

The MU SIGMA RHO Over

Volume 7 1989 Charleston, SC

Contacting The Officers

President

Dr. W. Robert Stephenson
327 Snedecor Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011

Vice President

Dr. William Warde
Department of Statistics
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74074

Past President

Dr. David White
375 Lauralin Drive
Logan, UT 84321

Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. John Wasik
Department of Statistics
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-8203

Directors-at-Large

Dr. David Dickey
Department of Statistics
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-8203

Dr. Klaus Hinkelmann
Department of Statistics and Stat. Lab
VPI & SU
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dr. Carol Lancaster
Office of Educational Services
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC 29425

Editor: Carol Lancaster

Editorial Board:

E. Mansfield	AL	P. Rust	SC Alpha
D. Boes	CO	L. Thombs	SC Beta
B. Stephenson	IA	L. Ringer	TX
G. Milliken	KS	D. Turner	UT Alpha
A. Katiyar	LA	L. Hendrix	UT Beta
C. McCulloch	NY	J. Birch	VA
D. Dickey	NC	G. Hobbs	WV
W. Warde	OK	L. McDonald	WY
M. Polansky	PA		

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTERS.....

Alabama Alpha Chapter - University of Alabama

The previous president, Tom Margavio, has been succeeded by Mark Wade. Mark received his undergraduate degree in statistics from the University of South Alabama and is nearing completion of the Ph.D.

The spring initiates were given a fall semester welcome at an October picnic. Fourteen new members qualified.

The chapter sponsored a seminar in November at which the video of the history of the ASA was shown.

Currently a group is working on a procedure for making the Annenberg tapes available to large numbers of students in the introductory courses.

Iowa Alpha Chapter - Iowa State University

[Editor's note: The following information was received from Bob Stephenson who is currently on sabbatical in Australia. Mail sent to him in Iowa will reach him eventually. You may also write to him (airmail is preferable) at the following address: Department of Statistics, University of Newcastle, New South Wales 2308, Australia. He can also be reached using electronic mail at STWRS@cc.nu.oz.au.]

Dr. J. Stuart Hunter, professor emeritus of the School of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University, presented the annual Mu Sigma Rho Lecture in April. His talk, "Statistics: The Science of Empiricism," traced the empirical activities of scientists from the earliest gatherings of measurements on the motions of the stars to today's research into mapping human genes. The theme of the talk was that the scientist uses the language and logic of the statistician in these empirical activities. A large and varied audience attended the talk.

Prior to the lecture by Dr. Hunter, 23 members were initiated into the Iowa Alpha Chapter at the annual banquet. The new members were eight undergraduates, 14 graduate students, and Dr. Hunter, who accepted an honorary membership.

Thirteen students received B.S. degrees in statistics or biometry during the period July 1, 1988 to June 30, 1989. Three students will continue their studies at Iowa State University, two in statistics and one in agronomy. Of the other graduates, most have found employment. Some of the companies hiring these graduates are : Northrup King Co., Stanton, MN; G. M. Proving Grounds, Milford, MI; A. C. Nielsen Co., Northbrook, IL; Rockwell/Collins Co., Cedar Rapids, IA; Pioneer Hi-bred Int., Johnston, IA; UNIMIN Corp, Oregon, IL; and Wilson Jones Co., Niles, IL. Starting salaries range from \$20K to \$32K.

During the same period 17 M.S. and nine Ph.D. degrees were awarded. Several of the M.S. students are continuing in the Ph.D. program. Those taking jobs found employment with: Intel Corp, Rio Rancho, NM; Boeing Military Airplane Co., Wichita, KS; Dow Chemical, Midland, MI; Stone & Webster Management Consultants, Inc., Englewood, CO; IBM Corp., Rochester, MN; Process Management Inst., Bloomington, MN; Rosemount Inc., Eden Prairie, MN; and Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH. Most of the new Ph.D.s took academic positions either in the United States or their home countries. Some of the institutions are Duke University, North Dakota State University, Kyun Kwan University, Kyung Sung University, and Universidad Federal de Minas Gerais. One student has taken a job as senior project engineer in the G. M. Chevrolet-Pontiac-Canada Group at the G. M. Technical Center in Warren, MI.

South Carolina Beta Chapter - University of South Carolina

The South Carolina Beta Chapter was formed in Spring, 1988 and has had two very active years. Dr. Donald G. Edwards is faculty advisor for the group. All members of Mu Sigma Rho also belong to the USC Statistics Club, so the two groups work together closely. Dr. Lori A. Thombs is Stat Club advisor.

The first event sponsored by the club was the USC Statistics Department Annual Spring Picnic, which was held in April 1988 at Sesquicentennial State Park. Mu Sigma Rho also sponsored an award for outstanding academic achievement. A fifty dollar check and certificate were presented to undergraduate statistics major Carla Padgett at the University awards ceremony in April.

In June 1989 Mu Sigma Rho members worked diligently on a poster describing the Department of Statistics at USC. The final product was a very interesting and attractive addition to the departmental poster display at the annual ASA meeting in Washington, D.C.

