BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Serving

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont

Overview of Scheduled Events

November 22, 2004	Evening Lecture	Cambridge, MA
December 1, 2004	Panel Discussion	Framingham, MA
December 10, 2004	Short Course	Cambridge, MA
January 22, 2005	Winter Party	Cambridge, MA
February 12, 2005	Career Day	Boston, MA
February 16, 2005	Banquet	Boston, MA

Event schedule on the web: http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/schedule.html

Detailed announcements appear inside this newsletter. All events are announced to members by email, providing sufficient advance notice to make plans to attend. We are currently planning events for the upcoming year. If you have suggestions please contact Program Chair Tom Lane.

EVENING LECTURE

Natural Hazards Risk Assessment: Modeling Hurricanes and Other Natural Hazards

Greta M. Ljung
AIR Worldwide Corporation
Boston, MA

Date: Monday, November 22, 2004

Time: 6:30 PM Light dinner ($8 members; $10 non-members; $5 students)
7:00 PM Presentation (free)

Location: Main Building
Upper School
Buckingham Browne and Nichols School
80 Gerry's Landing Road
Cambridge, MA

Map: http://www.bbns.org/directions.htm
Click "Upper School" for directions.

Parking: Beyond Main Building, away from Cambridge.

RSVP: Required by noon on November 12 to Sue Perry (sperry@rhoworld.com)
Specify whether you will have dinner.

Abstract: On August 13, 2004, Hurricane Charley made landfall on the west coast of Florida, causing death and destruction in its path. The economic losses from this hurricane are expected to exceed $15 billion, making it the second costliest hurricane since Hurricane Andrew devastated the Dade County area of Florida in the summer of 1992.

The high costs of hurricanes and other natural hazards have created a need among insurers, policy makers, and community planners to understand and assess potential losses from these perils in various parts of the country. However, given the relative infrequency of these events, there is limited historical information on which to base an assessment of potential future losses. This presentation will describe the development and use of probabilistic models to estimate the insured losses caused by hurricanes along the U.S. coastlines. These models attempt to extrapolate from the short historical record an accurate representation of the frequency and intensity of storms that could make landfall at any location. Statistical tools used to model annual storm frequency, landfall location, storm intensity, storm tracks, and other storm parameters will be described. Some statistical issues involved in modeling hail and tornadoes caused by severe thunderstorms will also be discussed.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Entrepreneurship, Statistics, and Forming Your Own Company

Moderator: Marvin Zelen, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University, and Frontier Science Foundation

Panel: Phil Lavin, Averion, Inc.
Sonja McKinlay, New England Research Institutes
Cyrus Mehta, Cytel Software

Date: Wednesday, December 1, 2004

Time: 6:00 PM: Social and light dinner (provided by Averion)
7:00 PM: Panel discussion

Cost: Free

Location: Averion, Inc.
4 California Ave.
Framingham, MA

Map: http://www.averioninc.com/contact/contact-directions.htm

Directions: Take the Mass Pike (Route 90) to Exit 12, Route 9. Stay to the left after the tollbooths, onto Route 9 West. Take Route 9 West approximately .25 miles, past the Sheraton Tara on your right, and turn right onto California Avenue at the first set of lights (just before the Tin Alley Grille). Take an immediate left into the Family Fitness Center parking lot, and proceed around the fitness center to the six story building behind it. Park in any open space around the building. Check in at the reception desk, immediately on your left as you enter the building.

RSVP: Required by Wednesday, November 24 to Sue Perry at sperry@rhoworld.com.
Indicate whether you will attend the social and dinner or just the talk.

Rides: Anyone interested in getting or providing a ride to the event, or being picked up at the Natick train station, please contact Tom Lane, tlane@mathworks.com.

Abstract: The growing demand for statistical consulting and collaborations, combined with the shortage of senior statisticians, has created opportunities for statisticians to form their own companies. This requires capital, careful planning, and risk taking, which is the everyday experience of the business world, but not of most of the statistical community. This Panel consists of statisticians who have founded their own companies. Panel members will discuss their own experiences and will address issues important for forming successful companies.

