

# BCASA NEWSLETTER

## Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

*Serving*

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

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

Newsletter: [BCASANews@verizon.net](mailto:BCASANews@verizon.net)

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SCHEDULED EVENTS		
Saturday, January 21, 2012	Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party	Natick, MA
Saturday, March 03, 2012	Statistics Career Day	Boston, MA
Tuesday, March 13, 2012	Daytime Lecture	Worcester, MA
Tuesday, March 27, 2012	Mosteller Statistician of the Year Award Banquet	Boston, MA
Saturday, April 21, 2012	New England Statistics Symposium	Boston, 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 Chapter President Tom Lane ([tlane@alum.mit.edu](mailto:tlane@alum.mit.edu)).

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## ***Annual Winter Potluck Dinner and Party***

**Date:** Saturday, January 21, 2012

**Time:** 6:00 pm

**Location:** MathWorks  
1 Apple Hill Dr.  
Natick, MA 01760  
<http://www.mathworks.com/company/aboutus/directions.html>

**Summary:** Information and sign-up by Thursday January 19 at  
<http://www.luckypotluck.com/potluck/BCASA2012Party>.

Please provide your name, how many people will be in your party, and what you would like to bring (appetizer, entrée, side dish, salad, or dessert). Also, leave either phone or email contact information so that you can be reached in case of weather problems. However, the site has garage parking so a cancellation is unlikely. The sign-up web page also includes an area where you can leave messages, including offers of a ride or requests for a ride.

## **Statistics Career Day 2012**

**Date:** Saturday, March 3, 2012

**Location:** Simmons College, Boston

**Summary:** We are very excited to announce Statistics Career Day for 2012. We encourage AP Statistics students from Boston schools to participate in this event. Space permitting, students from neighboring area schools will be most welcome. We would like to request the Statistics teachers who receive the newsletter to spread the word around and inform the students of this event. Unlike last year, we have planned for a half day event and would like to engage the students in small interactive sessions. We will be having a keynote speaker, a panel of graduate students and young professionals and in the later part an interactive session in round tables of 7 or 8 students and a statistician who will be discussing a real life statistical problem from their field and how it was handled. This will be an excellent opportunity for the students to learn about Statistics and its application and will have plenty of opportunity to ask any questions that they might have about Statistics.

Your participation will make a big difference. We are looking for a keynote speaker, graduate student panelists and statisticians to help out with this event. We welcome back those who spoke at last year's event and also new statistician volunteers to lead the small groups. If you are interested in helping us, please contact Miriam Chernoff at [mchernoff@sdac.harvard.edu](mailto:mchernoff@sdac.harvard.edu).

## ***Daytime Lecture***

Statistical challenges and principled solutions for genetic association studies

Andrea Foulkes  
University of Massachusetts

**Date:** Tuesday, March 13, 2012

**Time:** 12:00 noon (lunch provided)

**Location:** Belmont Hill Conference Room, AC7-211  
The University of Massachusetts Medical School  
55 Lake Avenue North  
Worcester, MA 01655

**Sponsors:** UMass Medical School Department of Quantitative Health Sciences and the Boston Chapter

**Speaker:** Dr. Andrea Foulkes is an Associate Professor in the Biostatistics Division of the Department of Public Health in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

**Contact:** For more information contact Stephen P. Baker, [stephen.baker@umassmed.edu](mailto:stephen.baker@umassmed.edu).

## ***Mosteller Statistician of the Year Banquet***

Statistics Education and the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics

Katherine Taylor Halvorsen  
Smith College

- Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012
- Time:** Social 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm, Presentation 7:00 pm
- Location:** Kotzen Room, Library Tower, Simmons College, 300 The Fenway, Boston, MA
- Registration:** <http://bcasa2012mar.eventbrite.com> by March 20
- Cost:** Dinner: \$20 for chapter members; \$25 for non-members; students free.  
Presentation: free.

**Abstract:** The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics were released on June 6, 2010 by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). These standards contain much of the material now taught in the first-year college course in introductory statistics, and currently 43 states have adopted them. They replace individual state standards that were developed in compliance with the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 and the No-Child-Left-Behind Act of 2001. PARCC, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, is a 24-state consortium working together to develop a common set of assessments aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Massachusetts has adopted the CCSS and is a member of the PARCC consortium. This talk outlines the statistics content of the CCSS and considers the implications for the introductory college course.

