A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASA ANNUAL MEETINGS

From the Inaugural Meeting in 1839 to the Joint Statistical Meetings

- **Early Meetings.** The inaugural annual meeting of the newly formed American Statistical Society (as it was briefly called at its establishment in 1839) was held in Boston on February 5, 1840. Attendance at this meeting was 10. No presentations were made, but one was made at a meeting held in April 1840. Meetings continued to be held in Boston through the early 1900s.

- **Outside Boston.** Scheduling meetings outside Boston and in conjunction with other societies was part of an attempt to make the association more national. The 71st annual meeting in 1909 in New York was held in conjunction with nine other associations and featured four presentations over several days.

- **Increased Activity.** For two decades (through 1928), the ASA annual meeting, with one exception, was held in December for two to four days. The 90th meeting in 1928 had 17 sessions with multiple competing time slots each day. From 1929 through 1948, the ASA held 18 meetings. By 1937, there were 38 presentations.

- **Allied Meetings.** In 1935, the ASA combined with several associations with which it often met to form the Allied Social Sciences Association. This association’s first sponsored meeting, called the Allied Meetings, was held in 1936 in Chicago. The ASA held its annual meeting with this group once every three years until 1974.

- **Joint Meetings.** With the formation of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1935 and the International Biometrics Society in 1948, meetings with only statistical societies, called “Joint Meetings,” were initiated, and the ASA held its annual meetings with these groups in the years it did not meet with the Allied group.

- **Joint Statistical Meetings.** Since 1974, when the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) formally were organized, the ASA has continually held its annual meeting with this group. Today, JSM has more than 2,500 sessions over a six-day period and more than 5,000 attendees. The next several Joint Statistical Meetings are scheduled as follows: in 2013, Montreal; in 2014 the meeting returns to Boston, where the ASA was founded, to celebrate the association’s 175th birthday; in 2015, Seattle; and in 2016, Chicago.