

# Chapter Notes

Newsletter of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Editor: Phil Pichotta

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Visit the CT Chapter homepage at: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/connecticut/index.html>

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## Letter from the President Mahesh Iyer

It has been awhile since we put out a newsletter. But that is not to say that we did not have a lot to say in the last couple of years. In fact, in the past 2 years, the chapter continued its excellent tradition of bringing high quality programs to the statistical community in Connecticut. Our attendance in the annual mini-conferences has been increasing every year, with almost 55 attendees this past year. This past year's conference focused on problems in multiplicity in the health care industry, and the talks were delivered by the leading experts in the field including Ajit Tamhane, Jason Hsu, Larry Gould, Jie Chen and Cyrus Mehta.

The regular seminars also continued with talks by eminent speakers such as Constantine Gatsonis, Joe Cappelleri, Naitee Ting and, more recently, Rich Simon. In the past two years, the chapter recognized the contributions of two of the most active members and past presidents, Tim Keyes and Fred Djang, with the “Honor a Statistician” award. The poster competitions were successful as always, so much so that the Connecticut chapter is now considered one of the more successful chapters in the country in regard to the poster competition.

There were some significant technological improvements as well. The chapter webpage has now been made more secure by employing methods to prevent web crawlers from harvesting e-mail addresses. The membership list is now maintained as a listserv through which e-mails are sent to the members. This simplifies the transfer of responsibilities when new officers assume their duties.

But with all the positives, there are still quite a few areas that need improvement. Our membership, though constant, has not grown in the last few years. The proportion of members participating in chapter activities also continues to be very small. The Executive Committee in the past few years has been very industry-heavy, primarily from the pharmaceutical industry. The chapter needs an infusion of new blood and fresh ideas. We need to do a better job of inviting and representing statisticians from other industries and we need to do a better job of engaging more of our colleagues from academia.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite each one of our members to take a more active role by investing a little of their time towards chapter activities, thereby increasing participation and ensuring the continued health and vitality of our chapter. Most importantly, I would like to solicit suggestions from our members for increasing our membership and becoming more diverse.

Our mission is to encourage the use and appreciation of Statistics and its applications, and to facilitate interaction among **ALL** persons having an interest in or being concerned with the field of Statistics. Let us all do what it takes to make this a more inclusive organization.

### **2006 Statistical Poster Competition Results**

**Sterling Hardy**

For the past ten years the chapter has been sponsoring a statistical poster competition for students in grades K-12. This year we received 147 posters (37 from grades K-3, 60 from grades 4-6, 39 from grades 7-9, and 11 from grades 10-12). I am pleased to announce this year's winners which are shown in the accompanying table. Winners received cash prizes and certificates at an awards ceremony held in April at Bristol-Myers Squibb.

Posters were also sent to the National Statistical Poster Competition sponsored by the ASA. I'm pleased to announce that two posters from Connecticut were winners at the national competition.

The winners were: *The Effect of Red Mulch Growth and Yield of Tomato Plants* by Lu Han, an eleventh grader at Cheshire High School and *Are Passenger Flights on Time?* by Aaron Paradis, a twelfth grader at Norwich Free Academy.

### Winners

#### K-3

	Winner's Name	Teacher	School	Town
1st	John Karcher	Mrs. Carter	Fawn Hollow ES	Monroe
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Daniel Shultis	Mrs. Carter	Fawn Hollow ES	Monroe
3rd	Jacob Zimmer,	Mrs. Carter	Fawn Hollow ES	Monroe
	Connor Muller			
*HM	Anuj Sisodiya	Mr. Sisodiyz	Tashua ES	Trumbull

#### 4-6

1st	Robert Wooley	Mrs. Roman	Chalk Hill School	Monroe
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ariana Paklaian	Mrs. Roman	Chalk Hill School	Monroe
3rd	Brooke Wasserman	Ms. Bredice	Latimer Lane School	Simsbury

#### 7-9

*HM	Jennifer Smith	Mr. Lipka	Dag Hammar skjold MS	Wallingford
	Jenna Quagliaroli			

#### 10-12

1st	Lu Han	Mr. Redford	Cheshire HS	Cheshire
*HM	Nicole Tetreault	Ms. Sammann	Nathan Hale-Ray HS	East Haddam
	Jessica Ficara			
	Shannon Walsh			
*HM	Aaron Paradis	Ms. Weaver	Norwich Free Academy	Norwich

\*HM = Honorable Mention

I'd like to thank all those who came out on a Saturday morning last March to do the judging: Nora Fagan, Jian Han, Mingxiu Hu, Mahesh Iyer, Gary Johnson, Toshio Kimura, Marilyn Lender, Victoria Wirtz, Jane Zhang. In addition, Kari Kastango and others helped by working with teachers and picking up posters. Please excuse me if I've failed to mention anyone. I especially want to thank Marilyn Lender, who organized the contest this year.

