

BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association
Serving Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont

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

Newsletter: BCASANews@comcast.net

Best wishes for a very happy new year from the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association!

We would like to wish you all a wonderful new year, featuring, in addition to health, happiness and prosperity, the opportunity to see you at one of our events!

Please contact Dominique Haughton at dhaughton@bentley.edu if you would like to join the BCASA Planning Committee. We meet about once every six weeks, and the chapter provides (good) dinners during our meetings ... Come and have an impact on the choice of events proposed by the chapter!

And most of all, thank you for being part of the BCASA community!

With very best wishes

**Dominique Haughton
President BCASA**

Upcoming Events

February 12, 2009	Simmons College	Mosteller Statistician of the Year
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6:15 pm	Boston, MA	Presentation
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February 21, 2009	Simmons College	Career Fair
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1:00 pm	Boston, MA	
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March 21, 2009	To Be Announced	BCASA Retreat
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10:00 am		
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EVENTS

Mosteller Statistician of the Year Presentation

This year's Statistician of the Year is **David W Hosmer**, Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus) of Biostatistics, University of Massachusetts Amherst and Adjunct Professor of Statistics, University of Vermont.

Date: February 12, 2009

Time: Social: 6:15 pm to 6:45 pm

Dinner: 6:45 pm to 7:30 pm

Talk: 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: Special Functions Room (1st floor), Main Building, Simmons College

For directions see <http://www.simmons.edu/overview/directions/>

Fees: Dinner is \$35 for nonmembers, \$30 for members. Talk is free.

Registration: RSVP to Sue Perry (sperry@rhoworld.com) as soon as possible.

Abstract of Talk

Additive Survival Time Models: What are they and are they useful?

The most commonly fit time to event models are multiplicative. In a general sense the model parameters describe changes over time in the log of the model's systematic components. The Cox Proportional Hazards Model is probably the most frequently used such model but Accelerated Failure Time Models are also often used. Where one of these models is fit, ratios are used to multiplicatively express the effect of changes in the covariates. Additive Time to Event Models have also been proposed in which measures of effect are expressed as differences in the model's systematic component. This talk considers a few additive models and focuses on several practical issues: fitting, testing, estimation, and interpretation of covariate effect. An additive model proposed by Aalen yields a graphical description of covariate effect over time, providing information

particularly useful to clinicians. The talk concludes by considering which type of model to use in practice.

Career Fair

Date: February 21, 2009
Time: 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm
Location: Simmons College
Registration: Instructions will be distributed in February

This event is intended primarily for undergraduates in New England who would like to learn more about the wonderful career opportunities open to statisticians. The Fair will include speakers from a wide range of statistical professions as well as a panel on graduate study in statistics and related fields. There will be ample opportunity for students to meet informally with the various speakers.

Please bring this event to the attention of your students. If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact one of the organizers.

Robert Goldman
robert.goldman@simmons.edu

Nilupa Gunaratna
gunaratna@alumni.purdue.edu

BCASA Retreat

Wikipedia defines a retreat as a single or multi-day offsite meeting to discuss strategy, build stronger teams, and formulate goals. The BCASA will hold such a retreat on Saturday, March 21, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., in the greater Boston area. Members interested in participating should contact John McKenzie at mckenzie@babson.edu.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Associate Director, Clinical Research Program

Children's Hospital Boston, a world-class specialized hospital and the primary pediatric teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School, invites applications and nominations for the position of Associate Director, Clinical Research Program. The Clinical Research Program (CRP) is a scientific, inter-disciplinary research program whose mission is to enhance the quality of clinical research at Children's Hospital through scientific leadership in clinical research methodology; collaboration or consultation on the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical research studies; and education in clinical research methods and practice which targets the clinical research community. Since its inception in 1998, the CRP has sustained significant growth in staff and resources and now includes 34 staff members from various disciplines, including epidemiologists, biostatisticians, application developers, project directors, data coordinators, and data entry staff.

Reporting to the Director of the Clinical Research Program, the Associate Director is responsible for the day-to-day governance of the program, establishing annual budgetary requirements, supervising senior management personnel, and developing and ensuring the successful execution of annual Program goals and objectives. The Associate Director leads short and long term strategic planning, including developing new directions or initiatives to promote excellence and quality in clinical research methods and practice, while planning and leading outreach efforts to the clinical research community and collaborating on clinical research protocols and program educational activities.

