BCASA NEWSLETTER

Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association

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

Volume 31, No. 1, September 2012

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

E-Mail: BostonChapterASA@gmail.com

SCHEDULED EVENTS			
Tuesday, October 02, 2012	Evening Lecture Series	Cambridge, MA	
Thursday, October 25, 2012	Pickard Lecture	Cambridge, MA	
Saturday, November 03, 2012	Isolated Statisticians Meeting	Worcester, 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 Program Chair John McKenzie, mckenzie@babson.edu.

EVENING LECTURE SERIES

Adjusting for Nonresponse in the Occupational Employment Statistics Survey

Nicholas Horton Smith College

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Time: Light Dinner: 6:15 pm; Presentation: 7:00 pm

Location: Buckingham Browne & Nichols School,

80 Gerry's Landing Road, Cambridge, MA

http://bbns.org/contact/directions

Registration: http://bcasa2012oct.eventbrite.com. Request registration by September 24. Deadline September 28.

Cost: Dinner: \$8 for chapter members; \$10 for non-members; students free.

Presentation: free.

This presentation is the joint work of Professor Horton with Daniell Toth and Polly Phipps of the Bureau of Labor Statistics when the presenter was an ASA/NSF BLS Fellow.

Abstract

Past research indicates that employment size, industry sector, multi-establishment status, and metropolitan area size, along with important interactions, have a significant impact on an establishment's propensity to respond to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics survey (OES). Using administrative wage data linked to the sample, we find that these establishment characteristics are related to wages; wage estimates are a major OES outcome variable. In this paper, we investigate the use of the administrative data for imputing missing data due to nonresponse. The multiple imputation method focuses on adjusting the OES wage estimates with this auxiliary data to reduce potential bias.

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PICKARD LECTURE

The 2nd Pickard Memorial Lecture is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 25, 2012, with an invited talk by Hans Rosling at 12:00 noon, followed by a reception. This will take place at Harvard University in Cambridge, with location TBA. A formal invitation containing more details will be sent (via email) in early September. Please email symposia@stat.harvard.edu if you wish to receive the formal invitation.

Hans Rosling is Professor of International Health at Karolinska Institute, co-founder and chairman of the Gapminder Foundation, and frequent TED conference speaker. He is so in demand as a speaker that we are limited as to day/time for this event by his schedule and availability.

One of his TED talks is found at the following link: http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/hans_rosling_reveals_new_insights_on_poverty.html

And several others can found via web search.

His TED profile is found at: http://www.ted.com/speakers/hans_rosling.html.

And the link to Gapminder: http://www.gapminder.org/.

ISOLATED STATISTICIANS

The seventeenth New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting (NEISM17) will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2012 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester MA. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for statisticians isolated (usually, but not always, in mathematics departments) to discuss, in some depth, topics related to teaching statistics.

The organizers (Bob Goldman and John McKenzie) would particularly like to encourage new statistics teachers and instructors who have not attended previous NEISMs to come to NEISM17. The event is sponsored by the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association and is free; we ask only that participants pay for their own transportation.

Earlier NEISMs were held at various New England colleges; Williams, Amherst, Smith, Babson, Bryant, Simmons, Pine Manor, and Emmanuel. Last year, 23 statistics instructors from all over New England participated in NEISM16, at Emmanuel College. The organizers were particularly pleased that we were able, for the first time, to reach out to several instructors from community colleges.

If you know of someone who may be interested in this event, please forward this notice to them.

Please register for NEISM17 by October 31 at the latest. Space is limited and so we urge you to register ASAP. Simply email John McKenzie (mckenzie@babson.edu) or Bob Goldman (robert.goldman@simmons.edu) your interest in attending.

PROGRAM REPORT

Tom Lane

The past year was a transition year as we said good-bye and thanks to our outgoing Program Chair, Maureen Mayer, and we elected a new Program Chair, John McKenzie. John has begun his term early by starting to organize our fall events.

Thanks to many volunteers who gave generously of their time, we were able to put together a full schedule of events for our 2011-2012 season.

It was an active year for local conferences. The chapter contributed in some fashion, either with money or volunteers, toward four conferences.

- The New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports, September, Harvard
- The New England Isolated Statisticians Meeting, November, Emmanuel
- The New England Statistics Symposium, April, Boston University
- The International Chinese Statistical Association Symposium, June, Boston

The core of our schedule is our lecture series. We had three last year.