We will be sending out an email announcement of next year's competition to teachers in the coming weeks. If you would like to help judge this year please send me an email at [sterling.hardy@bms.com](mailto:sterling.hardy@bms.com).

## **Treasurer's Report**

**Sterling Hardy**

The Connecticut Chapter entered the 2005-2006 fiscal year with \$4930.70 in the bank. The total income during the year was \$8307.08. This included \$1596 received from Chapter dues and \$3705 received for banquet and mini-conference fees. In addition, there was a generous \$3000 donation from Bristol-Myers Squibb to support the mini-conference. Total expenses were \$6575.23, of which \$4817.42 was for the mini-conference, \$1081 was for the banquet, and \$676.81 was for the poster competition. The closing cash balance was \$6662.55.

## **Chapter Events**

**Haiqun Li**

**Vice-President and Program Chair**

## **Past & Upcoming Events**

**October**

- 7 Mini Symposium on Bayesian Nonparametrics at UCONN-Storrs**
- 17 Rich Simon, NCI, "Cancer Clinical Trials in the Genomic Era" at Yale University**

**November**

- 30 Pfizer Colloquium at University of Connecticut-Storrs.**

**Speakers: Emanuel Parzen,  
"Objective Bayesian/Frequentist  
Statistics: My Way with  
Quantiles"**

**Speakers: Emanuel Parzen, H.  
Joseph Newton, Grace Wahba, "A  
Conversation with Emanuel  
Parzen"**

**March**

- ? Miniconference**

## **Chapter Banquet**

The Chapter Banquet of the **Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association** was held on Thursday, June 29th, 2006 at the Sally Hart Lodge on the campus of Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford.

In addition to announcing the results of the Chapter elections, we presented **Fred Djang** with the **Honor a Statistician Award**. Fred's qualifications for this award are described below. After the dinner, Fred made a presentation entitled "**AP Statistics and Its Impact**." An abstract of Fred's talk is presented below.

## **Honor A Statistician Award – Fred Djang**

Four years ago the Connecticut Chapter began recognizing Chapter members with the Honor A Statistician Award. The qualifications for the award are to be an ASA and Chapter member who has made significant contributions to statistics and its applications. Involvement in Chapter activities is also considered. This year we were pleased to present Fred Djang with the award. Fred has been a mathematics and statistics teacher for 40 years, including 26 years at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford. In addition, Fred has worked as a Biostatistician at Bristol-Myers Squibb since 1980. He has been a long-time member of the Connecticut Chapter, having served as Vice President, President, and Chapter Representative to the ASA, as well as other positions at the Chapter and national level.

Fred was chosen to receive this award in recognition of his service to the chapter and of his work on the national and local level in the development of the AP Statistics Test. Since 1997 Fred has been instrumental in the start-up and development of AP Statistics curriculum on a national level, and continues being a key organizer of the program. In addition, he has sponsored learning workshops here in Connecticut to help local teachers get involved.

Fred was presented with the award at the Chapter Banquet in June. He was asked to give a presentation at the banquet, which, fittingly enough, was on the growth and development of AP Statistics. On behalf of the Chapter members, the

members of the executive committee once again extend our congratulations to Fred for receiving this award.

The abstract for Fred's talk is presented below:

### **Abstract**

#### **AP Statistics and Its Impact**

This presentation celebrated AP Statistics for the connection it makes to secondary school and on to junior high and elementary school. It celebrated its rapid and sustained growth in the number of students taking the exams and the inferred number of students who are taking the course. The numbers are impressive. When a school decides to offer this course it seems natural to offer it in the mathematics department. However, statistics is largely a study of variability and, as we all know, mathematics courses tend to frown on variability. Many mathematics teachers have had minimal exposure to statistics. As statisticians we can be very helpful in assisting teachers by letting them know that we are available and willing to answer questions. In this overview of AP Statistics, Fred demonstrated several examples which are currently being used in AP Statistics courses. These examples have proven to be helpful in teaching statistical concepts. With your knowledge and ingenuity, I am sure that you will see other useful applications.

### **Statistical Trivia**

#### **Phil Pichotta**

My daughter came across the following website while googling for popout maps. As a statistician I was impressed by the way spatial graphics was used to summarize the information and how you could drill down to explore the information in depth.

<http://www.popvssoda.com/countystats/total-county.html>

By the way, I say "pop" so you can tell that I am not from around here. A similar website summarizes similar data for many more questions. Perhaps this information will provide useful conversation at a holiday party you might attend.

<http://cfprod01.imt.uwm.edu/Dept/FLL/linguistics/dialect/index.html>



#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*The purpose of our organization is to encourage the use and appreciation of Statistics and its applications, and to facilitate interaction among all persons having an interest in or being concerned with the field of Statistics.*