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The American Statistical Association is the world's largest community of statisticians. The ASA supports excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science through meetings, publications, membership services, education, accreditation, and advocacy. Our members serve in industry, government, and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare.

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JSM 2023: D4G Informing Decisions and Driving Discovery

This column is written for those interested in learning about the world of Data for Good, where statistical analysis is dedicated to good causes that benefit our lives, our communities, and our world. If you would like to know more or have ideas for articles, contact David Corliss at davidjcorliss@peace-work.org.

- 24 **STATtr@k**
Babson College Launches Student Chapter

STATtr@k is a column in *Amstat News* and a website geared toward people who are in a statistics program, recently graduated from a statistics program, or recently entered the job world. To read more articles like this one, visit the website at <http://stattrak.amstat.org>. If you have suggestions for future articles, or would like to submit an article, please email Megan Murphy, *Amstat News* managing editor, at megan@amstat.org.



Mentors and Mentees

The ASA's Biopharmaceutical Section provides hands-on resources (<https://bit.ly/42splfR>) for mentors and mentees to facilitate their interactions. Information related to the mentoring activities and additional resources are available on the Biopharmaceutical Section website at <http://community.amstat.org/biop/aboutus/sub-committees/mentoring>.

Are you interested in becoming a mentor to a statistician? Are you a potential mentee? Do you know a statistician who may be looking for a mentorship program? If so, email your contact information to biopharmmentoring@gmail.com with "Biopharmaceutical Section Mentoring Program" in the subject line.

Women in Statistics and Data Science

Registration, Housing Open for WSDS

Registration and housing are open for the 2023 Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference, to be held October 25–27 in Bellevue, Washington.

WSDS offers dynamic opportunities for personal and professional growth. The positive energy and enthusiasm that ripples through this group makes it all the more special. Find more information at ww2.amstat.org/meetings/wsd/2023/registration.cfm.

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JSM 2023—One Community

I grew up in southeastern Virginia in an area known as Tidewater. It is appropriately named since you cannot travel far without coming upon a body of water. Perhaps for this reason, my family enjoys water activities and spending time at the beach. For several years, we returned to the same resort for a bit of fun in the sun. We would always arrive at the resort in time for the fire and hula show. On one occasion, my niece volunteered to participate as the entertainers taught the guests the hula moves. As a result of her engagement, my niece made the most of the experience: she learned a new skill, shared her knowledge with others, and made friends in the resort community. Not unlike my niece's experience with the hula show, the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) has provided me—and, I suspect, many readers—with several opportunities to learn, share knowledge, connect with our community, and network; however, the key is engagement.

When I am asked for advice on how to engage and have a productive and successful experience at JSM, I always suggest creating a tentative schedule in advance of the meetings. Of course, serendipity will take over once the meetings begin, but it is helpful to have a tentative schedule on which to build. In this column, I am following my advice and sharing some of the events that are on my tentative JSM 2023 schedule.

Looking at the program, I am grateful for the leadership of Helen Zhang, the chair of this year's program committee, and for the dedicated

service of all committee members. Working with their partners, they have put together a wonderful program beginning with an amazing collection of introductory overview lectures (IOLs). The IOLs are “Applications of Computational Social Science to Diverse Fields,” “Astronomers Speak Statistics,” “Fundamentals of Interpretable Machine Learning,” “Randomized Clinical Trials with Surrogate Markers,” and “Genomic Risk Prediction: Algorithms, Fairness and Applications.” The complete schedule is available on the JSM website at <https://bit.ly/3NDHL2x>.

The anchors for my schedule are the featured speakers. Some choices are easy, and the choice of who to invite as the president's invited speaker was one of the easiest. I am delighted that Rob Santos will be joining us at JSM 2023 as both a former ASA president and the Director of the US Census Bureau. Rob's talk will be Monday, August 7. Many of us watched with pride when Rob was sworn in on January 5, 2022. In his more than 40 years of survey research, Rob has been a champion for the practice and profession of statistics. He has expertise in quantitative and qualitative research design, including program evaluation, needs assessments, survey methodology, and survey operations. In addition, he is a tireless advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

On Tuesday morning, Wing-Hung Wong will give the IMS Grace Wahba Award Lecture, and on Wednesday, August 8, Nancy Reid will give the inaugural David R. Cox Foundations of Statistics



Dionne Price



Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Photo courtesy of Getty



View the
conference
program:
[https://bit.
ly/43xQtVm](https://bit.ly/43xQtVm)

Award talk. These are only a few of the incredible talks. The entire list of featured speakers is available on the JSM website at <https://bit.ly/3NfzkZW>. You might notice that I am on this list, so along with the feeling of anticipation of seeing friends and meeting new colleagues, there is a bit of nervousness!

Once the anchors of my schedule are in place, I then populate my schedule with paper and poster sessions. The topics are vast, and I tend toward topics aligned with my daily work in the biopharmaceutical arena as well as a few sessions that allow me to learn something outside my areas of expertise. Truly, there is something for everyone, with a broad range of topics such as uncertainty quantification in astronomy, new advances in non-parametric statistics, stochastic optimization for data science, machine learning, and high dimensional regression, to name a few. From the program, it is clear that we are truly applying our knowledge and conducting novel research to solve the problems of today and tomorrow. Speaking of the future, on Sunday, the panel “Frontiers of Statistics” (<https://bit.ly/3PEjo6n>) will consider the breadth of our field and challenge us to look to the future. As we seek to increase our knowledge and prepare for the future, I would be remiss if I did not suggest taking advantage of the impressive professional development offerings (<https://bit.ly/3NDHL2x>).

The opportunity to connect with colleagues from all areas of statistics and data science makes JSM unique. I have already mentioned the scientific sessions that present opportunities to connect and engage. There is also the Sunday night

opening mixer, which is a great way to network and chat with friends, old and new, while perusing the posters on display. And with each new day of JSM, there are receptions, business meetings, and mixers sponsored by various chapters, sections, and universities. I always try to attend the biopharmaceutical section business meeting and the events of my alma maters, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Emory University. In addition, a favorite tradition is meeting colleagues at the JSM Dance Party, which will take place on Tuesday night. I hope to see you all there.

“One community” is the powerful phrase that began the JSM 2023 theme. The words were chosen intentionally to highlight that although we are richly diverse in scientific interests, backgrounds, sectors, and applied work, we are a strong community of statisticians and data scientists. And as a community, JSM will showcase how we are informing decisions and driving discoveries. I am eager to see many of you there.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Meet the ASA's Director of Finance and Administration, **Derek Curtis II**



Derek Curtis II

Did you always want to be a CPA? Tell us about your career path.

I knew I wanted to be a CPA when I was in elementary school. For career day, a CPA visited our class and left me with so many gems. I loved math and, from that point forward, I knew I wanted to be a chief financial officer or director of finance, and I understood being a CPA as a prerequisite. I went to college knowing exactly what I wanted to do. I had been locked in since 8th grade, and my determination got me to college, through college, and into the field of accounting.

I began my career as an accountant for the National Academy of Sciences. While there, I had the opportunity to attend graduate school and earn my CPA. I believe the keys to successfully reaching my goal were hard work and strategic decision-making.

What about the ASA inspired you to take on the role of DFA?

My interview with Ron [Wasserstein, executive director] and Donna [LaLonde, associate executive director] inspired me to take on the role of director of finance and administration at the ASA.

The best career advice I received is to be patient and strategic.

The dynamic between the two of them was immediately evident. I could see myself collaborating with them to help advance the organization. Their passion for the ASA and the industry inspired me to join the mission.

We like to share career advice. What's the best advice you have received?

The best career advice I received is to be patient and strategic.

What does "success" mean to you?

For me, success means living life with character and integrity while being a catalyst for others to do the same. Success is instilling in my children wisdom and understanding, teaching them high moral standards and values, so they may pass that along to their children and encourage others. Success is falling but getting back up with a determination to press on and overcome challenges.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I like to spend my free time playing basketball, watching movies, and spending time with family and friends. I love sitting on a beach and relaxing. If you add in good food and a great hotel, I am at the doorsteps of heaven!

What is something surprising about you that not many people know? (They will now!)

I am an incredible cook. I have been known to win a cooking competition or two! ■



Practical Significance: Take Two A 360° View of ASA Journals and Publications with Eric Sampson



Donna LaLonde



Eric Sampson



Ron Wasserstein

This interview with Eric Sampson, ASA journals manager, was conducted by *Practical Significance* co-hosts Donna LaLonde and Ron Wasserstein during a recent podcast. If you missed the show, this is your opportunity to read his perspective on the future of publishing. He also offers tips for submitting to an ASA peer-reviewed journal, getting through the review process, and becoming a reviewer or associate editor.

LaLonde: How long have you been the ASA journals manager?

Sampson: I was hired by the ASA to be the journals manager full time in 2008. Prior to that, I was a production editor for the ASA, both in the office and then as a contractor, and that started a long time ago.

Wasserstein: How did you get into publishing?

Sampson: I've always loved words, so I've always written and been interested in how that gets disseminated. It goes back for me, too, when I was writing and had a paper route and saw how information got to my neighborhood because I took it there and [when I] worked on school newsletters, literary magazines in college, and advocacy newsletters. It's something that's been with me for as long as I can recall.

LaLonde: Are you currently doing any writing of your own?

Sampson: The short answer is not much. I do a little bit of writing for [a] local club that I belong to, which is a

horse-riding club. But the short answer is not a great deal of writing is happening. That's one of those things I would like to do much more of.

LaLonde: We, the ASA Publications Committee and colleagues at the publishers, have been having conversations—dusting off our crystal ball—to anticipate what the future holds for the publishing world. Based on your experience and, again, looking into that crystal ball, what changes do you see—ones you're most looking forward to but, also fair game, those that have you worried?

