responses; providing expert guidance and training to Biometrics staff on statistical procedures, methods, and concepts; may serve as project manager for Biometrics stand alone studies. Qualifications: Ph.D. in Biostatistics or related discipline and 3 years of industry experience, or M.S. with a minimum of 5 years industry experience. Must also have: advanced computer skills with extensive experience in SAS, StatXact, and nQuery; strong written and verbal communication skills; strong problem solving and creativity skills; proven leadership skills; good time management skills; ability to prioritize, meet deadlines and multi-task; ability to work independently and as a team member. Preferred qualifications: Ph.D. in Biostatistics and 3+ years industry experience including 2 years in a CRO; experience as a mentor, team leader, or manager. To apply, please send your resume via e-mail to hr@averioninc.com. www.averioninc.com. EOE

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE DEVELOPER: The MathWorks of Natick, MA, has openings for software developers in areas including machine learning, surface fitting, and computational geometry. Duties include the design, architecture, and development of software and GUIs written in MATLAB and/or Java. The ability to work constructively in a team environment is vital. The candidate should have experience taking a project from concept to shipping. Qualifications include an M.S. with 3-5 years industry experience or a Ph.D.; expertise in computational math; experience with MATLAB, R, S-plus, or similar technical computing language; excellent written and verbal communication; ability to formulate realistic goals and meet commitments; and experience writing software for use by others. To apply, visit <http://www.mathworks.com/company/jobs/>. For more information contact Tom Lane, tlane@mathworks.com.

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 members listed below.

BCASA OFFICERS

<i>President, 2005-06</i>	Scott Evans, Harvard School of Public Health
<i>Program Chair, 2005-06</i>	Tom Lane, The MathWorks
<i>Vice-President, 2006-07</i>	Shelley Hurwitz, Harvard Medical School
<i>Secretary, 2006-07</i>	Maureen P. Mayer, Raytheon Company
<i>Treasurer, 2006-07</i>	Rui Wang, Harvard School of Public Health
<i>Council of Chapters Representative, 2006-08</i>	Nicholas Horton, Smith College
<i>Past President, 2005-06</i>	Robert B. Smith, Cambridge-MIT Institute

BCASA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Education</i>	Kerstin Allen
<i>Membership</i>	Maureen P. Mayer
<i>Publications</i>	Shelley Hurwitz

BCASA NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

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