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AMSTATNEWS

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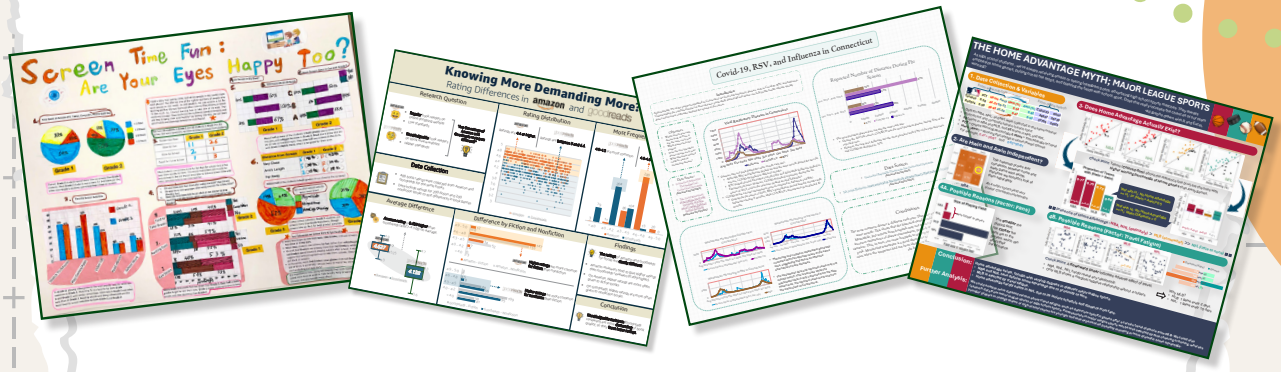
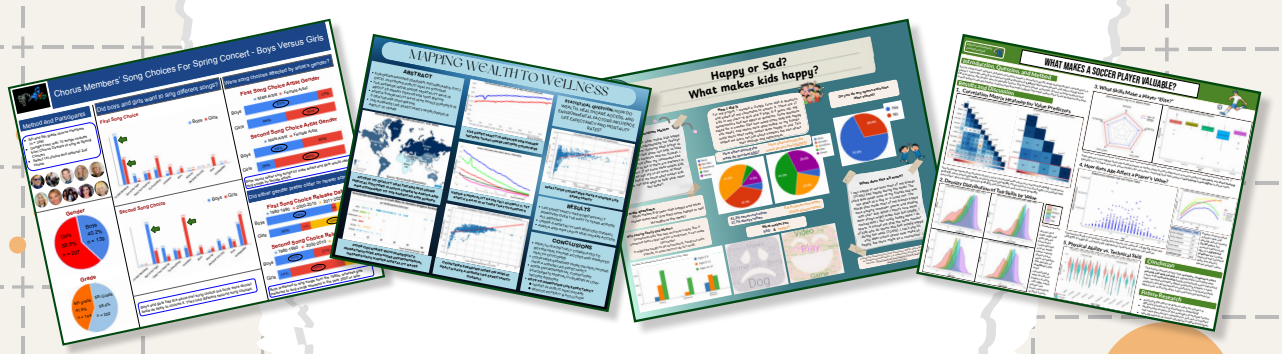


ASA Announces Winners of 2025 DATA VISUALIZATION POSTER AND STATISTICS PROJECT COMPETITIONS



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Donna LaLonde: *donnal@amstat.org*

Director of Science Policy
Steve Pierson: *pierson@amstat.org*

Director of Finance and Administration
Derek Curtis II: *derek@amstat.org*

Managing Editor
Megan Murphy: *megan@amstat.org*

Communications Strategist
Val Nirala: *val@amstat.org*

Advertising Manager
Christina Bonner: *cbonner@amstat.org*

Production Coordinators/Graphic Designers
Olivia Brown: *olivia@amstat.org*
Megan Ruyle: *meg@amstat.org*

Contributing Staff Members
Kim Gilliam • Naomi Friedman

Amstat News welcomes news items and letters from readers on matters of interest to the association and the profession. Address correspondence to Managing Editor, *Amstat News,* American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria VA 22314-1943 USA, or email *amstat@amstat.org*. Items must be received by the first day of the preceding month to ensure appearance in the next issue (for example, June 1 for the July issue). Material can be sent as a Microsoft Word document, PDF, or within an email. Articles will be edited for space. Accompanying artwork will be accepted in graphics file formats only (.jpg, etc.), minimum 300 dpi.

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American Statistical Association
732 North Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314–1943 USA
(703) 684–1221
ASA GENERAL: *asainfo@amstat.org*
ADDRESS CHANGES: *addresschange@amstat.org*
AMSTAT EDITORIAL: *amstat@amstat.org*
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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.

features

Meet Eric Spencer, one of the ASA's newest members! Read more on **Page 9.**

columns

We'd like to feature YOU!

Amstat News is launching a new series called ASA Member Showcase, and we'd love for you to be part of it.

If you're interested, email *Amstat News* Managing Editor Megan Murphy at *megan@amstat.org* and include "ASA Member Showcase" in the subject line. She'll send you a few short questions, and your responses might be featured in an upcoming issue!

Write for STAT*tr@k*

If you have an idea for an article students, early-career, or mid-career statisticians and data scientists would find interesting, we want to hear it. Email *Amstat News* Managing Editor Megan Murphy at *megan@amstat.org* and include "STAT*tr@k*" in the subject line.

See inside for the winning posters from the 2025 Data Visualization Poster Competition! Page 22

departments

JSM2026 BOSTON, MA • AUGUST 1–6

It's that time of year again ... start planning to participate at JSM 2026! Read more on **Page 32**.

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Bridging the Gap: A Clinical Trials Certificate Program for Statisticians and Data Scientists

During my training at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Biostatistics, I gained a solid foundation in statistical theory and methods. I also worked at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center as a graduate research assistant. It all felt solid until I started my first real job. Reality hit.

I quickly found myself in the middle of oncology trials feeling unprepared to handle their real-world complexity. Despite my excellent graduate school preparation, the trials were unfamiliar and full of nuances I hadn't seen before. My experience in a cancer center helped, but I felt like I was in a completely different world.

Back then, I wasn't alone. Many had gone through rigorous academic programs, yet had limited exposure to the messy, uncertain, and highly regulated environment of actual clinical trials. It wasn't until I began working hands-on with live studies that I started to understand just how much more there was to learn.

In those days, clinical trials weren't yet seen as a core part of graduate biostatistics training. Today, things have changed, and many biostatistics programs do offer some exposure to clinical research. Yet, even now, the leap from academic training to real-world trials remains significant.

This may be especially true for trainees from statistics and data science departments who are interested in starting their careers in the clinical trial field, such as at academic medical centers, contract research organizations, or pharmaceutical companies. Limited exposure to clinical trials during their training will affect their ability to pursue these opportunities. Meanwhile, clinical trials, themselves, are becoming increasingly complex, highly regulated, and multidisciplinary.

Statisticians entering the field must be able to make important contributions from day one. We owe it to our community to better prepare them for that transition.

That's why I'm excited to share one of this year's ASA presidential initiatives: the development of the Clinical Trials Certificate Program. This program is designed to equip statisticians, biostatisticians, and data scientists with the specialized knowledge and practical experience they need to thrive in clinical research environments.

Why This Program? Why Now?

Statisticians play a central role in clinical research. We design studies, guide interim decisions, analyze outcomes, and help interpret results. But becoming a confident, effective clinical trialist usually doesn't follow a clear path. It's mostly learned through hands-on experience, guidance from mentors, and lessons picked up along the way. That process is valuable, but it doesn't work the same for everyone, and it can be hard to navigate. We need a more structured way to support statisticians and data scientists who want to move into this area.

Ji-Hyun Lee

The new certificate program looks to bridge the gap between statistical training and clinical research practice. The goal is not to replicate academic degree programs but to complement them. Whether you're a recent graduate, a mid-career professional looking to switch paths, or an academic researcher looking to collaborate on clinical trials, this program will provide the tools and experience you need to move forward with confidence.

Program Overview

The Clinical Trials Certificate Program will be a comprehensive, practice-oriented training experience. It will cover the following foundational and applied topics relevant to today's trial landscape:

- Trial Design: Exposure to common and advanced trial designs, including adaptive trials, basket/umbrella trials, and platform studies
- Data Management and Infrastructure: An overview of systems, standards, and data flow processes in clinical studies
- Statistical Analysis Plans: Training in the development and implementation of SAPs, including protocol review and alignment with regulatory expectations
- Regulatory Frameworks: Understanding the rules and standards governing clinical research (with guidance resources from the FDA and other regulatory bodies)
- Team Science and Communication: Emphasis on communication, leadership, and collaboration skills, which are essential for statisticians in multidisciplinary teams

Participants will also engage in a capstone practicum, a hands-on experience working with real-world clinical trial data and challenges, in partnership with academic or industry collaborators. At the end of the program, they will present their work to a panel of experts.

Program Requirements

To receive the certificate, participants will have to do the following:

- Attend at least 85% of instructional sessions
- Engage in weekly problem-solving activities
- Complete all assigned readings and preparatory materials
- Demonstrate ability through milestone projects
- Complete a capstone practicum based on real trial data
- Present findings and recommendations to clinical research experts and faculty

The commitment will be significant, but so will the reward! Participants will finish the program with a stronger understanding of clinical trials, practical tools they can use on the job, and a network of peers and mentors.

Who Should Participate?

This program is designed for quantitatively trained individuals with a graduate degree in statistics, biostatistics, or data science who are looking to do the following:

- Enhance their qualifications for roles in pharmaceutical companies, contract research organizations, or academic medical centers
- Transition from other sectors (e.g., tech, finance, general research) into clinical trials
- Gain the experience and vocabulary needed to lead or contribute meaningfully to clinical studies

By broadening the pipeline into clinical research, we hope to foster a more inclusive and diverse clinical trials workforce, one that reflects the strengths and interests of our broader ASA community.

The Team Behind the Program

This initiative wouldn't be possible without the leadership of an outstanding working group of experts, including the following:

- Lisa LaVange – An emeritus professor at UNC-CH and former director of the FDA Office of Biostatistics. Her regulatory expertise and academic leadership bring a crucial perspective.
- Amarjot Riar – Executive director of clinical biostatistics and research decision sciences at Merck Research Laboratories. She has rich expertise and extensive experience in clinical trials, including immunotherapy trials.
- Antje Hoering – President and CEO of the Cancer Research and Biostatistics Foundation, with decades of experience in trial design and collaborative research.
- Nolan Wages – Director of the Biostatistics Shared Resource at the Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center and a leading voice in early-phase trial design and education.
- Donna LaLonde – ASA associate executive director. She has been organizing and building the framework of this program.

LaVange expressed why she thinks this program is so exciting from her perspective:

> Our obligation is to be vocal advocates for sound methodology at every decision point because the difference between a well-designed trial and a flawed one can literally be the difference between life and death for future patients. The proposed certificate program will help bridge a critical gap, providing statisticians with the skills needed to navigate the complex intersection of statistics, medicine, and regulation.

Together, they are shaping a curriculum that balances rigor, relevance, and realism. The program will reflect the demands and opportunities of clinical trial work today.

The ASA's Role and Vision

At the ASA, we believe in supporting our members not only as scholars but also as practitioners and leaders. This program is part of a broader vision to create flexible, high-impact professional development opportunities that respond to evolving needs.

I also see this as an opportunity to strengthen our connection with key sectors, particularly the pharmaceutical and biotech industries, which are eager for statistical talent that is both technically strong and clinically literate. By providing targeted, high-quality training, the ASA can help close the preparation gap and raise the profile of statisticians as indispensable clinical partners.

Looking Ahead

The program is still under development, with a pilot expected in 2026. The working group plans to engage with academic departments, industry stakeholders, and ASA sections to ensure broad relevance and support. We hope to offer both live sessions and recorded content to accommodate different learning styles and time zones.

As we move forward, we welcome your input. What challenges have you faced when transitioning into clinical trial work? What topics or skills do you wish you had learned earlier? Send them to me at *jihyun.lee@ufl.edu*. Your insights will help make this program stronger.

This initiative is personal for me. I remember what it felt like to step into clinical trials without a map. I want today's statisticians to walk in more prepared, more confident, and more connected.

Let's build that future together.

New Leaders Commit to Raising Statistical Profession's Visibility

In May, the American Statistical Association announced the election of Brian Millen as its 122nd president. His term begins January 1, 2027, with a one-year term as president-elect beginning January 1, 2026.

Acknowledging his passion and respect for the ASA, its volunteers, and members, Millen is committed to ensuring a healthy, anchored, and agile ASA that fulfils its mission of promoting the practice and profession of statistics. He is looking forward to hearing ideas from the membership and supporting member-driven initiatives. As president, Millen plans to enhance the capabilities of the Leadership Institute, grow mentoring programs, and collaborate with academic programs on ways to embed leadership principles into graduate-level training.

Reflecting on the statistics profession, Millen notes, "Statisticians play key roles in critical decisions and insights that impact society. We must do a better job of sharing stories of the impact of our discipline, highlighting the impact of our members—including those who have been historically underrepresented—and bolstering our outreach efforts so our impact and value proposition are known."

In his current role as vice president, global head of biostatistics, epidemiology, and real-world data analytics at Biogen, Millen provides strategic direction to the organization and contributes to a growing data- and analytics-driven culture within research and development. His career in the pharmaceutical industry spans more than two decades. Prior to his current role, he served at Lilly in multiple senior leadership and technical roles across the clinical development lifecycle. He holds a PhD in statistics from The Ohio State University and a BA in mathematics from the University of Georgia.

Millen became a member of the ASA as a graduate student. Highlights of his leadership service include serving as 2023 chair of the ASA Biopharmaceutical Section, founder of the JSM Diversity Mentoring Program (2009), and chair of the Committee on Minorities in Statistics (2009–2012). Millen is an elected Fellow of the ASA.

Julia Sharp was elected to serve as ASA vice president. Her term will begin January 1, 2026. During her tenure, she looks to use her background in academia and government, along with her extensive ASA service, to tackle the challenges statisticians face today.

As Sharp points out, "Statistics stands at a transformative moment, and our association must lead in advancing sound statistical practice across disciplines. ... The complexities ahead demand collaborative solutions. Throughout my career in academia and government, I've tackled complex challenges by bringing together many perspectives and harnessing collective expertise to implement effective solutions. I will bring this proven collaborative leadership approach to advance ASA's mission and serve our membership."

Sharp joined the National Institute of Standards and Technology as a mathematical statistician in 2023 and currently serves as acting statistical engineering division chief. Previously, she was a professor and director of the Graybill Statistics & Data Science Laboratory in the department of statistics at Colorado State University. She joined the faculty at CSU in 2016 following about nine years at Clemson University. She earned a BS in mathematics from the University of Evansville and an MS and PhD in statistics from Montana State University.

Sharp is an elected Fellow of the ASA and, in 2024, was awarded the ASA Founder's Award. She has served in leadership roles for the ASA's Conference on Statistical Practice Steering Committee, Meetings Task Force, and Council of Chapters Governing Board.