Sampson: I'm always tempted to say that my crystal ball is in the shop and therefore not easily accessible. But the nature

I think our journals are not just fundamental to science and fundamental to the association, they're also one of our most important outreach tools.

and fundamentals of academic publishing are simply changing. They started somewhat with the move to fully electronic, fully online publishing, although we do sell and send out some physical journals. And now, of course, the question is open access and how do we maintain the quality journals our members depend on and truly expect while providing the access they also are starting to expect, which is, quite frankly, expensive. So how do we support those in a sustainable way, and how do we continue?

Because the journals make up a fraction, but a significant fraction, of the ASA's revenue. The ASA supports the journals, and the revenue supports other ASA activities. Do we need to develop what is essentially a new funding model to continue producing journals of which I am exceedingly proud?

One of the things I'm proud of about these journals is, for all our journals, there's no cost to the author to publish with us, so young researchers can get into our biggest titles. Well, all our titles are big, and all our titles are important. It's a big deal to publish with the ASA. I'd like to keep it that way and keep it affordable for the authors. But how to do that is kind of an open question right now.

Wasserstein: What else do you wish more people knew about ASA journals?

Sampson: Our members hopefully know what a great deal our journals are—they get free online access with their ASA membership, which is one of the most affordable memberships for such an association in the United States. And, here, they can go on and have access to all our ASA titles with a single login. It's super easy, and I hope they understand and see the value in an ASA membership. I think our journals are not just fundamental to science and fundamental to the association, they're also one of our most important outreach tools that reach beyond just the statistics profession.

Wasserstein: Roughly how many articles do we publish annually across our suite of journals?

Sampson: Across our suite of journals, we publish about 500 articles a year, roughly, and *JASA* [*Journal of the American Statistical Association*] alone accounts for more than 200. That doesn't include book reviews, letters to the editor, those kinds of things. But easily 500 a year. I started to count pages, but at this point, pages are starting to lose their meaning to many of our users. And

remember that those 500 a year ASA journal articles typically have between a 10 percent and 18 percent acceptance rate. So, there are many, many papers constantly in review by our amazing volunteers that simply will not get published in our journals.

Wasserstein: Let's focus on authors for a moment because you mentioned our journals are very popular, but also difficult to get published in. Authors are looking for guidance as to where to submit their papers and how to get their work out. What advice do you have for authors as they attempt to publish their paper?

Sampson: The first thing is always to look at the aims and scopes of the publications that might be the best suited for your paper. Does your paper fit those aims and scopes? Look at the instructions for the authors. You'll find a lot of useful information there, much of it from the editors themselves as they refine and try to help the authors understand what it is the editors are looking for. That's always the first place to start. If you can reach out to an associate editor—if you see a name on the associate editor list you might recognize or whose work you have followed—reach out and ask if your paper

might be a good fit for that particular journal.

So many papers are rejected at first submission simply because they don't belong in the journal. They aren't looking at the area of research the journal is focused on, or the author simply has thrown the paper into the hopper hoping it gets through. So, it's super important for everybody to look at the aims and scopes and the instructions for the authors. You will find a lot of good information there to direct your submissions.

LaLonde: How does one seeking to become a reviewer get started?

Sampson: I am really glad you asked. Becoming a reviewer for one of the journals is very easy and just involves creating an account for yourself on the Scholar One manuscript system that the ASA uses for submissions. However, I would say two things about that. First, of course, create the account for yourself because that automatically adds your name to the reviewer list. You can opt out of being a reviewer if you wish, but we would appreciate it if you didn't. Please stay on because we need your help. When you create your account, be as thorough and precise as possible in filling out your keywords and interests and areas of expertise. That way the associate editors have a better grasp of what papers to send your way for review. When you're asked to review, I'm going to ask one more favor, and that's to be prompt.

Be as prompt as you can with your review. We know everybody's busy. We know

this is added work for a volunteer, but you would be amazed at the reviews. One look at just the average review shows such care and real attention to helping these authors make papers better. And if that sounds like you, we would love to have you review once you've created your account.

I would encourage you to reach out to an associate editor. You can find those lists online. If you find someone whose name you recognize or even tangentially recognize, reach out and say, "Hey, I want to review papers for *JASA*. My name is already on the list, here are my areas of expertise. Would love to start seeing some papers." My guess is you'll be taken up on that.

LaLonde: Would you share the process of how associate editors and editors are chosen?

Sampson: Associate editors are chosen by the editors and serve at the editor's pleasure. So, if you start to think these are just the editor's friends, not really. The editor typically is very familiar with the literature in this area, in the area of focus for whatever journal. And the editors are very keen to add associate editors who are skilled in areas that the editor lacks. So the focus for the editor in creating his or her editorial board is to make sure they have a broad range of areas of expertise that fall within the scope of the journal covered so that when a paper comes in, the editor says, "Oh my gosh, I don't know much about this topic, but I know this person who I've brought on as associate editor knows a lot." That paper goes to that person.

So again, it's making yourself known to the editor, but also being active in your areas of research and publishing when you can. And fortunately, we are back to having conferences, so reach out and always let the editors and associate editors know you are interested. And again, you can find those lists online.

For editors, the ASA conducts very thorough, very careful editor searches. And those people tend to come from the associate editor ranks within a given journal. The editors are often chosen because they have already been active in the journal, itself. Clearly, they know the topic, they know the aims and scopes, and they know the focus of the journal. We form search committees and put out the word to get as broad a base of applicants as possible.

We have found that, with several of our journals, the best editors don't always come from there. And we've gotten some amazing editors from even outside the "statistics profession." They are statisticians, trust us, but they come from other areas. So, it's a very painstaking process and our search committees have done an amazing job. But to become an editor, that person has typically already been active with the journal and is clearly known in the field.

LaLonde: When members see the announcement for an editor posted, take that seriously because it really is an active search. It's not a done deal.

Sampson: Oh, it is definitely not a done deal until the ASA Board says it's a done deal. ■



Evolving Statistical Data Science: Celebrating 30 Years of Mason Statistics

Rena Malai, Inchi Hu, Brett Hunter, and Jiayang Sun

The Conference on Evolving Statistical Data Science recently celebrated 30 years of research, teaching, and collaboration. George Mason statistics professors, students, and professionals—as well as national and international leaders in statistics and data science from academia, government, and industry—came together for two days of panels and networking.

Welcoming remarks from the college of engineering and computing dean, Ken Ball, and divisional dean of the school of computing, Gurdip Singh, kicked off the event. Attendees celebrated the progress of statistics over the last three decades and anticipated what to expect moving forward when it comes to future curricula and jobs.

Statistics department chair Jiayang Sun, a Bernard Dunn Eminent Scholar, said the event was fantastic: “It not only spotlighted our faculty, students, staff, and alums but also brought in some of the best minds in statistics and data science in the world. We had an extremely inspiring keynote presentation, a thought-provoking closing talk, and distinguished panel discussions from leaders in various sectors.”

She added that the posters, awards, and social events showcased student research and their creativity.

Keynote speaker Xiao-Li Meng, Whipple V.N. Jones Professor of Statistics at Harvard, gave a talk titled “Evolving ChatGPT: Data Engineering, Data Minding, and Data Intelligence.” He emphasized data “minding,” not “mining,” as a key point in the current AI revolution. ChatGPT can synthesize human collective intelligence at scale and with speed, but he said the fact that it doesn’t provide the emotional intelligence involved in reaching a consensus from any large group of people should not be overlooked.

“The absence of emotional entanglement is both powerful and dangerous because the entanglement creates inefficiency but also a mechanism for avoiding extreme outcome,” Meng said.

There is still a lot to think about in the future, especially when it comes to AI, ethical issues, and data privacy. Ron Wasserstein, executive director of the American Statistical Association, joked that ChatGPT could always generate a code of ethics for AI.

Also according to Wasserstein, the future looks bright for statistics jobs. During the panel “Future of Statistics and Data Science,” Wasserstein forecasted that job growth will rise three to four percent per year over the next decade.

“This could allow us to have more faculty and be able to train more people,” he said.

Other distinguished speakers included the following:

- **Tigran Markaryan**, a distinguished alumnus and vice president of analytics, Lifelenz
- **Jean Opsomer**, vice president, Westat
- **William Rosenberger**, statistics professor, George Mason
- **John Stuffken**, statistics professor, George Mason
- **Sterling Thomas**, chief scientist, Noblis

The takeaways included information about grant opportunities from internal and external sources and a poster presentation of statistics research projects from students.

Closing remarks were given by Heping Zhang, Susan Dwight Bliss Professor of Biostatistics, professor in the child study center, and professor of statistics and data science at Yale University. His talk, titled “Genes, Brain, and Us,” focused on the breakthroughs and challenges at the triangular interface between each pair of genes, brain, and health.

To view photos or learn more about George Mason University, visit <https://computing.gmu.edu>. ■

How My First Statistics Professor Changed My Life—A Tribute to Golde Holtzman



Golde Holtzman is an emeritus faculty member at Virginia Tech. He earned his PhD from North Carolina State University in 1980. Holtzman served as a professor in the department of statistics at Virginia Tech from 1980–2014. He retired in 2014.



Chris Franck is an associate professor in the department of statistics at Virginia Tech.

I was an undergraduate psychology major in the spring of 2002 when I took Introductory Statistics from Golde Holtzman at Virginia Tech. I didn't really know what statistics was back then, but there was a girl I liked who sometimes went to that class. So I went to class every day.

Golde was tasked with conveying essential statistical ideas to an audience of teenagers three times a week at 8 a.m. We were to learn about foundational topics, including populations, samples, the role randomization plays in achieving representative data, distributions, standardization, and a little bit about confidence intervals and hypothesis tests. The concepts were taught broadly and in a conceptual manner, perhaps because nobody there really knew any math. I remember at least one help session focused on how to handle both subtraction and division when computing $z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$. For eight weeks, the class went about as well as you would expect.

