

Chapter Notes

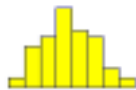
Newsletter of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association

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Our Mission Statement

The purpose of our organization is to encourage the use and appreciation of Statistics and its applications, and to facilitate interaction among all persons having an interest in or being concerned with the field of Statistics.

President's Message

Jim Love

Greetings!

In his book "In Heaven As on Earth: A Vision of the Afterlife", Connecticut psychiatrist M. Scott Peck asserts that the most exalted activity in heaven involves working collectively towards altruistic goals. Although I will not attempt to "divine" the afterlife, I would like to share my "vision" of the Chapter Goals for 2000-2001:

Goals

- Broaden Chapter participation beyond academia and the pharmaceutical industry by hosting a joint meeting with the American Society of Quality (Steve Luko).
- Encourage communication among members by maintaining an active schedule of Chapter meetings (Marianne Messina).
- Promote quantitative literacy by helping teachers with the Poster Contest (Sterling Hardy) and by sponsoring a seminar on Advanced Placement Statistics (Fred Djang)
- Enhance the image of Statistics as a discipline and as a profession by making presentations at local schools that illustrate the relevance of statistics to everyday life and show how statistics can help discover truth.

In order to be successful, the Chapter needs your help, and your ideas. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas. I would also like to share my view of the state of our Chapter.

- The Chapter is economically stable.
- Our members are intelligent, knowledgeable, and have broad experience.
- Rare is the statistician who has time on their hands. Most of us feel over-committed, if not overwhelmed. I believe this to be our core problem.

- The Education Committee, chaired by Sterling Hardy, is our shining star! Winners of the Poster Contest were displayed at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Indianapolis. As usual, Connecticut students performed superbly. I know that everyone from Connecticut who saw the exhibit walked a little taller. This epitomizes what we seek to achieve.

There are many opportunities to contribute to our goals. Many tasks do not require a long-term commitment, and all contributions are appreciated. So give me a call if you see an area that interests you.

I would like to personally thank all of you who have contributed to Chapter activities. A partial list would include statisticians from Yale Biostatistics, UCONN, Univ. of New Haven, Wesleyan Univ., Choate, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Pfizer, Bayer, BI, Purdue, and New Haven VA. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of the Program Committee, led by Marianne Messina.

Although I cannot ensure admittance to heaven, I know you will be surprised with how much we can accomplish together.

Jim

Education Committee Report

2001 Statistical Poster Competition

Call for Volunteers!!

Sterling Hardy

Each year the Chapter sponsors a statistical poster competition for kids in grades K-12. This is perhaps the greatest program we have to reach out to our local communities, promote quantitative literacy, and make a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of school children. Posters from Connecticut are judged locally, then forwarded to a similar poster competition, which is sponsored by the national organization. The competition will be held in March 2001, with an awards ceremony in April. I would encourage those of you who have school-age children to contact their math teacher, tell them about the contest, and offer to help them enter!

We are looking for volunteers to work with teachers and to judge the posters. Working with teachers involves calling them up, answering their questions, and coaching them through the competition. Don't worry; we'll tell you everything you need to know so that you can help the teacher.

The posters will be judged in March of 2001. This is another wonderful opportunity to get involved, interact with some of your peers, and see what the poster competition is all about. Please contact me (sterling.hardy@bms.com, (860) 677-7251) if you would be interested in either helping a teacher or judging the posters.

Thanks!

Program Committee Report

Marianne Messina

This year the Program Committee is working fast and furiously to plan and execute a series of talks that will reach out to all members of the statistical community in Connecticut. On September 27, the 2000 program got off to a great start with Ray Waller, Executive Director for the ASA, talking about the Census. This talk was hosted by Yale University, New Haven. On October 5, Douglas Bates, from the University of Wisconsin, discussed "Non-Linear Models" at Bayer Pharmaceuticals, West Haven. On October 30, Colin Begg from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center discussed "The Use of Surrogate Endpoints in Clinical Trials." This thought provoking talk and discussion was hosted by University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus.

For the immediate future...

January 9, 2001 - Fred Djang from the Choate-Rosemary Preparatory School is organizing an AP Statistics Colloquium for teachers. This will be held in Wallingford at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

February 8, 2001 - CT Chapter ASA and the Hartford section of American Society for Quality (ASQ) will hold a joint meeting. See "Joint meeting" article below.

Tentatively in 2001

Some proposed spring talks are an "Opportunities in Statistics" session where representatives from "statistical headhunters", industry and academia can help provide guidance to those new to the work as well as those looking for new career opportunities.

Tim Keyes, from GE Capital Commercial Finance, will be talking about “Statistical Aspects of Valuing Global Non-performing Loan Portfolios” at the University of Connecticut, Stamford Campus. Gordon Lan will also be speaking on behalf of the Chapter. There is also the possibility of a joint session between the ASA and SAS Users’ Group.

As you can see we have a pretty full agenda. If you would like more information about these talks or would like to make suggestions for future speakers, please share this with members of the Program Committee listed below:

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We look forward to seeing you at a future CT Chapter event!



**CT Chapter of ASA and Hartford Section of ASQ
to Host a Joint Meeting**

Stephen Luko

The Hartford section of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) and the CT chapter of ASA will hold a joint meeting on the evening of 8-Feb-2001. The theme will be “getting acquainted”. A short presentation, from the ASQ side, will be given on: The Impact of Downsizing on Quality. Both sides will present brief summaries of their respective organizations.

The ASA and ASQ organizations have much in common, yet have had limited interaction with each other. The purpose of this meeting is simply to get re-acquainted and to exchange some ideas.

Please note that this will be a dinner meeting, and that reservations should be made in advance. The cost is \$23.00 per person. For reservations and a dinner selection contact David Hall (860-658-6777 or asq0103@aol.com). Further information on this event appears below.

Date: 8-February-2001.

Location: Adams Mill Restaurant, 165 Adams Street, Manchester, CT.

- 5:00 PM Registration, networking time
- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 7:00 PM Speakers
- 8:30 PM Good night, have a safe trip home

Directions: I-84, exit 62. Take a right on Buckland Street and go straight through two stoplights. At the second light the street name changes to Adams Street. Go through two more lights bearing to the left. The restaurant will be on your left. Look for stacked barrels.

Reservations: Please respond by 2-Feb-2001.



The board members of the CT Chapter of ASA extends best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season and new year.



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