



DONORS | MEMBERS | FRIENDS

# THE FUTURE OF STATISTICS DEPENDS ON *YOU!*

Here are a few stories about what your donations are doing today.



Inaugural leadership challenge participants (from left): Khuzaima Hameed, Lin Dong, Eric Rose, Yeng Saanchi, Anna Nevius, Keltin Grimes, Evidence Matangi, and Hannah Weeks



Christine Franklin, the ASA's first K-12 statistical ambassador, visits a class in Georgia.

# Giving Day Is November 1

*November 1, ASA Giving Day, will mark the beginning of a month-long celebration of the ASA's 180th birthday!*

For the past 180 years, the ASA has provided a professional community for statisticians and promoted the practice and profession of statistics. Today, it is doing more than ever to *improve statistics education, increase the public's statistical literacy, grow the next generation of leaders in statistics and data science, and advocate for statisticians and data-driven policy.* Your financial and volunteer support makes this work possible. Thank you! Visit the Giving Day website at [www.amstat.org/givingday](http://www.amstat.org/givingday) to find out



how you can support the ASA this month. Make sure to check out the Media & Contests tab to learn about fun contests. There will be prizes!

New this year is the Chapter Challenge, in which you can help your chapter win a visit from yours truly. You can also show your school spirit by participating in the University Challenge.

Additionally, you will find resources such as email templates and sample social media posts to encourage others to give.

*I hope you will consider joining me and donating on ASA Giving Day.*

Thank you for your membership and your support.  
~ Ron Wasserstein, ASA Executive Director

# DONOR PROFILE:

## EDWARD AND ANNA NEVIUS

### How did the two of you meet?

**Anna:** We met at Kansas State, where I was in a psychometric traineeship program in the statistics department pursuing a PhD. A friend of ours suggested he take me out!

**Ed:** I was there pursuing my master's degree. Once I finished my degree, I took a commission in the US Public Health Service, which is one of the six uniformed services of the United States, and my first assignment was in Alaska. Anna and I met during the year I was at K-State, and we decided to get married after she completed her PhD exams the following fall. We were married in her home town in North Carolina at Thanksgiving.

**Anna:** Then, I went with him to Alaska! I decided I could wait to finish the PhD and that this adventure would be too good to pass up. Still one of the best decisions I've made.

**Ed:** That's really where we learned about statistics in clinical trials. I would sometimes travel to remote villages to observe data collection for clinical trials or epidemic investigations.

### How did each of you become interested in statistics?

**Anna:** I was a math major at Carson Newman College and took a class that had a lot of statistics in it and became intrigued. I started looking for a good program involving statistics and found the one at Kansas State.

**Ed:** I was a math major at the University of Kansas and took several classes in mathematical statistics and decided statistics was something I wanted to pursue.



Anna and Edward Nevius joined the ASA to be part of the statistics community.

### Has there been a favorite part for each of you in your respective careers?

**Anna:** I think we both like the fact that we have been able to recruit people, mentor them, and watch them grow professionally. I've really enjoyed being involved in medicine and clinical trials, which are fascinating to me, as well as getting to work with people in that area. I've also enjoyed being part of many ASA committees and the ASA Board and collaborating with other ASA members. It's been like a joy ride!

**Ed:** I spent most of my career at the FDA. I liked recruiting because I got to talk about the FDA and convince people to come work for us. I believe FDA has an important mission, and I liked being able to tell other people about that. I also enjoyed mentoring people and watching them grow into leaders.

### How long have you each been a member of the ASA? Do you remember why you decided to join?

**Anna:** I joined in 1967. Kansas State was very good at encouraging students to be part of the professional community.

**Ed:** I joined in 1968. Especially being in a remote area like Alaska, it was important to be part of the statistical community.

### How has the ASA changed over the years?

**Anna:** JSM has grown tremendously and offers innovative things like speed sessions and more short courses. The ASA is trying [to] meet the needs of more members now and looking at the individual and specialized needs of groups of people. The Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference and Conference on Statistical Practice are two examples.

**Ed:** Programs have increased in size. The [ASA Biopharmaceutical Section] Regulatory-Industry Statistics Workshop, for example, has grown tremendously and is very useful for statisticians in the pharmaceutical industry, as well as regulatory agencies.