SHORT COURSE

Bayesian Modeling, Inference, and Prediction

David Draper
Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics
University of California, Santa Cruz

Date: Friday, December 10, 2004

Time: 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Location: Hotel@MIT
20 Sidney Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts USA 02139
Telephone: 617-577-0200
http://www.hotelatmit.com/home/home.html

Registration: http://www.soe.ucsc.edu/%7Edraper/Boston-description.txt
$ 95 for full-time students
$145 for members of the BCASA
$195 for all other participants

**Additional
 Information:** www.ams.ucsc.edu/~draper/Boston2004.html

Course Summary:

This is an award-winning short course on Bayesian modeling, inference and prediction, based on a series of case studies and assuming no previous exposure to Bayesian ideas or methods.

Topics will include a review of classical, frequentist, and Bayesian definitions of probability; sequential learning via Bayes' Theorem; coherence as a form of internal calibration; Bayesian decision theory via maximization of expected utility; review of frequentist modeling and maximum-likelihood inference; exchangeability as a Bayesian concept parallel to frequentist independence; prior, posterior, and predictive distributions; Bayesian conjugate analysis of binary outcomes, and comparison with frequentist modeling; integer-valued outcomes (Poisson modeling); continuous outcomes (Gaussian modeling); multivariate unknowns and marginal posterior distributions; introduction to simulation-based computation, including rejection sampling and Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods; MCMC implementation strategies; introduction to Bayesian hierarchical modeling; fitting and interpreting fixed- and random-effects Poisson regression models; hierarchical modeling with latent variables as an approach to mixture modeling; Bayesian model specification via out-of-sample predictive validation (as a form of external calibration) and the deviance information criterion (DIC).

The case studies will be drawn from medicine (diagnostic screening for HIV; hospital-specific prediction of patient-level mortality rates; hospital length of stay for premature births; a randomized controlled trial of in-home geriatric assessment) and the physical sciences (measurement of physical constants), but the methods illustrated will apply to a broad range of subject areas in the natural and social sciences, business (including topics of direct relevance to pharmaceutical companies), and public policy.

The course will liberally illustrate user-friendly implementations of MCMC sampling via the freeware program WinBUGS. The course is intended mainly for people who often use statistics in their research; some graduate coursework in statistics will provide sufficient mathematical background for participants. To get the most out of the course, participants should be comfortable with hearing the course presenter mention (at least briefly) (a) differentiation and integration of functions of several variables and (b) discrete and continuous probability distributions (joint, marginal, and conditional) for several variables at a time, but all necessary concepts will be approached in a sufficiently intuitive manner that rustiness on these topics will not prevent understanding of the key ideas.

Instructor Biography:

David Draper is a Professor in, and Chair of, the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics in the Baskin School of Engineering at the University of California, Santa Cruz. In 2002 he served as President of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA). His research is in the areas of Bayesian inference and prediction, model uncertainty and empirical model-building, hierarchical modeling, Markov Chain Monte Carlo methods, and Bayesian semi-parametric methods, with applications mainly in health policy, education, and environmental risk assessment. When he gave an earlier version of this short course at the Anaheim Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in 1997 it received the 1998 ASA Excellence in Continuing Education award, and a short course he gave on intermediate and advanced-level topics in Bayesian hierarchical modeling at the San Francisco JSM in 2003 received the 2004 ASA Excellence in Continuing Education award. He has won or been nominated for major teaching awards everywhere he has taught (the University of Chicago; the RAND Graduate School of Public Policy Studies; the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Bath UK; and the University of California, Santa Cruz). He has a particular interest in the exposition of complex statistical methods and ideas in the context of real-world applications.

CAREER DAY

Sponsored by BCASA and Boston University Department of Biostatistics
Hosted by Simmons College

Date: Saturday, February 12, 2005

Time: 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Cost: Free

Location: Simmons College Conference Center
Third floor, Main College Building
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA

RSVP: Required if you want lunch. Sue Perry at sperry@rhoworld.com or (617) 965-8000 x21.

Additional Information: Education Committee Chairperson Kerstin Allen at kallen@rhoworld.com.

Abstract: Many fields require the use of statistics. Statisticians from a number of these fields have generously offered their time to give you an idea of "what we do and why we like it". Each panelist will talk about what s/he does as a statistician, provide a story, and give you a sense of what people look for when hiring statisticians in their field. A recruiter from a well-known firm will talk about the types of jobs that she has placed statisticians in and the types of salaries she tends to see. You will have lunch with the speakers, during which time you will have informal conversations about the type of work the speakers do. You will also have an opportunity to meet the speakers at the end of the presentations.

ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK DINNER AND PARTY

Hosts Linda and Tom Marx

Date: Saturday, January 22, 2005

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 196 Appleton St.
Cambridge, MA
617-491-2558

RSVP: By January 19 to Sue Perry (sperry@rhoworld.com).
Please indicate what item you will be bringing (appetizer, main dish, side dish, salad, or dessert).

Directions: The Marx home is a few blocks west of Harvard Observatory, a few minutes drive towards Belmont from Harvard Square. For those using public transportation, it is about equidistant between Harvard Square and Porter Square. The home is between Concord Ave on the north and Huron Ave on the south, and between Royal Ave on the east and Walden St. on the west. Driving or walking away from Harvard Square on Concord Ave, take the second left after the intersection of Concord and Huron Aves. It's the fourth house on the left at the T intersection of Appleton and Saville Sts. There's on-street parking on nearby streets. Note that Appleton St. is one-way north between Huron and Concord Aves.

MOSTELLER STATISTICIAN OF THE YEAR BANQUET

Applications of Threshold Regression in AIDS Research, Environmental Research, and Proteomic Studies

Mei-Ling Ting Lee
Associate Professor of Medicine (Biostatistics), Harvard Medical School, and
Associate Professor, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health

Date: Wednesday, February 16, 2004

Time: 6:15 - 6:45 PM: Social
6:45 - 7:30 PM: Dinner
7:30 - 8:45 PM: Presentation

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

Location: The Inn at Longwood
342 Longwood Avenue
Boston, MA 02115

RSVP: Required by noon on Wednesday, February 9 to Sue Perry at sperry@rhoworld.com.
Specify whether you will attend the dinner.

Directions/Map: http://www.innatlongwood.com/hotel/65000023.asp. There are public parking garages nearby.
The Longwood Station stop on the Green Line is a short walk away.

Abstract:

Regression methodology based on observed first hitting times of a threshold for a stochastic process is referred to as threshold regression. For example, the health status of a patient can be assumed to be a latent process. The time to reach the primary endpoint or failure (death, disease onset, etc.) is the time when the latent health status process first crosses a failure threshold level. Threshold regression does not require the proportional hazards assumption and, in many ways is flexible and realistic for the analysis of time-to-event data.

Threshold regression was successfully applied in analyzing data from the protocol 116a of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG). Inferences for the regression model were based on censored survival data and marker measurements of CD4 counts. Covariates, such as treatment variables, risk factors and baseline conditions, were related to the model parameters through generalized linear regression functions. The application illustrates how threshold regression offers a rich conceptual framework for the study of treatment effects.

In an application to environmental research, threshold regression was used in a retrospective longitudinal study of more than 50,000 US railroad workers tracked from 1959 to 1996. The initial investigation focused on lung cancer death because of a suspected link to diesel exhaust exposure. Based on the intuitive concept that a lung cancer mortality event occurs when the cumulative environmental diesel exposure of a subject first hits a threshold level, a threshold regression model was found to be effective in providing insights into the process of disease progression.

Mass spectrometry technologies, such as matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization (MALDI) or surface-enhanced laser desorption/ionization (SELDI), are used in proteomic studies. The technologies rely on time-of-flight (TOF) of ions from a source to a detector. A threshold model can also be used for analyzing such data

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Internships

If your company would like to offer summer internships to students studying mathematics or statistics, the BCASA can help you locate candidates. We can announce the internship on our website, through our email list, and in the newsletter (next issue: January 2003). Contact Katherine Monti (kmonti@rhoworld.com) for details.

Chapter Committees

There are three standing committees of the BCASA. Kerstin Allen is the chair of the Education Committee, Maureen Mayer is the chair of the Membership Committee, and Shelley Hurwitz is the chair of the Newsletter Committee. All are welcome to join a committee by contacting the Committee Chair. The Education Committee is currently planning activities for 2005, so there is a lot to do and additional members would be very much appreciated.