The ASA membership also elected the following board members:

- **Pedro L. Silva**, Vice President, Sociedade para o Desenvolvimento da Pesquisa Científica; Consultant, World Health Organization; Consultant, NIC.br; Board of Directors International Representative, 2026–2028
- **Ruixiao Lu**, Vice President, Head of Biostatistics and Statistical Programming, Alumis; Board of Directors Council of Chapters Representative, 2026–2028
- **Martin Slawski**, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Virginia; Board of Directors Council of Sections Representative, 2026–2028

ASA members also elected officers for each of its 30 sections. The new officers can be viewed at *bit.ly/45aRSV8.* ■

2027 Candidates

Nominees for president-elect and vice president for the election to be held in spring 2026 are the following:

- **President-Elect:** Jim Cochran, Nick Horton
- **Vice President:** Martha Gardner, Natalie Rotelli

Committee on Professional Ethics Seeks Input

Matthew Rotelli, Chair, and Jennifer Van Mullekom, Vice Chair, Committee on Professional Ethics

The American Statistical Association Committee on Professional Ethics has an opportunity for association members to contribute to the next iteration of the ASA Ethical Guidelines for Statistical Practice.

A set of ethical guidelines for statisticians was formalized by the committee in 1989. They have been updated a number of times since then, with the first version being approved by the ASA Board in 1999. The most recent update was approved by the board in 2022. That version adapted the guidelines to include all those who engage in statistical practice, regardless of job title, profession, level, or field of degree. The guidelines can be viewed at *bit.ly/3Uli2hF.*

Members of the committee are seeking input through the end of 2025 for the next update, which will occur in 2026 and be released in 2027. Statistics, data science, and artificial intelligence are introducing new ethical challenges as applications and methods evolve.

Go to *bit.ly/44VPArP* to complete the online form and help shape ethics in the profession. Comment on one or all of the current principles; however, the committee encourages comments on the introduction of additional principles, particularly with the advancement of AI/ML automation in data systems.

The Committee on Professional Ethics was established in 1986 and given the following three charges from the ASA Board:

1. To provide a point of contact with other societies and associations in the area of professional ethics
2. To develop and implement a program of education sensitizing members of the ASA to the ethical issues in statistical practice and in other fields in which statistics is used
3. To maintain and promulgate, subject to board review and approval, the set of ASA Ethical Guidelines that describes the general view of ethics in statistical practice and develop and maintain supplements to the ethical guidelines for areas of application that give an understanding of ethical statistical practice as it applies to that area (e.g., law or medicine)

Note: The Committee does not have the authority to act on, rule on, or arbitrate ethical matters.

Most recently, the committee partnered with the ASA Committee on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence to develop a board statement on ethical AI principles for statistical practitioners (*bit.ly/3TQ0g6g*) and hosted a webinar discussion about the topic with Andrew Gelman from Columbia University and Jana Eggers, CEO of the AI company Nara Logics (*community.amstat.org/ethics/webinars*). ■

SIGNIFICANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Broadway Dreams: Data Behind the Drama

Ever wanted to be a Broadway producer? One of the authors in this issue—Alan Detsky—moonlights as one, when he's not working as a physician and public health expert. He's even been nominated for two Tony Awards. Yet, Alan still found time to put down his latest script and co-author the cover feature about how likely you are to make money as an investor on Broadway. Go straight to Page 6 for a sobering, data-led analysis of why, if you dream of staging the next *Hamilton* or *Hairspray*, you really should do it for the joy, and out of love, rather than trying to get rich.

If you do decide to invest in a Broadway show, it will definitely help if you were born in the Year of the Dragon (such as 1952, 1964, …, 2000) because that means you will be destined for success and wealth—well, according to Aunty Li, who you'll meet in the feature about the impact of Chinese astrology on marriage and birth rates among ethnic Chinese populations. Does superstition make people avoid getting married and having babies in certain "undesirable" years, and, if so, what are the implications of this for countries facing dropping fertility rates? More importantly, did author Jonathan Koh yield to familial pressure?

July 2025 Issue Highlights

- Author and data analyst Georgina Sturge discusses the history of British official statistics
- Interview with Pew Research Center's Vice President of Methods and Innovation Courtney Kennedy
- Is there any point to involving members of the public in highly technical statistical methodology research?
- Analyzing data to interrogate the claims of a controversial US gunshot detection system

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JEDI CORNER

JEDI Resources for an Evolving Environment

Today is a time of rapid change, with so many federal programs shrinking or going offline altogether. In response, new efforts are underway to rescue data, including diversity, equity, and inclusion data. This month, I look at leading efforts to preserve data and resources for the public.

The Data Rescue Project is a grassroots citizen science effort to preserve at-risk federal data. It is a leading effort to preserve data across a wide range of subjects, including justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. It's free to subscribe to gain access to data the collaborative has preserved. Once you have created an account, check out the Resources page, which has links to data sources, tools, and other valuable resources. Especially important is the Data Rescue Tracker, which catalogs data preserved by the collaborative. The tracker page also has a facility for submitting data for preservation.

The Climate Mirror Project is another citizen science data rescue collaboration, this time focused on climate data from many agencies. Combined with demographics data from the American Community Survey, it's an invaluable resource for research on the disparate impact of climate change that falls most heavily on marginalized groups.

In many cases, rescued data and documents have landed on digital public libraries such as the Internet Archive. The archive describes itself as "a non-profit library of millions of free texts, movies, software, music, websites, and more." In the past few months, the Internet Archive has become a hive of activity for preserving federal data at risk. With the current effort to scrub DEI [diversity, equity, and inclusion] information, data, documents, and tools from federal websites, the archive has become a valuable tool. Another important feature of the Internet Archive is their Wayback Machine, which preserves government websites and their content from earlier points in time.

Signing up for an Internet Archive account allows you to access and upload resources. For example, a longitudinal US Justice Department study on crime rates by immigration status shows immigrants commit fewer crimes than native-born Americans, with unregistered immigrants committing the fewest of all. The study, which was last updated in September, was scrubbed from the Justice Department website early this year. I was able to use the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine to find the most recent copy of the study and preserve it. The archive even has a Diversity Advisory Group. Examples of DEI data available on the Internet Archive include research, books, standards, videos, and more.

Data rescue efforts have roots going back to early 2017, as statisticians, data scientists, and other data experts in academia, government, and industry have worked to find and archive data at risk. I, myself, have been archiving American Community Survey demographic data at the ZIP code level since 2016. In these grassroots efforts, subject matter experts are needed in every area to preserve data and keep it available to the public.

An example of someone preserving data is Lucky Tran, a molecular biology professor at Columbia whose team downloaded every publicly available file from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in late January—an action that could save countless lives as it preserves the data making life-saving science possible.

Another example is early-childhood education researcher Deanna Schreiber-Gregory, who is preserving data from the Department of Education.

All of us can use our subject-matter expertise to identify and preserve the most valuable data that is most at risk. Data rescue helps preserve and strengthen the science of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and we can all be involved. ■

With a PhD in statistical astrophysics, **David Corliss** works as a data scientist in industry. He serves on the ASA Board as a Council of Chapters representative and is the founder and director of Peace-Work, a data for good nongovernmental organization

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Tyler Maxwell Jones
Nick Kaiser
Maria Kamenetsky
Joshua Kaplan
Naomi H. Kaplan-Damary
Vardaan Kapoor
Mason Ritter Kellett
Aiden Quinn Kelly
Madeline Kelsch
Brendan T. Kennedy
Alec Kercheval
Yasin Khadem Charvadeh
Polyna Khudyakov
Fanny Ki Wong
Byron F. Kilbourne
Ahyoung Kim
Hyungjoon Kim
Jongwook Kim
Minjee Kim
Nahee Kim
Seohyun Kim
Soyoung Kim
Alon Kipnis
Henry Sohre Kitiabi
Jason Matthew Klusowski
Parker Knight
Mary Knoeferl
Zachary Knowlton
Yeji Ko
Julie Kobie
Joel Kibiwott Koima
Taehyeon Koo
Aubree Krager
Byron Joseph Kruczek
Natsumi Kumano
Ashni Kumar
Curtis Kunkel
Etornam Kunu
Yesung Kweon
Hyukjun Kwon
Koohyun Kwon
Greta Laesch
Jenna Michelle Landy
Michael A. Lapre
Evelyn Lauren
Romeo B. Lavarias
Sarita Layton
Kenny P. Le
HyunAh Lee
Jaeyoung Lee
JungHo Lee

New Member Spotlight: ERIC SPENCER

This month, we spotlight new member Eric Spencer, who answered the following questions so we could get to know him better:

How did you become interested in statistics and/or data science?

I did a couple of data science bootcamps and always felt let down by the lack of math I saw. I wanted a deeper understanding of the mathematical foundations of data science.

What do you consider your dream job?

I would love to split my time teaching at university and doing various research projects of interest.

What do you hope understanding statistics and/or data science helps you accomplish?

I hope that getting expertise in statistics will give me the tools I need to understand what happens on the frontier of data science. I would like to be part of that.

Is there a particular group of statisticians you would like to reach out to you (e.g., from a section, interest group, chapter, committee)?

I would love to talk to anyone about anything statistics! If there is anyone out there who is passionate about sports statistics or a member of the Sacramento Chapter, I would love to connect.

What is your favorite hobby?

Between working and learning full time and raising a family, free time is in short supply. When I get a break, I have some woodworking projects I would like to start.

What is something you would like people to know about you that we haven't asked?

My path to this field was not linear. When I was much younger, I studied math for my undergrad and scoffed at the idea of doing math that related to real-world situations. I grew older and worked toward a career as a data analyst to support my growing family. After a layoff in 2023, I decided I wanted to teach and needed at least a master's. Statistics seemed like the right fit, given my education and career trajectory, and it might be the best decision I have made.

Editor's Note: If you are a new member interested in being featured, email ASA Communications Manager Megan Murphy at megan@amstat.org.

NEWEST MEMBERS

Maxine J. Lee
Tae Yoon Lee
Ian D. Lees
Bryan Lei
Yuqing Lei
Jessica Leivesley
Jonathan Leung
Samantha Levy
Jacob Lewellen
Anthony Lewis
Nickolas Lewis
Bingqing Li
Bolun Li
Haoyue Li
Jiaqi Li
Jingyang Li
Lan Li
Qian Li
Qingxia Li
Shuangning Li
Wei Li
Wenrui Li
Yanyan Li
Yixuan Li
Lindsey Lian
Chen Liang
Zhuohui Liang
Sijia Liao
Xiaomei Liao
Bin Lin
Chien-Chih Lin
Chih-Wei Lin
Luyun Lin
Mengqi Lin
Pei-Ling Lin
Jaqueline Lindstrom
Ailin Liu
Jiewen Liu
Jingbo Liu
Kaixing Liu
Lili Liu
Liu Liu
Mengyue Liu
Qiao Liu
Ruishan Liu
Te Liu
Wenjing Liu
Xiao Liu
Xuan Liu
Yanxi Liu
Yi Liu
Yueyang Liu
Yushi Liu
Sahil Loomba
Yuechen Lou
Mita Lovalekar
Jessica D. Luna
Man Luo
Chenchen Ma
Tianzhou Ma
Yuhan Ma
Tara Maddala
Kazi Md. Farhad Mahmud
Andi Mai
Luca Mantegazza
Michaela Marincic
Melissa Martin
Terrence Martin
Ignacio Martinez
Joshua Marvald
Eric Mathews
Joelle Mbatchou
Sean McCarthy
Megan McCiy
Isaiah O. McDaniel
Jeffrey Mei
Luca Menicali
Meganad Yadav Merala
Narcisa Meza
Jishuai Miao
Xiaopeng Miao
Marcus Michelen
Elizabeth Miller
Theodor Misiakiewicz
Shahid Mohammad
Robert Cole Molloy
Abigail E. Moreno
Adam Dietz Morris
Joseph Mosnier
Yunhan Mou
Yudi Mu
Qasim Muhammad
Axel Munk
Terrence E. Murphy
Karthyek Murthy
Ayumi Mutoh
Mohammad Muzahidur Rahman
Aarav Nair
Jamshid Namdari
Mihir Narayan
Eunice Ndoyi
Munyaradzi Ndumeya
Jonathan Neimann
Michelle Ngo
Alex Nguyen
Benjamin Thuong Nguyen
Nam K. Nguyen
Zach Nguyen
Liliane Nienstedt
Xiaotong Ning
Rina Nojima
Jennifer Noll
Tseegi Nyamdorj
Shree K. Nyaupane
Calvin Kieron O'Brien
Ashley Obeng
Shin Oblander
Dorcas Ofori-Boateng
Jisu Oh
Courage Oko-Odion
Mercy Oladuti
Michael Otterstatter
Douglas Peter Overholser
Oluwole Kehinde Oyebamiji
Fahrettin Ozbey
Varun S. Pappu
Ami Parikh
Gyeongmin Park
Jaeshin Park
Jimin Park
Minhye Park
Andrea Parodi
Summer Ann Collette Paschal
Jackson K. Passey
Manoj Pathak
Juliana Patrone
Megan Paul
Heavenlight Paulo
Joseph N. Paulson
Cailin Peden
Alison Pedley
Jolypich Pek
Hector N. Pena
Michael Pena
Xuan Peng
Gabriel Peralta
Indeewara Perera
Cindi Perry
Jesto Peter
Maxwell Pistilli
Mikhail Yuryevich Popov
Michael D. Porter
Lorenzo Pretto
Shih-Ni Prim
Bahjat F. Qaqish
Ji Qi
Ruoyuan Qian
Hongyan Qiao
Xingye Qiao
Zhili Qiao
Caihong Qin
Fei Qin
Michelle Miao Qin
Jingkun Qiu
Natalie Qiu
Xiaoyu Qiu
Yingshan Qiu
Zhikuan Quan
Swarnali Raha
Bryan Ramirez
Brandon Christopher Randolph
Paul Rebman
Xiaowei Ren
Yunyi Ren
Zhimei Ren
Joseph Resch
Nathan Rethwisch
Mohsen Rezapour Toughari
Christopher H. Rhoads
Binod Rimal
Jodeci Roberts
Jennifer Roem
Saharon Rosset
Ginger Holmes Rowell
Saptarshi Roy
Niladri Roy Chowdhury
Kumaai Rukoro
Saeed Saadat
Tathagata Sadhukhan
Ramanjit Sahi
Sho Sakui
Rocio Sanchez-Mangas
Laura Maria Sangalli
Radleigh G. Santos
Emmanuel Sarfo Fosu
Henry Savich
Marc Schalberger
Gabrielle Schmidt
Matt Scott
Rajesh Selukar
Poorna Sandamini Senaratne
Sayura Senaratne
Subhajit Sengupta
Farimah Shamsi
Li Shandross
Juan Shao
David Sharkansky
Sushil Sharma
Farha Ferdous Sheela
Tulin Shekar
Changyu Shen
Hui Shen
Ronglai Shen
Xinwei Shen
Yinan Shen
Yueming Shen
Yang Shi
Haochang Shou
Min Shu
Anu Simha
Quinn Simonis
Mendel Singer
Anubhav Singh Sachan
Jason Paul Sinnwell
Harsha Somaya
Yao Song
George Soulellis
Dulguun Soyol-Erdene
Megan Speese
Robert Speiden
Maura Spiegelman
Danae Steinbrecher
Haohao Su
Xiaolu Su
Feiyi Sun
Jiren Sun
Kang Sun
Omshreya Swain
Myles Hampton Swann
Ryan LeRoy Sykes
Lian Mae Taopo Tabien
Victor Brodzik Talisa
Treva Tam
Nidhi Tandon
Shande Tang
Szu-Yu Tang
Haoran Teng
Elizabeth Marie Terry
Gabrielle Thivierge
Doranne Thomassen
Rebecca S. Thomson
Micah Andrew Thornton
Joy Tian
Lu Tian
Robert J. Tibshirani
Julia Ting
Andrew Titman
Bo Tong
Guangyu Tong
Tingting Tong
Xin Tong
Yael Travis-Lumer
Ziv Tsafrir
Oleksii Tumanov
Daniel Tze
Wei Sim
Dharmateja Priyadarshi Uddandarao