- Lindsay Page and Ben Castleman on the "summer melt" among college-intending high school students, in December at Buckingham Browne & Nichols
- Andrea Foulkes on genetic association studies, in March at UMass Worcester
- Bob Smith on presidential voting, in May at Buckingham Browne & Nichols

We hosted two panel discussions, both of which provided technical information as well as ample opportunity for audience participation.

- Shelley Hurwitz, Arlene Ash, and Katherine Halvorsen on real-life ethical dilemmas, in October at Brigham & Womens Hospital.
- John McKenzie and Roy Welsch on the data deluge, in April at MIT

In January we took our customer break from technical talks and celebrated our annual potluck dinner and holiday party, this time at MathWorks in Natick.

Katherine Halvorsen returned to our schedule in March for our award banquet at Simmons, where she received the Mosteller Statistician of the Year Award. Her talk dealt with the common core state standards for mathematics.

Finally, the chapter sponsored a career day for high school AP Statistics students. A number of speakers gave the students a taste of statistics as a career by describing real-life problems they have worked on. Thanks to Miriam Chernoff, Lisa Mukherjee, and Bob Goldman for making this possible.

I look forward to our new season of events, and hope you will be able to attend many of them.

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

EAST User Group Meeting

Cyrus Mehta of Cytel invites you to attend the EAST user group meeting on Friday, October 12.

This meeting will feature talks by key opinion leaders, round table discussions and an opportunity to try out the latest version of East, Cytel's software for Adaptive and Group Sequential clinical trials, and to shape the future direction of East with your inputs. The registration fee is heavily discounted for academic participants.

This year's meeting will be held October 12 at The Charles Hotel in Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA. The forum is preceded October 11 by optionalEast® training workshops. Learn more and register with this link to the website.

http://www.cvent.com/events/east-user-group-meeting-2012/event-summary-734b5f19dfba48ad8b59ed256273b0bc.aspx

Cytel's Andrea McSweeney is ready to answer any questions. Contact her at +1 617 528 7117 or andrea@cytel.com

Confirmed speakers and topics:

David L. DeMets: University of Wisconsin Biostatistics Department Chair "Clinical Trials and the Growth of Regulations"
Robert O'Neill: CDER/FDA Office of Biostatistics Director "Perspectives on the Development and Future of Adaptive Clinical Trials"

Brenda L. Gaydos: Eli Lilly Head of Clinical Trial Optimization "Design and Analysis Approaches to Evaluate Cardiovascular Risk"

Abdul J. Sankoh: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Head of Biometrics "An overview of the Incivex drug development process: The road to finding a cure for HCV Genotype 1"

Yili Pritchett: Abbott Research Fellow and Clinical Statistics Director "Adaptive sample size re-estimation in confirmatory clinical trials: application to end stage renal disease"

We hope you'll join our forum on modern trial design and implementation.

Correlated Component Regression Webinar

The American Statistical Association is sponsoring a two-hour webinar "Correlated Component Regression: A New Method for Analyzing Big Data or Small Data Containing Many Correlated Predictors," to be presented by Jay Magidson on Thursday, September 27. A discounted rate of \$90 is available to all ASA members. Registration deadline is September 25.

After introducing the statistical problems associated with near or complete multicollinearity and describing current solutions, this webinar introduces a new regression method, called Correlated Component Regression (CCR), which provides reliable predictions of a dependent variable even with more predictors than cases. Three examples with real and simulated data are used to illustrate analysis using CORExpress® software. The data are made available to all attendees.

For more information and to register, please visit the website: http://www.amstat.org/sections/qp/webinar.cfm

Boston Meetings

The following three annual meetings will take place in Boston during 2013:

- The American Association for the Advancement of Science, February 14-18. For more information, please visit http://www.aaas.org/meetings/2013/.
- The Society for Clinical Trials, May 19-22. For more information, please visit http://www.sctweb.org/public/meetings/2013/home.cfm.
- The Drug Information Association, June 23-27. For more information, please visit http://www.diahome.org/en/Meetings-and-Training/Find-Meetings-and-Training/Meeting-Details.aspx?ProductID=30075&EventType=Annual%20Meeting