Traveling Statistician Outreach Program

In this program, professional statisticians travel to colleges and universities to give statistical talks and to discuss statistics as a profession. The targeted colleges and universities are those that may not have many statisticians because of geographic isolation or simply no statistics department. Interested schools and volunteer speakers should contact Scott Evans at evans@sdac.harvard.edu or Kerstin Allen at kallen@rhoworld.com.

Caucus for Women in Statistics Calendar

The Caucus for Women in Statistics has produced a 2005 calendar, which they are selling to raise money for a poster competition for girls and young women in the kindergarten through 12th grade of high school to encourage interest in statistics. The calendar has pictures and biographies of twelve women who have been presidents of the caucus. The September page features chapter member Arlene Ash. You can get more information by visiting www.statwomen.org and clicking the link labeled "2005 Women in Statistics Calendars."

NEISM-10

The 10th annual New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting took place at Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island on October 16. Thirteen statisticians from all over New England came together to discuss issues of statistical pedagogy. The meeting was organized by Phyllis Schumacher and her colleagues at Bryant. These meetings of academic statisticians, typically isolated in departments of mathematics or business, give participants an opportunity to discuss issues in teaching statistics that rarely get addressed in their home department. On this occasion the group discussed the latest GAISE report on the essential components of a modern introductory, applied statistics course, projects in statistics courses, and the teaching of concepts in statistics courses. NEISM10 was funded by a grant from the Boston Chapter of the ASA. For further information about past or future NEISMs contact Robert Goldman at robert.goldman@simmons.edu.

Member News

Chapter member and past president Katherine Monti was featured in the Amstat News series "A Day in the Life of a Statistician". Each September, AmStat News publishes this series, designed to expose students considering a career in statistics to what statisticians really do. Part of her article was picked up by Nature magazine in their recent feature about careers in statistics entitled, "Analyse This" at http://www.nature.com/news/2004/041011/pf/nj7010-880a_pf.html. Congratulations, Kathy!

BCASA Planning Committee

The BCASA planning committee meets every six weeks or so and new members are always welcome. The agenda varies but most of the meeting time is spent planning events and eating dinner. The Planning committee membership includes the officers, the committee chairs, and other interested members, and there are usually about 12 to 15 people at the meetings. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 15, 2004. 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.

Chapter Dues

The BCASA newsletter is emailed to current members. Please be sure your membership is current by using your annual ASA membership renewal form and sending your BCASA dues to ASA. The BCASA membership fee is only $9 (it's only $3 for students) and BCASA members get discounts for BCASA events. Instructions are on our web site at http://www.amstat.org/chapters/boston/join.html. See the ASA web site for more information, including ASA membership discounts: http://www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm?fuseaction=join.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE DEVELOPER: The MathWorks of Natick, MA, is seeking a creative statistician to help propose, plan, and develop the statistical programming tools we offer to our MATLAB customers. This includes the design, architecture, and development of statistical 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.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE: The Health Care Research Unit at Boston Medical Center is currently looking to fill two positions - one at the master's level and one at the Ph.D. level. The Health Care Research Unit is a small unit which is part of the much larger Section of General Internal Medicine and does work for the Women's Health Research Unit as well as others throughout the Boston University Medical Campus community and beyond. As the Unit is small we are looking for an individual who is capable and interested in taking the lead on research projects. This includes a strong background in programming and statistical analysis, using SAS or similar statistical software package. For the PhD position, we are seeking someone who can contribute to the methodology of the projects and be involved in bringing in new grants to the unit. The studies that we are involved in are generally observational in nature, using large administrative databases, such as those from the Medicare Administration or Veteran's Administration. This is not a position involving any bench science, or significant amounts of management or administrative responsibilities. This position involves some writing of abstracts and journal articles and occasionally giving talks locally and at professional meetings. This Unit does research in a number of areas, but in general we quantify the use of medical care services and aim to understand the impact of these services on health and/or finance. A sample of topics recently researched in this unit would include; the effect of clinical guidelines on pressure ulcer care in nursing homes, ambulatory case-mix measures, risk-adjusted payment models, mammography utilization in women over 70, the effect of race and diabetes on survival in end stage renal disease, racial disparities in end-of-life care. If you are interested, please send your resume to Michael Posner, M.S., Statistical Manager, at mposner@bu.edu. Feel free to contact us with any questions as well.