Qualified candidate must have: a doctorate in a scientific or medical discipline with relevant education and training in clinical research methods; previous administrative or management experience; excellent interpersonal skills; a commitment to fostering a collegial and team environment; strong written and communication skills; and competency and direct experience in clinical research.

Inquiries and applications should be directed to Sarah Gaines at Opus Search Partners. Sarah can be reached by email at sarah.gaines@opuspartners.net or by telephone at 215.790.1188 X-233.

Faculty Position in Statistics/Applied Mathematics

<http://www.curry.edu/About+Us/Human+Resources/Job+Opportunities/Faculty+Positions.htm>

Curry College seeks an individual with the experience, enthusiasm, and imagination to assist in the development of our growing mathematics minor and the quantitative reasoning ability of our student body. Ph.D. in Statistics and/or Applied Mathematics with demonstrated teaching excellence, experience supervising undergraduate research in statistics/mathematics, assessing learning outcomes for college-level mathematics courses, using technology in classrooms, with a desired secondary background in teaching developmental mathematics or mathematics for prospective educators.

Please submit cover letter, including statement of your teaching philosophy, vitae and list of five references to:

Mary Dunn,
Director of Human Resources
Curry College
1071 Blue Hill Ave.
Milton, MA 02186.

Fax: (617) 333-2330. Email: mdunn@curry.edu. Finalists will be asked to provide official transcripts and teaching evaluations.

Please Note: Although the deadline for applications was January 19, we are continuing to accept applications. If interested, please send as soon as possible a preliminary letter of interest, curriculum vitae and, if possible, your statement of teaching philosophy, so that you are included in the initial screening process. Supporting documents such as references may be sent later.

Senior Statistician

Here is your chance to play a hugely influential role as part of **AstraZeneca's** industry-leading Discovery Statistics group. Highly competitive packages + relocation assistance. Sweden (Södertälje / Mölndal / Lund) or USA (Wilmington / Boston).

About the role. We are looking for a number of talented Statisticians to strengthen our global Discovery Enabling Capabilities and Sciences (DECS) Statistics Department, which provides innovative technologies and direct project support to our drug discovery and development activities. Based at one of our key sites across the world, you will focus on integrating statistics fully into the workflow of the Discovery function. It's a newly created role that will see you ensuring that project teams have the right level of statistical input, and identifying new opportunities for adding value and implementing best practice.

About you. Qualified to at least MSc and preferably PhD level in a subject with a significant statistical component, you'll have proven technical skills in a similar role. Although experience of the pharmaceutical industry would be a plus, it's more important that you can show the ability to provide statistical input that delivers real business impact. For roles in Södertälje and Wilmington, experience of regulatory toxicology would be an advantage. Expert knowledge of a package like SAS, R or S-Plus is essential - and so too are the communication, presentation and consultancy skills to work effectively with scientists and managers at all levels of the business.

About AstraZeneca. As one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, AstraZeneca is focused on providing innovative, effective medicines that make a real difference in important areas of healthcare. We employ 66,000 staff around the world and spend \$16 million every working day on research and development. AstraZeneca's Discovery Statistics Department delivers creative statistical solutions to a wide range of business problems. Our thinking helps to exploit the maximum value from research experiments by improving the quality of data generated and the consistency of interpretation, whilst reducing costs, saving time and contributing to portfolio diversity.

To apply, visit www.careers.astrazeneca.co.uk and search under reference DECS136.

Closing date: 13th Feb 2009

Health Services Research

Title: Research Data Analyst
Area: Health Sciences/Health Services Research/Health Policy
Employer: **Boston Medical Center**

Setting: The Health Care Research Unit, Section of General Internal Medicine, studies who gets what health care services and to what effect. Special interests include: disparities in service receipt and outcomes by race, sex and age; analytic methods (risk adjustment) for making fair comparisons of providers on costs and quality of care.

Main responsibilities for the research data analyst: planning and conducting analyses (including multivariable regression) and communicating findings in text, graphs, tables and presentations; conducting literature and other searches; constructing analytic files from large databases; managing projects (tracking IRB and abstract submissions, compliance with data use agreements and project timelines); providing analytic support for physicians performing clinical research; helping to develop research projects, prepare grant proposals and draft manuscripts.