Sarah Urbut
Mutiyat Adeola Usman
Maria Alejandra Valdez Cabrera
Anne Margrete Nicolien Van Delft
Victor Verma
Anand N. Vidyashankar
Phuong L. Vo
Delia Codruta Voronca
Olivia Walch
Gunce Eryuruk Walton
Yunke Wan
Chenyang Wang
Chong Wang
Cong Wang
Feng Wang
Haoyu Wang
Jinyang Wang
Liangliang Wang
Linda Wang
Luqin Wang
Ruixiao Wang
Shiyu Wang
Shuyi Wang
Wei Wang
Xuewei Wang
Yumeng Wang
Yuyan Wang
Zhengfan Wang
Zilin Wang
Ziyi Wang
Ziyuan Wang
Gayan Warahena Liyanage
Brianne Weaver
Mian Wei
Heidi L. Weiss
Uditha Amarananda Wijesuriya
Skyler Eve Williams
Jessica Kay Willis
Taylor J. Wilson
Joseph Wojtkowski
Kin Hang Wong
Philip Wong
Dremere Woods
Zachary T. Wooten
Adam Wright
Brian Guangshi Wu
Hao Wu
Jiashan Wu
Xiao Wu
Yanning Wu
You Wu
Nan Miles Xi
Alec Yingjing Xia
Kun Xia
Shan Xiao
Weiyi Xiao
Aoqi Xie
Handing Xie
Qing Xie
Mengqi Xing
Xinrui Xiong
Chao Xu
Haozheng Xu
Leqi Xu
Yangshuang Xu
Yiming Xu
Zichun Xu
Ziyu Xu
Himani Yadav
Lei Yan
Mark Yan
Qi Yan
Zhiyu (Roman) Yan
Chun-Hao Yang
Congwei Yang
Francis Yang
Hsin-Chou Yang
Jasmine Yang
Min Yang
Sam Yang
Tiancheng Yang
Lydia Yao
Tsung-Hung Yao
Yisha Yao
Haley Yaremych
Nusrat Yasmin
Youhui Ye
Hsueh-Han Yeh
Hui Yi
Jiaying Yi
Chao Ying
Chang Yu
Han Yu
Miaoqing Yu
Ruiqi (Rae) Yu
Wei-Yang Yu
Zhiyuan Yu
Irene Zeng
Yukang Zeng
Edward B. Zhai
Anderson Ye Zhang
Bin Zhang
Chi Zhang
Dazheng Zhang
Donna Zhang
Haichao Zhang
Hong Zhang
Jing Zhang
Lanyu Zhang
Lin Zhang
Qiuhong Zhang
Yanqi Zhang
Yao Zhang
Yu Zhang
Zhe Zhang
Chendi Zhao
Hangcheng Zhao
Honghe Zhao
Ruixuan Zhao
Yujie Zhao
Beiyao Zheng
Luke Zheng
Mengchu Zheng
Songfeng Zheng
Guoli Zhou
Haibo Zhou
Hang Zhou
Nicole Zhou
Ningkun Zhou
Tianjian Zhou
Weiyu Zhou
Zitian Zhou
Xiaojuan Zhu
Run Zhuang
Alessandro Zito
Jinhao Zou ■

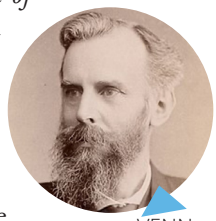
AUGUST

TIME SERIES This Month in Statistics History

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1710 Thomas Simpson developed Simpson's rule for approximating definite integrals and authored the paper "On the Advantage of Taking the Mean of a Number of Observations in Practical Astronomy" in 1755. It focused on observation error distributions rather than the observations themselves and was the earliest attempt to demonstrate the law of large numbers.

1834 John Venn wrote *The Logic of Chance* (1866) but is best known for his Venn Diagram. In his autobiography, he says it was a method of adapting Euler diagrams to Boolean logic, although his writings do not indicate when or why he came to invent it. He was also an inventor, and, in 1909, he built a cricket ball bowling machine that bowled out the Australian First Eleven.



VENN

1857 George E. Roberts, ASA Fellow 1916; 15th ASA President 1920. He was director of the United States Mint from 1898–1907 and 1910–1914, working primarily on economic and monetary policy.

1868 Ladislaus von Bortkiewicz is best known for his 1898 *Das Gesetz der kleinen Zahlen* [*The Law of Small Numbers*], which describes the application of the Poisson distribution to analysis of rare events. It made famous the data on the number of deaths by horse kick in the Prussian army and marked the entry of the Poisson distribution into the standard canon of distributions.

1874 Edward Thorndike, ASA Fellow 1917 (and one of the first ASA fellows to not be an economist). He is best known for pioneering the use of animals in behavioral psychology and promoting rigorous methodology in the psychology of learning and education. He was also a fervid eugenicist, justifying discrimination of women and minorities in academia on scientific grounds.

1874 Wesley C. Mitchell, ASA Fellow 1916; 13th ASA President 1918. He was an economist, pre-eminent researcher on business cycles, and a founding member and first director of the National Bureau for Economic Research.

1875 Henry Lewis Rietz, ASA Fellow 1923; ASA Vice President 1925; founding member and first president of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics 1935. He was one of the most influential leaders in establishing mathematical statistics in the United States.

1880 Major Greenwood, President of the Royal Statistical Society 1934; Guy Silver (1924) and Gold (1945) medals. He was the leading medical statistician for the first half of the 20th century and played a key role in the development of medical statistics in the United Kingdom.

1882 Ethel May Newbold, Royal Statistical Society Fellow 1921. She was an epidemiologist and the first woman to be awarded the Guy Silver Medal in 1928.

1890 Julie E. Backer, ISI Fellow 1948. She was bureau chief for the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics from 1936–1956 and an influential researcher in public health and population statistics.

1895 Egon Pearson, Royal Statistical Society President 1955; Guy Gold Medal 1955. He diverged from his father, Karl, in statistical philosophy, mostly in the principles and practice of statistical inference. He is best known as codeveloper with Jerzy Neyman of the Neyman-Pearson lemma in 1933 for statistical hypothesis testing and the first explicit consideration of alternative hypotheses, power, and type I and type II errors. He was also an early contributor to statistical quality control, sequential small sample sampling, and Monte Carlo investigations of sampling distribution.

1903 Rensis Likert, ASA Fellow 1949; ASA President 1959. He was an organizational and social psychologist, best known for developing the Likert scale.

1904 Cuthbert Daniel, ASA Fellow 1955. He made major contributions to industrial applications of experimental design. He saw the statistical light when his biochemist wife introduced him to Ronald Fisher's *Statistical Methods for Research Workers*.

1907 Ruth Rice Puffer, ASA Fellow 1966. She was in public health biostatistics and head of the

department of health statistics of the Pan American Health Organization, where she led the Inter-American Investigation of Childhood Mortality. On their 100th anniversary the Pan American Health Organization listed her in the top 100 "public health heroes."

1908 Mildred Barnard was one of the three "Founding Mothers" of biostatistics at the CSIR (later Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization), Australia, and first woman to chair the Brisbane Branch of the International Biometrics Society.


DAVID

1909 Florence Nightingale (F.N.) David, ASA Fellow 1954; IMS Fellow. She is best known for work on combinatorics, correlation, and history of probability. She was first winner of the ASA Elizabeth Scott Award in 1992 for increasing opportunities for women in statistics. She was named after Florence Nightingale, a family friend.


HESS

1910 Irene Hess, ASA Fellow 1972. She was the director of the Institute for Social Research and founding chair of the ASA Section on Survey Research Methods. She was a frequent collaborator with Leslie Kish on survey sampling methodology.

1914 Lenore Epstein Bixby, ASA Fellow 1969. She served as deputy assistant commissioner of the Office of Research, director of the Division of Retirement and Survivors' Studies, and with the Committee on National Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences.

1921 Charles Dunnett, ASA Fellow 1965; Statistical Society of Canada President 1982, SSC Gold Medal 1986. Awarded MBE for his WWII Royal Navy radar work. Developer of Dunnett's test for multiple comparisons and methods of equivalence testing, which are among the top 25 most-cited statistics papers of modern times.

1925 Jeanne Ridley, ASA Fellow 1976. A professor of sociology, she was a frequent collaborator with Mindel Sheps (ASA Fellow 1970) on problems of human demography, fertility, natality, and population dynamics.

1927 Kimiko Osada Bowman, ASA Fellow 1976; elected member ISI 1978; IMS Fellow 1987; AAAS Fellow 1970. Pioneered methods for approximating probability distributions of maximum likelihood estimators and developed divergent series algorithms for large computers. Because she contracted polio when young, she was a champion for people with disabilities.

1954 Kathryn Chaloner, ASA Fellow 1994; ISI Fellow; 2014 Elizabeth L. Scott Award. She developed methods in optimal Bayesian experimental design and worked on clinical trial design for infectious disease and women's health.

MORE ONLINE
Download references at *bit.ly/4f3rKPt*.

Visit This Month in Statistics History to view the full list of events. *bit.ly/40znQb8*

EVENTS

1673 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz introduces the term "function" for the first time, but in a nonanalytical sense (he referred to analytic expressions as "relatio"). In 1698, Johann Bernoulli used "function" in the sense of an analytic expression. Euler popularized the use of f(x) notation in 1734.

1934 The term "likelihood" is first used in a Bayesian context by Harold Jeffreys in what he calls the "the theorem of inverse probability," where posterior probability is proportional to the product of the prior probability and the likelihood. Ronald Fisher first used the term in its modern sense in 1921.

1955 The term "artificial intelligence" is coined in a proposal for a summer workshop submitted by **Claude Shannon** (Bell Labs), **John McCarthy** (Dartmouth), **Marvin Minsky** (Harvard), and **Nathaniel Rochester** (IBM). The workshop took place in July and August 1956.

1971 In an unusual departure for a presidential address, newly elected 66th ASA President **Churchill Eisenhart** (ASA Fellow 1943) gives a comprehensive historical overview of a central problem of statistical inference, the choice of the "best" mean. The result of his research is a 69-page typewritten paper covering the history of the mean from Pythagoras to the 19th century.

2025 To commemorate Afternoon Tea Week, August 11–17, here are some statistical thoughts on tea and cake. Most people are familiar with the famous "lady tasting tea" experiment devised by **Ronald Fisher** in the 1920s. However, in 1872, **Francis Galton** describes results of "a number of experiments on the art of making good tea." He boils it down (as it were) to three factors: time; quantity; and temperature. In a 1904 *Nature* article, he describes how to cut a cake on "mathematical principles" so it presents the least area to the air. In 1957, **William Cochran** and **Gertrude Cox** used data from **Frances E. Cook**'s 1938 master's thesis on the breakage angle of chocolate cake to demonstrate linear hierarchical modeling. Cook performed 15 replicates of a randomized trial of three recipes and six baking temperatures.

Practical Significance | Take Two: The Power of Saying 'Yes'— Volunteering & Service in the ASA

Susan Paddock and Bo Li are ASA members who often raise their hands when the call for association volunteers goes out. Currently, Paddock serves on the ASA Board of Directors and chairs the ASA Professional Issues and Visibility Council and Bo chairs the ASA Committee on Funded Research. During a recent episode of *Practical Significance*, Paddock and Li shared with cohosts Donna LaLonde and Ron Wasserstein personal stories and practical advice about ASA committee work, as well as how their service has broadened their networks, boosted their impact, and enriched their careers.

Donna LaLonde: Susan and Bo, tell us about your day jobs.

Susan Paddock: My name is Susan Paddock and I'm chief scientist and executive vice president at NORC at the University of Chicago. NORC is an independent nonprofit research organization.

Our focus is to provide trustworthy research and data for our clients, policymakers, and society. Our main substantive areas include health, education, economics, justice, and public affairs. My role is to provide strategy and vision to advance our capabilities in statistics, data science, survey methodology, and AI. We have well over 100 experts in these areas.

Bo Li: I'm Bo Li, a professor in statistics and data science at Washington University in St. Louis. Our department is almost two years old, and I've been here for about a year. I'm also codirector for the Transdisciplinary Institute for Applied Data Science, or TRIADS.

My daily job has two parts. One is like any professor: teaching; research; advising students; and service to the department, university, and our professional society. As codirector, I work with the other codirectors to offer data science training across campus—to faculty, students, and anyone interested—and to promote interdisciplinary research and enhance public engagement.

Donna LaLonde: What initially motivated you to volunteer to serve on an ASA committee?

Bo Li: I'm motivated to volunteer if I believe I'm a good fit and can make contributions to the committee—to bring new ideas and improve upon the work of the committee.

First, I must make sure I have the bandwidth to do the work. If I do, I'm eager to serve our society. This is where we live, where we work, and where we make friends. I served as chair of the ASA Statistics and the Environment Section. I love this section. This section is how I grew up in the statistical world, and I know the people and I have benefited from section activities. I feel everyone needs to take a turn to serve. Right? And I was eager to serve as chair.

Susan Paddock: I was fortunate early in my career to be invited to serve on the ASA Committee on Law and Justice Statistics. And I suspect what happened there was that the ASA president-elect at the time was aware of the work I was doing at the start of my career at the RAND Corporation. One of the first areas I worked in was illicit drug policy. And so, there are some obvious connections to law and justice statistics. I was excited for the opportunity to not only bring my statistical knowledge and the knowledge I was quickly gaining from the research projects I was on in drug policy, but to also be able to contribute to the committee's mission, which is really interesting. It's a committee

that has significant involvement from the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Ron Wasserstein: How does the committee appointment process work?

Susan Paddock: There are many ASA committees, so let me just give a bit of context about these and where they sit in the ASA. Some committees have a focus that is internal to the ASA. For example, we have committees with a focus on membership and making sure members' needs are met. And so, there is the ASA Membership Council that consists of the group of those committees.

I chair the ASA Professional Issues and Visibility Council, which focuses on committees that have an external focus such as AI and data science. As chair, one of the roles I have with the Professional Issues and Visibility Council is working with ASA committees and the vice chair of the council to gather names and suggestions for potential committee nominations.

Now, formally, it's the president-elect who makes the nominations for the committee members. And that's a big job. The councils are there to support the president-elect with those nominations, so we gather suggestions from the committees. And we ask the committees to think not just about members who are already on the committee, but people beyond just their immediate networks.

And I know this is a priority of president-elect Jeri Mulrow. She wants to expand opportunities for those who are early or mid-career to have this type of service and have the experience. I would encourage everyone who's interested in any of these committees to reach out to the committee chair. Reach out to a council chair, vice chair, or fill out the ASA's Committee Interest Form, also known as the "Light Bulb" form, at *bit.ly/4m5rsKf*. This is where you can express interest in serving.

Donna LaLonde: Bo, we're going to ask you to take a deep dive into your role as chair of the ASA Committee on Funded Research and how your role on that committee evolved.

Bo Li: I became involved with this committee following a conversation with Steve Pierson [ASA Director of Science Policy] at JSM. We were talking about the work I was currently doing on the West Nile virus. I was also working on a project on climate data, and both were funded by the NSF [National Science Foundation]. For the West Nile virus, my work was funded by the Algorithms for Threat Detection program at the Division of Mathematical Sciences at NSF. And the climate work was funded by the NSF Division of Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences within the Directorate of Geosciences. So, that's a little bit unusual for statisticians.

Steve said, "Well, there is an ASA Committee on Funded Research, and your expertise can probably help diversify the grant opportunities for statisticians." A few years later, I was invited to serve on that committee, and I believe I can make some contributions—I really love the work of this committee.