One day, in these dreary circumstances, the strangest thing happened. Golde swept into class with an empty jar, a scoop, separate collections of green and yellow beans, a few dozen Dixie cups, and some plastic spoons. He told us to mix the beans

while he left the room, and he'd correctly guess the proportion of green to yellow scoops. He returned once we filled the jar, and he divided us into 20 teams.

He asked, "What's it called if I take a spoonful of beans from the entire jar?"

From the back of the room, a voice I had never heard spoke up: "A sample."

"What's the entire jar called?"

Another new voice answered, "The population."

"Should I take a sample now?"

"No."

"Why not?"

"Shake the jar! Randomize!"

And with that, 20 teams set about sampling the now-shaken jar, reporting to Golde the proportion of green beans in their sample. He entered the data into a spreadsheet but was ultimately able to correctly guess the secret proportion with a single scratch of his beard.

microcosm of statistical reasoning. He taught us that these principles enable doctors to learn the rates of side effects of drugs, engineers to assess failure rates of their work, and others to obtain actionable intel more generally in any setting where data could be collected.

On that day, I quit all other professional aspirations to focus on doing whatever I could to grasp the entirety of what I had just witnessed.

In the aftermath of that experience, I switched my major to statistics. I survived calculus well enough to go to graduate school at North Carolina State University. I got my PhD in 2010 and came back to the Virginia Tech Department of Statistics as a faculty member, surprised to learn my first statistics hero had an office two doors down from mine.

Classroom prop to illustrate random sampling passed down from Golde Holtzman to Chris Franck



Photo courtesy of Chris Franck

The demo was plausible and yet incredible. Intuitively, the sample proportions should be close to the proportion in the jar. But it had not occurred to me that the truth in that jar could be reconstructed based on 20 tiny spoon-sized samples. Golde had lucidly demonstrated a complete

In 2014, I told this story at Golde's retirement party. Shortly thereafter, I found a box outside my office with a note that read, "Chris, please dispose of this for me. Thanks, Golde." Inside the box was a big jar of faded green and yellow beans and a few dozen Dixie cups. ■

Caucus of Industry Representatives: A New ASA Resource



The new Caucus of Industry Representatives provides resources for industry statisticians and data scientists. It promotes statistics and data science in the private and public sectors and provides resources for industry statisticians and data scientists to successfully advocate for the discipline. In particular, the caucus does the following:

- Promotes the statistics profession in the private and public sectors
- Assists private and public entities employing statisticians and data scientists
- Provides a venue for discussing issues affecting statisticians and data scientists working in the private and public sectors
- Facilitates interaction between private and public sector leaders
- Identifies and collects data that is helpful in dealing with work and employment and functions as a repository for such data
- Arranges a yearly meeting of the caucus members
- Arranges a yearly workshop for caucus members

Members of the caucus are statisticians and data scientists who are willing to support and advance the purpose of the caucus. This includes leaders of statistics and data science groups and statisticians and data scientists who are the only statistician, or one of a few, in their organization.

To let the members of the Caucus of Industry Representatives know how they can support you, fill out the form at <https://form.jotform.com/zzlalo/cir-feedback-form>. ■



PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE
AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

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to the latest episode of the *Practical Significance* podcast with hosts Ron Wasserstein and Donna LaLonde



Ron Wasserstein



Donna LaLonde

Practical Significance inspires listeners with compelling stories from statistics and propels data-driven careers forward with learning opportunities for all.

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JI-HYUN LEE ELECTED 2025 ASA PRESIDENT

SUSAN PADDOCK ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT



Incoming Leadership Sets Mission to Build Strong Bridges for a Diverse Statistics Workforce Prepared for Technological Advances Impacting the Field

The ASA recently announced the election of Ji-Hyun Lee as its 120th president. Her term begins January 1, 2025, with a one-year term as president-elect beginning January 1, 2024.

As ASA president, Lee will focus on increasing the statistical community's visibility and impact, enhancing opportunities to support the evolving needs of the statistical profession, and diversifying membership. Her priority will be to build strong bridges—both within and outside the ASA community—to strengthen the association and seize opportunities in this data-driven era. She noted, “Collaboration with others has always been the most fulfilling aspect of my career and personal life.”

“Understanding basic statistical and data literacy is not only just important for students but is becoming increasingly crucial for

everyone in the workforce,” Lee said. “With the rapid growth of data-driven jobs and widespread use of data in the various sectors, data science and statistics education are vital for building a strong American workforce and maintaining competitiveness.”

Lee is a professor of biostatistics at the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions and the University of Florida College of Medicine. She also serves as the director of the UF Health Cancer Center Division of Quantitative Sciences, where she focuses on improving the lives of people affected by cancer. Her research interests include clinical trial designs, health disparity, cancer prevention interventions (including smoking cessation), and the application of AI in cancer research. Throughout her career, she has advocated for the statistics field and its vital role in society.

Lee began her service to the ASA as a volunteer for the ASA Florida Chapter. She served as a district representative to the Council of Chapters Governing Board and represented the Council of Chapters on the ASA Board of Directors. Lee is also a member of the Caucus for Women in Statistics and served as its president in 2017, as well as the Korean International Statistical Association, for which she served on the board of directors from 2017–2022.

Susan Paddock has been elected to serve as ASA vice president. Her term will begin January 1, 2024. During her tenure, Paddock's top three priorities are to advance statistical leadership in data science and AI; support the association's ongoing diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility work; and amplify the ASA's voice for sound statistical practice in society.

“Ensuring an equitable, accessible, and high-quality data science education is vital to elevate American students’ data literacy skills,” Paddock said. “This will improve students’ engagement in a data-rich society and help develop a modern STEM workforce and its future leaders.”

Paddock is the chief statistician and executive vice president at NORC at the University of Chicago. She leads a division of statisticians, data scientists, and methodologists who advance NORC’s capabilities through research; efficient statistical operations; and cross-functional collaboration on projects for government, corporate, and non-profit clients on topics including education, health, and public affairs. Paddock has published research on health policy topics and Bayesian methods, causal inference, hierarchical modeling, longitudinal data analysis, and missing data methods.

Paddock has been active in the association for more than 20 years, starting with her entry into the Section on Bayesian Statistical Sciences as a graduate student. She is the 2023 chair of the Council of Sections Governing Board and a member of the Committee on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. She is an ASA Fellow and was the recipient of the Health Policy Statistics Section’s 2013 Mid-Career Award.

The ASA membership also elected the following board members and section officers:

Treasurer 2024–2026

Jean Opsomer, Westat

Council of Chapters Representative to the Board 2024–2026

Motomi Mori, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Council of Sections Representative to the Board 2024–2026

Jennifer Parker, National Center for Health Statistics

Publications Representative to the Board 2024–2026

Antje Hoering, Cancer Research and Biostatistics

BAYESIAN STATISTICAL SCIENCE (est. 1992) SBSS

Chair-elect 2024

Lester Mackey, Stanford University

Program Chair-elect 2024

Anindya Bhadra, Purdue University

Publications Officer 2024–2026

Christine Peterson, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

BIOMETRICS (est. 1938) BIOM

Chair-elect 2024

Tanya Garcia, The University of North Carolina

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Carmen Tekwe-Zoh, University of Indiana

BIOPHARMACEUTICAL (est. 1981) BIOP

Chair-elect 2024

Erik Bloomquist, US Food and Drug Administration

Program Chair-elect 2024

Jianchang Lin, Takeda

Secretary 2024–2026

Shuyan Wen, Merck

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Freda Cooner, Arcutis Biotherapeutics, Inc.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS (est. 1950) BE

Chair-elect 2024

Rebecca Sela, JP Morgan Chase & Co.

Program Chair-elect 2024

Mariana Saenz-Ayala, Georgia Southern University

STATISTICAL COMPUTING (est. 1972) COMP/CPGH

Chair-elect 2024

Tim Hesterberg, Google

Program Chair-elect 2024

Allison Theobald, California Polytechnic State University

Secretary/Treasurer 2024–2025

Giles Hooker, University of California, Berkeley

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Lydia Gibson, California State University, East Bay

STATISTICAL CONSULTING (est. 1991) CNSL

Chair-elect 2024

Terrie Vasilopoulous, University of Florida

Secretary/Treasurer 2024–2026

Andrea Mack, Idaho National Laboratories

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

David Agboola, Procter & Gamble

Executive Committee at Large 2024–2026

Emily Leary, University of Missouri

Maria Montez-Rath, Stanford University

STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE EDUCATION (est. 1948) EDUC

Chair-elect 2024

Lisa Kay, Eastern Kentucky University

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Ming-Wen An, Vassar College

Executive Committee at Large 2024–2026

Felicia Simpson, Winston-Salem State University

Anarina Murillo, Brown University



STATISTICS IN DEFENSE AND NATIONAL SECURITY (est. 2004) SDNS

Chair-elect 2024

Joseph Warfield, Johns Hopkins University

Program Chair-elect 2024

Ana Kupresanin, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Secretary/Treasurer 2024–2026

Victoria Sieck, US Air Force

STATISTICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (est. 1990) ENVR

Chair-elect 2024

Mikyong Jun, University of Houston

Program Chair-elect 2024

Abhirup Datta, Johns Hopkins University

Treasurer 2024

(Rotates to Secretary in 2025)

Toryn Schafer, Texas A&M University

Publications Chair-elect 2024–2025

Ander Wilson, Colorado State University

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Ali Arab, Georgetown University

STATISTICS IN EPIDEMIOLOGY (est. 1992) EPI

Chair-elect 2024

Veronica Berrocal, University of California, Irvine

Program Chair-elect 2024

Molin Wang, Harvard University

Publications Officer 2024–2026

Hong Li, University of California, Davis

Council of Sections

Representative 2024–2026

Elizabeth Handorf, Fox Chase Cancer Center

STATISTICS IN GENOMICS AND GENETICS (est. 2015) SGG

Chair-elect 2024

Zhijin Wu, Brown University

Program Chair-elect 2024

Peng Wei, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Council of Sections

