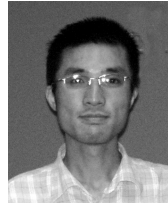


'Best Use of Statistics' Awards Given at Science Fairs



From left: Carolyn Oakley, Howard Monroe, Pete Donahoe, and Chris Shang represent the ASA San Antonio Chapter as special award judges at the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair.

Regional Winners

On March 8, the San Antonio Chapter sent judges to the 2008 Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair at St. Mary's University to select senior division projects that showed excellence in the use of statistical methods. Volunteer judges were Howard Monroe, Ken Williams, Pete Donahoe, Carolyn Oakley, Keying Ye, and Norma Ketchum.

The chapter awarded first place and \$250 in savings bonds to the team of Steven Schroeder of Clark High School and Huzeifa Badshah of Health Careers High School for their project, titled "Minimizing Lawn Mower Emissions."

Second place and a \$150 savings bond were awarded to Kenneth Barshop from St. Mary's Hall Upper School, whose project was titled "AIDS Susceptibility on the Human Genome: TSG01."

Third place and a \$100 savings bond were awarded to Navid Leelani of Health Careers High School for "Combination Height/Weight Ratio."

State Winners

On April 11, volunteer judges were sent to the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair 2008 at Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. Projects in the senior division that showed the best use of statistics were judged by Chris Shang, Pete Donahoe, Carolyn Oakley, Howard Monroe, and Norma Ketchum. The Council of Texas Statisticians provided the monetary awards.

First place and a \$250 savings bond went to the team of Steven Schroeder of Clark High School, San Antonio, and Huzeifa Badshah of Health Careers High School, San Antonio, for their project, "Minimizing Lawn Mower Emissions."

Second place and a \$150 savings bond went to Vivian Lee from Vista Ridge High School, Cedar Park, for her project, "A Study of Varying Harmonic Spectrum Exposure on Students' Concentration During Spatial Reasoning."

A tie for third place and a \$100 savings bond each went to Neela Thangada from Keystone High School, San Antonio, for "Identifying Genes Responsible for Resistance Against Powdery Scab Disease in the Potato" and Stephanie Simcox from McGregor High School, McGregor, for her project, titled "Effects of Antioxidants in Response to Ultraviolet Radiation in *Drosophila melanogaster*."

Both judging efforts were organized by Howard Monroe, San Antonio ASA Chapter judging coordinator.

COTS, Short Course Attract Texas Statisticians

From March 28–29, the chapter hosted the 2008 Conference of Texas Statisticians (COTS) at The University of Texas at San Antonio, downtown campus. A half-day ASA traveling short course taught by Tim Hesterberg and titled "Bootstrap Methods and Permutation Tests for Doing and Teaching Statistics" was offered prior to the conference. During the conference banquet, the 2008 Don Owen Award was presented to N. Balakrishnan, professor of statistics at McMaster University in Canada.

The conference was organized by Nandini Kannan and her colleagues at The University of Texas at San Antonio. The next COTS will be hosted by Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, in the spring of 2009. ■

Southern California

Arlene Ash, research professor of medicine and public health at Boston University School of Medicine, talks about issues related to risk adjustment in health services research during a seminar for the Southern California Chapter's 27th annual Workshop in Applied Statistics.



On March 28, the Southern California Chapter held its 27th annual Workshop in Applied Statistics. Arlene Ash, research professor of medicine and public health at Boston University School of Medicine, gave an informative seminar, titled "The Vital Importance of Adjusting for Patient Risk: Risk Adjustment in Health Services Research."

The workshop provided an introduction to the major conceptual, practical, technical, and policy issues related to risk adjustment in health services research. Specific topics covered included the need for risk adjustment, the major dimensions of risk, the strengths and limitations of different data sources for risk adjustment, the use of multivariable models for risk adjustment, and performance measures for risk adjustment models, as well as the use of propensity scores and instrumental variables as enhancements to standard modeling.

There were more than 50 attendees at the event, which was held at California State University, Long Beach. Attendees were from business, government, and academia, mostly from the Southern California area. Representatives from SAS, JMP, and Salford Systems also were in attendance. More information about Ash's research may be found at www.bmc.org/womenshealth/mentor_ash.html.