It has two important missions. One is to increase communication and interaction between statisticians and the funding agencies. Funding agencies could include everything like NSF, NIH [National Institutes of Health]—those typical ones—but also private foundations and industry funding opportunities. We try to broaden our funding opportunities for everybody in our field to bring more resources to develop statistics.

And the second mission is to distribute the information to bring opportunities to everyone in the community, especially for the junior researchers, because they just came to this field and may not have broad knowledge about funding for their work.

Many of the committee members are friends I've known for a long time. Everyone on the committee is brilliant, and I really enjoy working with them.

Ron Wasserstein: What advice would you give to help members find the right committee to match their interests and abilities?

Susan Paddock: I recommend starting with the ASA's Committee Interest Form for those who would like to express interest in serving on a committee. When filling out that form, it's helpful to indicate which committee or committees you're interested in and to explain why, if you have relevant experience.

We aren't necessarily looking for those with the most experience to serve on committees. These are time-limited appointments, and so we have a mix of people serving at different career stages. So, don't feel like you must have the perfect résumé to say you're interested.

Bo Li: First, it's very important to understand the mission and the specific jobs for the committee. Typically, there are descriptions that outline these online. If possible, talk to someone who currently serves on the committee or previously served to get first-hand information about what they have been doing and how much time is required to contribute to the committee.

It's important to really understand the scope of responsibilities before you make your commitment and, again, make sure you have the time to contribute to the committee. It's challenging for both the individual and committee if a person doesn't have the bandwidth or doesn't have the expertise to serve on it.

Ron Wasserstein: What advice would you give to someone who wants to become more involved in ASA service?

Susan Paddock: First, show up to some ASA meetings, because it's such a great opportunity to meet people and find out what the opportunities are and for people to get to know you and your interests.

Especially for people who are brand new to the ASA—if you're going to a meeting, volunteer to chair a session. Session chairs are always needed, and you learn so much and connect with people when you volunteer.

I became heavily involved in the ASA through sections. And sections are wonderful because, when we enter the ASA, we usually have some very particular areas of activity and focus. There are several sections that are geared toward topics that range from specific methodology, such as the Bayesian Statistical Science Section, which I've been a member of since graduate school, to substantively focused sections such as the Statistics and the Environment Section or Health Policy Statistics Section. There is something for everyone in those sections. These groups have their own activities, everything from mixers and business meetings at JSM to hosting their own webinars and conferences.

People also get involved with ASA through chapters [and student chapters], which are regionally focused. And there are lots of chapters around the United States. Chapter membership can be a great way to become more involved with the ASA, especially if you're interested in having that local interaction and focus. I don't even live in Washington, DC, and I'm a member of the Washington Statistical Society because the people with whom we work at NORC happen to be in DC, as well. So yes, there are many, many ways to get involved in the ASA.

Ron Wasserstein: Bo, we must ask about your new role as the editor of *ASA Discoveries*, the ASA's brand-new journal. We want to know what it's like to be the inaugural editor of an ASA journal. So, will you give us a little sneak peek at that and at what you and your editorial team are planning for *ASA Discoveries*?

Bo Li: Yes, of course. Honestly, I'm quite honored to be the inaugural editor. But I was a little anxious when the ASA checked with me about this task. I talked to a few people, including you and Donna, Kathy Ensor, and my department chair, Xuming. I also consulted with Marina Vannucci, a professor at Rice, because she just started a new journal, and I received lots of encouragement and support from them.

Everything has been going very well. I'm excited about its launch. I have an excellent editorial board: four outstanding coeditors, including Sebastien Haneuse at Harvard University, Galen Jones from the University of Minnesota, Shujie Ma from the University of California, Riverside, and Abel Rodriguez from the University of Washington.

They all represent different fields. Sebastian is in biostatistics, and Galen is in computation and physical science. And Shujie is excellent in theoretical work, and Abel is in social science and computation. We have a very comprehensive and diversified group on our editorial board, and all of them also have rich experience in editorial work.

We have spent a lot of time discussing the vision of the journal and the types of articles we want to include. So, I wanted to make two points about the vision of this journal. One is it will be an open-access journal. This is to ensure research findings are freely available to the global scientific community and public. And the second point is we welcome all significant contributions to the advancement of statistical and data-driven research—either in theory or practice. So, we want all the work that can help make statistics remain pivotal in emerging research fields. And we want to promote a broad and inclusive scope of work. The ASA has carefully considered the vision for this journal.

The publisher, Taylor and Francis, has been very supportive, and we are currently finalizing the details for launching the journal. Stay tuned! ■

STATS4GOOD

Reaching Across the Growing Digital Divide

While updating my ASA traveling course—Modern Ethical Issues and Best Practices in Data, Analytics, and AI—I came across a world map showing all the battles listed in Wikipedia. The bias is clear. There is a strong concentration in Europe and eastern North America that leaves much of the world under-represented. But it's more than a map of bias in documents people post online; it also holds a mirror to an aspect of the digital divide in which data, computing power, and analytic resources are distributed unevenly.

The digital divide creates a world of Haves and Have Nots, where people most in need of the power of advanced analytics often have limited access.

Another good way to look at the digital divide is to look at economic disparities captured by the economic Gini Index at country level. Oxfam, an outstanding global organization fighting poverty, published an excellent overview of global income and wealth inequality (*bit.ly/4lDBmCV*). The uneven abundance of every kind of resource affects data and analytics, as well, creating the digital divide. Addressing this problem has been identified as a Data for Good Top Challenge for 2025.

One important way Data for Good advocates are having a major impact is through open-source data. Historically, US federal government websites provided a tremendous amount of open-source data on a variety of subjects. Recently, however, that role has been diminished by policy changes and staff reductions. Increasingly, this role is being taken over by D4G advocacy teams and individuals. The Data Rescue Project, for example, has been at the forefront of preserving valuable data in all areas and making sure it stays available for all. The project needs volunteers with subject matter expertise to help find and archive data that is most important and faces the highest risk of going dark.

Many rescued data sets are landing on free digital public libraries such as the Internet Archive. Industry organizations are also getting involved, preserving the data most important to their area of activity. A great example of this is the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, which has been archiving economic data for decades on their FRED website. Often, the data there is in a much easier-to-use format than federal or other data sources, making it my go-to site for economic data supporting D4G projects. Since 1991, FRED has been showing the way to overcome the digital divide by making important data available to all.

Of course, open-source analytic platforms also play an important role in bridging the digital divide. This makes it important to learn about open-source licenses so you can find the one that meets your interests and requirements. The GNU Affero General Public License is one popular way to open-source code, so be sure to check that out. Writing code in an open-source language and sharing the code goes far beyond the specific paper, presentation, or program because it can teach others important analytic methods—with the source code—at little to no cost.

Collaborating with people who have less access to resources is another way to get involved. While tools, software, and computing power can be limited in some areas and for some communities, the wide availability of email supports partnerships with talented researchers on the other side of the growing digital divide. Partnerships can be across the globe or in your home community. Data for Good projects with researchers across the digital divide provide the resources needed to maximize impact while developing new relationships, ideas, strategies, and analytical techniques.

Through sharing data, preserving data at risk, open sourcing our code, and partnering with others in need of resources, we can bridge the digital divide to make a difference with Data for Good! ■

Getting Involved

This month will see many of us at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Nashville, Tennessee, so it is a good time to think about digital connections. Additionally, many useful resources and inspiring comments can be found on LinkedIn. Check out the ASA's page at *bit.ly/4kOmCjg*, as well as the people who post and are cross posted there for inspiration and resources for your next D4G project. I also want to give a shout out to the Data Foundation, which has been doing a great job at keeping people informed about the many changes in the federal data landscape. The team members, led by Nick Hart, have been great advocates for federal data and helping people use it for good causes for many years now. Visit their website at *https://datafoundation.org* and follow them on social media to stay up to date.

With a PhD in statistical astrophysics, **David Corliss** works as a data scientist in industry. He serves on the ASA Board as a Council of Chapters representative and is the founder and director of Peace-Work, a data for good nongovernmental organization.

STAT*tr@k*

Leading Through Sections: How ASA Members Grow, Connect, and Contribute

American Statistical Association sections offer opportunities to take on leadership roles, facilitate connections with industry professionals, and explore career paths. We invited section chairs to share their experiences—why they joined an ASA section, what they've gained, and what they think others can take away from getting involved. Read on for their insights.

Quality and Productivity Section

John Szarka III, Quality and Productivity Section Chair

What motivated you to join your section?
As a graduate student at Virginia Tech, I became aware of joining Q&P. The department has a great reputation in industrial statistics, which matches well with the Q&P section.

What do you enjoy most about being part of your section?
I've grown a great network from meeting folks as part of Q&P. It's a nice blend of academic, government, and industrial statisticians that have great, practical insights into problem solving using statistics.

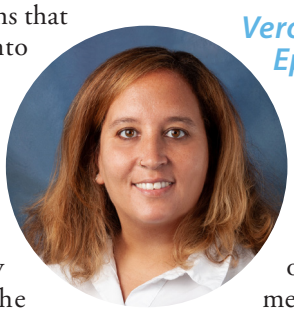
How has section membership benefited you professionally and/or personally?
We have great conferences such as the Quality and Productivity Research Conference and the Fall Technical Conference, which we cosponsor with other sections and societies. They are smaller, more intimate conferences that have a lot of implementations of newer statistical methods that have been used on real problems. It's really inspiring to come out of those conferences motivated and apply what I've learned to my work at Gore.

What advice would you give to new members for getting the most out of their section membership?
You can easily grow your network by seeking out volunteer opportunities in your section. This will plug you in with the other officers and, during your service, it is rewarding to contribute to the success of your section, which can lead to even more opportunities. If you're active on LinkedIn, connecting with your fellow officers and members gives you more insight to conferences, workshops, webinars, and jobs that you might otherwise not have been aware of.

Tell us about your favorite section experience.
Back when I served as program chair, we met in person for JSM program responsibilities. It was really energizing to be in the room with folks from all the different sections and be at ASA headquarters. I enjoyed taking selfies by Deming's office, as well.

Statistics in Epidemiology Section

Veronica Berrocal, Statistics in Epidemiology Section Chair



What motivated you to join your section?
I joined SIE under recommendation of a peer who did her PhD in the same institution I did my PhD, who was an officer of the section. She pointed out to me that with me working more and more on epidemiological problems, it made sense that I become a member of the section so that I could participate in their events, etc. So, as it was not that expensive, I followed her advice, and I did join the section.

What do you enjoy most about being part of your section?
I have to be honest that, when I joined, the section was more active and used to run things like the speed breakfast mentoring event at JSM where junior statisticians (PhD students, postdocs, and junior faculty) would have a breakfast and chat with multiple senior statisticians—members of the section who volunteered to do so. The breakfast event was a success, many people enjoyed it, and I think it provided a great service to the section. I believe with COVID and change among the officers, this tradition was lost. It was too late to plan to organize it for JSM 2025, but I am thinking to maybe offer a hybrid version of this during the fall months.

How has section membership benefited you professionally and/or personally?
Mostly, I think it has provided an opportunity to network, get to know people outside of my department or the other communities I frequent more often—that is the Bayesian and the environmental community. It has allowed me to get to know about certain opportunities that I wouldn't have been aware of otherwise.

What advice would you give to new members for getting the most out of their section membership?
I think engaging with the section leadership is key, especially as people get busy and it gets easy sometimes for officers to become complacent and not really follow through with what their task and responsibilities as an officer of the section are. So, reaching out to section leadership and making suggestions or asking questions is a way for members of the section to ensure the section can actually be of service to them and provide them with everything they need (that the section can actually provide).

Tell us about your favorite section experience.
Yes, I think my favorite section experiences are the speed mentoring breakfasts and the JSM mixers.

Health Policy Statistics Section

Mousumi Banerjee, Health Policy Statistics Section Chair

What motivated you to join your section?
Since childhood, I loved numbers. I don't know exactly where it came from. My father was a professor of English literature, and my mother taught Bengali language. I grew up listening to my father recite Shakespeare, Shelley, Keats, and Byron and spending long summer afternoons reading Tagore and other authors of the Bengali Renaissance period.

A high school teacher introduced me to the beauty of mathematics. Calculus was my favorite subject, and the concept of limit going to infinity fascinated me. The commonality between literature and mathematics intrigued me most. Both are rooted in the actuality of our world while taking our imaginations far beyond. Both demand intense creativity. Understanding pi or infinity takes a tremendous leap of imagination. As Einstein remarked, mathematics is the "poetry of logical ideas."

Throughout my adolescence, I spent hours doing mathematical puzzles for fun. I took a statistics class and loved it—and was even hailed as the math "genius." I followed my teacher's suggestion to study at the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata and was the only female in a cohort of 22 math geniuses. In that pool of incredibly talented students, my confidence took a hit. I knew I had much work to do.

As I was embarking on my graduate student life in the US, I realized my view of statistics as a field had been quite narrow. Far beyond probability puzzles, the fun of statistics—with its profound mathematical underpinnings—is how data can speak through thoughtful, rigorous analyses applied to real-life problems. At first, I would panic at the thought of having to work with messy real data that did not conform to textbook examples, but with experience came understanding and purpose. Fresh out of graduate school and as a faculty member at

Wayne State University, I was the lone statistician working on a National Institutes of Health–funded prostate cancer initiative. I sat in the weekly meetings with two dozen medical doctors wondering how I could do statistics for them without understanding what they were talking about. I knew I had two options—quit or learn the language. I began sitting in on health science classes, shadowing clinician colleagues, and doing extra reading to understand the science.

It paid off, and my career in biostatistics began to flourish. Empowered by sound statistical knowledge, I became more and more fascinated by the role of data to tell a story! Early on in my career, I became involved with the then Detroit's Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results cancer registry, one of the oldest population-based cancer registries in the US. Using the uniquely large African American population in Detroit's registry, we conducted vital research on racial and ethnic disparities in cancer care and outcomes, developing church-based screening programs for early detection, understanding the role of race in survival, and designing studies to disentangle the effects of cancer biology from the impact of socioeconomic status and access to care on outcomes.

In the Spring of 2021, I traveled to India to get my octogenarian mother vaccinated. The devastating COVID-19 surge that crippled the entire health care system of India unfolded right in front of my eyes. I witnessed firsthand the stories of suffering behind the "numbers." It was the first time I truly saw the human side of data—a moment that profoundly reshaped how I frame my statistical work as a tool for health equity and real-world policy impact.

To this day, my statistical research continues to be inspired and motivated by real-world health challenges and inequities. I study variations in health care delivery and outcomes in the population. My long-standing commitment to improving health care quality and reducing disparities—particularly for women and underserved populations—naturally drew me to the Health Policy Statistics Section. The section's focus on work that directly informs health policy matches my drive to turn statistical rigor into practical equitable outcomes. Furthermore, HPSS's mission aligns with my professional ethos and offers a platform to amplify policy impact of my work, and that is why I joined HPSS.

What do you enjoy most about being part of your section?

There are a lot of things about HPSS that I enjoy! First and foremost, it is the people—the membership of our section! HPSS brings together statisticians, data scientists, policy analysts, and public health professionals all working together to improve population health through evidence and innovation. This is meaningful team science at its best! I cannot emphasize enough how powerful it is to co-develop statistical solutions within multidisciplinary teams, especially for pressing health policy questions. Plus, we are a fun and collegial group. It feels great to do good science with good people!

I also enjoy the blend of real-world impact and methodological innovation that the Health Policy Statistics Section enables. HPSS offers a stage for research to drive policy changes. That sense of purpose—making data speak to improve health outcomes and policy—is also the heart of what I enjoy about HPSS.

How has section membership benefited you professionally and/or personally?