SENIOR STATISTICIAN: Seeking a teamwork environment of like-minded researchers? Yearning to collaborate on projects with real public health impact? Want an exciting mix of applications and methodology? Whatever your reasons for a move, the New England Research Institutes (NERI) provides a stimulating, collaborative framework for Research Scientists to work on a broad range of projects covering areas as diverse as clinical trials, public health epidemiology and statistical methodology. NERI, a privately held organization, is one of the largest independent research institutes in the U.S., located near Cambridge and just 10 miles from downtown Boston. Most research activities are publicly funded and each scientist has the opportunity to work on an exciting mix of research topics tailored to match with their interests and experience. We have an opening for a Senior Biostatistician with at least 6 years of experience in a collaborative research setting. The successful applicant will possess biostatistical expertise in one or more of the following areas: multi-center clinical trial design, monitoring, and analysis; cardiology; chronic disease epidemiology; longitudinal analysis; and/or complex designed experiments. A doctorate in biostatistics, statistics, or a closely related field, as well as excellent oral and written communication skills are required. The successful candidate will also have experience in grant and manuscript writing in collaboration with other researchers, and mentoring junior statisticians. The Center for Statistical Analysis and Research at NERI is comprised of over 20 statisticians, half with the PhD/ScD. Apply your talents to our world-class, team-oriented diverse workforce and enjoy a competitive compensation and benefits package. For consideration please forward your resume via e-mail to HumanResources@neri.org. For more information about our exciting projects/programs please visit our website at: www.neri.org. NERI is committed to a culturally diverse workplace.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT

I would like to begin this report with a pseudo-"state-of-the-chapter address." In short, the state of the Boston Chapter (including membership, program activities, and finances is very healthy. The success of the Chapter is due to many factors including the growth of our profession and the dedicated efforts of many people.

Membership

Membership in the Chapter stands at 390, representing an absolute increase of 26 compared to this time last year. Boston is the third largest of 77 chapters, behind Washington, DC and New Jersey. Approximately 56% of the Chapter membership are at academic institutions. Chapter members are diverse and belong to many ASA sections. The largest Sections within our chapter are Biometrics (24% membership) and Biopharmaceutical (20% membership). Sections with the largest membership increases from last year are Health

Policy (16 additional members for a total of 45) and Bayesian (11 additional members for a total of 45). Section memberships with the largest membership decreases are Biopharmaceutical (18 fewer members for a total of 79) and Statistical Computing (10 fewer members for a total of 21).

I urge members to encourage others (particularly students) to join the Boston Chapter and the ASA by citing the benefits of such membership. As a graduate student, I was encouraged by my advisor (Professor David Hosmer) to join ASA and become active in professional activities by attending talks, courses, and conferences. These activities have contributed greatly to my professional growth. I believe that such activities will similarly be beneficial to current students. Note that students may join the Boston Chapter for only $3. Students also may currently join the ASA for 2 years for $20 that includes subscriptions to (1) AmStat News and (2) STATS.

Program Activities

The Boston Chapter has been viewed by ASA as a leading chapter in providing numerous, diverse, high-quality programs and activities. Substantial credit for these programs is owed to Tom Lane (Program Chair), Kerstin Allen (Chair of the Education Committee), and Planning Committee members. One recent program of note was the Conference on the Analysis of Genomic Data (co-sponsored by the Channing Laboratory in the Department of Medicine of the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School) that drew nearly 400 registrants from 15 countries in May of 2004. I would like to recognize the contributions of Mei-Ling Lee as Conference Chair and Tom Lane, Michael Posner, Natasa Rajicic, and Rui Wang who ensured the wonderful success of this program. I further wish to highlight a future Career Day on February 12, 2005 organized by Kerstin Allen and the Education Committee. The previous program sponsored by the Chapter was a huge success with record attendance. The next event promises to be equally as successful.

The Chapter also recently submitted an application for affiliate chapter status in Mu Sigma Rho, the national honorary society for statistics. The purpose of this society is to promote scholarly activity in statistics and the recognition of outstanding student and instructor achievement. We recognize Nick Horton for initiating and guiding this effort.

