



Message from Matthew Facer, 2005 SSA President:

Living in Sacramento one cannot escape politics, and for the fourth straight year we face yet more political battling. The special election this November comes one year after a divisive presidential election, two years after our state's recall election, and three years after the 2002 gubernatorial election. But elections always remind us that we are all part of something larger, and this "larger something" effects our lives every day. This effect is influenced by what we contribute to it individually. Such logic applies to all "larger somethings" of which we are a part, from citizenship in California to membership in SSA. I truly feel fortunate to have contributed to the SSA as President this year and as Vice-President last year because the SSA is a great "larger something" for the Sacramento community. We are the only local ASA chapter in the entire U.S. to host an annual research institute and have done so for over 25 years; we provide a total of \$1,000 per year in scholarships to statistics students from UC Davis and CSUS; and we put together short courses available to anyone at a fraction of the cost professional organizations would charge.

The SSA is such an effective "larger something" because of the contributions of individuals. In 2005, Linda Gage, Kathleen Gallagher, and Charles Chan served as SSA Vice-President and ASA Representative, Secretary, and Treasurer (respectively), but these three have contributed immensely to the success of the SSA over the past several years in different capacities. The nice experiences enjoyed by myself and other SSA Presidents and Vice Presidents in the past were due largely to their efforts. I would also like to thank Kirsten for doing so well as short course chair, Lois for assembling our newsletter, Shannon for maintaining our website, and Chandra, Chris, Lisette, Prabir, Gloria, and Jenni for serving as Councilors. A listing of nominated officers and councilors is included at the end of the newsletter.

Two other individual contributions have made a huge difference. First, Susan Slaughter again coordinated Sacramento Valley SAS User's Group activities at the Institute, which has improved our annual event. Second, a private donor (who requested anonymity) made a significant financial contribution after the 2005 Institute to be used explicitly to fund student scholarships, which ensures such awards will be available in the future.

Thank you all!

Message from Linda Gage, SSA Vice-President and 2005 Institute Chair:

The 26th Annual Institute on Research and Statistics took place on March 23, 2005 and attracted over 100 participants. The full day meeting was held on the California State University, Sacramento campus. President Matt Facer, California Department of Health Services, and Edward Bradley, Department of Mathematics, California State University, Sacramento, opened the Institute with welcoming remarks to the attendees. Matt announced the recipients of the 2005 ASA Sacramento Chapter student scholarships: Jimin Ding of UC Davis and Joseph Burks of CSUS, who each received \$500 for their outstanding scholarship in the statistical sciences. A special award was presented to 2005 Past President Julie Yee for her contribution to SSA over the past few years.

The morning plenary session featured two distinguished speakers. Our special guest speaker was Fritz Scheuren, President of the American Statistical Association, who presented "The Role of Statistical Science in U.S. Presidential Elections." Our featured guest speaker was Howard Roth, Chief Economist for the California Department of Finance, who presented "The California Economy: Is This as Good as It Gets?" Both talks generated many questions from attendees.

For the second consecutive year, the Sacramento Valley SAS Users Group (SVSUG) sponsored an afternoon plenary session featuring a professional demonstration of current SAS capabilities, as well as a popular raffle of SAS-related products. The plenary speaker was Anthony An, who presented the workshop "Analyzing Sample Survey Data Using SAS." Our colleagues from SVSUG again proved excellent support and generous door prizes for Institute attendees.

The Institute included several presentations that highlighted recent research:

