

Beth Chance Wins the 2003 Mu Sigma Rho Statistics Education Award



Professor Beth Chance (left) of California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, and Mu Sigma Rho President Lori Thombs (U. Missouri).

Mu Sigma Rho, the National Honor Society for Statistics, presented its 4th Statistical Education Award to Professor Beth Chance of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco in August, 2003. This award recognizes excellence in undergraduate or graduate statistical education at the institutional, regional, or national level.

In only 9 years' time since receiving her PhD, Dr. Chance has established herself as a leader in the field of statistics education. Her teaching techniques challenge the students to go beyond the superficial and computational, to think about the meaning in statistics and data analysis. Her classroom strategy is a masterful mix of traditional and innovative learning techniques, including self-written JAVA applets and activity-based instruction. She has been outstanding in outreach, giving numerous invited presentations on elementary statistics instruction nationally, in seven foreign countries, and in more than 25 workshops and minicourses. She is co-author with Alan Rossman of the *Workshop Statistics* textbook series, and co-editor (also with Rossman) of *Stats*. She has also served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Statistics Education* and *JASA/TAS Book Reviews*, and authored or co-authored more than 30 articles on statistics

education. Currently a member of the AP Statistics Development Committee, the ASA/MAA Joint Committee on Undergraduate Statistics, and the Executive Committee of the ASA Section on Statistical Education, she received the ASA's Waller Education Award in 2002.

Mu Sigma Rho invites academic institutions to nominate their own outstanding teaching faculty for the 2004 Mu Sigma Rho Statistical Education Award. The recipient must have evidence of excellence in classroom teaching in the statistics discipline and must have a lifetime devotion to statistics education. Each academic institution is allowed one nomination per year; the nominating institution need not have an active Mu Sigma Rho chapter. The nomination should include a cover letter, the nominee's curriculum vitae, a summary of the nominee's teaching and educational activities, and at least three letters supporting the nomination. At least two of these letters should come from present or former students and at least one letter should come from a colleague of the nominee. The deadline for submission of nominations for the 2004 award is May 1, 2004. In the event that a nominee is not selected for the 2004 award, the nomination will remain active for three years after the initial submission, unless the institution chooses to put forward another nominee.

Nomination materials should be sent to:

W. Robert Stephenson
Dept. of Statistics
327 Snedecor Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-1210

The recipient of the award will be notified in July, 2004 and will be presented a plaque at the JSM in August 2004. If you have any questions regarding this award, please feel free to contact Bob Stephenson: wrstephe@iastate.edu.

Besides the Statistics Education Award, Mu Sigma Rho personnel organized and conducted the 2003 Stat Bowl competition at the JSM in San Francisco, as well as similar competitions at four JSM's in prior years. Statistics programs and ASA Chapters are encouraged to form Mu Sigma Rho chapters or affiliate chapters; procedures have been simplified. Excellent students can only gain $\mu\sigma\rho$ membership through a chapter or affiliate chapter.

For more information on Mu Sigma Rho, go to the webpage with a Google search on "Mu Sigma Rho".