

# THE STATISTICAL CONSULTANT



Section on Statistical Consulting  
Summer 2003; Volume 20, No. 2

American Statistical Association  
Christina M. Gullion, Editor

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Call for Nominations: Section Officers
- Activities at JSM 2003
- Comments from the Chair
- Notes from the Editor

### Announcement of Travel Awards Competition for 2004

The Section on Statistical Consulting invites proposals for Topic (Special) Contributed Paper Sessions for the Joint Statistical Meetings to be held August 8-12, 2004, in Toronto, Canada.

Proposals submitted will compete for up to three travel awards. Each award consists of \$500 AND a registration fee waiver for the organizer. Each organizer will be responsible for lining up speakers for the session and for coordinating submission of abstracts in the fall of 2003.

A proposal should consist of a short (one-page) description of the session, including a description of the session theme, the types of papers or discussions to be included, and the intended audience. A list of possible speakers is helpful.

The proposal deadline is September 1, 2003. Send submissions to:

**Shirlene Pearson**

Center for Statistical Consulting and Research

Southern Methodist University

PO Box 850365

Richardson, TX 75085-0365

Phone: (214)768-3034 Fax: (214)768-4035 [pearson@mail.smu.edu](mailto:pearson@mail.smu.edu)

## Call for Nominations: Section Officers

Barbara Mann

As chair of the Section's Nominating Committee, I am soliciting names of people who are willing to serve the section as officers. The slate of officers will require 2 nominees for each position, with the election to take place in 2004 and the terms of office to begin on January 1, 2005.

There are four positions on the Executive Committee that need to be filled:

The Chair-elect will serve a 1-year term in that job, followed by a 1-year term as Chair and a 1-year term as Past Chair. The remaining positions, which are all 2-year terms, are Representative to the Council of Sections,

At-large member of the Executive Board, and Publications Officer.

Job descriptions of all of these positions can be found in the Section Charter on the Section's Web site at <http://www.amstat.org/sections/cnsl/index.html>. Self-nominations are welcome. If you know of someone who would be a good person to fill one of these positions, please contact:

Barbara Mann  
(937) 767-9164  
[bmenn4@woh.rr.com](mailto:bmenn4@woh.rr.com)

---

## Activities at JSM 2003

**Program Chair: David Daniel**, New Mexico State University

The 2003 JSM is being held August 3-7 in San Francisco. The theme is, "Statistics: A Bridge to Discovery and Knowledge." Information about the meetings and on-line registration are accessible via the web at:

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2003/index.cfm>.

This year, the Section on Statistical Consulting is sponsoring two invited sessions, three topic contributed sessions, one regular contributed session, and three roundtable luncheons. We are also cosponsoring an invited session, a regular contributed session, and a topic contributed panel session with other sections and organizations. Details on these sessions are given below.

### Business Meeting

The Consulting Section business meeting and mixer will be on Tuesday evening, August 5, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. As in previous section meetings, activities will include small-group brainstorming about current and future Section projects and plans, as well as presentation of the winners of the 2003 travel awards. Door prizes donated by various exhibitors will also be given away. This year the mixer is supported in part by Genentech, for which we are very grateful. All members and

---

New Mexico State University, MSC 3CQ, Las Cruces NM 88003 [ddaniel@nmsu.edu](mailto:ddaniel@nmsu.edu)

prospective members are welcome to attend. Please join us for food, drink and to meet fellow consultants and applied statisticians with similar interests.

## **Travel Awards**

We would also like to congratulate the winners of this year's Travel Awards for suggesting and organizing our three topic contributed sessions. Recipients receive a JSM registration waiver and a \$500 travel award. This year's winners are: Karen Copeland (*Working with Clients: Beyond the Statistics*), Dean Johnson (*Data-Based Improvement of Statistical Practice*), and Dan Thorpe (*Statistics in Industry: Using Data to Improve Management Decision Making*). Thanks go to each of these three for their hard work in putting together these sessions.