Being part of HPSS has contributed tremendously to my professional growth, as well as personal fulfillment in many ways.

I had been deeply involved across ASA and other professional association structures—committees, chapters, and other sections—for years. Chairing HPSS offered me a platform to harness that experience and amplify impact, fostering innovative methodologies, mentoring, and cross-disciplinary outreach, which I am passionate about.

In my earlier tenure as JSM program chair-elect/chair for HPSS, I was in charge of selecting student paper awards, invited and topic-contributed sessions, roundtables, and speaker with luncheon sessions. These diverse roles and responsibilities gave me a sense of the depth and breadth of our section. It also helped foster many connections across the statistical community that became long-term professional friendships.

As section chair, I learned about the financial side(s) of running an organization, brainstormed

about fundraising initiatives to support our flagship conference ICHPS [International Conference on Health Policy Statistics], appointed new task forces, took actions to amplify early-career voices, fostered mentorship of junior members, and connected with a purpose-driven community. Several of these were new territories for me and required me to step outside my comfort zone. I am especially grateful to have the opportunity to leverage the HPSS network to connect with global partners on shared learning of data, methods, and policy surrounding health care delivery and outcomes.

What advice would you give to new members for getting the most out of their section membership? Attend section events and present your work (take advantage of section-sponsored sessions and mixers at JSM)—whether you are presenting research or participating in discussions, it's a great opportunity to gain feedback and connect with others. For HPSS members, attend ICHPS and other section-focused events.

Engage actively and voluntarily in section activities. Volunteer to propose, organize, chair sessions at professional meetings; get involved with program planning; review student award competition papers; and join committees and task forces whenever the opportunity arises. These are all powerful ways to build visibility, showcase your skills and commitment, and deepen connections with the section.

Leverage the section to build a network for collaboration and mentorship. Reach out to section leaders for mentorship around research, career planning, or navigating career issues. Bring your own ideas—propose new session/workshop themes, scholarships, outreach initiatives. Even if you are early career, your fresh perspective is valuable to the community.

For HPSS members, challenge yourself to work with complex observational data—policyoriented, health care delivery data sets—which is what HPSS is built around. Use the section as a sounding board for methodological questions. These often lead to impactful collaborations and long-term professional connections. Use HPSS connections to partner with clinicians and policymakers—these interdisciplinary relationships can elevate both the scope and impact of your research.

Tell us about your favorite section experience. My favorite section experience is always about recognizing excellence in ceremonial and celebratory events that highlight individual members' contributions to the field. In particular, I would like to mention the recent ICHPS 2025 in San Diego, where I presented the HPSS Mid-Career and Long-Term Excellence awards to three phenomenal colleagues.

The HPSS Mid-Career Award is presented to a recognized mid-career leader in health care policy and health services research who has made outstanding contributions through methodological or applied work and demonstrates promise of continued excellence at the frontier of statistical practice that advances the aims of the Health Policy Statistics Section. Two were honored with this award this year: Miguel Marino, professor and biostatistician in the department of family medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, and José Zubizarreta, professor in the department of health care policy at Harvard Medical School and the department of biostatistics in the Harvard School of Public Health.

The HPSS Long-Term Excellence Award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to health care policy and health services research through mentoring and/or service that advances the aims of the Health Policy Statistics Section. This year's award recipient was Lisa Lix, professor of biostatistics in the department of community health sciences at the University of Manitoba, Canada. Dr. Lix is a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Methods for Electronic Health Data Quality and director of the Data Science Platform in the George & Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation at the University of Manitoba. The award recognized her multifaceted talents and contributions, dedication, leadership, and research acuity, but, more importantly, her generosity in mentoring, collaboration, and service to further the missions of the Health Policy Statistics Section.

Being involved in the selection process and leading the recognition ceremony was a favorite section experience and a particularly meaningful highlight for my chair role. ■

ASA Announces Winners of 2025 DATA VISUALIZATION POSTER AND STATISTICS PROJECT COMPETITIONS

The poster and project competitions are directed by the ASA/National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Joint Committee on Curriculum in Statistics and Probability. First-place winners received $300, a certificate, and grade-appropriate graphing calculators for the students and advisers provided by Texas Instruments. Second-place winners received $200 and a certificate; third-place winners received $100 and a certificate; and honorable mentions received certificates.

The 2025 ASA Data Visualization Poster Competition leader was Jennifer Broatch of Arizona State University. Dione Maxwell of Loganville High School was the head project competition leader.

Posters, sent digitally either as photos of physical posters or a digital poster, are due every year on April 1. Projects are written reports sent by students in grades 7–12 and are due on June 1.

2025 National Project Competition Winners

Each year, the statistical project competition attracts a wide variety of submissions in which students from grades 7–12 conduct creative studies. The competition is especially useful for these students because it provides them with opportunities to apply all the statistical skills they have gotten throughout the school year to solve real-world problems of interest to them.

Results of the project competition, as well as a list of the judges, can be found at *https://magazine.amstat.org*.

2025 National ASA Data Visualization Poster Competition Judges

Regional Poster Competition Leaders

Students outside the regional competition areas send their posters directly to the ASA office. The posters are then judged separately by the Washington Statistical Society as part of the Other Region. The best posters from each region move on to the national judging. Information about regional poster competitions and winners is available on the individual regional poster competition websites.

Connecticut Chapter Statistical Poster Competition

Zhou Fan and Leying Guan, Yale University
https://community.amstat.org/connecticutchapter/home

Kansas/Western Missouri Statistics Poster Contest

Ananda Jayawardhana, Pittsburg State University
www.pittstate.edu/math/statistics-poster-competition.html

Michigan Statistics Poster Competition

Dan Adrian, Grand Valley State University
www.gvsu.edu/stat/mspc-homepage-22.htm

Minnesota Regional Data Visualization Poster Competition

Tianxi Li, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
https://sites.google.com/view/asa-minnesota-k12/home

Nevada K–12 Statistics Poster Competition

Cheryl Hightower, Imgen Research Group and Touro University Nevada, and Alicia Hansen, Public Knowledge
https://community.amstat.org/nevadachapter/home

Ohio Data Visualization Poster Competition

Jerry Moreno, John Carroll University
https://sites.google.com/view/cleveland-asa/k-12-activities/ohio-data-visualization-competition

Pennsylvania Statistics Poster Competition

Norbert Youmbi, Saint Francis University
www.francis.edu/pa-statistics-poster-competition

Southern California Statistics Data Visualization Poster Competition

Rebecca Le, County of Riverside and California State University, Long Beach
https://community.amstat.org/scasa/postercomp

Washington State Statistics Poster Competition

Dean Johnson, Washington State University
https://math.wsu.edu/seminars-calendar/k-12-poster-competition/

Washington Statistical Society Data Visualization Poster Competition (DC Metro Area)

Sabrina Zhang, Westat
www.amstat.org/education/asa-data-visualization-poster-competition-for-grades-k-12-

ASA National Data Visualization Poster Competition

Jennifer Broatch, Leader, Arizona State University
Rebecca Nichols, ASA K–16 Education Coordinator
www.amstat.org/education/asa-data-visualization-poster-competition-for-grades-k-12-

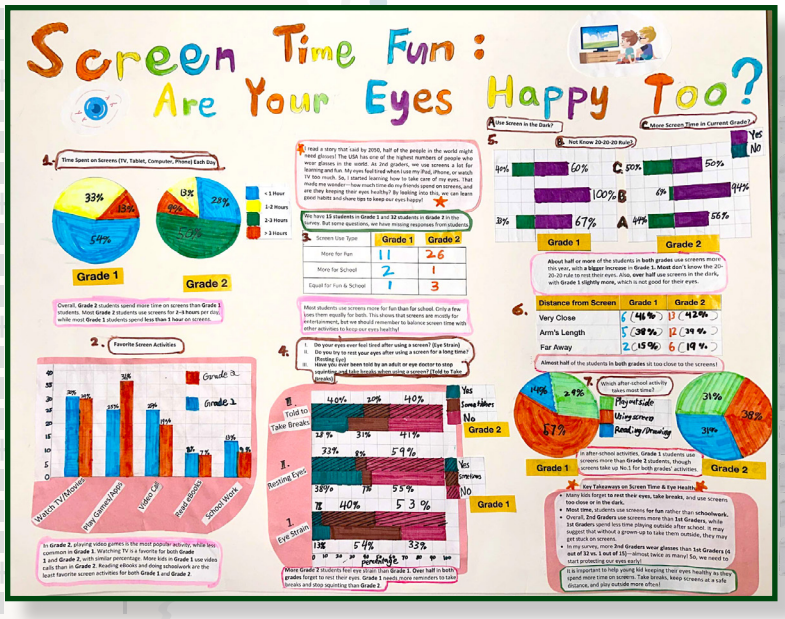
Get Involved

For information about how you can start a regional poster competition or mentor students in your area, read the July 2011 *Amstat News* article at *bit.ly/44EvvHx*.

For more information or questions about how to get involved in the competitions, contact Rebecca Nichols at *rebecca@amstat.org*.

2025 National Poster Competition Winners

GRADES K-3



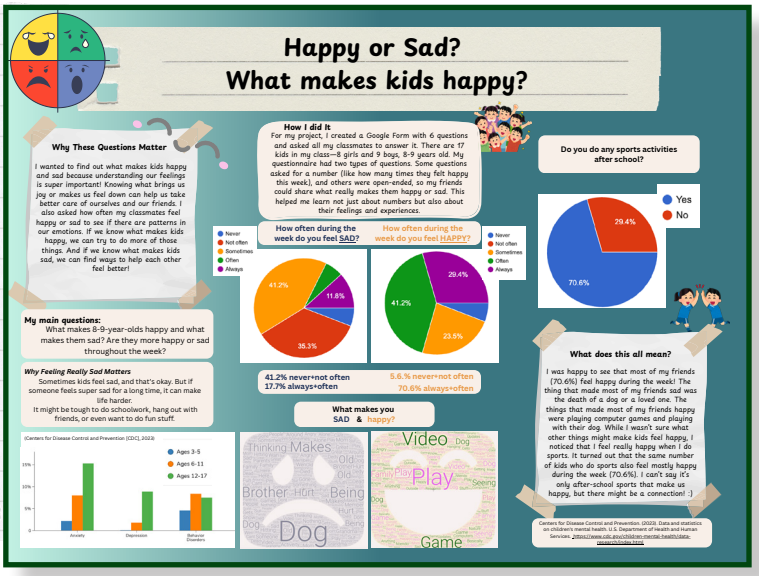
First Place

Herui Wang

Screen Time Fun: Are Your Eyes Happy Too?

Mansfield Elementary School

Mansfield Center, Connecticut



Second Place

Audrey Sophia Young

Happy or Sad? What Makes Kids Happy?

Mansfield Elementary School

Mansfield Center, Connecticut

2025 National Poster Competition Winners

GRADES K-3

Third Place

Alyanna Cumings

Oh, Lolli-Lolli-Lollipop

Ada Vista Elementary School

Grand Rapids, Michigan

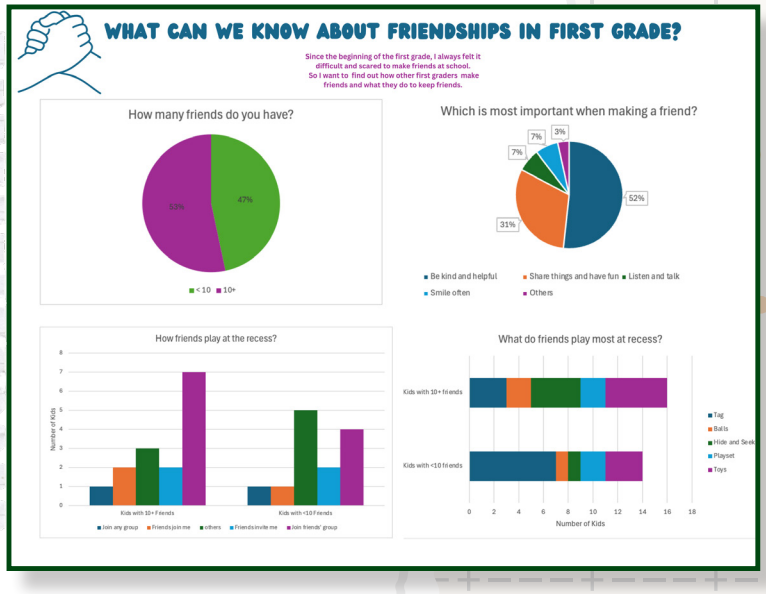
Honorable Mention

Shutong Yang

What Can We Know About Friendships in First Grade?

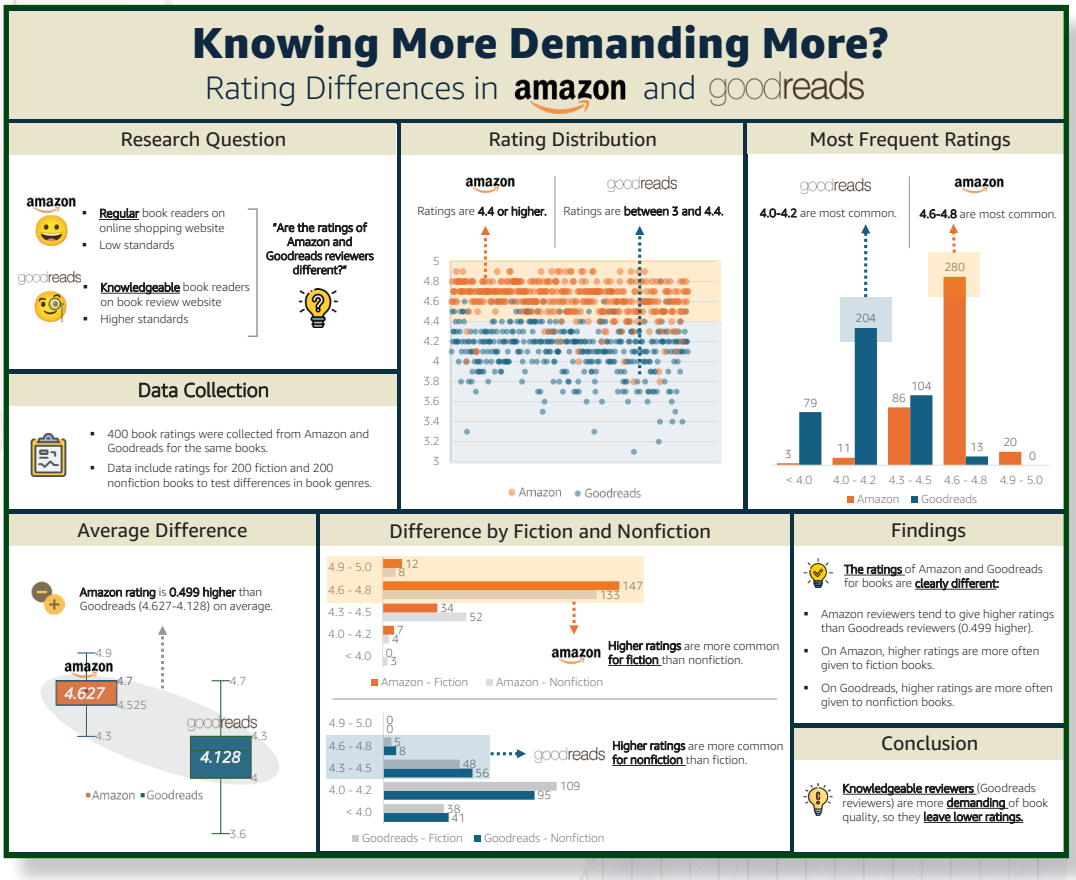
Mansfield Elementary School

Mansfield Center, Connecticut



2025 National Poster Competition Winners

GRADES 4–6



First Place

Alyssa Choi

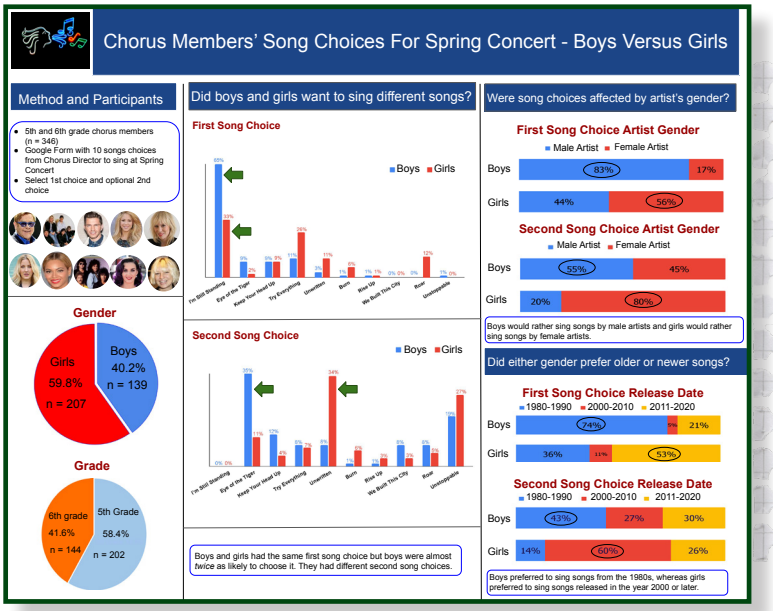
Knowing More Demanding More?