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NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meng Named Dean

The Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences has named Xiao-Li Meng as Dean. Xiao-Li is currently the chair of the Department of Statistics, and is a recent winner of the chapter's Mosteller Statistician of the Year Award. Congratulations Xiao-Li!

http://www.gsas.harvard.edu/news/xiao-li-meng-named-gsas-dean.php

Brown Elected to AAAS

ASA member Emery Neal Brown was elected this year as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Emery is Warren M. Zapol Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, and is also Professor of Computational Neuroscience and Professor of Health Sciences & Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Two Awards within Two Days at Two Meetings

Michael Posner, an Associate Professor of Statistics in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Villanova University and a former treasurer of the Boston Chapter of the American Statistical Association, received two awards for teaching statistics in early August. On August 1 he was selected as the 2012 recipient of the Waller Education Award by the American Statistical Association at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego, California. Two days later, at the 2012 MathFest in Madison, Wisconsin, he received a Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member by the Mathematical Association of America.

BCASA Members Named as 2012 ASA Fellows

Congratulations to the following five BCASA Members recently named as 2012 ASA Fellows:

- **Scott R. Evans**, Harvard School of Public Health, Wrentham, Massachusetts: For excellence in the design and analysis of clinical trials, consulting and education in clinical research, methodological development, and for outstanding leadership and service to the ASA and the statistics profession.
- **Nicholas J. Horton**, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts: For outstanding contributions to statistical education; for excellence in the development of applications to medical research; and for exemplary leadership and service to the profession and to ASA.
- **A. James O'Malley**, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts: For novel use of Bayesian statistics, multivariate-hierarchical modeling, causal inference and social network analysis to solve problems in health policy and health services research, for improving evaluation of treatments and quality of health care, and for leadership in health policy statistics.
- **Abdul J. Sankoh**, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Department of Biometrics, Cambridge, Massachusetts: For fine research contributions to the field of biostatistics, and the enhancement of clinical trial design and data analysis.
- **Judith D. Singer**, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts: For substantial contributions to quantitative methods used in social, educational, and behavioral research; for pedagogical innovations and outstanding teaching of generations of students; and for significant leadership and service to the statistics profession, educational statistics research community, and higher education.

Begg Wins First Lagakos Award

Dr. Melissa Begg is the first recipient of the newly established Lagakos Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Begg will deliver a lecture and be presented with the inaugural award on Friday, September 28, 2012, preceding the kickoff of the 2012 HSPH Alumni Weekend. Information at http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/biostats/events/awards/alum/.

The Department of Biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health established the Lagakos Distinguished Alumni Award in memory of Dr. Stephen Lagakos, a faculty member and former chair of the Department of Biostatistics who passed away in a tragic automobile accident in 2009.

Dr. Begg was graduated from the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard in 1989, and currently serves as Professor of Clinical Biostatistics and Vice Dean of Education at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Begg is also the Co-Director of the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research. The award recognizes Dr. Begg's accomplishments in education, scientific collaboration, and statistical methodology as well as her leadership role in academic administration.

Mu Sigma Rho

It's not too early to start thinking about your outstanding statistics students and considering nominating them for membership in Mu Sigma Rho. Both undergraduate and graduate students can be nominated. Information can be found at: http://math.smith.edu/~nhorton/msr.html or by contacting Liam O'Brien at lobrien@colby.edu. Although the deadline isn't until March 1st, 2013, nominations are accepted anytime.

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. Please join us and have an impact on chapter events and activities. Dinner is provided. For more information contact Chapter President Tom Lane, tlane@alum.mit.edu.

Nominations for Mosteller Statistician of the Year

We are seeking nominations for our annual Statistician of the Year award. The BCASA Mosteller Statistician of the Year award is presented each year at a banquet/lecture in February to a distinguished statistician who has made exceptional contributions to the field of statistics and has shown outstanding service to the statistical community and the Boston Chapter.

The current Statistician of the Year is Katherine Halvorsen. Previous award recipients are Fred Mosteller, 1990; Herman Chernoff, 1991; Marvin Zelen, 1992; Ralph D'Agostino, 1993; William DuMouchel, 1994; Don Rubin, 1995; Nan Laird, 1996; David Hoaglin, 1997; Richard Goldstein, 1998; Arlene Ash, 1999; Cyrus Mehta, 2000; Alan Gelfand, 2001; Alan Zaslavsky, 2002; John D. McKenzie, Jr., 2003; Louise Ryan, 2004; Carl Morris, 2006; LJ Wei, 2007; Richard DeVeaux, 2008; David Hosmer, 2009; Stephen Lagakos, 2010; and Xiao-Li Meng, 2011.