Officers for 1989-1990 are: Sneh Gulati, president; Yi Mei Zia, vice president; Carla Padgett, treasurer; and Peter Ingraham, secretary.

In October 1989 a pot luck supper for new and current members was hosted by Lori Thombs, who is the acting advisor while Don Edwards is on sabbatical at Cornell University.

Thanks are due to very thoughtful President Sneh Gulati who organized a fundraiser for Hurricane Hugo victims. A check for \$190 was presented to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army in October.

The chapter has 11 active members: seven graduate students and four undergraduates. Several recent graduates are working in industry. Kari Richardson (M.S.) accepted a position with SAS in Cary, NC and Shelley Skelton (M.S.) works for the NCR Corp. in Columbia, SC. Art Carter decided that he could bear the cold winds of New York and is working for Wyeth Hearst Pharmaceuticals. Hsui-Li Hsi (Ph.D.) and Minshin Yang (Ph.D.) are teaching statistics in Taiwan. B. G. Ramaswamy (M.S.) is pursuing a Ph.D. degree at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

North Carolina Alpha Chapter - N. C. State University

North Carolina State University held an initiation banquet on April 20, 1989 for three undergraduate initiates. Peter Bloomfield spoke on the "Rise and Fall of a TV Election Forecaster." The new members are Richard McKenzie, Jeffrey Morgan and Guy Taylor. Richard has obtained a B.S. in Statistics and is presently completing work for the B.S. in Industrial Engineering. Jeffrey is completing work on the B.S. in Statistics degree and has been selected as the outstanding statistics senior for 1990, which is an annual award given to recognize academic performance. Guy is currently also working on two B.S. degrees, one in Statistics and one in Computer Science.

Amanda Haas, North Carolina Alpha Chapter member and outstanding senior statistics student for 1989, was awarded an NSF fellowship to continue her study of statistics at the graduate level at North Carolina State University.

Utah Beta Chapter - Brigham Young University

Fourteen students were inducted into Mu Sigma Rho in 1988 at Brigham Young University. They are Stirling Adams, Alexandra Brandt, Corbin Coombs, Cherene Cox, Dawn Marie Grubbs, Kent Hendrix, Scott Horton, Mark Martin, Luiz Martindossantos, Mark McBride, Kyle Merrill, Allison Rigby, Jeffrey Veach, and Trevar Withers.

A hearty welcome to the new chapter in Utah!

August 4, 1989

Report on 1988 Annual Meeting
of MU SIGMA RHO

David White, President of Mu Sigma Rho, called the 1988 annual meeting of Mu Sigma Rho which was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, to order at 7:30 AM. New members of the executive board were presented. These included W. Robert Stephenson (IA) incoming President, William Warde (OK) as Vice President, John L Wasik (NC) as incoming Secretary/Treasurer and newly elected Directors at Large: David Dickey (NC), Klaus Hinkelman (VA), and Carol Lancaster (SC). David White stays on the board in position of Past President.

Cynthia Clark reported on the previous meeting and noted that there were 2 new chapters and 80 new members. She also noted that the reason for not scheduling a breakfast was because of shortfalls in contribution to pay for breakfasts relative to charges for meals by the Hotel.

Carol Lancaster accepted the charge of producing the annual Mu Sigma Rho newsletter. She requested help from members present in obtaining items related to chapter activities for insertion in the newsletter which goes to press in the fall of each year.

David White requested and received a waiver from the board to serve as chapter representative for the Utah State University Mu Sigma Rho chapter although in Emeritus status.

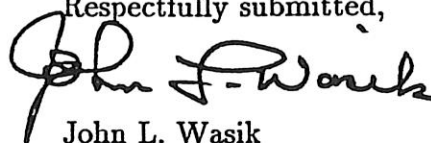
Both Bob Stephenson and Edd Mansfield gave reports on the newest publication of the ASA which is entitled STATS and is designed specifically to appeal to the interests of students majoring in statistics at the university level. Also with regard to involving students more fully in activities of ASA, Bob Stephenson spoke of a continuing need to find inexpensive housing for students at national and regional ASA meetings. Also, the question was asked if it would be possible to involve Mu Sigma Rho in sponsoring a session at ASA sponsored meetings where students could present the results of their research.

Bob Stephenson reported on plans for the 1989 Mu Sigma Rho sponsored meeting which was to focus on undergraduate education. He also reported on the availability from ISU of videotapes of David Moore speaking on Statistics in Liberal Arts. Discussion then turned to questions about availability of the Annenburg project and ASA video tapes of noted statisticians for use in university classes/meetings.

Klaus Hinkelman raised questions of what was being done about inactive chapters. Bob Stephenson accepted responsibility for writing inactive chapters in an attempt to re-invigorate them. Bob Stephenson and John Wasik jointly agreed to update the master files for Mu Sigma Rho in order to construct a permanent list of all past members. Help was requested of members to go back and search in their files for any lists they might have and send copies to John Wasik so that the lists could be checked against the present membership roll.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM, August 12, 1988.

