

The Mu Sigma Rho

Volume 8

1990

Charleston, SC

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News From The Chapters

Iowa Alpha Chapter - Iowa State University

The 19th annual Mu Sigma Rho lecture was presented by Ronald S. Brookmeyer, Professor of Biostatistics at The John Hopkins University. His lecture, entitled "A Statistical History of the AIDS Epidemic", examined statistical issues involved in estimating the incubation period of AIDS (HIV infection) and the number of individuals infected with AIDS. Dr. Brookmeyer, a recognized leader in the field of AIDS research, is principal investigator on a National Cancer Institute grant for statistical methods in AIDS research.

Eighteen members were initiated into Mu Sigma Rho at the annual banquet which preceded the lecture by Dr. Brookmeyer on April 17, 1990. Several of the new members were among the fifteen students graduating with a BS degree in statistics in the 1989-1990 academic year. Among the employers of these graduates are the U. S. Bureau of the Census, Suitland, MD; Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN; A. C. Nielsen, Northbrook, IL; Garst Seed Co., Slater, IA; Communications Data Service, Des Moines, IA; and Principal Financial Group, Des Moines, IA. Several students returned to their home country of Malaysia and one entered graduate school in statistics at Iowa State University.

It was a particularly good year for undergraduate statistics majors with respect to summer jobs and internships. *Matt Gerdis* spent January through June, 1990 doing statistical and computing work for Weyerhaeuser Company, Hot Springs, AK through a cooperative program with the ISU Department of Statistics. *Anita Hinkeldey* spent the summer at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. *Linda Hornberger* participated in a Summer Internship for Women in Science and Engineering working for the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, Ames, IA. *Daniel Parks* had a summer internship at IBM, Rochester, MN. *Greg Pieper* worked for the Department of Human Rights, State of Iowa, Des Moines, IA. *Michael Tott* participated in an Actuarial Summer Program with Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, IN. All of the aforementioned students are members of Mu Sigma Rho except *Matt Gerdis* and *Greg Pieper*.

North Carolina Alpha Chapter - North Carolina State University

The North Carolina Alpha Chapter held a banquet to honor the 1990 initiates into Mu Sigma Rho on April 26, 1990 at the Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh. Dr. David Moore spoke on "Statistics in the Liberal Arts." The new undergraduate members are *Julie Brand*, *Laura Kirkland* and *Robert Lawrence*. The new graduate student members are *Shu An*, *Tonya Etchison*, *Graciela Gonzalez-Farias*, *Jackie Hughes-Oliver*, *Dan McCaffrey*, *Rogelio Ramos-Quiroga*, *Jorge Sierra-Cavazos*, and *Melissa Starr*.

Two graduate students recently initiated, *Graciela Gonzalez-Farias* and *Rogelio Ramos-Quiroga* are married, possibly a first for members in the North Carolina Chapter. *Jackie Hughes-Oliver* has accepted a position as assistant professor in the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University pending completion of her PhD.

Utah Beta Chapter – Brigham Young University

Note: Through editor's error, this information was omitted from last year's newsletter.

The annual Mu Sigma Rho banquet was held on January 17, 1990. Congressman Howard Nielson, an emeritus faculty member and founder of the BYU Department of Statistics, was the guest speaker. In attendance were members of Mu Sigma Rho, faculty, students of the department, and spouses. Congressman Nielson discussed the creation and historical development of the Department of Statistics at BYU. He also touched on the role of statistics in government, and explained how his background in the field helped him evaluate data and make legislative decisions.

During the summer of 1989 five members of the BYU Mu Sigma Rho chapter presented papers at the national joint statistical meetings in Washington, D. C.

Seven members submitted abstracts for contributed papers at the 1990 meetings in Anaheim, California. *Stirling Hilton*, a local chapter member, presented an invited paper. The Mu Sigma Rho chapter also participated in the King Crab poster session.

A departmental seminar featuring Dr. Del T. Scott was arranged by the officers of Mu Sigma Rho. Dr. Scott's talk was entitled "Computer Intensive Statistics."

The officers for 1989-1990 were *Scott Horton*, president, and *Mark Martin*, secretary. The faculty advisor is Dr. H. Dennis Tolley.

Virginia Alpha Chapter – Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

In June 1990 12 BS degrees were awarded. Students' employers include U. S. Bureau of the Census, U. S. Bureau of Labor and Prudential Insurance. The salary range is from \$16K to \$30K. Three students are attending graduate school at Virginia Tech, North Carolina State and Iowa State.