McKamy Middle School

Flower Mound, Texas

2025 National Poster Competition Winners

GRADES 4–6



Second Place

Neel Sood

Chorus Members' Song Choice for Spring Concert: Boys Versus Girls

Hillside Intermediate School

Bridgewater, New Jersey

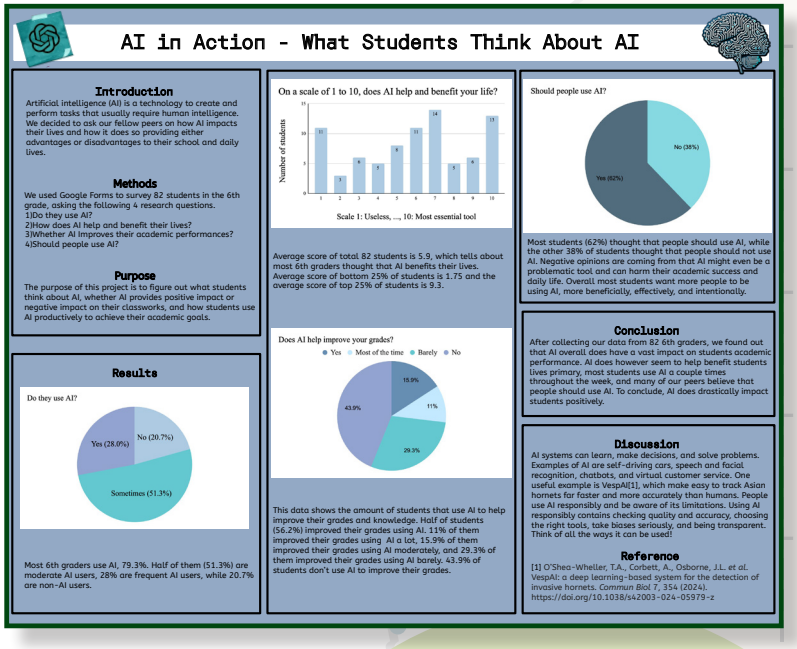
Third Place

Eileen Lee and Arayom Ahn

AI in Action: What Students Think About AI

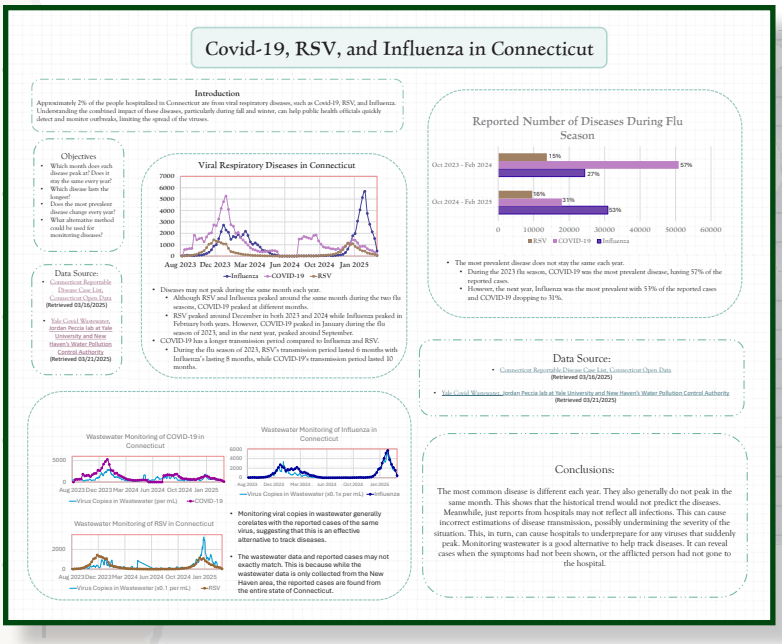
West Woods Upper Elementary School

Farmington, Connecticut



2025 National Poster Competition Winners

GRADES 7–9



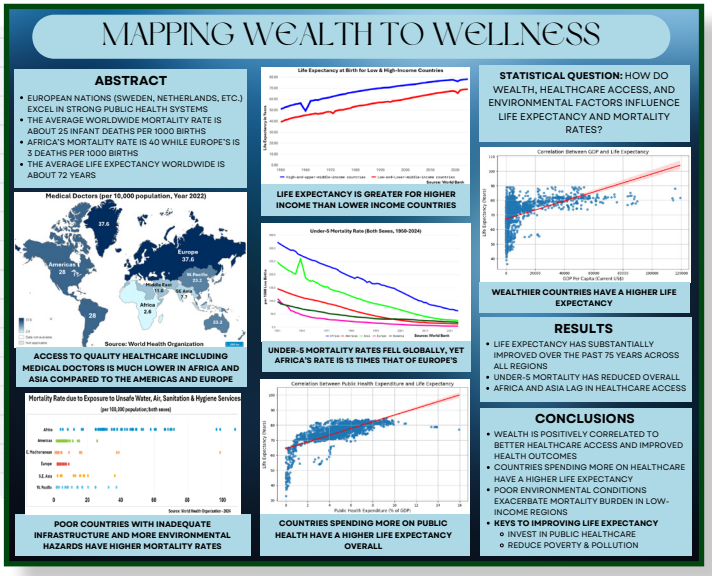
First Place

Sophia Wong

COVID-19, RSV, and Influenza in Connecticut

Amity Middle School - Orange

Orange, Connecticut



Second Place

Srinithi Rajan

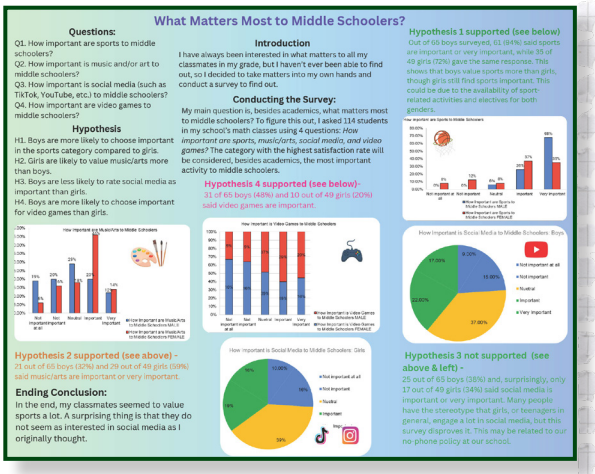
Mapping Wealth to Wellness

Notre Dame High School San Jose

Santa Clara, California

2025 National Poster Competition Winners

GRADES 7–9



Third Place

Jayden Ho

What Matters Most to Middle Schoolers?

Northern Hills Middle School

Grand Rapids, Michigan

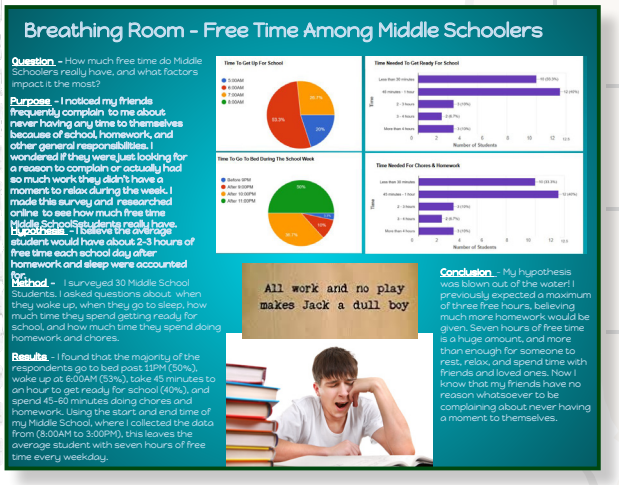
Honorable Mention

Erik Wahus

Breathing Room: Free Time Among Middle Schoolers

Abington Middle School

Abington, Pennsylvania



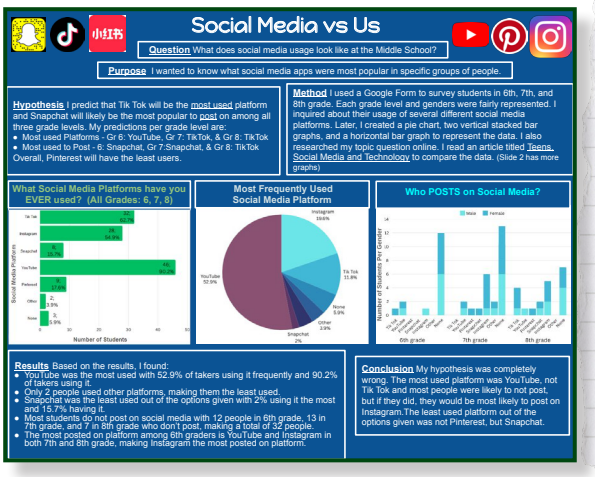
Honorable Mention

Jayne Draper

Social Media vs. Us

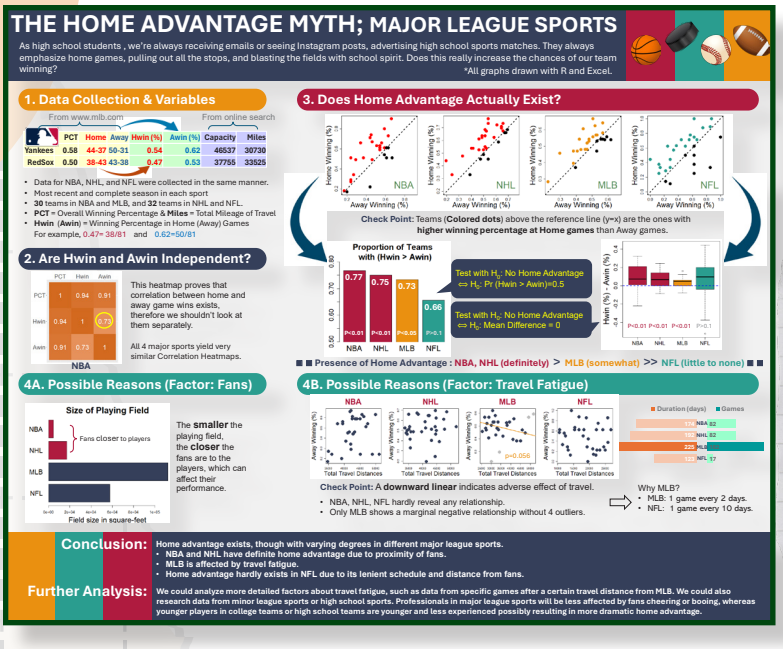
Abington Middle School

Abington, Pennsylvania



2025 National Poster Competition Winners

GRADES 10–12



First Place

Taylor Cho and Lynn Kim

The Home Advantage Myth: Major League Sports

Los Osos High School and Rancho Cucamonga High School

Rancho Cucamonga, California

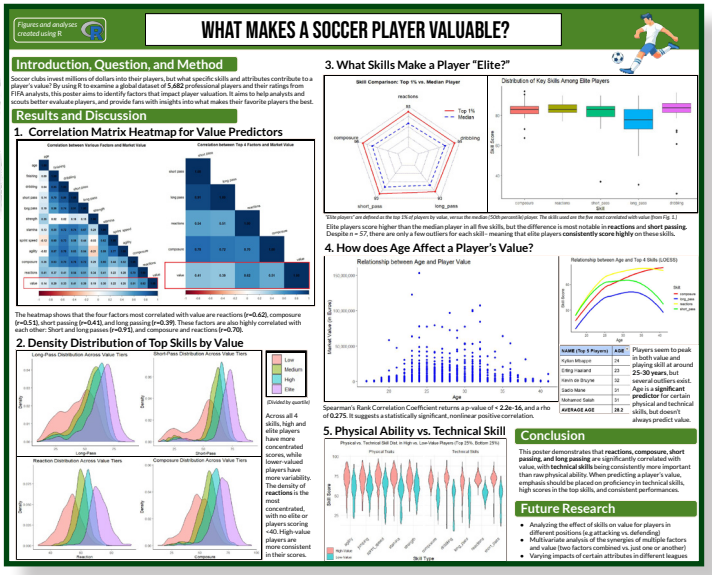
Second Place

Ethan Gao

What Makes a Soccer Player Valuable?

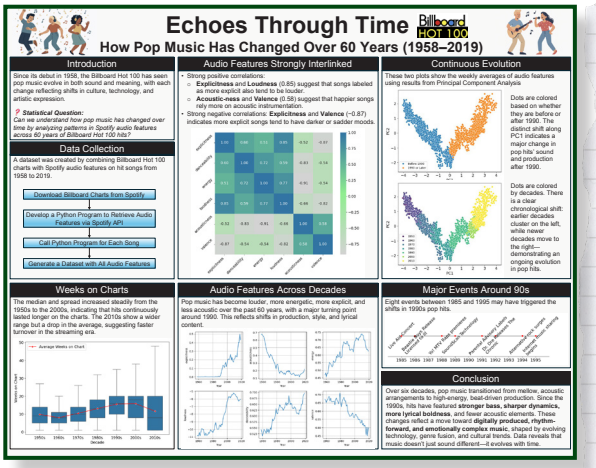
River Hill High School

Clarksville, Maryland



2025 National Poster Competition Winners

GRADES 10–12



Third Place

Liliana Yi

Echoes Through Time

Cary Academy

Cary, North Carolina

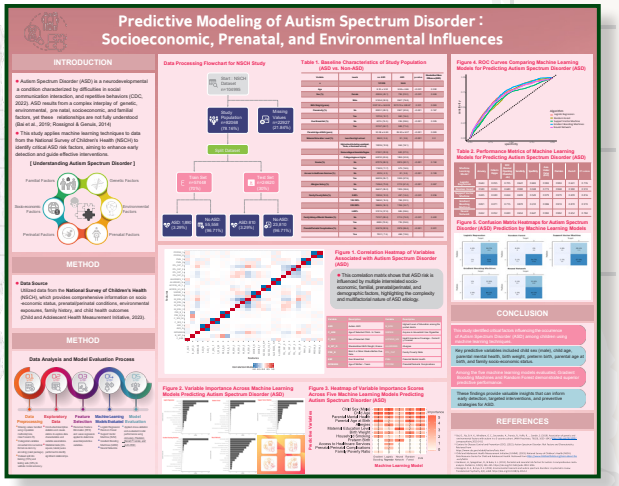
Honorable Mention

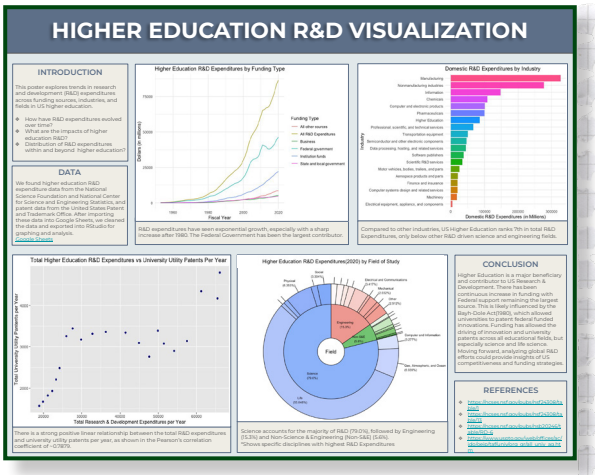
Seyoung Park

Predictive Modeling of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Socioeconomic, Prenatal, and Environmental Influences

The Webb Schools

Claremont, California





Honorable Mention

Lorry Nam and Alyssa Wang

Higher Education R&D Visualization

Diamond Bar High School

Diamond Bar, California

COME TO *Boston:*

JSM 2026 Invited Session Proposals Sought

Daniell Toth, JSM 2026 Program Chair

MORE ONLINE
Visit the JSM 2026 website to submit a proposal.