### You both have been very generous donors to the ASA for many years. What inspired you to make that first gift? And what inspires you to continue to give?

**Anna:** We started off giving small amounts like \$25 to \$50 as a small thank you and way of giving back. In 2018, as a member of the 2017 ASA Board along with the 2018 Board, we did a matching challenge for Giving Day. That message really resonated, and Ed and I decided this was what we wanted to do.

**Ed:** We really liked the K–12 education initiative Jessica [Utts] started, and that Anna worked on, to increase interest in statistics early on.

**Anna:** The legacy of statistics depends on getting students in middle and high school interested in statistics. We won't have the statisticians we need if we don't get people interested in going into the field. Additionally, whether you become a statistician or not, learning how to interpret data is crucial. Everyone needs some statistical knowledge to navigate in today's data-driven world.

**FALL DATA  
CHALLENGE**

 *Helping Solve  
Homelessness*

## Fall Data Challenge for *ThisIsStatistics*

Each year, *ThisIsStatistics* offers a data challenge that gives high-school and undergraduate students an opportunity to explore a timely real-world issue. The challenge also demonstrates that a career in statistics can drive social impact. In 2018, 91 teams made up of 303 students participated in a data challenge that focused on public health. The students made recommendations for how local officials can fight the national opioid epidemic after analyzing the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Multiple Cause of Death (Detailed Mortality) data set.

The 2019 Fall Data Challenge will ask students to apply statistical thinking and make recommendations for helping to end homelessness. Students will analyze the 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report and raw data from The US Department of Housing and Urban Development to make recommendations. Visit [www.thisisstatistics.org](http://www.thisisstatistics.org) to learn more.

## Celebrate **ASA Day** on November 22

### **ASA Day is all about**

**you!** Together, we will celebrate the ASA's rich history and ASA members like you who make this



association great. This will be a time to reflect and celebrate the association's accomplishments. Watch [www.amstat.org/asaday](http://www.amstat.org/asaday) for fun contests and quizzes to win prizes! Plus, there will be a special message from the ASA Board of Directors.

# 2020 Leaders Focus on K–6 Education

**“Learn some and think some” is advice offered in the book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*.**

One of 2020 President **Wendy Martinez’s** initiatives will focus on helping early-elementary students and their teachers act on this advice. The ASA has a longstanding commitment to providing educational resources and supporting K–12 education, especially at the middle- and high-school levels. This initiative will focus on the early grades with the goal of developing games and apps to encourage and support children as they establish their data literacy skills and help teachers design and implement learning environments that support the acquisition of these skills. More information about this initiative to come!

**This is a great example of the kind of programming donations help make possible.**

We are in the planning phase and would welcome any ideas you have. Contact Donna LaLonde at [donnal@amstat.org](mailto:donnal@amstat.org) to share your suggestions.

“I used to work as a program officer in the Mathematics, Computer, and Information Sciences Division at the Office of Naval Research.



An admiral came to visit and expressed concerns that students at the Naval Academy did not have an appreciation for statistics and mathematics. When he asked what could be done, I told him we need to introduce people to these concepts at a younger age and in interesting and exciting ways, so they are not afraid of a future filled with statistics and data!”

**WENDY MARTINEZ**  
2020 ASA President

## ASA Student and Early Career Travel Fund in Need of Donations

The Student and Early Career Travel Fund provides financial assistance to students and early-career members who want to participate in ASA meetings. Each year, the number of applications far exceeds the available funding. The ASA Student and Early Career Travel Fund is not an endowed fund; it is only financed through donations from members. When funds run out, we cannot award any more scholarships.

You know from your own experiences the value of attending professional meetings. Professional development courses, networking with peers and mentors, and career services are especially important for our students and emerging statisticians. **These individuals are our future, and it’s crucial to invest in them**



Olivia Brown/ASA

**Help students and early-career members make it to meetings like JSM.**

**and give them the tools to become future leaders of the ASA and the statistics and data science professions!**

Looking to the future, and thanks to ASA President Karen Kafadar’s diversity initiative, we hope to provide additional scholarships to underserved groups and minorities.

For more information, contact Amanda Malloy at [amanda@amstat.org](mailto:amanda@amstat.org).