

ASAP Newsletter



The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association

December 2007

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear chapter members:

As 2008 is upon us, I ask each and every one of you to donate your statistical-related expertise in some capacity. All it will cost you is your time, which I know is certainly very valuable and scarce. But the benefit will be greatly appreciated by the recipient organization, and you can feel good about representing your profession and work affiliation.

What are some examples of donation opportunities? The annual Delaware Valley Science Fair (<http://dvsf.org>) needs judges for data-analytic aspects of projects. Our chapter has supported this for many years. Judging day for the upcoming edition is Wednesday, April 2. Please mark your calendar and register as a judge at <http://www.drexel.edu/dvsf/judging.htm>. Denote that you are a "special awards" judge with ASA Philadelphia. If you would like to learn more about the experience, contact me or Vice President Dennis Cosmatos or Outreach Coordinator Cindy Gargano.

The Pennsylvania Area Statistics Teachers Association (PASTA) meets 2 - 3 times a year at a secondary school in the area to exchange ideas on the communication of statistics to students and educators. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7th, 2008 at Marple-Newtown High School, likely from 4 - 6 PM. Stay tuned for an email on details.

We have 400 members in this chapter. But please do not be tempted to think that enough of other members will fill the types of service needs I mentioned above. At the 2007 Delaware Valley Science Fair, for example, 7 ASA Philadelphia members served as judges to cover 600 projects. That is a 2% participation rate that surely we should improve on.

Check our re-designed website, or this newsletter for upcoming events. I hope to see you at these events. Of course, help in organizing such events is always welcome, so please consider that as a potential service contribution as well.

Thank you for your time, and best wishes for a happy holiday season and new year to you and your family. Do not hesitate to contact me or the officers at any time if you have any questions.

Bill Pikounis
President, Philadelphia Chapter of the American Statistical Association

president@amstatphilly.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, January 18	Special 2008 Wintertime Seminar
Friday, January 25	ASAP Mid-Winter Gathering
Wednesday, April 2	Delaware Valley Science Fair (http://dvsf.org)

ASAP MID-WINTER GATHERING **Friday, January 25, 2008 – The Sedgeley Club (Boathouse Row)**

Tickets to the event are \$35 for individual, \$50 for couples, and \$20 for students. Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dessert, wine and beer are all included in the ticket. Beverage hour starts at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM, and Tony's presentation will commence at approximately 8 PM.

[FULL DETAILS AND REGISTRATION](#)

Communicating and Developing Professionals

Tony Lachenbruch
Oregon State University
Peter.Lachenbruch@oregonstate.edu

Abstract

Statisticians must communicate with a broad public. They may be clients, other statisticians, the courts and the public (often through the media). The Communications may be oral, written, and sometimes visual. In the first part of the talk I discuss some aspects of these communications. This is related to professionalism in Statistics. In the second part of the talk I discuss some considerations of being a professional statistician. These include relating to clients, what to charge, time management, etc.

Biosketch

Peter Anthony Lachenbruch
Professor Faculty
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

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Tony is the incoming national ASA president. Prior to his faculty appointment at OSU, Tony was chief at the CBER Biostatistics division of FDA, and held chairman and faculty appointments at Iowa, UCLA, and UNC.

See <http://www.hhs.oregonstate.edu/faculty-staff/userinfo.php?id=572> for his profile of professional excellence.

SPECIAL 2008 WINTER SEMINAR

Friday, January 18, 2008 – Centacor Conference Center, Horsham, Pennsylvania

Please watch for an email and website updates for registration and location details. The event will be free and we hope also to provide remote access of the presentation in a webinar format.

A Semi-Theoretician's Mid-Day Confession: The True Meaning of i.i.d. in (Applied) Statistics

Xiao-Li Meng
Harvard University
meng@stat.harvard.edu

Abstract

Doing good (applied) statistics is inherently – and increasingly – difficult. The size of the data and the complexity of their structure are increasing, as are the depth and specificity of the investigation goals. Yet the available time for conducting the study is decreasing due to intensive competition, especially for funding. Statistical consultants are therefore increasingly asked to perform magic, such as providing scientifically valid causal conclusions for a deeply stratified subgroup based on a handful of weighted samples with wildly varying weights. And by the way, the analysis must be done in one week and the methods must be implementable by (and explainable to) analysts whose statistical experience might come largely from reading output from SAS/SPSS/Stata.

This is not a cynical observation, but rather a real challenge that we as statisticians must face in order for our profession to remain at the core of quantitative scientific investigation. Of course with every grand challenge comes a great opportunity! In this talk, I will report my own experiences both crying and smiling as a member of a team of statistical consultants for the National Latino and Asian American Study (NLAAS), a very recent survey of psychiatric epidemiology, which measured over 5000 variables and embedded experiments on different survey instruments. I will report on the success and failure of using Bayesian modeling and multiple imputation to deal with the respondents' untruthful self-reporting, as detected by the embedded experiments. If time permits, I will also show how the ambiguity in the Institute of Medicine's definition of "healthcare disparity" led to the concepts of conditional disparity and marginal disparity, which correspond to two extreme causal models. Yet the theory needed for the more realistic concept of joint disparity is still far from reach. The true meaning of i.i.d. will become clear only by the end of my talk; unless, of course, you have already deciphered it from this abstract....