Please forward all nominations by October 5, 2012 to Tom Lane, <u>tlane@alum.mit.edu</u>. Include a brief description of the candidate's qualifications for the award. Voting will take place at the next Planning Committee meeting.

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CUPPLES AWARD

L. Adrienne Cupples Award for Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Service in Biostatistics Boston University School of Public Health, Department of Biostatistics

Purpose of the Award

This annual award recognizes a biostatistician whose academic achievements reflect the contributions to teaching, research, and service exemplified by Professor L. Adrienne Cupples. Dr. Cupples joined the faculty at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH) in 1981 and later served as founding Chair of the Department of Biostatistics and Co-Executive Director of the Graduate Program in Biostatistics. During her tenure at BUSPH, she has advanced the field of biostatistics through extensive publications in major journals and book chapters on collaborative and methodological research, development and effective teaching of a wide range of biostatistics courses, and mentorship of numerous graduate students and faculty.

Eligibility and Nominations

To be eligible, the nominee must be an internationally recognized statistician/biostatistician who have made significant contributions to the statistical sciences through teaching, research, and service, and who will be willing to deliver a lecture at the award ceremony held in the Department of Biostatistics at Boston University on April 4th, 2013.

Nominations should include the nominee's name and contact information, rationale for the nomination not exceeding 2 pages in length, and the nominee's curriculum vitae. Nominations may be made by faculty, collaborators, students, or staff working with or familiar with the work of the nominee. Nominations will be accepted through November 15, 2012 and the winner will be notified by December 1, 2012.

Please send nominations via e-mail to:

Lisa M. Sullivan, PhD Associate Dean for Education Professor and Chair, Department of Biostatistics lsull@bu.edu

Selection Criteria

Criteria for the award include, but are not limited to, excellence in the following areas:

- A Biostatistics education (teaching, curriculum design, course development)
- ▲ Collaborative or methodological biostatistical research
- ▲ Service to the profession
- ▲ Student and faculty mentoring

Award Selection Committee

The Award Selection Committee will be comprised of eight members, six members of the faculty of the Boston University Department of Biostatistics representing varying areas of expertise and faculty rank and two student members currently enrolled in the graduate program in Biostatistics at Boston University.

Winners of the award will receive a \$1000 honorarium, and all expenses to attend and present at the Boston University Department of Biostatistics at an Annual Award Day, generally held on the first Thursday in April. Faculty, staff and students interested in biostatistics from the Boston area will be invited to the presentation given by the Cupples' Award recipient.

http://www.sph.bu.edu/CupplesAward

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Babson College

Professor and Chair, Mathematics and Science Division

The Mathematics and Science Division of Babson College invites applications for a September 1, 2013, appointment at the rank of Professor or Associate Professor if the candidate will soon be ready for promotion to Professor. This position will include an initial three year appointment as Division Chair with the possibility of a three year extension.

The ideal candidate will have a terminal degree in mathematics, statistics, operations research, or engineering, proven records of excellence in teaching and scholarship, and the desire and ability to manage a division that consists of approximately sixteen full-time faculty in the areas of mathematics, statistics, operations research, the natural sciences, and applied technologies, as well as approximately ten part-time instructors, laboratory assistants, and other support staff. The anticipated teaching load during the term as chair will be two sections per academic year.

Electronic applications will be submitted through https://babson.peopleadmin.com. Paper applications will not be accepted. Please include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and a brief overview of your research record and agenda going forward. Review of applications will begin on July 15, 2012, and will continue until the position is filled.

Tenure-Track Faculty Position in Statistics/Analytics, Mathematics and Science Division

The Mathematics and Science Division of Babson College invites applicants for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position starting September 1, 2013. The ideal candidate will possess a terminal degree in statistics, analytics, or a related field or expect to complete the requirements for the degree by September 1, 2013, a proven teaching record with the desire to deliver statistics and analytics courses to undergraduate and MBA business students, and a strong research agenda.

