

# Chapter Notes

## Newsletter of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Vol. 4, No. 1, October 2003

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

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### President's Message

Tim Keyes

Our Mission Statement says it all: "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 being concerned with the field of Statistics". The focus of our activities this year will be to "put our money where our mouth is" - with an emphasis on facilitating interaction among all persons. Those of you who attended the 1st Annual CT ASA Mini-Conference in May can attest to the diversity of backgrounds and interests that our group can muster. As a professional statistician for General Electric, I meet practitioners nearly everyday from our area - who are not members of our group. This year's our efforts will be geared focused on serving this broader need, by addressing the following:

1. Looking Inward - reaching out to new membership among underserved or un-served

"markets" - areas in which interest in statistics exists, but for which there's no outlet for sharing.

2. Communicating Outward - working with the National ASA and other regional professional societies (e.g., American Society for Quality) to tap into knowledge and resources we can exchange to help with attaining our goals.

3. Going Vertical-getting more continuing involvement from grade schools with programs that delve into statistics.

Everyone needs to pull together toward these goals to make them achievable. Please take a moment to look at our variety of program offerings in this newsletter (cf. Program Chair's Report), and GET INVOLVED: Help out at one of our events; Reach out to an acquaintance who might be interested in joining our group; Talk to your children's math/science/computer teacher(s) to determine their level of interest and need. The Chapter is economically viable (cf. our Treasurer's Report) and, as is implied by our Mission Statement, has obligation to create a high return on our "facilitation of interaction" using these funds. Let's make that happen together!

I truly look forward to a great year for the CT ASA and the statistics profession. Please drop me a note (Tim.Keyes@GE.com) with your comments, feedback, and most importantly, your

commitment in the form of direct support. Best  
Regards, **Tim**

## **Chapter Representative Report** **Patricia English**

As your Chapter Representative to the ASA, I attended the Council of Chapters meetings at the JSM in San Francisco, August 1-6, 2003. This year's emphasis was on hosting a Career Day, and there is funding available for chapters who are hosting for the first or second time. There were several presentations from small chapters on their first career day. The most impressive of these was from the Hawaii chapter, which is spread across the Hawaiian Islands; they hosted their first career day this past year. The Connecticut Chapter has hosted several career days over the past few years; so we can't request funds for any further Career Day events.

Newsletters were the other topic, which was discussed in length. Many chapters do not have a newsletter, and of those, many are still not distributed electronically. Our newsletter was copied and handed out as an example of a readable newsletter for chapters to emulate. One interesting point was that a few chapters produce small newsletters regularly (and electronically); they may be only a page or two in length, and only have information on the next seminar and one or two articles from the chapter.

Please note that you can update your demographic information at the asa website. Go to

<https://www.amstat.org/membersonly/default.asp>

If you have forgotten your password, please follow the directions on the page.

If you have any questions or concerns about the chapter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [patricia\\_english@groton.pfizer.com](mailto:patricia_english@groton.pfizer.com).

*The board members of the CT Chapter of ASA  
extend best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday  
season and New Year.*

**Treasurer's Report**  
**Mingxiu Hu**

From July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, our total income was \$1424.21 and total expense was \$1286.75 with cash balance of \$3047.42 at the end of the period. The key resource of income was from Membership Dues while the main expenses were on Awards and Mini-Conference. Most of the mini-conference expenses have been included in this report, but no income from the conference registration fees has been accounted for year's report. Currently we have 182 members.

## **Statement of Cash Position for Connecticut Chapter of the ASA** **(July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003)**

Beginning cash balance (as of **July 1, 2002**)  
**\$2909.96**

Income (revenue, receipts)  
1. Dues \$1413.00  
2. Interest \$ 11.21  
**Total Income \$1424.21**

Expenses  
1. Awards \$ 725.00  
2. Last years' awards collected this year \$ 56.25  
3. Mini-conference expense (partial) \$ 345.50  
4. Honorarium \$ 100.00  
5. Web domain renewal fee \$ 35.00  
6. Bank fee \$ 25.00  
**Total Expenses \$1286.75**

Ending cash balance (as of **June 30, 2003**)  
**\$3047.42**



**The Year In Review**  
**Sterling Hardy**

The Connecticut Chapter held two first time events this past year. In May the First Annual Connecticut ASA Statistics Mini-Conference was held at the UConn EdgeLab in Stamford. The theme was, "What's New / What's Next? 21<sup>st</sup> Century Statistics." The keynote address was given by Dr. David Salzburg, who gave his insights on the theme and also discussed ways in which we can keep abreast of developments in the industry. Ten additional presenters gave talks on a variety of topics. Thirty-one people attended. Special thanks go to Tim Keyes, who did the lion's share of organization and worked hard to make this first conference a great success.

