

Friday Fun Days: Hands-on Experience and Peer Mentoring in a Master’s Level Consulting Course

Emily A. Robinson
Department of Statistics, University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Statistical Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration & Consulting Lab (SC3)

- SC3L Consultants**
- 4 Ph.D. Research Assistants
 - Supervised by a tenured Director

- Communication with Clients**
- Google form for initial client information
 - Online scheduling assistant, Setmore
 - Centralized SC3L email

- Communication between Consultants**
- Weekly staff meetings
 - Microsoft teams

The SC3L is Hiring!

Assistant / Associate Professor -
Director of Consulting

Principles of Statistical Consulting (STAT 825)

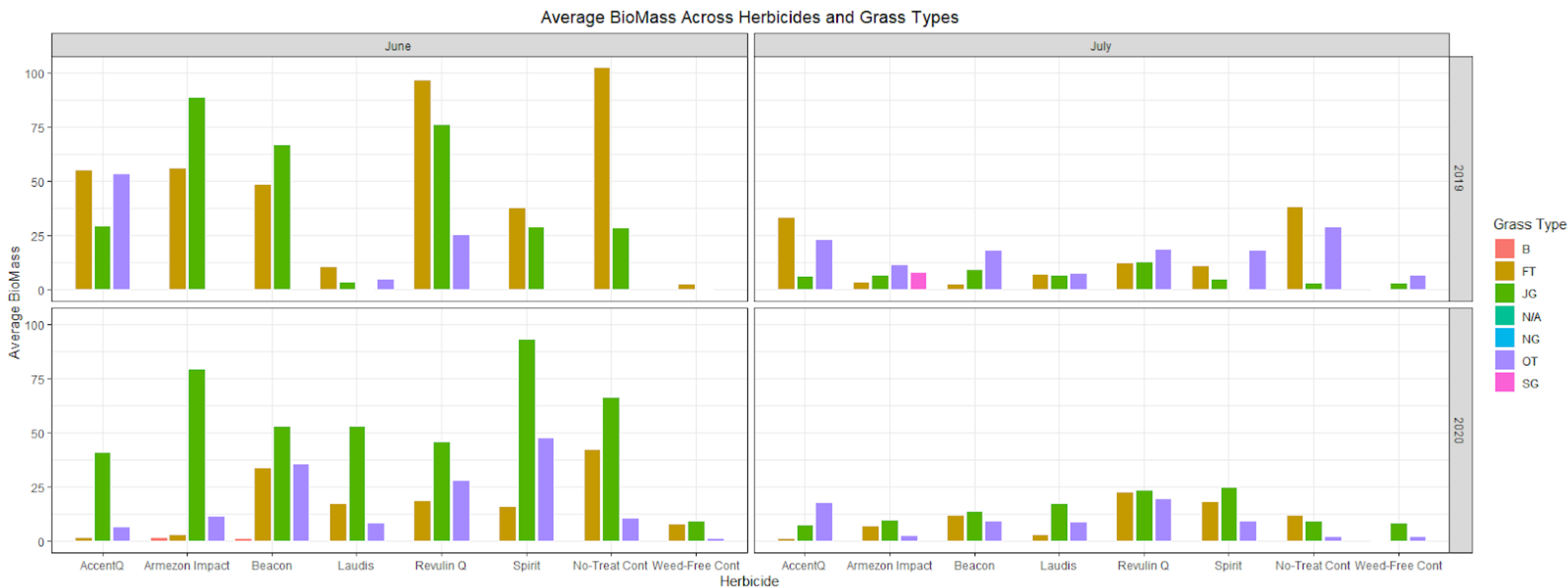
- Course Topics**
- Asking good questions
 - Dealing with difficult clients
 - Communicating statistics to non-statisticians

- Mentor Role of SC3L Consultant**
- Lead class activities one day a week
 - Invite students to shadow client meetings

Advanced Statistical Consulting (STAT 930)

- Course Structure**
- Students collaborate with two to four clients of their own
 - Weekly class meetings

- Mentor Role of SC3L Consultant**
- Each SC3L consultant is paired with two students to serve as their mentor for the semester
 - Mentor students on leading meetings, running analysis, and writing reports



Student Sample Work

‘Friday Fun Day’ Activities

- Data Visualization Show & Tell**
- Watch and discuss [Advocating for data visualization](#) video by Sharp, J.L., Griffith, E., and Higgs, M. (2020)
 - Discuss how to create effective graphics for communication using Gestalt principles

Gestalt Principle	Graphic
Enclosure	Facets
Connection	Lines
Proximity	White Space
Similarity	Color/Shape

- In class, students put the Gestalt principles into practice on a client data set

- Other Topics**
- Effective Communication
 - Challenges and Ethics
 - Attitudes of Collaboration