Representative 2024–2026

Li-Xuan Qin, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

GOVERNMENT STATISTICS (est. 1988) GOVT/GTSO

Chair-elect 2024

Deliverance Bougie, US Census Bureau

Program Chair-elect 2024

Darcy Steeg Morris, US Census Bureau

STATISTICAL GRAPHICS (est. 1985) GRPH/CPGH

Chair-elect 2024

Heike Hofmann, Iowa State University

Program Chair-elect 2024

Emily Zabor, Cleveland Clinic

HEALTH POLICY STATISTICS (est. 1994) HPSS

Chair-elect 2024

Mousumi Banerjee, University of Michigan

STATISTICS IN IMAGING (est. 2012) SI

Chair-elect 2024

Michele Guindani, University of California, Los Angeles

Program Chair-elect 2024

Dehan Kong, University of Toronto

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Yize Zhao, Yale University

STATISTICAL LEARNING AND DATA SCIENCE (est. 2009) SLDM

Chair-elect 2024

Jing Lei, Carnegie Mellon University

Program Chair-elect 2024

Irina Gaynanova, Texas A&M University

Council of Sections

Representative 2024–2026

Mladen Kolar, The University of Chicago

LIFETIME DATA SCIENCE (2018) LIDS

Chair-elect 2024

Zhezhen Jin, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Program Chair-elect 2024

Mengling Liu, New York University Grossman School of Medicine

Treasurer 2024–2025

Yifei Sun, Columbia University

STATISTICS IN MARKETING (est. 1991) MKTG

Chair-elect 2024

Shibo Li, Indiana University

Program Chair-elect 2024

Hortense Fong, Columbia University

Treasurer 2024–2025

Tatiana Dyachenko, University of Georgia

MEDICAL DEVICES AND DIAGNOSTICS (est. 2014) MDD

Chair-elect 2024

Hope Knuckles, Abbott

Program Chair-elect 2024

Ken Guangxing Wang, US Food and Drug Administration

MENTAL HEALTH STATISTICS (est. 2013) MHS

Chair-elect 2024

Alessandro De Nadai, Harvard Medical School

Program Chair-elect 2024

Chong Wu, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

NONPARAMETRIC (est. 1999) NPAR**Chair-elect 2024**

Gerda Claeskens, KU Leuven

Program Chair-elect 2024

Ana Maria Staicu, North Carolina State University

Treasurer 2024

(Rotates to Secretary in 2025)

Anru Zhang, Duke University

Publications Officer 2024–2026

Hongyuan Cao, Florida State University

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Limin Peng, Emory University

PHYSICAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES (est. 1954) SPES/SPQP**Chair-elect 2024**

Devon Lin, Queen's University

Program Chair-elect 2024

Oksana Chkrebti, The Ohio State University

Secretary/Treasurer 2024–2025

Youngdeok Hwang, City University of New York

STATISTICAL PROGRAMMERS AND ANALYSTS (est. 2009) SSPA**Chair-elect 2024**

William Coar, Axio

Program Chair-elect 2024

Zaihra Rizvi, Lahey Hospital and Medical Center

Secretary 2024–2025

Vipin Arora, Eli Lilly and Company

Treasurer 2024–2025

WenXian Zhou, Eli Lilly and Company

Publications Officer 2024–2025

Jiping Wang, Yale University

QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY (est. 1989) QP/SPQP**Chair-elect 2024**

John Szarka, W.L. Gore & Associates

Program Chair-elect 2024

Lauren Wilson, Sandia National Laboratory

Council of Sections**Representative 2024–2026**

Caleb King, JMP

RISK ANALYSIS (est. 1994) RISK**Chair-elect 2024**

Alexander Alekseyenko, Medical University of South Carolina

Program Chair-elect 2024

Jing Zhang, Miami University

Secretary/Treasurer 2024–2025

Parichoy Pal Choudhury, American Cancer Society

Publications Officer 2024–2025

Kristin Lennox, Exponent

Council of Sections**Representative 2024–2026**

Meredith Ray, University of Memphis

SOCIAL STATISTICS (est. 1953) SOC/GTSO**Chair-elect 2024**

Elizabeth Tipton, Northwestern University

Program Chair-Elect 2024

Maria Cuellar, University of Pennsylvania

Secretary/Treasurer 2024–2026

Tyler McCormick, University of Washington

STATISTICS IN SPORTS (est. 1992) SIS**Chair-elect 2024**

Ron Yurko, Carnegie Mellon University

Program Chair-elect 2024

Monnie McGee, Southern Methodist University

Communications Officer 2024–2026

Denise Bradford

Council of Sections**Representative 2024–2026**

Michael Schuckers, St. Lawrence University

SURVEY RESEARCH METHODS (est. 1978) SRMS**Chair-elect 2024**

Eric Rancourt, Statistics Canada

Program Chair-elect 2024

Chris Moriarity, National Center for Health Statistics

Secretary 2024–2025

Martha McRoy, Abt Associates

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Andreea Erciulescu, Westat

TEACHING OF STATISTICS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES (est. 1991) TSHS**Chair-elect 2024**

Jaya Satagopan, Rutgers University

TEXT ANALYSIS (est. 2022) STA**Chair-elect 2024**

Michelle Dunn, US Department of Defense

Council of Sections**Representative 2024–2026**

Tommy Jones, In-Q-Tel ■

Remembering Federal Statistics Champion Tom Sawyer

Steve Pierson, ASA Director of Science Policy

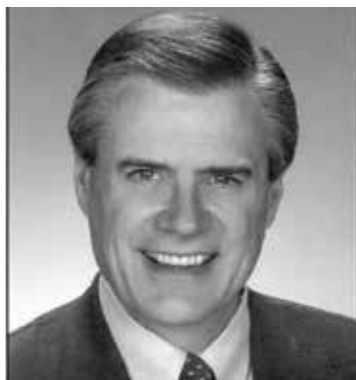


Photo from 2002 JSM Program Book
Tom Sawyer

The May 20 passing of Rep. Tom Sawyer sparked memories and praise of his work in support of the decennial census and other data production activities among longtime members of the federal statistical community.

Terri Ann Lowenthal, an inaugural member of the ASA Scientific and Public Affairs Advisory Committee, recalled his keynote address to the 2002 Joint Statistical Meetings in New York City, possibly the only JSM address by a member of Congress. Katherine Wallman, 1992 ASA president and chief statistician of the US from 1992–2017, remembered a 1993 hearing—one of a series of oversight activities—during which Sawyer charged her and then-administrator of the OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Sally Katzen, to review and possibly revise the 1977 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity. Wallman said he was motivated by the correspondence he was receiving from folks who “couldn’t find themselves” in the 1990 census options.

“Tom’s characteristically informed and polite urging led OMB to undertake a robust and, in some respects, unprecedented process leading to the 1997 revision that has served the federal system since,” Wallman said. “The inclusive process that his request inspired is, in fact, being emulated in the review currently underway.”

Sawyer represented Ohio’s 14th congressional district from 1987–2003, gaining prominence in

the federal statistical community for his oversight of the 1990 census as chair of the House panel with jurisdiction over the US Census Bureau and federal statistical system more broadly. Indeed, the title of his obituary in *The New York Times* referred to him as the “Congressman Who Challenged Census Undercount” and stated “he said the 1990 population data missed more than two million Black Americans and shortchanged the nation’s older cities.”

Lowenthal, who served as Sawyer’s staff director on the House census oversight panel, recounted the subcommittee’s issuance in 1991 of the first congressional subpoena to a commerce secretary for the unofficial adjusted 1990 census data at the block level. She also recalled the difficult occasion when Sawyer had to tell House Rules Committee Chair Joe Moakley (D-MA) that the inclusion of overseas service members in the 1990 census apportionment counts—a policy change Sawyer had championed—cost Massachusetts a congressional district.

Margo Anderson of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a historian of the US Census Bureau and federal statistical system, observed Sawyer’s “serious attention to the policy, legislative, academic issues surrounding federal statistics and his recognition that he could both learn from staff, constituents, and the ‘bureaucrats’ and contribute to public policy as a member.” She added, “He recognized he could ‘fix’ things, sponsor legislation, nudge officials and fellow members to respond to the many voices he heard and improve the statistical system.”

Lowenthal expressed similar admiration for Sawyer:

Tom genuinely was intrigued by the intersection of demographics and policy. So many issues that we confront today—such as the consequences of supporting a large aging, whiter population (baby boomers) through a younger more diverse population and the competition for resources that generates. Tom was highlighting those emerging trends 35 years ago.

He recognized he could ‘fix’ things, sponsor legislation, nudge officials and fellow members to respond to the many voices he heard and improve the statistical system.

“My fondest memory of Congressman Sawyer comes from the battle over the 1998 appropriations where Republicans tried to outlaw sampling in the census,” wrote David McMillen, another congressional staffer and former Census Bureau demographer who worked with Sawyer. “It was a series of congressional sessions that ran until three in the morning and information was scarce. The White House negotiators wouldn’t share the details of the census negotiations with the minority democrats, often to their peril. When the dam broke, it was Congressman Sawyer they chose to talk to, even though, at that time, he held no position of authority within the House. Congressman Sawyer offered them a rational and reasoned response to the language they were negotiating.”

McMillen further reminisced:

After the 1990 Census, Congressman Sawyer, Terri Ann, and senior subcommittee staffer Shelly Wilkie Martinez (now a senior statistician in OMB’s statistical policy office) realized that the Census Bureau needed prodding to get them to seriously consider the wealth of local census knowledge that existed in [s]tates, counties, and towns throughout the country. They crafted the Census Address List Improvement Act of 1994, which became Public Law 103-430. Throughout the development of that bill, Congressman Sawyer maintained a dialogue with the Census Bureau. He listened to their concerns but never lost sight of his goal.