Nineteen MS degrees were awarded. Some employers are U. S. Department of Agriculture, U. S. Bureau of the Census, Best Foods, Tennessee-Eastman, Merck, Sharp and Dohme Pharmaceuticals, Donnelly Marketing, Price-Waterhouse, Burroughs-Wellcome, Hoffman-LaRoche Company, Research Triangle Institute, Harris Semiconductor, and U. S. F. & G. Insurance. Salaries range from \$28K to \$38K. Two students awarded the PhD degree are joining Merrell-Dow Pharmaceutical and ALCOA Technical Center.

Two talks sponsored by Mu Sigma Rho were given during the year. Dr. George Milliken, Department of Statistics at Kansas State University, spoke on logistic regression in October, 1989. Dr. Michael H. Kutner, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Emory University, spoke on "ANOVA Models with Empty Cells" in April, 1990.

Five undergraduate students were initiated into Mu Sigma Rho. They are *M. J. Alhabeeb*, *Lisa Carol Baker*, *Kevin M. Beck*, *Laura K. Gooding*, and *Barry J. Hoffman*. New graduate initiates are *Scott Henderson*, *Jinnam Jo*, *Hoon-Ja Lee*, *D'Arcy P. Mays III*, *Hirotoishi Nakamatsu (Yoon G. Kim)*, *Zachary G. Stoumbos*, and *Kelly Theresa Smith*. The current officers are *Lewis VanBrackle*, president; *Paul Savarese*, vice president; and *D'Arcy P. Mays*, secretary-treasurer.

From the President

For a president serving a three year term, each year, and hence each president's column, has a distinctive outlook. The first year looks ahead to what should, and hopefully can, be done; the middle year is waiting to see what will come of the efforts put in motion and the third year is an assessment of those efforts and suggestions for future efforts.

One effort that has met with limited success is the recruitment of new chapters. In 1988, the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, and Brigham Young University, Provo, UT were granted local chapters. Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH has petitioned for a local chapter and that petition is being voted on by the existing chapters. Several other institutions expressed interest but have not followed through. One problem has surfaced in our recruitment of chapters. There are many students out there, studying statistics often at small liberal arts colleges or at institutions that offer degrees in statistics which do not meet the requirements for a local chapter. This is frequently due to a limited number of students majoring in statistics. With the efforts of the Statistics in Liberal Arts Workshop (SLAW) to bring attention to statistics being taught in small liberal arts colleges, I think we, as a society, should look at ways to bring these institutions, or at least these students, into Mu Sigma Rho. I would like to present two suggestions that will be discussed at our meeting during the Atlanta meetings.

The first suggestion is to allow students from an institution without a chapter to join through one with a chapter. For example, students majoring in statistics at Grinnell College would join the Iowa Alpha Chapter at Iowa State University. We would still want to encourage the establishment of chapters at institutions that meet the requirements. However, this arrangement would take care of individuals who deserve recognition at small colleges. There would be need to be some effort on the part of the institutions with chapters to form agreements with colleges in their area. A second suggestion would be to allow groups of institutions in geographic proximity to petition for a local chapter. For example, Bowdoin, Colby and Bates in Maine may, as a group, meet the requirements for a chapter. We could consider a joint petition from the three colleges. You are free to present other suggestions at the Atlanta meeting. Any changes along these lines would require amending our constitution.

During the last two years the society has received some good publicity through a regular column in the Student Voices section of STATS. This will continue as long as we have something to say and STATS continues to be published. I have written a letter to the ASA Publication Board and various ASA officers indicating Mu Sigma Rho's support of STATS. I think we should do more. At this spring's initiation at Iowa State University, new members will receive a complimentary copy of the latest issue of STATS, ordered and paid for by the local chapter. In addition, each initiate will be given an ASA membership application along with their Mu Sigma Rho membership certificate and a copy of the constitution and by-laws. I hope that other chapters will adopt this as part of their initiation.

Mu Sigma Rho co-sponsored, together with the ASA section on Statistical Education, four invited paper sessions at the 1990 annual meetings and will co-sponsor three sessions at the 1991 meetings in Atlanta. Since the 1992 winter meetings deal with statistical education, we should think about ways for Mu Sigma Rho to contribute to those meetings.

Finally, we do need to get more people actively involved in Mu Sigma Rho. If you know of individuals at your institution or former students now at other institutions who are interested in this organization, please let me know.