As thousands prepare to gather for JSM 2025, the American Statistical Association and its partners are already looking ahead to the next annual gathering of statisticians from around the world. The 2026 Joint Statistical Meetings will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, from August 1–6.

Boston is one of the most historical and intellectually rich cities in the United States. With world-renowned universities, cutting-edge technology hubs, and a deep-rooted legacy in American history, it is a perfect setting to host the largest statistical meeting in the world. Attendees will be able to explore iconic landmarks such as the Freedom Trail, Boston Common, the Old State House, and Faneuil Hall Marketplace, as well as enjoy the city's cultural and culinary scene.

The theme for JSM 2026, selected by ASA President-Elect Jeri Mulrow, is "Communities in Action: Advancing Society." This theme highlights the vital role statistical communities play in confronting societal challenges, fostering innovation, and driving equitable progress through collaboration across disciplines and sectors. It celebrates the tangible, real-world impact statisticians, data scientists, and methodologists can have when working together in service to society.

With this spirit in mind, the JSM 2026 program committee invites proposals for invited sessions.

Invited Paper and Panel Sessions

Invited sessions may be either oral presentations or panel discussions. An invited paper session typically includes two to six speakers and discussants who present significant, cutting-edge work on a unified theme. An invited panel session generally features three to six participants who offer perspectives, debate, and discussion on timely topics of broad interest.

The strongest proposals present exciting and innovative work that will appeal to a wide range of JSM attendees. Sessions that feature a mix of viewpoints, institutions, and methodologies are especially encouraged, as they reflect the diversity and collaborative nature of the statistical community.

To organize a session, do the following:

- Select a topic of general interest.
- Recruit potential speakers and discussants.
- Draft a proposal that includes a brief abstract or rationale, the names and affiliations of participants, and tentative talk titles.

While alignment with the JSM theme is encouraged, it is not required.

The JSM Program Committee enforces the "one speaker, one session" policy, which limits individuals to a single invited talk or panel participation. Be sure to confirm availability with prospective speakers.

Once completed, submit your proposal by September 3, indicating the session type and proposed sponsoring organization. To increase the likelihood of acceptance, reach out to the appropriate ASA section or society representative in advance to request sponsorship. Your representative may select the proposal directly or enter it into a competitive pool for broader program committee review.

Decisions about the invited program will be made by mid-October.

Memorial Sessions

JSM 2026 will also set aside space for five invited memorial sessions. To propose one, do the following:

- Submit the proposal as a standard invited session.
- Select "memorial session" as a sponsor and indicate additional potential section sponsors.

If not selected through a section's guaranteed allocation or the general invited pool, the session will be considered for one of the five memorial slots. Memorial session decisions will be made later in the fall. ■

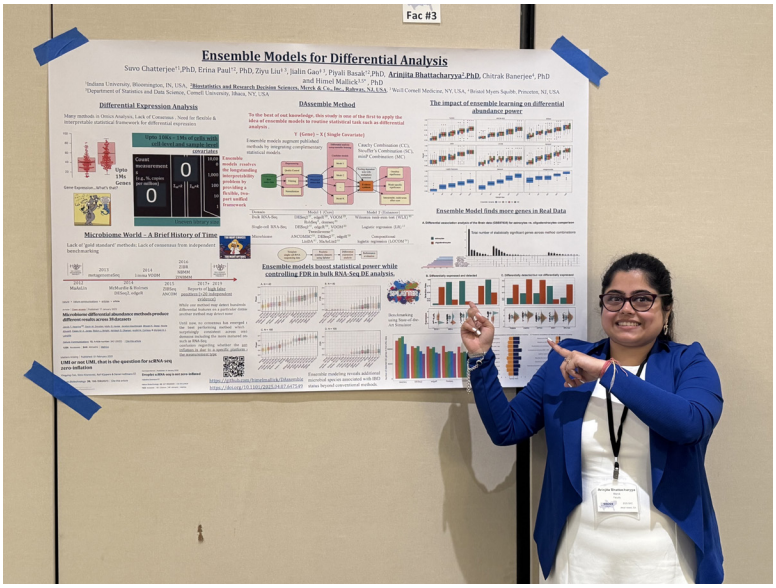
Southern Regional Council on Statistics Hosts 60th Annual Conference

The Southern Regional Council on Statistics held its 60th annual Summer Research Conference June 9–11 on Jekyll Island, Georgia. The long-running event continues to promote the improvement of postsecondary education in statistical science and support the development of high-quality statistics instruction in elementary and high schools.

Arinjita Bhattacharyya holds her winning certificate.

"The SRCOS Summer Research Conference has truly found a special place in the hearts of many students and early-career professionals like myself, thanks to its welcoming community and relaxing atmosphere," said Arinjita Bhattacharyya, recipient of the American Statistical Association's Kutner Junior and Isolated Faculty Poster Session Travel Award.

Bhattacharyya, associate principal scientist in biostatistics and research decision sciences at Merck, presented a poster titled "Ensemble Models for Differential Analysis," a collaborative project with Himel Mallick of Cornell University. "I may have been the only participant from industry," Bhattacharyya said, "but I always cherish the opportunity to reconnect with my roots, see my professors from the University of Louisville, and make meaningful new connections."



Arinjita Bhattacharyya shows off her poster, "Ensemble Models for Differential Analysis."

A few highlights from the conference included a keynote by Natalie Dean on infectious disease research and the critical role of electronic health records in the post-COVID era. She also introduced a summer program designed for prospective master's and PhD students. Another keynote, by Michael Kosorok, explored the promises and challenges of statistics in the age of artificial intelligence—a talk that inspired reflection on how AI could support mental health, particularly by identifying and addressing symptoms of invisible disabilities.

Sponsored by the ASA, National Industrial Security System, and National Science Foundation, the conference offered a balance of academic engagement and coastal retreat. "Afternoons were left open for fun activities—kayaking, biking, hiking, tennis, and more—set against the stunning backdrop of Jekyll Island's beaches and wildlife," Bhattacharyya said.

The 2026 SRCOS Summer Research Conference will take place in Pensacola, Florida.

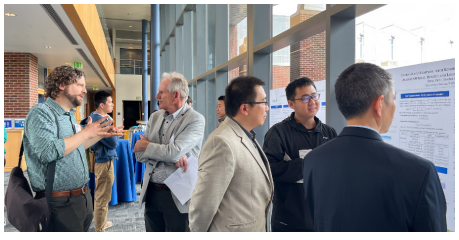
Learn more about the 2025 SRCOS Summer Research Conference at *https://srcos.org/src-2025.* ■

Trevor Hastie, Martin Wainwright Honored at Penn State

Statistics department head Nicole Lazar and Tracy Langkilde, interim executive vice president and provost, present the 2025 C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize to Trevor Hastie.

Hui Zou gives the 2025 C. G. Khatri lecture.

Professor of statistics Dave Hunter introduces 2025 P. R. Krishnaiah Lecturer Martin Wainwright.



Attendees participate in a poster session highlighting postdoctoral and graduate student work.

The Penn State Department of Statistics hosted the 2025 Rao Prize Conference on May 20 to recognize leading contributors to the statistics field. Among the honorees were Trevor Hastie, recipient of the 2025 C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize, and Martin Wainwright, the 2025 P. R. Krishnaiah Lecturer, both widely regarded for their research and impact on the statistical sciences.

Trevor Hastie, the John A. Overdeck Professor of Statistics and Biomedical Data Science at Stanford University, received the Rao Prize for his contributions to statistical modeling, computing, bioinformatics, and statistical learning. Hastie has published more than 200 research articles and six books, and his work has shaped modern methods in machine learning and applied statistics. He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, Royal Statistical Society, and South African Statistical Society. A member of the National Academy of Sciences and a foreign member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Hastie's legacy includes not only academic innovation but also leadership, having chaired Stanford's department of statistics from 2006 to 2009. He co-edited *Statistical Models in S*, a text for statistical computing in R, and holds honorary doctorates from the University of Waterloo and Leuphana University.

Martin Wainwright, this year's Krishnaiah lecturer, is the Cecil H. Green Professor in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Mathematics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His lecture continued a tradition of spotlighting influential researchers. Wainwright is a recipient of many honors, including the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies Presidents' Award, Institute of Mathematical Sciences Medallion Lectureship, and Blackwell Award. He has received fellowships from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and has earned multiple best paper awards from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers societies. His interdisciplinary work spans statistics, machine learning, and information theory, with deep theoretical and applied impact.

The 2025 conference brought together about 100 researchers and featured three plenary lectures—by Hastie, Wainwright, and C. G. Khatri Lecturer Hui Zou—as well as four invited talks and a poster session highlighting postdoctoral and graduate student work.

The C. R. and Bhargavi Rao Prize recognizes outstanding innovations in the theory and practice of mathematical statistics, as well as international leadership and pioneering contributions to the field. The P. R. Krishnaiah Lectureship honors the memory of a visionary in statistics by inviting prominent scholars to speak at Penn State.

More information about the 2025 Rao Prize Conference is available at *https://science.psu.edu/stat/2025-rao-prize-conference.* ■

Obituary

Herbert Withers Ware II

Longtime ASA member Herbert Withers Ware II passed away in late April.

Early in his career, Ware was assigned to the Army assistant chief of staff for intelligence at the Pentagon, where he trained in cryptography. Following his military service, he dedicated more than three decades to education in Arlington County Public Schools. Over the course of his 33-year tenure, he served in several roles, including mathematics teacher, supervisor of secondary mathematics, assistant director of planning, and principal of Barrett Elementary School. In February of 1959, he was one of the first two teachers to teach an integrated class in the Virginia public school system.

Ware earned his PhD from the University of Maryland, College Park, and went on to work for several institutions, including The University of Chicago, Valparaiso University, Harvard University, George Mason University, and the University of Maryland.

In retirement, Ware and his wife of 68 years, Libby, shared a love of basketball and hiking. They also gave back to their community by volunteering with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, helping maintain trails throughout the year.

To read more about Ware's life, visit his memorial page at *https://everloved.com/life-of/herbert-ware/memories.*

James O'Malley is a joint recipient of the 2025 Research Excellence Award for Senior Faculty in Foundational Science from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. The award celebrates outstanding scientific contributions and advances within the Geisel community exemplified in scientific scholarship through significant author contributions, peer-reviewed awards, or honorary distinctions.

O'Malley's innovative methodological research in biostatistics was emphasized in the award announcement as particularly noteworthy for a faculty member in a medical school, while his extensive collaborative research in clinical and health services research was also highlighted. His statistical research areas include statistical analysis of social networks, causal inference involving instrumental variables, multivariate-hierarchical modeling, and Bayesian statistics.

O'Malley holds the Peggy Y. Thomson Chair in the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth and is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. More information about the award can be found at *https://geiselmed.dartmouth.edu/research-excellence-awards-program.* ■

Guillermina Jasso recently won the 2025 ISJR Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given every two years by the International Society for Justice Research to honor distinguished lifetime contributions to the scientific study of justice and efforts to advance justice as a field of study. In July 2025, Jasso delivered the award lecture at the ISJR biennial conference in Seattle, Washington. More information about the award may be found at *https://isjr.org/lifetime.* ■

MORE ONLINE
Keep track of awards for students and new professionals at *stattrak.amstat.org.*

Nominations Open for Robert V. Hogg Award

The Hogg Award recognizes someone who has shown both excellence and growth in teaching introductory statistics at the college level. This award is presented annually in August at MathFest.

The award winner will have been teaching introductory statistics at the college level for 3–15 years and hold active membership with the Mathematical Association of America. Nominations of faculty coming from a mathematics background are especially encouraged, although all eligible candidates are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for submitting nomination packets is September 30. Nominations are held in consideration for three years, but updated nomination packets are encouraged.

Visit the Mathematical Association of America website at *bit.ly/4m56wCY* to submit your nominations. ■

Applications Sought for National Academies Fellowship Program

Since 1997, the Christine Mirzayan Science & Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program has provided early-career professionals with a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience in science and technology policy. This full-time, 12-week program places fellows at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in Washington, DC, where they work closely with a mentor and explore the role scientists and engineers play in shaping national policy.

Through this immersive fellowship, participants will do the following:

- Deepen their understanding of science and technology policy
- Discover new career paths that engage both science and policy communities
- Understand the role scientists and engineers play in advising the nation by working closely with a mentor within the National Academies
- Expand their perception of how the science and technology ecosystem operates in Washington, DC, by attending meetings and policy-related activities outside the National Academies
- Gain essential skills and knowledge needed to work in science policy at the federal, state, or local level
- Build a network of fellows and program alumni who will stay connected with each other and with the academies

Applications close August 20 at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

Visit the website at *bit.ly/4562oMq* to apply. ■

Application Open for SBB Research Group Foundation STEM Scholarship

Students currently enrolled full-time at a university within the United States are eligible to apply for the summer SBB Research Group Foundation STEM Scholarship.

In 500 or fewer words, SBB Research Group Foundation wants to read your response to the following: What have been your most significant experiences in STEM, and how will you use STEM principles to improve the world?

The SBB Research Group STEM Scholarship Committee will award one $2,500 scholarship to someone who meets the following criteria:

- Has a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5
- Is working toward a degree in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics

You cannot apply if you are an incoming college freshman, high school senior, or a college senior who will not be attending graduate school in the United States.

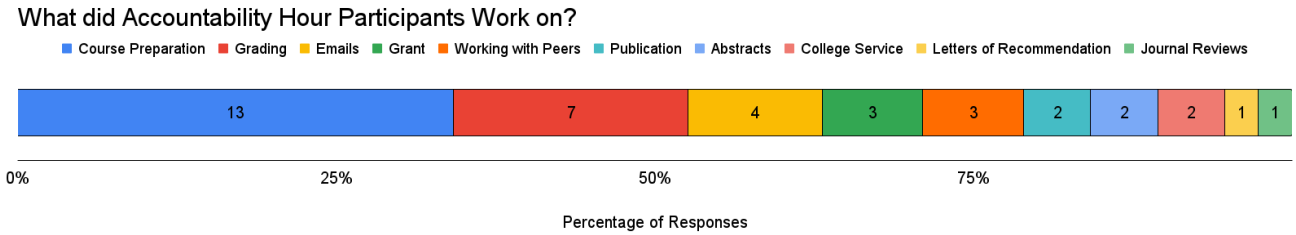
The application deadline is August 31 for the summer program.