Requirements: Master's degree in biostatistics, health services research or a relevant discipline; a logical and inquiring mind; "team member" mentality; strong analytic skills; programming in SAS or similar statistical software; ability to set priorities while managing several projects simultaneously; good communication skills. Those without explicit training in health should have at least year of experience with health care data/health policy issues. Those with more advanced skills are also encouraged to apply.

If interested please send resumes to aash@bu.edu.

REPORT

Chapter Activities: 2008

The Boston Chapter (serving members in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine) continues to offer a varied program of lectures, social events, short courses and conferences for its 465 members. Activities during 2008 included a selection of interesting evening lectures, short courses, and social events. Lecture highlights from the past year included talks by Arlene Ash (Boston University) on "Statistical help for troubled US elections," Tom Lane and Peter Perkins (The MathWorks) on "Life in statistical software development," and Xiao-Li Meng (Harvard University) on "A semi-theoretician's mid-day confession: The true meaning of i.i.d. in (applied) statistics."

Richard De Veaux (Williams College) was the recipient of the Mosteller Statistician of the Year award. After the award dinner Dick spoke on "Lessons from the trenches: what Data Mining teaches me about teaching Statistics."

Short-courses were a major focus of the past year's program. A number of half-day and full-day courses were offered, all of which were well attended. Kate Tranbarger (Amherst College) taught "An introduction to R," David Hosmer (University of Massachusetts Amherst and University of Vermont) offered a course on "Applied logistic regression," while Tim Hesterberg (Google) led one on "Bootstrap Methods and Permutation Tests." The chapter collaborated with other regional chapters on the last course. Members of at least three ASA chapters attended.

The chapter also co-sponsored a meeting of the Isolated Academic Statisticians as well as several events at Harvard University. It also hosted a winter party (kudos to Katherine Monti of Rho, Inc.) and sponsored 18 students for membership in Mu Sigma Rho, the national statistics honor society.

Chapter officers are: President: Dominique Haughton (Bentley University); Vice-President: James MacDougall (Ironwood Pharmaceuticals); Treasurer: Yu Zhao (Harvard University); Program Chair: Matt Tom (Emmanuel College); Secretary: Tzu-Min Yeh (Harvard University); and Council of Chapters Representative: Maureen Mayer (Raytheon). Dominique and Matt are beginning their second terms. Maureen replaces Nicholas Horton (Smith College), who was Council of Chapters Representative from 2002 to 2008.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Nominate Your Top Statistics Students for Mu Sigma Rho

The Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association (BCASA) encourages all faculty members teaching statistics in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to consider nominating your students (both undergraduate and graduate) for membership in Mu Sigma Rho, the national honorary society for statistics.

What's in it for the students? Inductees receive a free membership in the American Statistical Association, the BCASA and a subscription to CHANCE. This is a great way to encourage careers in statistics for your top students, and tie them in to many useful resources, job opportunities and related articles.

What's in it for you? Nominating a student is an easy way for you to provide a pat on the back to your top students, and simplify getting them set up as student member of the ASA as well as the local chapter. Your name is listed on correspondence with students, and your school is also listed along with the name of the student.

The process is straightforward for both the nominator and the nominee. As nominator, you are asked to fill out a 1-page form per student, attach a transcript (unofficial is fine) and induction fees of \$5 per student. The student only needs to confirm their interest in having their name put forward.

More information and the nomination form can be found at

<http://www.math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html>.

Completed forms, which are due to March 2, 2009, should be sent to

Nicholas Horton
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Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063-0001
<http://www.math.smith.edu/~nhorton>

BCASA OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	<i>Dominique Haughton Bentley University</i>
<i>Program Chair</i>	<i>Matt Tom Emmanuel College</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>James McDougall Ironwood Pharmaceuticals</i>
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<i>Chapter Representative</i>	<i>Maureen Mayer Raytheon Corporation</i>
<i>Past President</i>	<i>Scott Evans Harvard School of Public Health</i>

BCASA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

<i>Education</i>	<i>Kerstin Allen Rho Inc.</i>
<i>Email list and Website</i>	<i>Tom Lane MathWorks</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>Maureen Mayer Raytheon Corporation</i>
<i>Publications</i>	<i>Shelley Hurwitz Harvard Medical School</i>
<i>Mu Sigma Rho</i>	<i>Nicholas Horton Smith College</i>

BCASA NEWSLETTER

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The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to all BCASA members. Please send suggestions and comments to the editor, Stan Morse, at BCASANews@comcast.net.