Primary teaching responsibilities include the required foundation statistics courses and the development and delivery of advanced electives in Business Analytics at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels. The anticipated teaching load is four sections per academic year.

Electronic applications will be submitted through https://babson.peopleadmin.com. Paper applications will not be accepted. Please include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and a brief overview of your research record and agenda going forward. Review of applications will begin on July 15, 2012, and will continue until the position is filled.

College of the Holy Cross

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the College of the Holy Cross invites applications for two fulltime tenure-track appointments in statistics to begin in August 2013. Applicants with backgrounds in theoretical statistics, applied statistics, or biostatistics are preferred. Candidates must demonstrate commitment to, and excellence in, undergraduate teaching as well as scholarly achievement. Ph.D. required. This position carries a 3-2 teaching load with a full-salary one-semester research leave prior to tenure review and generous sabbatical and fellowship leaves for senior faculty.

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is committed to significantly enhancing its current offerings in probability and statistics for both majors and non-majors. Toward this end, we look for candidates who can contribute to the development of new introductory and advanced courses in statistics.

To submit your application materials, go to http://www.mathjobs.org/jobs/HolyCross. Materials submitted should include the following: a cover letter describing research and teaching interests, an up-to-date curriculum vitae, a research statement, a teaching statement that includes descriptions of course and curricular design efforts in statistics in addition to commenting on pedagogy and philosophy, unofficial transcripts, and three letters of recommendation. Official copies of transcripts are required at a later stage in the application process, but unofficial copies are permitted for initial application to the position.

Further inquiries may be directed to Professor Edward J. Soares, Chair, Statistics Search Committee, Ref: Positions # 2651 and #900, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA 01610 or via email at statsearch@holycross.edu. Additional information regarding this position may be found at http://academics.holycross.edu/mathcs/statsearch. Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2012 and continue until the position has been filled.

The College of the Holy Cross is a highly selective, exclusively undergraduate, Catholic liberal arts college in the Jesuit tradition. It enrolls about 2,800 students and is located on a 175-acre campus with a panoramic view of Worcester, a medium-sized city 45 miles west of Boston. The College seeks faculty members whose scholarship, teaching, advising, and on- and off-campus service demonstrate commitment to the educational benefits of a richly diverse community. Holy Cross aspires to meet the needs of dual-career couples, in part through its membership in the Colleges of Worcester Consortium (http://www.cowc.org) and the New England Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (http://www.newenglandherc.org). The College is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and complies with all Federal and Massachusetts laws concerning equal opportunity and affirmative action in the workplace.

Boston University

Assistant Professor of Statistics

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Boston University invites applications at the tenure-track Assistant Professor level in Statistics. Ph.D. required, salary commensurate with experience. The position will begin in July 2013, subject to final budgetary approval. Strong commitment to research and teaching is essential. Please send a cover letter. CV, research statement, teaching statement, and at least four letters of recommendation, one of which addresses teaching, to Statistics Search, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Boston University, 111 Cummington St., Boston, MA 02215. Alternatively, submit all materials to http://mathjobs.org. Application Deadline January 2, 2013. Boston University is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer.

Five-College Consortium

Postdoctoral Associate

Postdoctoral Associate in statistics at the Five-College consortium (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts Amherst). Duties include teaching one course per semester at the liberal arts colleges, research at UMass, and consulting throughout the Five Colleges. Three years. Ideal for a new PhD to explore careers in large and small academic institutions. A PhD in Statistics or a related field and experience with applied statistics are required.

Submit applications at http://www.mathjobs.org (strongly preferred). Applicants should provide a curriculum vitae, evidence of strength in teaching and research, and arrange for three letters of recommendation. Paper applications can be mailed to Mathematics & Statistics, 1623E Lederle Graduate Research Tower, University of Massachusetts, 710 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01003, Attn: Kim Stone. For additional information please contact Michael Lavine (lavine@math.umass.edu). Funded, in part, by NSF. Review of applications begins on December 3 of 2012 and continues until position is filled. UMass Amherst is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.

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.

BCASA OFFICERS		
President, 2011-12	Tom Lane, The MathWorks	
Program Chair, 2011-12	John McKenzie, Babson College	
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BCASA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS			
Mu Sigma Rho	Liam O'Brien, Colby College		

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