The other first time event in the chapter was the Honor a Statistician award, given to a statistician who has made significant contributions to statistics and its applications and has been involved in chapter activities. The first ever recipient of the award was Naitee Ting. Naitee has been active in the chapter as an officer and has authored numerous journal articles and made other contributions to the profession while working as a Biostatistician at Pfizer in Groton. Naitee received the award at banquet held in his honor in July. Prior to the banquet, he presented a talk called, "Design of Dose Response Clinical Trials." The Honor a Statistician award was the brainchild of Fred Djang, who served with Tim Keyes and Sterling Hardy on the selection committee.

The chapter co-sponsored four talks in the last year. In November, Nell Sedransk presented "In the Intersection of Metrology and Statistics" at UConn. Also in November, Robb Muirhead and Eve Pickering presented "Applications of Multivariate Reference Regions to Clinical Laboratory Data" at Pfizer. In January, Heping Zhang of Yale gave a talk called, "Trees and Forests: Methods and Applications." In March Uwe Koehn gave a talk at the Hartford ASQ meeting called, "Reliability Analysis, Weibull vs. LogNormal By the Pictures."

For the second year in a row a Colloquium for AP Statistics Teachers was co-sponsored by the Chapter and by Bristol-Myers Squibb. The

colloquium was organized by Fred Djang. In addition to being an active member of the chapter, Fred has been working on furthering the development and teaching of AP Statistics on the state and national level. Presenters at last year's colloquium were Seth Thompson, Anne Cross, Uwe Koehn, Marianne Messina, Neal Thomas, Tai-Tsang Chen, Mike Brown, Dave Stock, Michelle Capozzoli, Debjit Biswas, Aparna Anderson, and Peggy Weaver, who is an AP statistics teacher at Norwich Free Academy.

For the seventh year in a row the Chapter has sponsored the Connecticut Statistical Poster Competition, which is discussed in an accompanying article.

The past year was a great success for the chapter thanks to the work of many volunteers. I'd like to thank our President (now Past President), Bill Pan, for his constant encouragement and involvement in the activities and Tim Keyes, who, as Vice President, led the organizing committee. I'd also like to thank Marianne Messina, our former Past President, who has given many years of service to the chapter and spearheaded many fine activities.

An election for new chapter officers was held in June with the following results: Tim Keyes was elected President, Sterling Hardy was elected Vice President, Marilyn Lender was elected Secretary, and Mingxiu Hu was re-elected Treasurer. Patricia English assumed the position of Chapter Representative from Fred Djang at the start of 2003. Alexia Iasonos has agreed to serve as Chair of the Education Committee. Sonali Das continues to be the Webmaster.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead, including a 2<sup>nd</sup> annual mini-conference and a second Honor a Statistician award winner. We have already had a presentation by George Tiao called, "The SAR Procedure: A Diagnostic Analysis of Heterogeneous Data" and a Short Course on Reliability by Bill Meeker, both of which took place in September. In addition, the third Colloquium for AP Statistics Teachers was held in October.

We are always looking for volunteers to help out with chapter activities. If you would like to help, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Sterling.Hardy@bms.com](mailto:Sterling.Hardy@bms.com).

## **2004 Statistical Poster Competition – Call for Volunteers**

### **Alexia Iasonos**

The poster competition is perhaps the greatest program we have to reach out to our local communities, promote quantitative literacy, and make a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of school children. Posters from Connecticut are judged locally, then forwarded to a similar poster competition which is sponsored by the national organization. The competition will be held in March 2004, with an awards ceremony in April. I would encourage those of you who have school-age children to contact their math teacher, tell them about the contest, and offer to help them enter!

We are looking for volunteers to help teachers and to judge the posters. Helping teachers involves calling them up, answering their questions, and coaching them through the competition. Don't worry; we'll tell you everything you need to know so that you can help the teacher. The poster judging in March is a wonderful opportunity to get involved, interact with some of your peers, and see what the poster competition is all about.

Please contact me ([alexia.iasonos@bms.com](mailto:alexia.iasonos@bms.com), ph. (203) 677-7230) if you would be interested in either helping a teacher or judging the posters. Thanks!!!

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### **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.*

## **2003 Statistical Poster Competition Results**

### **Sterling Hardy**

For the past seven years the chapter has been sponsoring a statistical poster competition for students in grades K-12. This year, 280 posters were submitted by 40 teachers and parents.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Teachers</u>	<u>Posters</u>
K-3	10	17
4-6	18	147
7-9	6	57
10-12	6	59

The judges selected 18 winners. You can view the winning posters on our web site, [www.amstat.org/chapters/connecticut/index.html](http://www.amstat.org/chapters/connecticut/index.html).