We all have our ideal type of what a congressman should be. Tom Sawyer is mine.

Regarding the program to improve the census address list, Joseph Salvo, longtime chief demographer of New York City, voiced his praise that “staff actually collaborated with us—the locals—to see whether what was being proposed made sense.” He noted that collaborative effort was the primary reason New York City achieved the eight million mark for the first time in 2000 and commended its accomplishment as manifest by its far-reaching effects to this day.

McMillen, who with other committee staff shepherded the bill through the Senate, noted Salvo used the law to add 700,000 people over the 1990 New York City count that would have otherwise been missed.

Former Census Director Martha Farnsworth, who Sawyer introduced at her 1994 confirmation hearing, recalled Sawyer’s vote in support of the North American Free Trade Agreement that probably cost him his seat after the next round of redistricting because it would expose Ohio’s tire manufacturing industry to competition. She remembers him believing “it was ‘the right thing to do,’ so he did it, and delivered the final, decisive vote.” She concurred with others: “He passed the test of character.”

Lowenthal, then serving double duty as Sawyer’s personal office chief of staff, remarked on the NAFTA vote: “I can’t tell you how much pressure the congressman was under from both sides to vote against or for the bill. It felt like a parade of cabinet members and Vice President Gore, as well as President Clinton, chasing him down by phone on a daily basis, while union members in DC and the district threatened to withhold future support if he voted for the agreement.” She concluded with this praise:

Mostly, I often reminisce about the in-depth, ongoing oversight of key census, Census Bureau, and federal statistical issues our subcommittee did on a bipartisan basis (even when we had disagreements on substance) under both Chairman Sawyer and Chairman Dymally before him. That sort of cooperative engagement from Congress, which improves transparency and stakeholder and political buy-in, would advance sound statistical programs and policies and build confidence in the work of the Census Bureau and all federal statistical agencies. ■

NSF CORNER

Po-Ling Loh Shares Insights on NSF CAREER Award

To strengthen the connection between the statistical community and National Science Foundation, we continue the series introduced in the May 2023 issue of Amstat News that poses questions to NSF program officers and awardees. This month, awardee Po-Ling Loh tells us how she earned her CAREER award. If you have questions or comments for the program officers, send them to ASA Director of Science Policy Steve Pierson at pierson@amstat.org.



Po-Ling Loh is a statistics professor at the University of Cambridge Department of Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics. She earned her PhD in statistics from the University of California, Berkeley in 2014 and her research interests include high-dimensional statistics, robustness, and differential privacy. She is a recipient of an NSF CAREER Award, an Army Research Office Young Investigator Award, an Institute of Mathematical Statistics Tweedie New Researcher Award, a Bernoulli Society New Researcher Award, and a Hertz Fellowship.

What is your amount of experience with the NSF proposal process?

I was at the University of Wisconsin-Madison when I received the CAREER award in 2018. I submitted several collaborative NSF proposals in the past and sat on a handful of NSF selection panels from 2014–2019.

How will the funding be used?

The goal of the project, “Something Old, Something New: Robust Statistics in the 21st Century,” was to explore new theoretical directions in robust statistics. This includes the effects of high dimensions, adversarial contamination, and

non-IID data, all of which are becoming more commonplace in modern data analysis but were largely absent from classical studies in the field. The funding amount was \$400,000, which is standard for a CAREER grant, providing support for one PhD student per year.

Summarize the goal of what the proposal will accomplish.

Specific questions to be explored regarding high-dimensional data included the following:

- How do existing notions of robustness apply to high-dimensional settings?
- How should high-dimensional estimation procedures be modified to protect against deviations

from distributional assumptions?

- How might one quantify the relative robustness of various proposals?

As many natural robust estimators involve optimizing nonconvex objective functions, the project endeavored to make novel theoretical advances in both statistics and optimization theory. The project also aimed to address some long-standing open questions in robust statistics involving optimization of low-dimensional nonconvex objective functions. Finally, the proposed work involved studying consequences of the new theory in machine learning applications such as medical imaging.

What impact has this funding had on your career and work?

Preparing the CAREER proposal helped me develop a cohesive five-year research plan, which was a useful exercise as an early-career faculty, even though I didn't end up pursuing the exact projects outlined in the proposal—one's research trajectory is not always predictable! The funding was useful because it gave me a stable funding source for five years, which is essentially

the life cycle of a statistics PhD student in most American universities. Actually, the student who ended up being funded on this project was in the computer science PhD program, so the support was even more critical, since the funding model is different there.

What advice do you have for others applying for NSF funding and the specific program to which you applied?

Compared to other engineering disciplines, NSF CAREER awards in statistics are rarer; hence, they are more prestigious. However, this may cause potential applicants to be discouraged from even applying. I don't think it hurts to apply for a CAREER award, since preparing a five-year plan can be helpful in setting a more coherent research agenda for the immediate future—it also makes things easier when a prospective PhD student comes looking for potential projects! Furthermore, the feedback from the reviews is more extensive than from some other funding agencies and can be quite useful. It's also good to remember that applicants can make up to three attempts and previously declined CAREER proposals will not adversely affect future chances.

That said, the investigator's track record is fairly important—as I witnessed firsthand from sitting on a CAREER panel—so the likelihood of receiving an award may be somewhat higher if one waits to apply several years into the tenure track.

I would also like to mention that many universities have centers or dedicated staff members who can help brainstorm ideas for writing the “Broader Impacts” section of the proposal. Often, this is the part in which investigators draw a blank on writing something innovative. I attended a workshop at UW-Madison specifically focused on helping write about broader impacts for NSF CAREER proposals and was

inspired to be more ambitious and creative with this portion of my proposal. We were also told that if we were having trouble coming up with ways to turn scientific work into broader impacts, we were welcome to make an appointment with one of the staff members to discuss initiatives going on at the university and how to plug in. ■

COMMITTEE MEMBER? CHAPTER OR SECTION OFFICER? ASA Leader HUB IS HERE FOR YOU

ASA leaders are ASA members who volunteer in some way, primarily as **chapter or section officers** or **committee chairs or members**. We aim to make your volunteer experience easy by providing materials you need in **one convenient location**.

Visit the Leader HUB on the ASA Community at <https://community.amstat.org/asaleaderhub/home>.



Fund Set Up to Kick-Start Community for Underrepresented People in Statistics

The Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Outreach Group Corner is a regular component of Amstat News in which statisticians write and educate our community about JEDI-related matters. If you have an idea or article for the column, email the JEDI Corner manager at jedicorner@datascijedi.org.



Michael Tsiang is a continuing lecturer in the department of statistics and data science at the University of California, Los Angeles. He serves as secretary for the Southern California Chapter of the ASA and is a member of the ASA LGBTQ+ Advocacy Committee.

MORE ONLINE
To share thoughts or lend support, contact Tsiang at michael.tsiang@stat.ucla.edu.

I am lucky to have my dream job working in the department of statistics at the University of California, Los Angeles. My mom worked at UCLA as a librarian for 40 years; I grew up on this campus, and it has always felt like home. I love what I do, and I have a department of faculty, staff, alumni, and students who make me feel like I belong every single day.

However, there's a phrase that has come back to me many times over the last few years: "This moment is not about me." I know not everyone feels the same sense of belonging I do in STEM, especially students and faculty from minoritized backgrounds. Though I feel safe in my current position, I have been in other STEM environments in which I did not feel welcome for reasons completely unrelated to my intelligence or competence in the field. I felt invisible and marginalized—a second-class citizen.

I never want my statistics department to make others feel like they do not have a place in it. Though the topic of equity and inclusion has been of particular and personal interest to me for years, it is more important than ever to lean into this movement in today's social climate. To that end, in October 2020, I created the Michael Tsiang Fund for Belonging in Statistics, an initiative to create a safe and supportive community around the many groups that have been historically underrepresented in statistics—women, people of color, the LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, and first-generation students—to address any and all invisible ways people can be marginalized and underrepresented.

The Michael Tsiang Fund for Belonging in Statistics does the following:

- Works within the UCLA Department of Statistics to create a space for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and allies to work and learn together
- Funds community inclusivity initiatives and student awards within the statistics department
- Helps cover the costs of lectures, panel discussions, workshops, screenings, research, community outreach, and other activities that empower and educate our community
- Ensures these efforts remain at the forefront of the statistics department's priorities year after year

- Helps kick-start an intentional community for underrepresented people in statistics

Creating a safe and supportive community for all requires consistent effort. I wanted to ensure there would always be funds available to support any initiatives helping further the ideals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, which led me to consider a permanent endowment.

In the fall of 2020, the dean of physical sciences issued a challenge to match 100 percent of any endowments, pledges, or donations totaling \$100,000 or more made by June 30, 2021, so the timing was opportune. I knew I would not be able to donate such an amount on my own, but I hoped the goal would be achievable through crowdfunding.

Closely collaborating with the physical sciences development office, I leveraged my personal and professional network of friends, family, former students, and alumni through emails, social media posts, and personal solicitation. Attaching my name to the fund was not only a way to express my direct involvement and firm belief in its cause but also a way to add a connection for members in my personal community to donate toward, even if they are not directly associated with the statistics community.

Through an initial personal contribution and significant fundraising efforts, I was able to raise more than \$100,000 by June 30, 2021, establishing the fund as a permanent endowment less than nine months after its creation and ensuring that addressing issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion are a priority for the department in perpetuity. In addition, the dean of physical sciences is matching 100 percent of the inaugural donations, immediately doubling the support for our mission to more than \$200,000.

