



# MILWASA Monitor

August 2003

## Two Candidates Vie for Chapter Vice President Post

It's election time for our chapter, and time to select a new Vice-President/President elect. This is a three-year appointment as Vice-President/President/Past President. Current President Derek Allen and Chapter Vice-President Dan Eastwood have served for the past year since the reactivation of the Chapter, and we are pleased to see the renewed interest that all of you have shown.

We are fortunate to have two able and willing nominees for the post: Brent Logan and Corey Pelz (see below for more information.). To vote, click on the link below and include your vote in the message text. **Please respond by 8/29/2003.**

<mailto:rsparapa@mcw.edu>

The nominee who receives the most votes will be the incoming Vice President while the other nominee will be elected as a Director.

Brent Logan joined the Division of Biostatistics in the summer of 2001. Prior to joining MCW he worked at the Institute for

Health Services Research and Policy Studies at Northwestern University, where he worked on software issues related to the design and interim analyses of a sequential clinical trial. Dr. Logan served as the Director of the Biostatistics Consulting Center at MCW in 2001-2002, and is a biostatistician for the clinical trials network of the International Bone Marrow Transplant Registry. He has research interests in multiple comparison procedures, methods for analyzing multiple endpoints in clinical trials, and inference in dose-response studies.

Corey Pelz is currently a Senior Statistician working for a market research firm, J. Reckner Associates, stationed at their Oak Creek office. He has a Master's degree in Biostatistics from the Medical College of Wisconsin with 10 years experience in applying advanced statistical methods to a variety of disciplines. His research interests include survival analysis modelling and categorical data techniques for ranking and rating data, applying and developing innovative methods for sensory and market research, and developing automated statistical analysis systems. Corey has been a member of the ASA since 1993 and the International Biometric Society since 1999.

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## Talk Scheduled for Next Meeting of the Membership

Dalene Stangl is scheduled to speak to the MILWASA membership at its upcoming membership meeting. Information regarding the time and place will be forthcoming.

The topic is "Bayesian Statistical Inference: What is it? Why does it matter?"

Dalene will provide an overview of applied Bayesian methods and present some examples from recent medical literature. She will also discuss the contrast between the Bayesian and frequentist paradigms.

Dalene is the Executive Editor of Chance magazine (2002-2004). She is also the Director of the Institute of Statistics and Decision Sciences and Professor of the Practice of Statistics and Public Policy at Duke University. Her research interests include: Bayesian methodology, survival analysis, hierarchical models, and meta-analysis. She is interested in applications of statistics to health-related and social sciences as well as health and public policy. She received an M.S. in Sociology from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. in statistics from Carnegie Mellon University.

## *Out With The Old...In With The New...*

### **Outgoing President Allen Looks Back, Looks Forward**

It has been a pleasure to serve as President of the Milwaukee ASA chapter for the past year.

During this time we focused on providing a compelling value proposition to new and continuing members through enhanced communications and services. In particular, we were fortunate in late 2002 to host a very successful talk by C.R. Rao, the recipient of the National Medal of Science, which was presented to him by President Bush.

In addition, we have made a concerted effort to produce and distribute the MILWASA newsletter when topics of interest came to our attention.

Whether your specific interests are in bio-medical, econometric, psychometric, theoretical, or mathematical statistics, we hope you have enjoyed the programming and communications your chapter officers have managed over the past year. Certainly all the officers deserve congratulations for increasing our membership to unprecedented levels over the past year.

I wish the incoming President, Dan Eastwood, the best of luck in our continuing effort to further improve the Milwaukee ASA chapter.

*Derek R. Allen*

### **Thanks Are In Order**

I look back at our success this past year, and I notice a lot of people to thank:

To Derek, for shepherding us through our first year back as an active chapter.

To Rodney for his hard work organizing our guest speaker events and everything else. He made the choice for the service recognition award an easy one.

To Ray Hoffmann, for advice and guidance on everything.

To Bob White, for his valuable assistance in putting this newsletter together and making it look great.

To our membership, for your support of our chapter. I hope we can continue to provide a valuable service.

For the coming year, I think we have some speakers lined up who will offer some new and interesting perspectives. I have a personal goal for the coming year as well. I hope to expand our service role by promoting statistics in educational curriculum, and encouraging students to pursue careers in statistics.

Look for me to get up on a soapbox at the next opportunity.

*Dan Eastwood*

## **UWM Professor Develops Six-Sigma Training Module**

In February 2003, Layth Alwan, Associate Professor of Business Statistics at UWM and ASA chapter officer, taught a continuing education module on time-series analysis and forecasting at GE Medical Systems to GE six-sigma blackbelts and master blackbelts.

The module was developed based on Professor Alwan's review of standard six-sigma training done at GE and other companies. He found that most six-sigma training programs provide trainees with insufficient exposure to data analysis techniques for the analysis of process and time-oriented applications.