

# ASAP Newsletter



**The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association**

**September 2010**

<http://www.amstatphilly.org/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
10/1	ASQ / PSU Great Valley Engineering Statistical Symposium
10/20	World Statistics Day

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This is my first column since being elected as President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association for July, 2010 to June, 2011. Congratulations to my fellow officers Alexandra Hanlon (VP), Mac Turner (Secretary) and David Radley (Treasurer)! We appreciate your support and would urge you to volunteer in some way for chapter activities.

I would like to outline some of the ways that we hope to add value to your chapter membership. First, of course, is our annual schedule of meetings. We just completed our first late summer meeting with an interesting and valuable half day seminar on the use of R through Excel as presented by Dr. Richard Heiberger of Temple University. Rich gave a well-received hands-on presentation to over 40 members in Ft. Washington. We hope to secure a speaker from the Census Bureau to talk about issues in the 2010 Census for the mid-winter gathering which will be held on Boathouse Row in Philadelphia. Please keep an eye out for this announcement as this is our signature meeting of the year! Speakers are already being lined up for next year. We hope to continue our success in obtaining the ASA Traveling Speaker in 2011 as this has proven to be a popular series with a nationally renowned researcher presenting on a timely topic.

One of the most important initiatives of the year will be to upgrade our chapter web site to be the "go-to" site for all things statistical in Philadelphia. This should include links to all academic and industry institutions which employ statisticians in the Philadelphia area. We will be reaching out to you over the next three months. As an adjunct to this virtual networking, I'm also hoping to have a more social type gathering for face-to-face networking of statisticians in the Philadelphia area in addition to the meetings noted above. We will be polling the membership about the interest and format of this event shortly. Finally, don't forget to celebrate the United Nations World Statistics Day (10/20/10)!

Charlie Liss

Rich Heiberger and chapter members at seminar on R through Excel (photo courtesy of Ed Gracely).



## ELECTION RESULTS

The results for the election of officers of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Charlie Liss

VICE-PRESIDENT: Alex Hanlon

SECRETARY: R. Mac Turner

TREASURER: David Radley.

In addition, Dennis Cosmatos has been appointed as Chapter Representative to the ASA Council of Chapters.

Thanks to Ruifeng Xu for volunteering to be our webmaster!

We are looking for someone to take the lead on Educational Outreach. If you are interested, please contact one of the officers.

We invite you to contact your chapter officers to suggest educational programs and other activities you would like the chapter to produce during the coming year. Active participation by all members is highly encouraged.

## WORLD STATISTICS DAY – October 20<sup>th</sup>

The United Nations has declared October 20 (10/20/2010) World Statistics Day (WSD) to celebrate the many social and economic benefits from the global statistical system at national and international levels, and to help strengthen the awareness and trust of the public in government statistics.

The ASA Council of Chapters Governing Board (COCGB) encourages chapters and members to plan activities in celebration of World Statistics Day. ASA communications will also be making a WSD poster in association with other organizations that will be available to download from at the ASA website.

The ASA's Statistical Significance (StatSig) pieces help to document the many important contributions statisticians have made in such areas as health care & policy, energy, business, national security and the environment:

<http://www.amstat.org/outreach/statsig.cfm>.

Watch the ASA homepage for news about the association's World Statistics Day activities (which will be held throughout that week).

# National Quality Month Statistical Symposium

## Enlarging the Role of Statistics in Quality

Friday, October 1

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Conference Center Building at Penn State Great Valley

<http://www.sgps.psu.edu/asq-symposium/default.ashx>

The cost of this event is \$35, which includes a continental breakfast and box lunch. To register, contact Ursula Thompson at 610-648-3335 or [umt1@psu.edu](mailto:umt1@psu.edu). Deadline to register is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

In celebration of National Quality Month, the Philadelphia Section of ASQ and the Engineering Division of Penn State Great Valley will once again sponsor a **symposium on statistical methods useful to quality practitioners**. The theme is **“Enlarging the Role of Statistics in Quality.”** The goal is to give attendees some useful facts and tools that can translate readily into practice.



### Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker, **Ron Snee, Principal, Ron Snee and Associates LLC, will present “Statistical Engineering - A Catalyst for Continuous Improvement.”** Snee will address how to deploy continual improvement so that it becomes part of how an organization runs its business.

The keynote address will be followed by two parallel sessions.

### Session 1 - Quality Fundamentals

**“An Anatomy of the Failure Rate: A Mathematical Dissection”** presented by **Dr. Nozer Singpurwalla, Professor of Statistics at George Washington University,** and **“RExcel for Quality Control”** presented by **Dr. Richard M. Heiberger, Professor, Department of Statistics, Temple University.**

### Session 2 - Monitoring Processes

**“SPC for Services: Timeliness and Correctness Monitoring”** presented by **Dr. Russell Barton, Professor, Department of Supply Chain and Information Systems, The Smeal College of Business, Penn State University,** and **“Monitoring of Production Batch Processes Utilizing Multivariate and Target-based Methods”** presented by **Dale Kopas, Principal, American Quality Associates, Inc.**

## Statistical Literacy Grassroots Campaign

The ASA has a new endeavor: the Statistical Literacy Grassroots Campaign. A member of Congress plans to introduce soon a bill to promote statistics education at the K-12 level through support of professional development and other programs to improve statistics education. This is a tremendous opportunity for ASA chapters and their members to share their enthusiasm for statistics and statistical literacy with their Congressional Representatives. It is also a terrific opportunity to educate members of Congress about what statisticians do and the many important contributions statisticians make to society (in areas such as the economy, health care, national security, and the environment).

This commitment will require your chapter to identify one or more members who are willing and able to meet with members of Congress who represent your chapter area and urge them to cosponsor this bill. ASA staff will provide you with all the support that you will need, including how to request meetings, how to conduct an effective meeting, how to make a compelling case for statistics education, and the broader context for the ASA statistical literacy grassroots campaign. ASA will also provide you with a packet to leave behind in the office of your U.S. Representative. For more information and to sign up, go to <http://www.amstat.org/outreach/statliteracy>.

COGGB sees this as an important effort to support and also as a great activity for ASA chapters. By being involved in this initiative, we can simultaneously raise the profile of statistics in the House of Representative and engage our chapter's members.

Our chapter and the Boston, Colorado/Wyoming, Hawaii, New Jersey, and the San Francisco Bay area chapters were the first chapters to sign up to participate in this initiative. Dennis Cosmatos is our chapter lead on this initiative. Please contact him if you are interested in participating.

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