I plan to establish a fund committee in the coming academic year to discuss ways to address the issues in our community and make sure funds are used in appropriate and impactful ways that are consistent with the mission to create a greater sense of belonging for everyone. With the support of the department leadership and the fund, I am excited and hopeful the department will be at the forefront of building a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive community in statistics within UCLA and around the world.

If you are interested in pledging your support and giving a gift to this fund, you can do so at bit.ly/3WWyjaqC. ■

Pride Scholarship Winners Dedicated to Advancing Research Centered on LGBTQ+ Issues

The ASA Pride Scholarship Committee recently named Erin Lipman this year's \$1,000 scholarship recipient. Committee members were impressed with her contributions to creating community among LGBTQ+ statisticians, pursuit of research that improves the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals, and ability to potentially affect the statistics field significantly.

The selection committee chose Sarah Buckingham to receive honorable mention and a \$500 scholarship in recognition of her commitment to improving accessibility within the data science field and advancing research integral to LGBTQ+ causes.

About the ASA Pride Scholarship Recipients

Since graduating in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Haverford College, Lipman has come to realize the importance of queer representation and community within the field of statistics. "There is often a tendency in the sciences to feel that our work exists objectively, independently of our personal identities," Lipman said.

Lipman became more comfortable being open about her identity in an academic setting after discovering a thriving queer community at the University of Washington. Eager to get involved and give back, she helped form the Queer Union for (Bio)statistician Inclusion and Community (QUBIC) during her first year there. One of QUBIC's goals is to build connections with LGBTQ+ undergraduate students.

"For me, it represents coming full circle," said Lipman. "I hope that even one undergraduate student attends a QUBIC event and

realizes that they can advance to graduate study in statistics bringing their full wonderful identity with them."

Lipman said her queer identity and her identity as a person with a vision disability has critically shaped the way she thinks about statistics and data analysis. "I am constantly looking to further examine how statistics is constructed out of the broader systems that shape our societies. My goal is to make this interest into a legitimate avenue of research alongside my statistical methods research."

When asked what receiving the scholarship means to her, Lipman said, "These funds will allow me to lighten my teaching duties, allowing more time to work on QUBIC and to pursue other research projects. Additionally, I plan to seek out conferences that examine the intersection between statistics and society, and these funds will help cover those fees."

Since Sarah Buckingham was young enough to be asked what her favorite subject was in school, she has had a difficult time choosing between two seemingly disparate options: math and English. "Although math and English are thought of as very different subjects demanding different skillsets, I have found that my strength as a problem-solver lies at the crossroads of both," explained Buckingham.

After considering various areas of undergraduate study at The Ohio State University, Buckingham decided to pursue data science. "Studying data science enabled me to build upon the talents and interests I have had since I was a young girl: working with data to protect and harness information and communicating

clearly when there are problems," said Buckingham.

She went on to say, "Data science also teaches how to leverage information to work toward meaningful ends to impact the world and the people who most need it. This has proven again and again to be one of the most effectual sources of motivation in the choice I made as an undergraduate and my work in the field today."

Looking for opportunities to develop her skills while supporting marginalized populations is a high priority for Buckingham. She has volunteered with Ohio Staters, Inc. to establish and support scholarships for underrepresented and unfairly burdened students on campus. She also serves as president of the majorly queer radio organization AROUSE, leading initiatives such as fundraising concerts benefiting Kaleidoscope—an organization that supports LGBTQ+ homeless youth in Columbus.

As someone who has benefited from strong role models and mentors, paying it forward is important to Buckingham. "I have been fortunate enough to find role models in the LGBTQ+ community, women who have been successful and who have overcome discrimination through tenacity and acumen—something I can only hope to incorporate into my own work."

Buckingham said receiving scholarship funds will help lessen the financial burden pursuing secondary education presents. She hopes to focus on improving accessibility within her field, provide research integral to LGBTQ+ causes, and serve as a leader and role model for other marginalized individuals. ■

Pride Scholarship Winners



Erin Lipman (she/her), a second-year PhD student in statistics at the University of Washington, believes her identity as an LGBTQ+/queer woman and her belonging to a community of queer statisticians is essential to her work as a statistician.



Sarah Buckingham (she/her) receives honorable mention and a \$500 scholarship in recognition of her commitment to improving accessibility within the data science field and advancing research integral to LGBTQ+ causes.



STATS4GOOD

JSM 2023: D4G Informing Decisions and Driving Discovery



David Corliss is the AVP technical expert in data science at General Motors OnStar Insurance. He also serves on the steering committee for the Conference on Statistical Practice and is the founder of Peace-Work.

Each year, the Joint Statistical Meetings are one of the largest gatherings of statisticians and data scientists in the world, with a vast number of presentations, posters, meetings, and events. This makes JSM one of the most important Data for Good events in the world ... and one of the most overwhelming. With a little planning, you can get the most out of the event, however.

The theme this year is One Community: Informing Decisions and Driving Discovery. The D4G community will be active in meeting these goals. The most effective tool we have is JSM's excellent conference program (<https://bit.ly/43xQtVm>), which you can search by keyword, type of session, sponsoring organization, and more.

I found it most useful for unstructured learning, so searches by keyword and/or sponsor are the most helpful way of finding the sessions and events best matching your interests. The Justice, Equity,

Diversity, and Inclusion Outreach Group always sponsors a few important sessions. Highlights this year include the following:

- Metrics and Statistical Analyses of JEDI-Related Data on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
- Statistical Scientists of the Math Alliance: A Focus on Diversity and Recent Graduates on Monday at 2:00 p.m.
- Critical Race Theory for Statisticians: Incorporating CRT into Statistical Analyses on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.

Sessions from Statistics Without Borders are also some of the most important Data for Good events each year. This year, sessions include Innovative Project Collaborations to Inform Decisions and Drive Discovery on Monday at 8:30 a.m. and the SWB business meeting on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m.



View the
conference
program:
[https://bit.
ly/43xQtVm](https://bit.ly/43xQtVm)

Additionally, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights will host an invited session honoring the life and work of leading human rights statistician Thomas Jabine on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. See Page 25.

When making your plans, remember JSM is so much more than the meetings and paper presentations. The poster sessions are full of new ideas, innovative science, and opportunities to meet and talk with researchers. The poster session sponsored by the LGBTQ+ Advocacy Committee on Monday at 12:30 p.m. is just one of the many D4G highlights this year.

Also be sure to check out the roundtable sessions. These are small group meetings over breakfast or lunch at an extra cost, each sponsored by a different section. On Tuesday at 12:30 p.m., I will host a roundtable conversation about getting started on your first Data for Good project.

JSM always has many presentations on the leading topics of the day. COVID research, identified as a top D4G research area this year, is represented with 23 matches.

Another top Data for Good research area is climate change. This year's program has 10 sessions, including Extremes in a Changing Climate on Monday at 2:00 p.m. and Statistics in the Environment from the Canadian Statistical Sciences Institute on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Also,

Getting Involved

In opportunities this month, even folks unable to attend JSM can benefit from using the conference program to mine for research, projects, and contacts. Reach out to the people involved to develop new opportunities for collaboration.

July is also the month for summer intern programs. If your organization has interns—and especially if you are an intern—make sure exposure to Data for Good is part of the internship experience. Create opportunities for making Data for Good a vital, high impact, and rewarding part of their career from the very start.

the ASA Climate Change Committee will hold its annual business meeting on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.

When making plans for JSM, keep in mind technical sessions about the science most needed in your area. For example, almost no real-world data is clean and complete, but D4G is often particularly subject to data issues. The Monday 8:30 a.m. session Missing Data: The Where, the How, and the Why may not have D4G in the name but could be one of the most important sets of talks you hear this year. Another is the session titled Equity Concerns in Algorithmic Bias, Privacy on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m., which will provide the hard science needed to put algorithms to the test to generate more equitable outcomes.

Each year, JSM is more than the sum of its parts. The most important Data for Good activity at the conference is networking. Take the opportunity to meet new people, talk with presenters, expand your network, and connect with organizations supporting your work and interests. Tell others about your work, share ideas and methods, learn about current trends and emerging areas of research, and get plugged in to new, exciting projects. As this year's theme suggests, use this gathering of the Data for Good community to inform decisions and drive discovery. ■

STATtr@k

Babson College Launches Student Chapter

Sal Guinta, Babson College Assistant Teaching Professor



Photo courtesy of Sal Guinta

Members of the newly created ASA Babson College Student Chapter



Sal Guinta, assistant teaching professor at Babson College, is the faculty adviser to the ASA Babson College Student Chapter.

Babson College is filled with tenacious and inspiring entrepreneurs. Our students have the potential and motivation to be future leaders.

A faculty adviser to the newly created ASA Babson Student Chapter, I remember being involved in many undergraduate clubs and associations as a student. These clubs and associations led to connections that prepared me for life after college. The experiences I gained were invaluable. The American Statistical Association offers the same important experiences and an early connection to today's modern world, in which understanding analytics is a must.

Our students wanted to establish an ASA student chapter to bring people from diverse backgrounds who have an interest in analytics together. The chapter creates a space for students to apply knowledge from the past and go above and beyond what they cover in their classrooms. Additionally, the ASA network allows members to apply for and partake in internships, which can lead to further job opportunities. Being part of a nationally recognized association that connects

industry professionals to student chapter members allows students access to guidance and gives them glimpses of potential career paths.

The ASA Babson Student Chapter has three aims: compete in competitions; form partnerships; and learn about real-life applications. Currently, members participate in competitions that test their expertise and validate the chapter's establishment. We will also form partnerships with other chapters and organizations on Babson's campus to hold events and competitions. Finally, chapter members aim to learn skills that can be applied to real-life applications and consultancy.

Some of our activities so far include participating in a DataFest competition at Wellesley College and reviewing statistical journals to see which would be good sources for a statistics education-based project.