## **JSM 2003 Schedule:**

### **Sessions Organized by the Section on Statistical Consulting**

#### **Session 38: "Integrating Data Mining into a Statistical Consulting Practice"**

**Time:** Sunday, August 3, 4:00 p.m. – 5:50 p.m., H-Plaza Room B

**Session Type:** Invited Session

**Cosponsors:** Business & Economics Statistics Section, IMS, Section on Quality & Productivity, Section on Statistics & Marketing, Section on Statistical Computing

**Organizer:** I. Elaine Allen, Babson College

**Chair:** Stuart A. Gansky, UCSF Division of Oral Epidemiology

This session will examine data mining as part of a statistical consulting practice and the opportunities for statisticians in the field of data mining. Speakers will use their first-hand experience with data mining to provide information on: 1) approaches to the training of "data miners", 2) the opportunities for consulting in data mining, including some applications in government and industry, and 3) whether data mining consulting is different from statistical consulting.

**4:05** Data Mining in the Public and Private Sector – Herbert Edelstein

**4:30** Data Mining and Statistical Consulting in Genomics – I. Elaine Allen

**4:55** Data Mining in the MBA Curriculum – Norean Radke Sharpe

**5:20** Discussant: Richard J. Cleary

**5:45** Floor Discussion

#### **Session 82: "Statistical Consulting from Undergrad to Outer Space"**

**Time:** Monday, August 4, 8:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m., H-Union Square 23 & 24

**Session Type:** Regular Contributed Session

**Cosponsors:** Section on Physical and Engineering Sciences, Section on Quality & Productivity

**Chair:** Barbara L. Mann, Wright State University

**8:35** Statistical Consulting from the Point of View of an Undergraduate General Education Statistics Student – Nathan J. Hillila, Mary Richardson

**8:50** Consulting in an Academic Setting: Preparing Students for Real Life – Dennis Lee Eggett

- 9:05** Effective Communication as a Statistician with Nonstatisticians – Nicole C. Close, Michael Di Marino
- 9:20** Knowledge Modeling and Integration at Los Alamos National Laboratory – Gregory D. Wilson, Deborah Leishman, Laura McNamara, Benjamin Sims, Andrew Koehler
- 9:35** A Study Evaluating Aerosol Particulate Concentration and Size in the Stratospheric Plumes of Rockets – Gary Gadbury, Andrew P. Rutter, Donald E. Hagen, Philip Whitefield
- 9:50** A Meta-Analysis Approach to Estimating the Proportion of Airline Passengers Needing Supplemental Oxygen at Different Altitudes – I-Li Lu
- 10:05** Floor Discussion

**Session 142: "Statistical Consulting Inside Corporations"**

**Time:** Monday, August 4, 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m., R-Barcelona I & II

**Session Type:** Roundtable Luncheon (Fee Event)

**Organizer:** N. Shirlene Pearson, Southern Methodist University

**Host:** Jon R. Kettenring, Telcordia Technologies

**Session 161: "Working with Clients: Beyond the Statistics"**

**Time:** Monday, August 4, 2:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m., H-Franciscan Room D

**Session Type:** Topic Contributed Session

**Copponsors:** Section on Physical & Engineering Sciences, Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences, Section on Statistical Graphics

**Organizer:** Karen A. Copeland

**Chair:** N. Shirlene Pearson, Southern Methodist University

A good statistician has to be able to interface with clients in order to be a thriving consultant. In this session consultants will share experiences and strategies for successful client interactions. Topics will include communications from project proposals to project reports.

- 2:05** Working with Researchers in the Agricultural Sciences: Communication is the Key – Thomas M. Loughin
- 2:25** Effective Statistical Reports – Karen A. Copeland
- 2:45** Engineers will be Engineers: Lessons Learned from the Field – Cheryl L. Jennings
- 3:05** Presenting Results – Andrew J. McDougall
- 3:25** Overcoming the Fear Factor: Stat Consulting in an R&D Environment – Janet P. Buckingham
- 3:45** Floor Discussion

