

**PASTA**  
*Philadelphia Area Statistics Teachers Association (informal  
“Meet the statisticians” brainstorming session)*

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Gargano ([cynthia\\_gargano@merck.com](mailto:cynthia_gargano@merck.com),  
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Where: Germantown Academy  
340 Morris Road  
Fort Washington, PA 19034

When: Wednesday, November 15, 2006  
4 – 6 PM

### Agenda

- 1) Introduction and opening Q&A—Can people think of anything that is needed? Are there any questions people would like to ask before we move into the agenda?
- 2) What the American Statistical Association (ASA) can offer—What is ASA? American Statistical Association. What is ASAP? Philadelphia Chapter of the ASA.

various ASA publications—

- Amstat News—monthly newsletter of the American Statistical Association. Aimed more at graduate level statistics students, but a good tool to show students “careers in statistics”, or to inform you of statistics workshops, etc. Copies are available here tonight.
- STATs—quarterly magazine for students of statistics. Aimed at AP statistics students or “STAT 101” undergraduate students. This magazine has a lot of good articles—case studies, examples, applied statistics problems, etc. I have one copy—let me know if you would like one.
- STN Newsletter—“Statistics Teacher Network”, sponsored by the ASA and NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics). This quarterly magazine is aimed at teachers, and covers classroom activities that are either intended for a variety of levels or can be adjusted to all levels. Copies are here tonight.

- CHANCE Magazine—Applied Statistics Publication of the ASA. More of an industry and university targeted publication, but some of the articles could make interesting classroom topics.

#### poster competition—

From the ASA information sheet : “A statistical poster is a display containing two or more related graphics that summarize a set of data, that look at the data from different points of view, and that answer specific questions about the data.” There are levels of competition for K-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Typically, posters must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### project competition—

From the ASA information sheet : “A statistical project is an extremely powerful teaching tool that integrates numerous concepts and skills presented in the classroom. “ The information sheet gives some basic guidelines for developing a statistical project. There are levels of competition for 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Typically, projects must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### website—

[www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org), [www.amstat.org/education](http://www.amstat.org/education), [www.amstatphilly.org](http://www.amstatphilly.org) . The ASA website contains a wealth of information, a lot of which we are going over tonight. Handouts cover a subset of the educational material on the ASA website. Amstatphilly.org is the website for the Philadelphia chapter of the ASA; here you can find contact information for the chapter officers, a link to our newsletter, and upcoming local events.

#### school membership—

A K-12 school membership is \$50/year and is available to elementary, middle, and secondary schools; membership includes subscriptions to *Amstat News*, the *Statistics Teacher Network* newsletter, *CHANCE*, and *STATS*. Membership is based on the academic year ( Sep 1<sup>st</sup> – Aug 31<sup>st</sup> ).

### 3) What the ASA Philadelphia chapter can offer—

formal career day grants , locally organized career days—

From the ASA “A Career Day is an opportunity for Chapters of the ASA and other local organizations to introduce and encourage statistics as a viable career choice.....Activities may include workshops, job and internship opportunities, information sessions, and networking events.” “Formal” vs. “local” is addressed because there are a few ways to organize a career day. Funding and procedures may go through the national organization (ASA), or the local chapter (without financial assistance from the ASA parent organization).

adopt-a-school—

From the ASA website—“The purpose of the Adopt-a-School program is to enable professional statisticians to help schools in their efforts to include statistics in the curriculum....With this program statisticians make contact with teachers and administrators to arrange visits to the classroom. The key to the success of this program is the statistician’s close work with the classroom teacher.” This may be a chapter (ASAP) or individual level effort, and can be tailored to the individual school’s or teacher’s needs. It can involve one activity, or a series of activities.

teacher workshops—

A couple of examples of teacher workshops include –

- a seminar in experimental design
- a seminar/course to discuss the proper use of statistics in science projects
- a course to assist AP statistics teachers

The ASA website lists 6 different teacher workshop programs for teachers that the ASA organization is involved with –

- Elementary Quantitative Literacy (EQL)
- Middle School Quantitative Literacy (MSQL)
- High School Quantitative Literacy (HSQL)
- AP Statistics
- Beyond AP Statistics
- Science Education and Quantitative Literacy (SEAQL)

A teacher workshop could take place on a Saturday, after school, or during the summer. Length is flexible. There are many options.

- 4) What local individual statisticians can offer--classroom appearances to discuss : careers opportunities, statistics in the sciences and/or science projects, how math/stat is used in the real world, etc., "middleman" between ASA and local area teachers, one-to-one teacher to statistician communication to answer questions or assist in any way needed
- 5) Teachers' needs (interactive)
- 6) Q & A
- 7) Closing

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