Going forward, the student chapter will support undergraduate student research and teach students how to present at national conferences. We're looking forward to upcoming ASA meetings where Babson students have a chance to present their projects to other chapter members and professionals. ■

JSM Session to Remember Thomas Jabine

A memorial session dedicated to the life and contributions of Thomas Jabine (1925–2022) is scheduled to take place at the Joint Statistical Meetings August 9 at 2 p.m. Members of the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights will revisit Jabine’s work touching on global governance, the American Statistical Association, and the intersection of statistics and human rights.

From MIT to Transforming the Census Bureau

Jabine, educated at MIT, embarked on a distinguished 20-year career that shaped the fabric of the United States Census Bureau. As chief of the statistical research division, Jabine’s expertise in survey sampling transformed the landscape of census methodologies. His influence extended beyond national borders, as he also lent his expertise to the census programs of the United Nations and Kingdom of Thailand. Jabine’s legacy as a bridge between statistical science and human rights began to take shape during these formative years.

Unveiling Statistical Human Rights Monitoring

In collaboration with political science professor Richard Claude of the University of Maryland, Jabine co-edited a seminal 1986 special edition of *Human Rights Quarterly*, which introduced the concept of statistical human rights monitoring to the social sciences literature. The impact was profound, prompting a wider dialogue on the critical role of statistics in exposing and addressing human rights violations. Their work evolved into the book *Human Rights and Statistics: Getting the Record Straight* in 1992, drawing on historical examples to shed light on the power and limitations of statistics in highlighting human rights atrocities.

Empowering Voices and Advocating for Change

Under Jabine’s leadership, the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights expanded its reach and influence. Collaborating with human rights advocacy organizations, committee members drafted letters and circulated petitions, leveraging statistical expertise in



Jabine, 2008

support of Soviet ‘refuseniks.’ One notable achievement was the drafting of a letter delivered by the ASA to the Soviet Academy of Sciences urging an end to political retribution in the form of academic degree revocations. These efforts, alongside similar actions by other scientific organizations, are thought to have influenced the Soviet government to cease these revocations. The committee’s growing prominence catalyzed the expansion of its mission, advising other scientific societies—including the American Association for the Advancement of Science—on the quality assessment of governmental human rights reporting.



From Left: Campbell Gibson, Thomas Jabine, and Monroe Sirken have lunch together in 2012 during a senior statisticians gathering in Washington, DC.

Championing Statistical Excellence for Governance

Jabine's influence reached beyond human rights, as he played an instrumental role in numerous studies conducted by the Committee on National Statistics. As a panel member or staff consultant, he contributed to influential reports that revolutionized census, survey, and small-area estimation methodologies, providing vital information for effective local and national governance. Reports such as *Cognitive Aspects of Survey Methodology: Building a Bridge Between Disciplines* and *Counting People in the*

Information Age are emblematic of Jabine's dedication to advancing statistical science for the betterment of society.

In work separate from the Committee on National Statistics, Jabine improved data quality through evaluation of quality profiles for several federal statistical programs and early work on the quality of administrative record data.

A Legacy of Distinction and Recognition

Jabine's election as a fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1966 attests to his exceptional contributions to

survey sampling and unwavering commitment to statistical and human rights communities. His efforts serve as a testament to the transformative potential of statistical science as a catalyst for positive social change.



Visit the JSM conference program at <https://bit.ly/43xQtVm> for details about the memorial session. ■



How Can We Help?

We want to help you share your own news with colleagues and showcase your latest successes.

It is important to us that everyone knows about your research, recent awards, and promotions!

If you have any news you would like to share, email megan@amstat.org.

Stan Lemeshow to Retire After 24 Years at Ohio State

Kristen Mitchell

During his 24 years at The Ohio State University, Stan Lemeshow was a prolific author, international leader in statistical modeling, and passionate teacher—never leaving the classroom, even during the decade he served as founding dean of the college of public health.

While his leadership was integral to the early growth of the college, becoming dean hadn't been part of the plan. "Even when I was dean, I always thought of myself as a reluctant dean," he said. "I feel happy that I was available to step up to the plate when we needed someone to lead the college. Realizing that my efforts were successful, and that the college is now doing so well, is very rewarding."

Lemeshow oversaw the college of public health's 2007 transition from a school within the college of medicine to an independent college. He also worked to unite the faculty, students, and staff under one roof in 2011, when the college moved into a new building to make it the state's first to be accredited through the Council on Education for Public Health.

Lemeshow, who served as dean from 2003–2013, laid a strong foundation and put the college on a trajectory for success, dean Amy Fairchild said.

"We were part of a wave of growth in public health. Stan saw and seized this moment in the history of our field, not only when there were almost no opportunities for

undergraduates but also [when there were] still relatively few opportunities for graduate education," she said.

Lemeshow was awarded the designation of distinguished university professor, the university's highest faculty honor, this spring.

Passion for Teaching

Amy Ferketich, professor of epidemiology, said Lemeshow was "exactly what we needed" when the college of public health was growing from a school to a college, but, more than anything, his time at Ohio State is defined by his fervor for

teaching. Ferketich was finishing her PhD when Lemeshow was hired and took one of his classes long before they worked together as faculty.

"He has such a passion for teaching," Ferketich said. "To still have that passion and that desire to walk into the classroom each day and engage with students, that's going to be missed."

Kellie Archer, chair and professor of biostatistics, described Lemeshow as a "great instructor, great colleague, and great researcher" with enormous prominence in the field. Lemeshow's research includes

Two *JASA* Papers Recognized for Outstanding Contributions

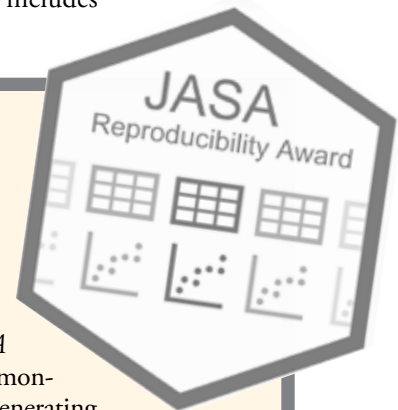
Members of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association* editorial board recently announced the winners of the inaugural *JASA* Reproducibility Award, which recognizes papers that demonstrate excellence in implementing reproducible analyses, generating open data sets and software, and developing end-to-end workflows.

This year's winning papers are the following:

- "Selective Inference for Hierarchical Clustering," by Lucy Gao, Jacob Bien, and Daniela Witten
- "Crime in Philadelphia: Bayesian Clustering with Particle Optimization," by Cecilia Balocchi, Sameer Deshpande, Edward George, and Shane Jensen

Authors of the winning papers will be presented with their awards at the Statistical Computing and Statistical Graphics section's joint meeting during the Joint Statistical Meetings in Toronto, Ontario. Each award comes with a \$500 honorarium.

To be eligible for the award, papers must be accepted into *JASA* by December 31 of the previous year. Up to three papers are selected annually. For details, visit <https://jasa-acs.github.io/repro-award>.



statistical modeling of medical data, sampling, health disparities, and cancer prevention. He served as the first director of the university's biostatistics program and later the center for biostatistics, a centralized resource for biostatistics expertise on campus. He also co-wrote multiple textbooks, including *Applied Logistic Regression*, the world's most-referenced book on epidemiology and biostatistics. He received a lifetime achievement award from Wiley, the book's publisher, in 2003.

Lemeshow mentored Archer and served as her PhD dissertation adviser. What set him apart as a professor was his commitment to providing the larger context to classroom concepts, she said.

Lemeshow's teaching prowess extends beyond Ohio State. He maintains ongoing relationships with multiple European universities and has taught more than 100 short courses on biostatistical methods in the US and abroad.

Reflecting on his career, Lemeshow said he's most proud when a former student shares something he taught them made them a more successful researcher. "I get that kind of feedback from time to time, and it means a lot to me," he said.

Leading for the Future

Eric Seiber, professor and director for the center for health outcomes and policy studies, said Lemeshow's leadership was pivotal during its transition from school to independent, accredited college. He shaped the college with early faculty hires and focused on growing the college's research reputation, Seiber said.

"You can't appreciate our progress without knowing where

we came from and, really, how far we have come," he said. "The college would not be where it is without Stan as a change agent."

Former Columbus Health Commissioner Teresa Long, the college of public health's special adviser of community engagement and partnership, served as an external adviser when Lemeshow was dean. She recalled how he always made efforts to "learn from and to try and appreciate the areas where an academic partner could be helpful" to public health initiatives in Columbus and around the state.

"Stan has become a clear part of the tapestry that makes this college so special," she said. "I'm super happy for him on his retirement, but I'm sad to be losing a key partner and a leader for our college."

Lemeshow said it's satisfying to see how much the college has transformed. Over the last 15 years, it has grown into a network of "undisputable scholars doing amazing research," he said.

Lemeshow also said he hopes the next 15 years are marked by continued recruitment of outstanding faculty who can provide students with "the kind of learning experience they expect if they come to a place like Ohio State" and a culture of collaboration needed to tackle public health's biggest challenges.

"Everyone should try to be the best they can be but, for me, I did my best when I was able to surround myself with talented people who could feed off each other's strengths, knowledge, and skills so that the sum of our efforts was much more than the simple sum of our individual parts," he said. ■



Kass

Robert E. Kass, Maurice Falk Professor of Statistics and Computational Neuroscience at Carnegie Mellon University, was recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

Kass holds faculty appointments at the neuroscience institute and in the department of machine learning at Carnegie Mellon. He is the co-author of *Geometrical Foundations of Asymptotic Inference and Analysis of Neural Data* and has written widely read articles about statistical education, including "Ten Simple Rules for Effective Statistical Practice."