**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 80<sup>th</sup> 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. For a list of past award winners, see <http://amstat.org/chapters/boston/awards.html>.

## ***New England Statistics Symposium***

**Date:** Saturday, April 21, 2012

**Location:** Boston University

**Registration:** <http://math.bu.edu/ness12/reg.html> by April 16

**Details:** The Department of Mathematics and Statistics and the Department of Biostatistics at Boston University are hosting the 26th New England Statistics Symposium on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

Professors Rick Durrett from Duke University and Robert Kass from Carnegie Mellon University will give the NESS 2012 plenary talks in probability and statistics, respectively. There will be three half-day short courses on April 20: "Financial modeling and limit order books," presented by Rama Cont from Columbia University; "Statistical Analysis of Network Data," presented by Eric Kolaczyk from Boston University; and "Adaptive Clinical Trial Design and Simulation," presented by Mark Chang from AMAG Pharmaceuticals.

Students are encouraged to submit papers and an application for the student paper competition. The deadline for abstract submission for contributed talks (including those associated with the student paper competition) is March 31, 2012.

More details on the meeting will be forthcoming at <http://math.bu.edu/ness12>.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Member News

**Shelley Hurwitz** was elected to the International Statistical Institute, selected for her expertise and leadership in statistical consulting and mentoring, national and international educational initiatives, original research and publications, and promotion of ethical statistical practice among statisticians working in applied settings.

Former treasurer and active member **Michael Posner** is the recipient of a 2012 Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. He was honored at the Joint Mathematics Meetings which were held in Boston in January. More details on this award at <http://www.maa.org/Awards/alder.html>.

Congratulations to Shelley and Michael!

## Nominations for Chapter Officers

Several BCASA officer terms are up for election this year for terms starting on January 1, 2013. These are

President, Program Chair, Webmaster, and Newsletter Editor (two-year terms)  
Council of Chapters Representative (three-year term)

We typically hold elections at the final event of the academic year. If you are interested in nominating yourself or anyone else for these positions, please contact current President Tom Lane ([tlane@alum.mit.edu](mailto:tlane@alum.mit.edu)) or Past President Dominique Haughton ([dhaughton@bentley.edu](mailto:dhaughton@bentley.edu)). New volunteers are always welcome and greatly needed.

## Planning Committee Meetings

The BCASA Planning Committee is open to all interested members. We meet approximately every six weeks to plan upcoming events of the chapter. This is a good opportunity to provide service to your chapter as well as to discuss statistics with your colleagues. Dinner is provided. If you have ideas for a specific event or for the chapter in general, or if you would like to join the Planning Committee, please contact any of the chapter officers listed on the last page of this newsletter.

## Mu Sigma Rho

The BCASA encourages all faculty teaching statistics in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to consider nominating undergraduate and graduate statistics students for membership in Mu Sigma Rho, the national honorary society for statistics.

Inductees will receive a free membership in the ASA and BCASA and a subscription to Chance magazine. This is a great way to encourage your top students to pursue a career in statistics and to introduce them to many useful resources and job opportunities.

The process is straightforward for both the nominator and nominee. Nominators should fill out the online nomination form at [http://www.colby.edu/academics\\_cs/mu\\_sigma\\_rho/msrnom.cfm](http://www.colby.edu/academics_cs/mu_sigma_rho/msrnom.cfm). A transcript (unofficial is fine) and \$5 induction fee for each nominee then need to be mailed to:

Dr. Liam O'Brien  
Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
Colby College  
5838 Mayflower Hill  
Waterville, ME 04901-8858

The deadline for nominations is March 1. The nominee only needs to confirm his or her interest and to approve his or her transcripts being forwarded.

National Mu Sigma Rho officers for 2011-2013 are:

President:	George McCabe
Vice President:	Lynne Seymour
Secretary-Treasurer:	Jackie Dietz
Directors at Large:	Scott Evans, Chris Malone, and Bob Stephenson

### **ICSA in Boston**

The International Chinese Statistical Association Applied Statistics Symposium will be held in Boston this year, June 23-26, 2012, at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel. For more information, see <http://www.icsa.org/2012>.