**Session 262: "Credit Scoring – Palatable Algorithmic Modeling"**

**Time:** Tuesday, August 5, 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m., R-Barcelona I & II

**Session Type:** Roundtable Luncheon (Fee Event)

**Organizer:** N. Shirlene Pearson, Southern Methodist University

**Host:** Bruce Hoadley, Fair Isaac Corporation

**Session 317: “Data-Based Improvement of Statistical Practice”**

**Time:** Wednesday, August 6, 8:30 p.m. – 10:20 p.m., H-Union Square 1 & 2

**Session Type:** Topic Contributed Session

**Copponsors:** Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences, Section on Physical & Engineering Sciences, Section on Quality & Productivity, Business & Economics Statistics Section

**Organizer:** Harry Dean Johnson, Jr., University of Idaho

**Chair:** Nairanjana Dasgupta, Washington State University

The process of statisticians studying themselves in order to improve their professional practice is in its early stages of development. In this session we examine three strategies for using data to improve statistical practice: videotaping of statistical practice and subsequent coaching sessions, surveying of clients to identify factors that relate to the success enjoyed by clients in statistical consulting sessions, and the interviewing of statistical consulting clients to get the client perspective.

**8:35** Using Videotape and the Six Domains to Gather Information on Statistical Practice – Douglas A. Zahn, Daniel R. Boroto

**8:55** Factors Relating to the Degree to which Statistical Consulting Clients Deem their Consulting Experiences to be a Success – Dean Johnson

**9:15** Client/Consultant Impressions of Interaction – Holmes Finch

**9:35** Discussant: J Rich Alldredge

**9:55** Discussant: Ruth Ann Killion

**10:15** Floor Discussion

**Session 350: “The State of Statistical Software”**

**Time:** Wednesday, August 6, 10:30 p.m. – 12:20 p.m., H-Union Square 15 & 16

**Session Type:** Invited Session

**Cosponsor:** Section on Statistical Computing

**Organizer:** Balasubramanian Narasimhan, Stanford University

**Chair:** Balasubramanian Narasimhan, Stanford University

This session will feature talks by people who are active in the statistical computing community, either as developers, users and educators, or vendors. The talks will explore several important statistical packages including technical developments in R, the well-known open-source software. Two perspectives, one from industry and another from a user/educator point of view will also be discussed.

**10:35** The State of Statistical Software – Jan De Leeuw

**11:00** Some New Language Features in R – Luke Tierney

**11:25** Connecting Scientific Software – Duncan W. Temple Lang

**11:50** Discussant: Wolfgang M Hartman

**12:15** Floor Discussion

**Session 386: “Juggling Academic Duties and Private Consulting Clients”**

**Time:** Wednesday, August 6, 12:30 p.m. – 1:50 p.m., R-Barcelona I & II

**Session Type:** Roundtable Luncheon (Fee Event)  
**Organizer:** N. Shirlene Pearson, Southern Methodist University  
**Host:** S. Lynne Stokes, Southern Methodist University

**Session 403: “Statistics in Industry: Using Data to Improve Management Decision Making”**

**Time:** Wednesday, August 6, 2:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m., H-Union Square 14

**Session Type:** Topic Contributed Session

**Organizer:** Daniel W. Thorpe, W.L. Gore & Associates

**Chair:** Diccon R. E. Bancroft, W.L. Gore & Associates

Making appropriate use of data is an increasingly important aspect of many decision making processes in industrial organizations and at many levels within an organization. This session will examine examples of how data has been used to improve management decisions in areas such as product development, forecasting business trends, and balancing service quality with associated costs.

**2:05** Statistical Thinking as a Core Aspect of Technology Management – Michael Sutherland

**2:20** Flexible Optimal Decision-Making in an Uncertain Environment – John L. Adams

**2:35** Managing Uncertainty in New Product Development – Richard Sonnenblick

**2:50** Forecasting/Modeling Business Trends using Control Chart Technology – Daniel W. Thorpe

**3:05** Discussant: Daniel F. McCaffrey

**3:20** Floor Discussion

**Section on Statistical Consulting Cosponsored Sessions**

**Session 221: “Patents, Trademarks, Discrimination, and Congressional Seats: How Expert Statistical Witnesses Bridge The Quantitative Literacy Gap in the Legal System”**