Respectfully submitted,



John L. Wasik
Secretary/Treasurer

MU SIGMA RHO
National Statistical Honor Fraternity

Treasurer's Report

August 10, 1989

<u>Balance on Hand August 12, 1988</u>	\$490.34
 <u>Income (New Members in Parenthesis)</u>	
Membership Fees	
Iowa—ISU (24)	48.00*
North Carolina—NCSU (3)	15.00
Oklahoma—OSU (12)	60.00
South Carolina Beta—USC (7)	35.00
Virginia—VPISU (9)	<u>45.00</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	\$203.00
 <u>Expenses</u>	
Lettering	49.00
Booklet/Certificate Printing	125.89
Shipping/Mailing	<u>42.53</u>
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$217.42
 <u>Balance on Hand August 7, 1989</u>	 \$468.43
Discrepancy	7.44

* Membership fees for Iowa were adjusted to account for the difference in what the National Mu Sigma Rho organization provided to the Iowa chapter from that provided to the other chapters. The Iowa chapter received an unlettered certificate and a copy of the Constitution for each new initiate; the other chapters received a lettered certificate and a copy of the Constitution for each new initiate. The \$5.00 membership fee was reduced to \$2.00 for Iowa chapter initiates.

Editor's Note: Thought you might be interested in seeing an article written by our president for the **STATS** publication. The column provided a nice bit of publicity for our organization.

Mu Sigma Rho: Local Chapter Activities

If you have been following this column in the previous issues of **STATS**, then you know that Mu Sigma Rho is the national statistical honor fraternity. You will also know how an institution gets a local chapter, the requirements for membership in a local chapter and a bit of the history of the fraternity. You may not know what sorts of activities local chapters sponsor. If not, read on.

Of course, the primary activity of any honor society is the recognition of the individuals' achievements by initiation into the society. Each year local chapters identify students who have met the minimum qualifications for membership and invite them to join Mu Sigma Rho. Some chapters, like Alabama Alpha - University of Alabama, induct new members during Honors Day ceremonies held for the entire university. More often, initiation of new members is done at an annual banquet or special ceremony. Several local chapters invite a distinguished statistician to be the banquet speaker or to give a talk in conjunction with the initiation activities. The speakers talk on a variety of topics from those of general interest to the university community to those of special interest to statisticians. In connection with recent initiations, Dr. William F. Eddy, Department of Statistics, Carnegie-Mellon University, spoke on "Statistical Animation" at the Virginia Alpha Chapter - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Dr. Dan Solomon, Head of the Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University discussed "The Importance of Graduate Education for Statisticians" at the North Carolina Alpha Chapter - North Carolina State University and Dr. David Moore, Department of Statistics, Purdue University, presented the annual Mu Sigma Rho lecture entitled "Statistics Among the Liberal Arts" for the Iowa Alpha Chapter - Iowa State University. In addition to the formal lecture, the event usually provides the opportunity for students of statistics, both graduate and undergraduate, to meet informally with well known statisticians.

Not all chapters bring in statisticians from other universities or from industry nor do they concentrate on a single lecture in connection with an initiation ceremony. The Utah Beta Chapter - Brigham Young University sponsors a seminar series each school term. Each seminar is intended to acquaint students and faculty with special interest topics in statistics. The first seminar was actually a panel discussion with three professors sharing some of the experiences they had while doing statistical consulting. Other seminars focused on the history of statistics and the development of the discipline, and consulting in the biological and social sciences. This year's seminar series will focus on the area of statistical process control. At the New York Alpha Chapter - Cornell University, students and faculty have met on a regular basis to review a recent or classic article from the field of statistics. These sorts of activities with interaction between students and faculty outside the classroom environment, can be of great value to all participants.

In addition to seminars on statistical topics, several chapters have participated in activities dealing with careers in statistics or informing people about statistics as a field of study or both. A seminar on jobs in statistics was organized by the Pennsylvania Alpha Chapter - Temple University. A booth at a Careers Day which serves to inform

undergraduates of the available majors and careers to which they may lead was sponsored by the New York Alpha Chapter - Cornell University.

Initiation into Mu Sigma Rho recognizes academic achievement in statistics, but often there are outstanding students who deserve special recognition. At some universities the local chapter has instituted a Mu Sigma Rho award that acknowledges outstanding contributions to activities in the field of statistics. At Iowa State University, the award consists of a certificate presented at the initiation banquet and the recipient's name engraved on a plaque that is on permanent display in the main offices of the Department of Statistics. Similar awards are given at the University of Alabama, Medical University of South Carolina and North Carolina State University.

As with any organization, there are a wide variety of social events. Several local chapters, Alabama Alpha - University of Alabama and Oklahoma Alpha - Oklahoma State University, have spring or fall picnics. South Carolina Alpha Chapter - Medical University of South Carolina has had a beach party and an oyster roast. Of course there are also the events associated with the initiation and informal get-togethers during the academic year.

No one chapter can participate in and/or sponsor all the aforementioned activities. Even so, chapters are always looking for new ideas to stimulate interest. If you have a suggestion for activities for the local chapters of Mu Sigma Rho, send it to: W. Robert Stephenson, National President, Mu Sigma Rho [address provided].