Get the details and apply at *bit.ly/4kIqBhj*. ■

Visit the ASA website to view a comprehensive list of awards and scholarships.

sectionnews

Accountability Hour Offers Section Members Support, Time for Work



At the Statistics and Data Science Education Section annual business meeting during JSM 2024, Tyler George, Jennifer Ward, Aparna Nathan, and Jonathan Wells shared how difficult it was to carve out time to finish tasks. They also agreed it would be beneficial to communicate with each other and other statisticians more often, rather than just once a year or at committee meetings. These conversations led to the creation of a community with weekly online meetings, known as Accountability Hour.

Throughout the 2024–2025 academic year, a group of statisticians met for one hour every Friday. Meetings began with brief introductions, followed by each person sharing what they planned to work on for the hour. Then, everybody would spend about 50 minutes working silently. In the end, each person shared their progress, or sometimes, the difficulties they met with their task. The hour was never a competition to see who could be the most successful, but simply space and time devoted to us and our work. Each week, around four to six people joined the meeting, but about 12 individuals attended at least one Accountability Hour.

In a feedback survey (n = 9), participants identified community building; awareness of what people were working on; and the low-stakes, supportive, and productive environment as highlights of the community. A few participants summarized their experiences with the group as follows:

- **Tyler George:** I enjoyed connecting with faculty outside of my institution regularly and having dedicated time when I was not working on teaching responsibilities. One conversation led to the creation of a new, easily accessible data repository (housed within a Google sheet) hosted by the ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education, which will make it easier to find data for classes.

- **Beverly Wood:** Just knowing (rather than simply suspecting) that I have colleagues who also procrastinate or avoid tedious tasks helped me to face the unpleasant grading or urgent tasks during that accountability hour.

- **Jas Pannu:** What I enjoyed most about accountability hour was connecting with peers from other institutions—it was a valuable networking opportunity and a safe, supportive space to share thoughts and relieve stress. Having this community working alongside me—even silently—transformed daunting tasks into something manageable and even enjoyable.

- **Jennifer Ward:** Our Accountability Hour is my second-favorite hour of the week; my first favorite being my exercise class with my friends. I often planned my week so that I would save certain tasks for Friday 9 a.m. (Pacific) because I knew I could focus for an hour and have a great sense of accomplishment by 10 a.m. In addition to seeing the familiar faces each week, I enjoyed our candid conversations about grading, procrastination, and the plethora of emails we all receive.

- **Elaine Hembree:** The best part of the weekly Accountability Hour was to network with people that I often see at conferences, but don't see outside of that. I am somewhat of an isolated statistician in my mathematics department, and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to connect with fellow statistics educators to hear what

they are working on, both inside and outside the classroom. Being able to work on a regular task each week was an added bonus!

- **Aparna Nathan:** I don't have many colleagues who are teaching faculty, so the Accountability Hour has been a great way to bond with like-minded folks from diverse institutions across the country. It's a chance for us to have some solidarity as we face stacks of assignments to grade and deadlines to meet—but also a source of inspiration as we hear about the innovative new pedagogical ideas and projects that other attendees are tackling.

What are academic statisticians working on? The nine feedback survey responses included mentions of 38 tasks, which were then categorized into 10 groups. Participants reported that more than 50% of their Friday hours were spent preparing for class and grading, with a wide variety of goals also reported.

The most encouraging aspect of the survey results is the demand to continue the Accountability Hour and expand it next year. If this sounds like something you want to be a part of, we will be starting again in the Fall of 2025. The exact meeting time (or times) will be scheduled based on the availability of interested individuals. Sign up at *bit.ly/44XXh0q*. ■

Survey Research Methods Section Calls for 2026 Course Proposals

The Survey Research Methods Section is calling for 2026 Joint Statistical Meetings continuing education course proposals. View the list of continuing education courses happening at JSM 2025 at *bit.ly/44Gh0mH* and reach out to Monika Hu at *jihu@vassar.edu* to craft your proposal.

The section also has webinars planned for the rest of 2025. Krista Gile from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will talk about alternative methods for including hard-to-reach populations on November 14. Details for an academic career panel in August or September are being worked out, so stay tuned for more information. ■

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Top Ten **Dream Getaways for Statisticians and Data Scientists**

Amstat News continues its entertaining offering by ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein, who delivers a special Top 10—one that aired during a recent episode of *Practical Significance*. We're in the dog days of summer, and maybe you are thinking about getting away. The *Practical Significance* podcast is ready to help as Ron share's his "Top Ten Dream Getaways for Statisticians and Data Scientists." He says, "These vacations, while appealing, can require a significant investment of time, money, and degrees of freedom."

Wasserstein

10

Chi-Square Beach: You can test whether this location is a good fit for you.

09

The Bayesian Islands: Each time you go, you'll update your beliefs about how much you enjoy it.

08

Kurtosis Cove: Perfect for travelers who enjoy extreme values in their vacation experiences.

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

07

Markov Shores: On this beautiful coastline, your next destination depends solely on your current location, not how you got there.

06

Bootstrapping Bayou: From a sample of this destination's beauty, visitors can estimate how much they will enjoy their entire vacation here.

05

Poisson Point: The finest seafood and guests can estimate the time when their meal will arrive without needing to know how long it has been since the previous guest was served.

04

Regression Reef: Happiness increases linearly with each day spent snorkeling here.

03

Kernel Heights: A majestic mountain range with smooth peaks, offering nonparametric views of the valley below.

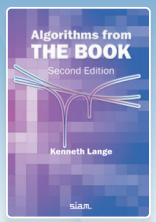
02

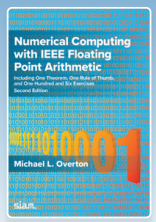
Quartile Quay: This quaint harbor town is divided into four distinct districts, each containing exactly 25% of the tourist attractions.

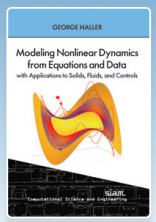
#01

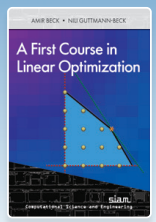
Monte Carlo: You didn't think we would forget this, did you? Come here to enjoy the law of large numbers but watch out for the curse of dimensionality.

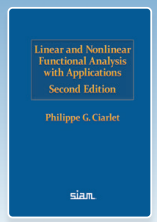
New books from SIAM











Algorithms from THE BOOK
Second Edition
Kenneth Lange

Most books on algorithms are narrowly focused on a single field of application. This unique book cuts across discipline boundaries, exposing readers to the most successful algorithms from a variety of fields. Since publication of the first edition of *Algorithms from THE BOOK*, the number of new algorithms has swelled exponentially, with the fields of neural net modeling and natural language processing leading the way. These developments warranted the addition of a new chapter on automatic differentiation and its applications to neural net modeling. The second edition also adds worked exercises and introduces new algorithms in existing chapters. In *Algorithms from THE BOOK, Second Edition*, the majority of algorithms are accompanied by Julia code for experimentation, the many classroom-tested exercises at the end of each chapter make the material suitable for use as a textbook, and appendices contain not only background material often missing in undergraduate education but also solutions to selected problems.

2025 • xiv + 343 pages • Softcover • 9781611978384
List $74.00 • SIAM Member $51.80 • OT204

Numerical Computing with IEEE Floating Point Arithmetic
Including One Theorem, One Rule of Thumb, and One Hundred and Six Exercises, Second Edition
Michael L. Overton

This book provides an easily accessible, yet detailed, discussion of computer arithmetic as mandated by the IEEE 754 floating point standard, arguably the most important standard in the computer industry. Although the basic principles of IEEE floating point arithmetic have remained largely unchanged since the first edition of this book was published in 2001, the technology that supports it has changed enormously. Every chapter has been extensively rewritten, and two new chapters have been added: one on computations with higher precision than that mandated by the standard and one on computations with lower precision than was ever contemplated by those who wrote the standard, driven by the massive computational demands of machine learning. It includes many technical details not readily available elsewhere, along with many new exercises.

2025 • xx + 126 pages • Softcover • 9781611978407
List $59.00 • SIAM Member $41.30 • OT205

Nonlinear Spectral Model Reduction for Equations and Data
with Applications to Solids, Fluids, and Controls
George Haller

This concise text presents an introduction to the emerging area of reducing complex nonlinear differential equations or time-resolved data sets to spectral submanifolds (SSMs). SSMs are ubiquitous low-dimensional attracting invariant manifolds that can be constructed systematically, building on the spectral properties of the linear part of a nonlinear system. SSM-based model reduction has a solid mathematical foundation and hence is guaranteed to deliver accurate and predictive reduced-order models under a precise set of assumptions. This book introduces the foundations of SSM theory to the novice reader; reviews recent extensions of classic SSM results for the advanced reader; and illustrates the power of SSM reduction on a large collection of equation- and data-driven applications in fluid mechanics, solid mechanics, and control.

2025 • xii + 151 pages • Hardcover • 9781611978346
List $62.00 • SIAM Member $43.40 • CS34

A First Course in Linear Optimization
Amir Beck and Nili Guttmann-Beck

This self-contained textbook provides the foundations of linear optimization, covering topics in both continuous and discrete linear optimization. It gradually builds the connection between theory, algorithms, and applications so that readers gain a theoretical and algorithmic foundation, familiarity with a variety of applications, and the ability to apply the theory and algorithms to actual problems. To deepen the reader's understanding, the authors provide many applications from diverse areas of applied sciences, such as resource allocation, line fitting, graph coloring, the traveling salesman problem, game theory, and network flows. The book also includes more than 180 exercises, most of them with partial answers and about 70 with complete solutions, as well as a continuous illustration of the theory through examples and exercises. It is intended to be read cover to cover and requires only a first course in linear algebra as a prerequisite.

2025 • x + 370 pages • Softcover • 9781611978292
List $74.00 • SIAM Member $51.80 • CS33

Robust Adaptive Control
Deadzone-Adapted Disturbance Suppression
Iasson Karafyllis and Miroslav Krstic

This book presents a solution to a problem in adaptive control design that had been open for 40 years: robustification to disturbances without compromising asymptotic performance. This original methodology builds on foundational ideas, such as the use of a deadzone in the update law and nonlinear damping in the controller, and advances the tools for and the theory behind designing robust adaptive controllers, thus guaranteeing robustness properties stronger than previously achieved. The authors present all stability notions, old and new, that are useful in adaptive control, provide numerous examples, and contrast their analysis to landmark approaches to robustification of adaptive controllers in prior literature. This book develops the Deadzone-Adapted Disturbance Suppression (DADS) control, illustrates it on the wing rock instability application, and provides ideas for the extension of the control scheme to cases not studied in the book.

2025 • xii + 178 pages • Hardcover • 9781611977421
List $84.00 • SIAM Member $58.80 • DC43

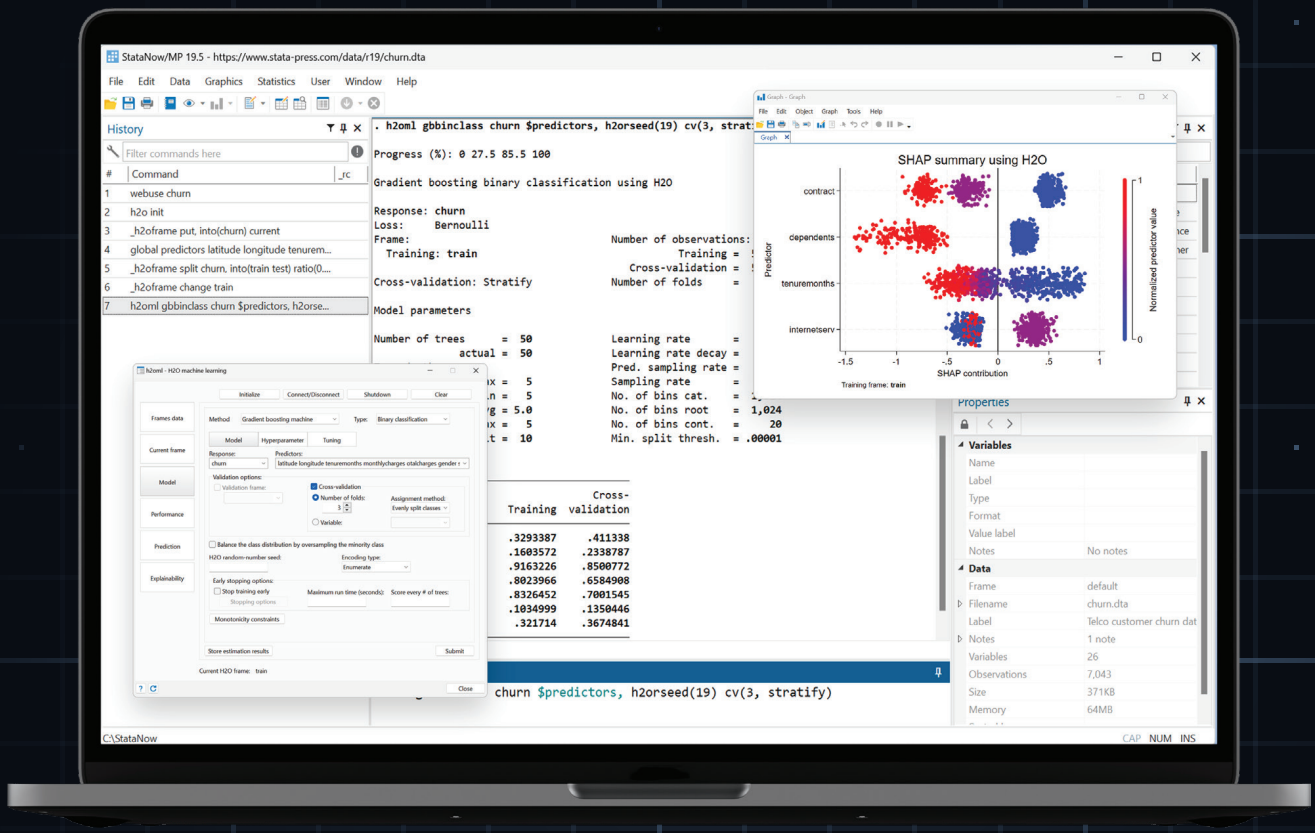
Linear and Nonlinear Functional Analysis with Applications
Second Edition
Philippe G. Ciarlet

This new, considerably expanded edition covers the fundamentals of linear and nonlinear functional analysis, including distribution theory, harmonic analysis, differential geometry, the calculus of variations, and degree theory. Numerous applications are included, especially to linear and nonlinear partial differential equations and to numerical analysis. All the basic theorems are provided with complete and detailed proofs. The author has added more than 450 pages of new material and more than 210 problems. Two entirely new chapters, one on locally convex spaces and distribution theory and the other on the Fourier transform and Calderón–Zygmund singular integral operators, have also been added. In addition, the chapter on the "great theorems" of nonlinear functional analysis has been enlarged and split into two chapters, one on the calculus of variations and the other on degree theory.

2025 • xviii + 1287 pages • Hardcover • 9781611977230
List $114.00 • SIAM Member $79.80 • OT203

STATA 19

ANALYZE WITH CONFIDENCE



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