**Time:** Tuesday, August 5, 10:30 p.m. – 12:20 p.m., H-Imperial Ballroom A

**Session Type:** Invited Session

**Sponsor:** Chance

**Session 254: Various Posters**

**Time:** Tuesday, August 5, 12:00 p.m. – 1:50 p.m., R-Atrium

**Session Type:** Regular Contributed Poster

**Sponsor:** Section on Statistical Computing

**Session 323: “How To Tell the President the Facts”**

**Time:** Wednesday, August 6, 8:30 p.m. – 10:20 p.m., H-Union Square 19 & 20

**Session Type:** Topic Contributed Session - Panel

**Sponsor:** Section on Statistics & the Environment

## Comments from the Chair

Matilde Sanchez, Merck Research Labs

By the time you get this newsletter, the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco will be upon us. Please check the programs planned for the upcoming JSM announced in this issue of *The Statistical Consultant*. David Daniel has planned an excellent program for San Francisco, with three invited sessions, four special topic contributed sessions and two regular contributed sessions.

I would also like to congratulate the winners of the 2003 elections for new section officers: **Chair-Elect:** Susan J. Devlin, The Artemis Group; **Secretary/Treasurer:** I. Elaine Allen, Babson College; **Council of Sections Representative:** Brenda L. Gaydos, Eli Lilly and Company **Executive Committee at Large:** Harold E. Dyck, California State University, San Bernardino.

As I mentioned in my previous column, a major project for 2003 is the publication of the brochure "When you consult a statistician ...

What to expect". The good news is that I was able to get limited support from Merck and Co. to publish an initial 1000 copies to distribute at the JSM. We need to look into other sources for funding to publish more copies and to distribute it. We will discuss this at the business meeting. Unfortunately, the proposal we submitted requesting funding from the 2003 ASA Strategic Initiative funds to help with the publication and distribution costs was not approved.

And finally, I want to especially thank Chris Gullion, for her five years of excellent service as the editor of *The Statistical Consultant*. Chris is stepping down as editor after this summer issue. Thus, the section is looking for a new newsletter editor. This is your chance to get involve and make your mark in the section. Please contact me, if you are interested in the job or if you know someone whose name you would like to put forward.

See you in San Francisco!

---

## Notes from the Editor

Christina M. Gullion, Editor

This is my last issue of editor of *The Statistical Consultant*. I leave the editor's post with mixed feelings. My regret is that I have been giving less time to the editor's job than it needs, and *The Statistical Consultant*, and you, the reader, have suffered. My new job has proved to be far more demanding than my previous job was, and my work-life balance is no longer balanced. Most of you reading this probably have faced this conflict. In addition, I am dropping out of a circle of really neat people, with whom

it has been fun and rewarding to make plans and bring ideas to fruition (such as the brochure that Matilde mentions in her column).

The joys of editing are numerous, as many as the marvelous people I have met. I particularly appreciate members who have been willing to share their ideas, experience, and opinions in writing in these pages. Few of them volunteered, but no one ever said "no" when asked to put something in writing for *The Statistical Consultant*.

I particularly want to thank Karla Genter for her good work over several years. She has done the  $\text{\LaTeX} 2_{\epsilon}$  markups for the newsletter. Her expertise and really sharp eye for detail and style have made it possible for me to continue in this position longer than would have been possible otherwise.

The editor's position is voluntary, with a 2-year appointment. In addition to putting out three issues of *The Statistical Consultant* each year, the editor is an *ex officio* member of the

Section Executive Committee. There are three meetings at JSM each year at which the editor is expected to appear: Executive Committee, Section Business Meeting, and the ASA Publications Officers and Editors meeting, at which policy and technology are discussed. If you enjoy writing and editing and have a day or two to spare every four months, you could be our next editor. Please consider it, and contact Matilde if you would like to volunteer.

*Contact information:* Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research  
3800 N. Interstate Avenue, Portland, OR 97227-0111  
Phone: 503-335-6356 Fax: 503-335-2428  
christina.gullion@kpchr.org

*THE STATISTICAL CONSULTANT*  
Christina M. Gullion, Editor  
c/o American Statistical Association  
1429 Duke St  
Alexandria, VA 22314-3402

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Alexandria, Virginia  
Permit No. 361