### **Judges for Poster Competition**

*We are passing along this message from Luyan Dai of the Connecticut Chapter:*

It is that time of year again when our chapter sponsors the 2012 Annual Poster Competition for Grades K through 12, promoting math literacy. We will need members to judge all submitted posters. On average we have had about 250 posters for the past couple of years. In addition, there will be an awards ceremony for all the winners. Certificates and prizes will be handed to all the winners, so help will be needed for this activity as well.

I will be scheduling a couple of teleconferences (one in January and another February) to go through the criteria to be used in the judging, so we can all understand the rules for the judging.

In summary, the two critical dates are:

- April 14 (Saturday) => Judging posters
- April 28 (Saturday) => Awards Ceremony

We will need people to help in both of these activities. Please note that the judging and awards ceremony will be held at Bristol-Myers Squibb this year.

Consider becoming a judge for the 2012 CT ASA Poster Competition!

If you would like to look at the judging event and winning posters from the 2011 Competition, go to: [http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/Poster/poster\\_judging.htm](http://www.amstat.org/chapters/Connecticut/home/Poster/poster_judging.htm). If you would like more information, don't hesitate to contact me at [Marianne.Messina@bms.com](mailto:Marianne.Messina@bms.com)

Thank you!

### **Job Opportunities**

MATHWORKS: MathWorks of Natick, MA, has multiple openings including statistical software developer and technical writer. Both positions typically require a graduate degree in statistics or a related field, as well as familiarity with MATLAB or a similar technical computing language such as R. For more information visit the company web site, [mathworks.com](http://mathworks.com).



## **EVENT FUNDING: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFPS)**

The Boston Chapter of ASA is accepting proposals for supplementary support funding to plan and conduct events with a statistical theme. Qualified events include short courses and other educational events but are not limited to these. The RFP is open until further notice.

Proposal requirements and additional information:

- Proposals should be no more than 3 pages in length with 2 pages being a description of the program, date and time, program sponsors, location and information on parking or public transportation, targeted audience/expected attendees, rationale for why the program is important and will be attractive to potential attendees, and people responsible for program planning and conduct. The last page is a budget plan.
- Funding for up to \$750 can be requested.
- The event must be open to all chapter members.
- The event must be advertised in the chapter newsletter.
- It is expected that the BCASA is not the only resource supporting the event (e.g., a department or other sponsor should be involved in organization or nominal fees to attendees should be charged).
- Any fees charged to attendees should be reasonable, with special discounts for students. The expectation is that the event will be affordable to statisticians.
- A report of the event must be submitted to BCASA upon completion of the event with possible publication of the event in the BCASA newsletter. The report should include an estimate on the number of attendees, attendee comments, an evaluation of the program, and a financial summary.
- Unused funds should be returned to the BCASA.
- Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Planning Committee of the BCASA. Applicants will be contacted shortly after the Planning Committee meeting that follows application submission.
- Questions should be directed to Scott Evans, Ph.D. ([evans@sdac.harvard.edu](mailto:evans@sdac.harvard.edu)).
- Proposals should be electronically submitted at least 6 weeks prior to the program to Scott Evans, Ph.D. ([evans@sdac.harvard.edu](mailto:evans@sdac.harvard.edu)).

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*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.*

<b>BCASA OFFICERS</b>	
President, 2011-12	Tom Lane, The MathWorks
Program Chair, 2011-12	(vacant)
Vice-President, 2010-11	Vanessa Xanthakis, Boston University
Secretary, 2010-11	Sachiko Miyahara, Harvard School of Public Health
Treasurer, 2010-11	Huichao Chen, Harvard School of Public Health
Council of Chapters Representative, 2009-11	James MacDougall, Ironwood Pharmaceuticals
Past President, 2011-12	Dominique Haughton, Bentley University
Webmaster, 2011-2012	Ching-Ti Liu, Boston University
Newsletter Editor, 2011-12	Stan Morse, University of Massachusetts Boston

<b>BCASA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</b>	
<i>Mu Sigma Rho</i>	Liam O'Brien, Colby College