- * Cyndee Singer, California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, State Data Center
American Community Survey: An Overview
- * Martha Jones, California Research Bureau, California State Library
Estimating Use Tax Revenue Losses from Remote Sales Using Census E-Stats and Mail Order Data: A Comparison of Methodologies
- * Christiana Drake, Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis
Some Thoughts on the Relative Survival Rate
- * Julie Yee, U.S. Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center
Bayesian Analyses of Double-Observer Surveys for Handling Unknown Identification Error and WinBUGS and PRESENCE Software Demonstration
- * Ann Webb, Public Health Institute, Survey Research Group
20 Years of California Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Data: How Far have we Come?
- * Daniel Smith, California Dept of Health Services, Environmental Health Investigations Branch
Overlapping Confidence Intervals are Not a Statistical Test
- * Gloria J. Robertson, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development
Looking at Statistical Illustrations' in the Evaluation of a Pilot Project
- * Lois Lowe, Ph.D.
Program Evaluation of the Walden House In-Prison Substance Abuse Treatment Program California Department of Corrections Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
- * Jimin Ding, Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis, SSA Scholarship recipient
Joint Modeling of Longitudinal and Survival Data
- * Enoch Haga, Ph.D.
How to Please an Editor, Print or Electronic Media
- * Tim Gaffney, Ph.D., California Department of Education
On the Factor Structure of Standardized Educational Achievement Tests
- * Willard Hom, Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges
Pooling Data from a Multi-site Study vs. Meta-analysis
- * David A. Heiser
Tests of Significance: A Review of Some Emerging Views and New Method, in Economics, Psychology, Education Research and Medical Treatments.

There was an opportunity for networking and refreshments throughout the day.

SSA Educational Events, 2005

Dr. Alan Fenech, Emeritus Professor of Statistics at UC Davis, presented a most excellent short course on logistic regression on March 7, 2005. The course was well attended by SSA members. Our many thanks go to Kirstin Knutson, Chair of Short Courses, who coordinated this worthwhile educational effort.

Department of Finance (DOF) Workshop, November 1, 2005

The Department of Finance and the Sacramento Statistical Association are co-sponsoring a workshop on DOF's Population Estimate Program. The workshop will be held Tuesday, November 1, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at the Department of Water Resources Auditorium, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento. For more information, contact Linda Gage.

Short Course, November 3, 2005

Past SSA President, Dr. Farzaneh Tabnak, will be presenting a short course "An Introduction to Biostatistics through a Case Study" November 3rd, 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. in Building 172, Room. BC, 1500 Capitol Avenue. Interested persons should contact Short Course Chair, Kirsten Knutson, by October 31st.

UCD Statistical Seminars

Students, faculty and visiting professors at the University of California, Davis, present special seminars on advanced statistical methodologies. For the past several years, SSA members have been invited to attend these seminars. SSA's secretary, Kathleen Gallagher, notifies SSA members of these seminars by e-mail. If you are interested in attending the seminars, please give Kathleen your e-mail address for notification.

Annual Membership Dinner

The 2005 annual membership dinner will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at the Café California, 808 Second Street, Davis, CA 95616, telephone 530-757-2766. The purpose of this evening is to elect officers for the upcoming year. All current members and their guests are invited to the event. **Please contact Charles Chan at cchan@dhs.ca.gov to confirm your attendance.**

SSA 2006 Annual Institute

Over the past years, SSA has held its annual institute at the California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), during spring break. The 2006 institute will be held March 15, 2006. SSA members are encouraged to consider presenting at the institute. The institute is an excellent opportunity for members to share methodologies and outcomes of their work.

American Statistical Association

The Sacramento Statistical Association is a chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The ASA, one of the oldest professional associations in the United States, is preparing to celebrate its 160th anniversary. ASA's membership, consisting of professional statisticians and data analysts, continues to work at meeting the founders' goals to "collect, preserve, and diffuse statistical information in the different departments of human knowledge." As stated in its current constitution, the Association's objectives are "to foster statistics and its applications, to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with statistical problems, and to increase the contribution of statistics to human welfare." Information about the Association, activities of committees such as Privacy and Confidentiality and Professional Ethics, and links to chapter websites are available on the ASA website: <http://www.amstat.org/>.

Please note upcoming dates and locations for the ASA Joint Statistical Meetings:

August 6 - 10, 2006	Seattle, WA
July 29 - August 2, 2007	Salt Lake City, UT
August 3 - 7, 2008	Denver, CO
August 2 - 6, 2009	Washington, DC
August 1 - 5, 2010	Vancouver, Canada

SSA Board Members: 2006 Officers and Councilors (Nominated)

Linda Gage	President/American Statistical Association Representative	(916) 327-0103, Ext.2549	Linda.Gage@dof.ca.gov
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