Another current Chapter activity is the Outreach to Isolated Colleges and Universities of New England. The program was recently highlighted by a visit from Herman Chernoff to three colleges (Bates, Bowdoin, and Colby) in Maine. Giving independent talks at each college, Professor Chernoff's visit inspired students and faculty alike, and generated much discussion and a few amusing stories. Professor Chernoff noted, "Some of the road signs were confusing. I stopped a couple of times to ask why a road obviously heading south was labeled 24N or a road going East was labeled 9W. Each time the answer was "This is Maine." It is comforting to know that even a statistician of such esteemed status as Professor Chernoff, can be confused. I wish to thank Professor Chernoff for his continued enormous contributions and influence on our profession (even after retirement). I also wish to thank Liam O'Brien (Colby), Melinda Harder (Bates), and Rosemary Roberts (Bowdoin) for their support of this program.

Call for Initiatives

The financial status of our Chapter is also healthy due to excellent strategic planning of the planning committee, individuals involved with specific chapter activities, and Michael Posner (Chapter Treasurer).

As a result, the Chapter has increased flexibility in supporting future activities. The Chapter encourages members to submit initiatives for statistical programs that they wish to organize, such as short-courses and conferences, for consideration of Chapter support. The Chapter will also consider partnering with other organizations in planning, advertising, and supporting such events. Recent Chapter supported initiatives have included the Isolated Statisticians Meeting (organized by Nick Horton and Bob Goldman) and a High School Outreach Program (organized by Kerstin Allen).

Acknowledgements

I would also like to acknowledge the members of the Boston Chapter Planning Committee that provides the foundation of the Chapter and deserves a great deal of credit for the success of the Chapter. The following people provide enormous contributions to our Chapter: Tom Lane (Program Chair, Website and Email List Administrator), Shelley Hurwitz (Vice President, Managing Editor of the Newsletter), Nick Horton (Chapter Representative), Maureen Mayer (Secretary, Chair of the Membership Committee), Michael Posner (Treasurer), Kerstin Allen (Chair of the Education Committee), and Bob Smith (Past President). Other dedicated members of the Planning Committee include: Kathy Monti, Bob Goldman, Dominique Houghton, Greta Ljung, John McKenzie, Susan Assman, Linda and Tom Marx, Miriam Chernoff, Stan Morse, Mei-Ling Ting Lee, Rui Wang, Jiameng Zhang, Andy Baker, Phil Gona, Richard Goldstein, Robert Carver, Michael Kahn, Joan Weinstein, and Natasa Rajicic.

I would like to close by recognizing the contributions and life of Chapter member, Dr. Robert Zackin of the Harvard School of Public Health who passed away recently. Dr. Zackin made enormous contributions to biostatistical science in HIV/AIDS research and dedicated his life to improving the lives of others. Robert was a friend to many and will be deeply missed.

Submitted by Scott Evans

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A personal note from the chair... I've always enjoyed statistics from the mathematical perspective, but mostly because of the variety of applications for which one might call on a statistician. I made the mistake of telling this to an artist once who was quick to point out that art would not be an appropriate application. Still, I will always remember in statistics 101 when on the first day the professor completely filled the blackboard with fields that use statistics. (Thanks Norma Terrin!)

Onto business... The Education Committee is very busy in its efforts to reach out to various communities of statisticians and potential statisticians. (Can there ever really be enough statisticians?)

One of our endeavors of reaching out is the Traveling Statistician Outreach Program. In this program we send statisticians to remote colleges or colleges with very small statistics or math departments to give presentations on statistics. Recently Herman Chernoff gave talks at Colby, Bates, and Bowdoin colleges in Maine. Thank you, Herman, for bringing your experience and enthusiasm for statistics to these college students. Thanks also to Scott Evans for giving some presentations as part of this outreach and for launching and running this program.

Our other endeavor is the Career Day 2005 event to be held on Saturday, February 12th. The Career Night event in 2003 was very successful and had a great turnout. This year we've responded to everyone's enthusiasm for a Saturday event. This promises to be a great day. Resume exchanges at the February event may also be possible. Thanks go out to the speakers who have already agreed to present; to Simmons College for providing the space; and to Boston University Department of Biostatistics for helping fund the event.

Submitted by Kerstin Allen

The BCASA Newsletter is published four times during the academic year and is emailed to current BCASA members. Send your comments to any officer or newsletter production committee member.

BCASA CHAPTER OFFICERS

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