At an awards ceremony held at Bristol-Myers Squibb in April winners received cash prizes and certificates.

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.

I'd like to thank all those who came out on a Saturday morning to do the judging. Without your help the competition wouldn't be possible. This year's judges were: Ping-Chung Chang, Patricia English, Nora Fagan, Rainer Goldner, Jian Han, Alexia Iasonos, Mike Jiroutek, Gary Johnson, Toshio Kimura, Jim Love, Sabrina Marler, Daniel Meissner, Marianne Messina, Dietmar Nuebacher, Linda Reich, Larry Schwartz, Alexander Seemer. In addition, many people helped by working with teachers and picking up posters, including Barbara Conetta, Linda Rollin, and Joanna Yang. I'm sorry if I missed anyone, but I sincerely appreciate all your efforts. Special thanks goes to Sabrina Marler, who coordinated our efforts to assist the teachers. I'd also like to thank our corporate sponsor, Bristol-Myers Squibb.

## 2003 CONNECTICUT STATISTICAL POSTER COMPETITION WINNERS

### Grades K-3

Place	Title	Students	Advisor	School
1st (tie)	Students In Our School and Their Favorite Lunch	Bhaswati Chattopadhyay	Raquel Castro, Herminio Planas	Elias Howe Bridgeport
1st (tie)	Favorite Holidays	Sumaali Chheda	Nancy Titchen	Goodwin Elementary Storrs
2nd	Comparing Students' and Parents' Heights	Grade 3, Room 209	Vicki Hiestand	Waltersville Bridgeport
3rd	What Color Did You Have Most Of In Your Bag Of Skittles?	Kindergarten Class	Anne Emerson Herminio Planas	Elias Howe Bridgeport
Honorable Mention	How Many Hours of Sleep Do First Graders Get Every Night?	Grade 1, Rooms 204 and 205	Lucy Malavé	Elias Howe Bridgeport

### Grades 4-6

Place	Title	Students	Advisor	School
1st	Does Bad Attendance And Missing Homework Affect Grades?	Erin Breaker Katie Hobson	Jason Malli	Baldwin Middle Guilford
<b>ERIN AND KATIE WON HONORABLE MENTION IN THE NATIONAL COMPETITION.</b>				
2nd	Feeling Flushed	Kelsey Nickerson	Patricia Smith	East Lyme Middle
3rd	Facial Expression Levels (From 0-20) Of Students In Our Academic Classes	Stephen Keating Jake Wakefield	Jason Malli	Baldwin Middle Guilford
Honorable Mention	Are Non-Native Invasive Plants Taking Over Connecticut?	Jessie Mehrhoff	Dorothy Drobney	Hall Memorial Willington

### Grades 7-9

Place	Title	Students	Advisor	School
1st	Many Shapes, Many Sizes	Nida Intarapanich	Peter Intarapanich	Hamden High
2nd (tie)	Is The Drug Abuse Of American Students Getting Worse?	Karim Dib-Hajj Steven Xu	Patricia Smith	East Lyme Middle
2nd (tie)	How Much Does Your Backpack Weigh?	Alexandra Whipple Taylor Rosendale	Patricia Smith	East Lyme Middle
<b>ALEXANDRA AND TAYLOR WON THIRD PLACE IN THE NATIONAL COMPETITION.</b>				
Place	Does The Excess Oil Content In McDonald's French Fries Vary During A Day?	Ben Hnat-Blain John Ferenz	Dolores Kelsey	Broadview Middle Danbury
Honorable Mention	7th Grade Relationships	Paige Groski Cheryl Garland Lynne Espositi	Dolores Kelsey	Broadview Middle Danbury

### Grades 10-12

Place	Title	Students	Advisor	School
1st	There Is A Correlation Between Gasoline & Stock Prices, Fact or Fiction?	Jennifer Williams Kacie Freer	Paul Reynods	Mark T. Sheehan High Wallingford
2nd	Necco Wafer Distribution	Geon Yoo Michael Hubbard	Paul Reynolds	Mark T. Sheehan High Wallingford
3rd	The Effect Of A Drug Is Dependent On The Drug Type	Sara Rossi	Bill Walsh	Staples High School Westport
Honorable Mention	Battle Of Sexes: Who Has A Better Memory?	Rachel Fritz Amanda Finn	Paul Reynods	Mark T. Sheehan High Wallingford