

# STATCOM Network Newsletter

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## STATCOM Network

We have been very busy this fall keeping in touch with STATCOM Network members, and establishing new ties with up-and-coming STATCOMs! We were very excited to have the opportunity to speak at a luncheon for the Chicago Chapter of the ASA in November to discuss their current efforts to establish a STATCOM.

In addition, votes regarding the issues brought up during the STATCOM Network Business Meeting at



Attendees of the STATCOM Network Business Meeting at JSM 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah

JSM 2007 were tallied, and results were emailed to all members. Be sure to note the dates of JSM 2008 on your calendar (August 3-7 in Denver). We will once again be hosting a STAT-

COM Network Business Meeting, and we hope to see you all there!

—Andrea Rau  
STATCOM Network coordinator  
statcom-outreach@stat.purdue.edu

## STATCOM at Purdue University

STATCOM at Purdue University was involved in four projects during Fall 2007. We have been working on one of these projects since Fall 2005. This client, a charter school in Chicago, wanted us to assess the performance of their students in comparison to Illinois state standards. Two of our new projects involved designing surveys to evaluate client satisfaction of their services. Our fourth client wanted assis-

tance in analyzing employee turnover rates over a period of five years.

At the beginning of Fall 2007, STATCOM at Purdue University had a huge turnout of student volunteers. As a result, we actively pursued seeking potential clients and projects by calling local organizations, such as Legal Aid, United Way, Big Brothers, Habitat for Humanity, and local libraries. This led to

the establishment of a publicity committee that is currently contacting potential clients as well as developing a client database for future use.

Andrea Rau, STATCOM Outreach Coordinator, has been heavily involved with establishing and maintaining contact with other STATCOMs.

—Shraddha Mehta and Alex Lipka  
statcom@stat.purdue.edu

### Special points of interest:

- Welcome to the first semi-annual issue of the STATCOM Network Newsletter!
- We are very happy to welcome the newest member of the STATCOM network — STATCOM at Iowa State!
- STATCOM at Chicago is well on the way to becoming a reality.

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## STATCOM at Iowa State University

“Working with a group brings many view points and ideas to the table and has enabled spreading duties to work efficiently.”

First, we'd like to thank Purdue for sharing information to guide us in getting STATCOM started. We began organizing STATCOM at Iowa State this fall and have found Purdue's documentation very helpful. We have modified their structure to develop one that suits our students by starting with two directors and an executive committee of five graduate students. Working with a group brings many view points and ideas to the table and has enabled spreading duties to work efficiently. In addition to developing our structure and determining how we'll set up teams and

contact clients, our group is working on creating an external website, for clients and anyone interested in STATCOM, and an internal website, to provide STATCOM members with access to our rosters of faculty advisors, team leaders, and team members, possibly with links to our department's server for stored project files and data.

In our efforts to identify clients, we have received information from faculty members and identified the Volunteer Center of Story County (VCSC) as a local organization that could con-

nect us with organizations that might be able to use statistical consulting.

Through VCSC, we have scheduled a presentation at the monthly meeting of the Human Services Council for January 2008. As a nice surprise, VCSC has also become our first client; we have provided statistical consulting to VCSC by designing a survey that has been distributed using Survey Monkey. The results have been collected and are currently being summarized by the team on the job!

—Jennifer Hockett  
statcom@iastate.edu

## STATCOM at Ohio State University

STATCOM at Ohio State is going through a period of transition. Jeff Pan and Chris Sroka, the founders, are graduating this year. We have been reaching out to graduate students who are in the early years of the program in the hope that they can take over operations. Our department leadership has been very supportive and has encouraged graduate students to get in-

involved with STATCOM.

In September we completed a project with a local cancer support group. A marketing expert volunteered to conduct an online survey for the group. The survey asked Columbus residents how familiar they were with the services provided by the support group. The expert then came to STATCOM for help analyzing the data

and creating summary tables.

We have not had any new clients since our work with the cancer support group. The organizations needing statistical help have all had the resources to utilize the fee-based consulting service operated by the Statistics Department.

—Chris Sroka  
csroka@stat.osu.edu



## STATCOM at the University of Michigan

Hello fellow STATCOMers! Here at the University of Michigan things have been rather quiet this semester. We've just started a new project and are anxiously awaiting to get our hands on the data. A slight problem

our group has been struggling through is the lack of clients, and although we've been able to contact a few organizations through our School of Public Health liaison, lack of data, resources, and internal organi-

zation on behalf of the clients left us hanging on multiple occasions. So anything you could recommend on client recruitment/retention would be appreciated.

—Maria Larkin and  
Michael Elliott (faculty advisor)  
statcom-um@umich.edu



## STATCOM at Chicago

Chicago will soon join the STATCOM network! The Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association is bringing together the city's many universities and members of the professional statistical community to form a collaborative STATCOM-Chicago. Students and faculty at DePaul and Loyola Universities are already on board. The group hopes to begin taking clients in autumn 2008.

Chicago's city-wide STATCOM will see several adaptations to the traditional model. For example, added to the organizational structure is a group of student representatives from each university who will coordinate participation at each

school. Ideally, project teams will be composed of members from various universities so students have a chance to network with and get to know others from different backgrounds and programs. One of the participating universities will be the organization's official home base, though individual team and larger group meetings might take place at any location, likely on a rotating schedule to accommodate everyone.

Faculty and industry professionals will play a slightly bigger role in STATCOM-Chicago than in other STATCOMS, especially in the beginning, to help provide cohesion, achieve renown, and lay out organizational and

legal framework. They might serve as advisors to projects, provide client referrals, and give quarterly seminars for STATCOM members on topics like survey design to help students acquire knowledge and skills necessary for projects they might encounter.

As STATCOM-Chicago grows, future additional activities might include undergraduate outreach, specifically targeting City Colleges of Chicago, and P-12 outreach, especially within Chicago Public Schools. Questions regarding the STATCOM-Chicago effort may be directed to Meredith Wascher.

—Meredith Wascher  
mwascher@depaul.edu

“The Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association is bringing together the ... statistical community to form a collaborative STATCOM-Chicago.”

“We hope to have an even greater effect in the community by working with more groups in the new year.”

## STATCOM at the University of Illinois

STATCOM at the University of Illinois experienced a strong surge of support and enthusiasm from our campus as we began our first full semester on campus this fall. The Department of Statistics has graciously provided basic office, software, and financial resources. Our application as a registered student organization was also approved granting us additional perks and exposure. However, we have still only had two clients two

date, leaving our members with little to work on. We have made several attempts to make ourselves known to the larger community, but have received few inquiries or viable projects. Yet, the two projects currently in our care have yielded a positive experience for us and, we believe, our clients. One involves survey construction and sampling for a nonprofit which aids those with physical and mental impairments in moving closer to inde-

pendent living. The other is an analysis of traffic accident data for the Illinois State Police to help them better utilize their resources. Both have been very fulfilling for consultants on those projects, and we hope to have an even greater effect in the community by working with more groups in the new year.

—David Unger  
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