Biosketch

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See <http://www.hno.harvard.edu/gazette/2002/04.25/03-meng.html> and
http://www.stat.harvard.edu/faculty_page.php?page=meng.html for information about
Professor Meng, who is also a candidate for national ASA President in the upcoming
2008 elections.

ADVERTISEMENTS



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EPIBIOSinfo@drexel.edu
215-762-7623

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE FORWARDED (06/08/07)

\$2121.66

INCOME:

ASA Chapter Dues

May, 07	\$205.00
June/July, 07	\$494.00
August, 07	\$176.00
September, 07	\$222.00

Subtotal \$1097.00

Other Revenue Sources

Summer Short Course Registration Fees	\$3,740.00
Corporate Suppor: Centacor	\$500.00
Fee Rebates	\$24.00
Google/Paypal verify deposits	\$0.58

Subtotal \$4264.58

TOTAL INCOME:

\$5361.58

EXPENSES:

Summer Course

ACE Conference Center	\$2100.10
Insufficient Fund Fee (summer registration)	\$10.00
Speaker Honorarium	\$500.00

Subtotal \$2610.10

Other Expenses

1 DVSF Prize	\$250.00
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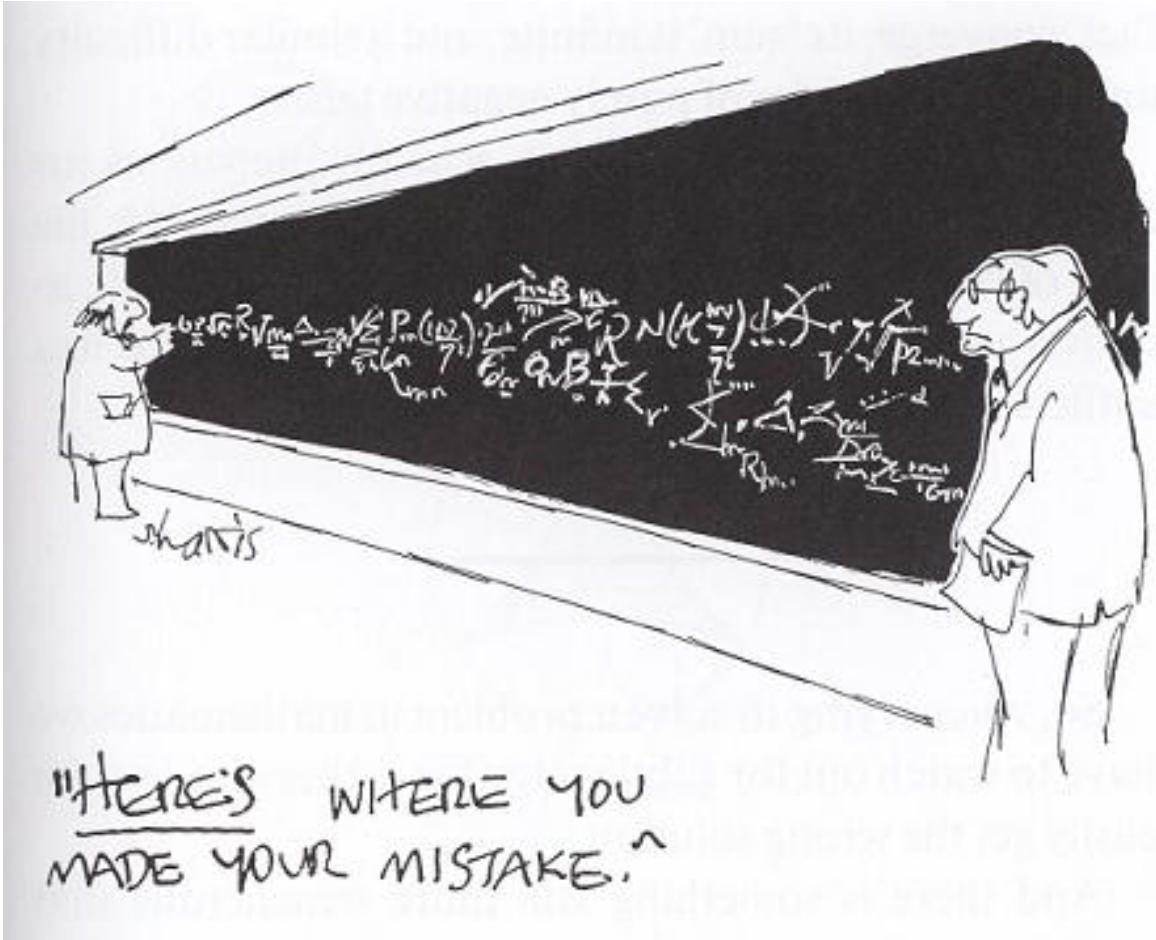
Subtotal \$250.00

TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$2860.10

BALANCE FORWARDED (12/17/07)

\$4623.14



<http://www.angelfire.com/nj4/mrmchale7/cartoonsjokesquotes.html>

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