An active member of the ASA, Kass served as chair of the Bayesian Statistical Science Section. He also served as chair of the Statistics Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, founding editor-in-chief of the journal *Bayesian Analysis*, and executive editor of the international review journal *Statistical Science*. ■

Members of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Awards Committee recently chose **Kaitlyn Ruth Dowden** and **Robert Tumasian** as this year's winners. Dowden is a graduate student at Penn

MORE ONLINE
To learn more about Lemeshow, visit <https://cph.osu.edu/people/slemeshow>.

Scholarship Committee Members

David Banks, Duke University

Will Cecere, Westat

Nathan Cruze, NASA

Emily Molfino, US Census Bureau

State University. She will use her scholarship to research formally private methods for the quarterly census employment and wages data for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Tumasian, who was a graduate student at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, will use the scholarship to study composite estimands for use in phase III idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis clinical trials.

The scholarships were established in Wray Jackson Smith's memory. He was a founding member of the ASA Government Statistics Section, and his career in government spanned four decades, including positions in the Office of Economic Opportunity, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, and Energy Information Administration. After retiring from the federal government in 1983, he continued to play a role in federal statistics in the private sector.

The scholarship is awarded jointly by the ASA's Social Statistics and Government Statistics sections. It is co-sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, providing up to \$1,000 to explore a variety of research opportunities. ■

Obituary

Jesse Arnold

Jesse Arnold of Blacksburg, Virginia, passed away May 16, 2023, in Gainesville, Florida.

Arnold earned his PhD in 1967 from Florida State University and subsequently joined the Virginia Tech Department of Statistics. He served as department chair from 1973–1982 and full professor for the remainder of his career there.

An elected member of the International Statistical Institute and fellow of the American Statistical Association, Arnold was also a former president of the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometrics Society. Additionally, he wrote a popular statistics textbook, plus many papers that were published in respected statistical journals.

Outside of academics, Arnold was known as an outstanding tennis player and, in retirement, an excellent woodworker. He was a great mentor and friend to many former students and faculty at Virginia Tech and will be remembered warmly.



Travel Awards Available for Women's Conference

The Women in Statistics and Data Science Conference will convene in Bellevue, Washington, this October 25–27 to celebrate women in statistics and data science and bring together leaders from academia, government, and industry. The program committee aims to provide a unique environment conducive to women sharing and growing their knowledge, influence, and community.

The program combines technical, educational, and professional development sessions with diversity and networking activities. Technical talks and educational workshops will highlight the work of rising stars and senior women, as well as showcase burgeoning areas in statistics and data science.

Awards are available to help students and early-career professionals attend. To be eligible, applicants must be either students enrolled in a terminal degree program (bachelor's, master's, or doctoral) in biostatistics, statistics, or data science or have completed a master's or doctoral degree program in biostatistics, statistics, or data science within the last five years (2018–2023).

Applications, which should be submitted at <https://forms.gle/YuQxJinDnSf78N8n9>, must be received by 5:00 p.m. ET on September 6.

Visit the WSDS website at ww2.amstat.org/meetings/wds/2023 to register for the conference.

sectionnews

Survey Research Methods

Survey Research Methods Section members have free online access to the *Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology* (<https://academic.oup.com/jssam>) and *Public Opinion Quarterly* (<https://academic.oup.com/poq>) as a newly added member benefit. Visit the SRMS website at <https://community.amstat.org/surveyresearchmethodssection/home> for details.

2024 SRMS Election Results

Chair-elect 2024

Eric Rancourt

Statistics Canada

Program Chair-elect 2024

Chris Moriarty

National Center for Health Statistics

Secretary 2024–2025

Martha McRoy

Abt Associates

Council of Sections Representative 2024–2026

Andreea Erciulescu

Westat

SRMS at JSM 2023

At JSM 2023, the section is sponsoring six invited sessions, nine topic-contributed sessions, eight contributed sessions, and 18 poster and speed presentations in addition to co-sponsoring a number of other sessions.

Winners of the 2023 Student Paper Competition—which is jointly sponsored by SRMS, the Government Statistics Section, and the Social Statistics Section—are the following:

Yuke Wang, Georgia State University, for “Bayesian Jackknife Empirical Likelihood-Based Inference for Missing Data and Causal Inference Problems”

Rahul Singh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for “Causal Inference with Corrupted Data: Measurement Error, Missing Values, Discretization, and Differential Privacy”

Elizabeth Bersson, Duke University, for “Optimal Conformal Prediction for Small Areas”

Yi Zhang, Harvard University, for “Safe Policy Learning Under Regression Discontinuity Designs with Multiple Cutoffs”

Melody Huang, University of California, Berkeley, for “Sensitivity Analysis for Survey Weights”

These students will have the opportunity to present their work at JSM 2023.

SRMS Webinar

Yves Tillé presented the webinar “Innovations in Spatial Sampling” in March. The webinar, organized by and hosted in collaboration with ASA Professional Development and Chapters and Sections Manager Rick Peterson, was offered to the SRMS and ASA communities and non-members.

Tillé is a professor at the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland. His research interests include survey sampling and estimation in finite populations. During the webinar, he covered methods for spread sampling, measures for spreading, the wave method, and such methods and their applications as estimating obesity in the United States and Swiss biodiversity monitoring. ■

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www.amstat.org/your-career/asa-jobweb

JSM Career Placement Service—A full-service recruiting facility held annually at JSM, with hundreds of statistical employers seeking qualified applicants
www.amstat.org/your-career



chapternews



Photo courtesy of Arizona State University

Arizona DataFest participants, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

Arizona DataFesters

The Arizona Chapter held its ASA DataFest March 24–26—its first with in-person options since COVID began—and had a record 119 students enroll.

The planning committee included representatives from all three public universities in Arizona and voted to have locally hosted options at Arizona State University, Tempe; the University of Arizona, Tucson; and Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff along with a fully virtual option for any student. Thus, there were effectively three concurrent DataFests running across the state, connected by virtual opening ceremonies, general announcements, quick tutorials, and the final presentations and judging.

This format multiplied the work but also brought the event to more campuses and involved more graduate students, professionals, and ASA members. Among the participants were the Arizona Chapter's president, Hao (Helen) Zhang of the University of Arizona; secretary, Tierra Stimson of the University of Arizona; and Jarrett Barber of Northern Arizona University.

Besides being an educational event for undergraduate students, DataFest provided opportunities for chapter members to develop different skills or

enjoy new challenges. Examples include Yi Zheng of Arizona State University, who developed detailed action plans/checklists for running the competition (including in-person and virtual aspects); Xueying Tang of the University of Arizona, who prepared and presented quick virtual tutorials on data science techniques of interest to DataFesters; and Robert Buscaglia of Northern Arizona University, who stepped up to a leadership role as co-chair of the event committee.

With a post-event satisfaction rating of more than 91.3% ($n = 42$) by students and the event with the highest number of members in active participation, ASA DataFest continues to be a key event for the chapter—one that maintains the vitality of the chapter and connects it to the data science community in the state.

Efforts are underway to assess strategies for next year's events, including gathering sponsors, encouraging member participation as judges and mentors, and increasing the number of women involved.

For more information about DataFest, visit ww2.amstat.org/education/datafest. ■

This month's Top 10 is the 'Top 10 Titles of **Failed Grant Proposals**'

Amstat News continues its hilarious offering from ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein, who delivers a special Top 10—one that aired during a recent edition of the *Practical Significance* podcast. In his constant pursuit of useful information, Ron offers up the “Top 10 Titles of Failed Grant Proposals.”



Wasserstein



To listen to the *Practical Significance* podcast, visit <https://magazine.amstat.org/podcast-2>.

10

iSwear:
The World's
First Large
Foul-Language Model



09

The Theory of Casual
Inference: When a Guess
Is Good Enough

08

How to Get the Data
to Prove Whatever You
Need to Prove

07

The Problems with
Facebook: A 'Meta'
Analysis

06

ChatGPT and
Me: Exploring
Romantic
Relationships
via AI



05

Survey Weighting When
Non-Response Is 100%

04

This Grant Proposal Has
Been Rejected by Better
Funders Than You

03

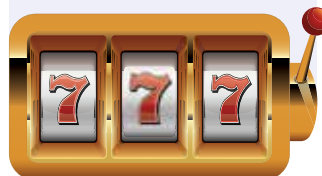
The Dangers of Sharing
a Bong: Non-Fungible
'Token'

02

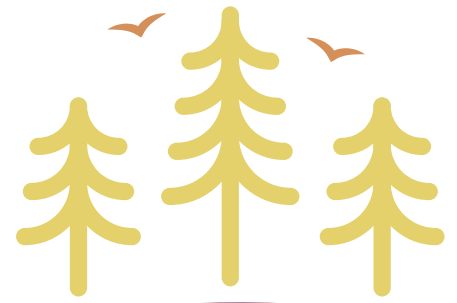
The Complete and
Unabridged Table of the
Even Primes

#01

**Slot Machine Learning:
Supervised or
Unsupervised, Kiss Your
Assets Goodbye**



Women in Statistics and Data Science



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Early Registration:

June 1 – August 24

Regular Registration:

August 25 – October 27

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influence



community



knowledge

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The field of statistics is growing fast. Jobs are plentiful, opportunities are exciting, and salaries are high. So what's keeping more kids from entering the field?

Many just don't know about statistics. But the ASA is working to change that, and here's how you can help:

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- Download a handout for your students about careers in statistics at www.ThisIsStatistics.org/educators.



If you're on social media, connect with us at www.Facebook.com/ThisIsStats and www.Twitter.com/ThisIsStats. Encourage your students to connect with us, as well.



Site features:

- Videos of young statisticians passionate about their work
- A myth-busting quiz about statistics
- Photos of cool careers in statistics, like a NASA biostatistician and a wildlife statistician
- Colorful graphics displaying salary and job growth data
- A blog about jobs in statistics and data science
- An interactive map of places that employ statisticians in the US