

The Mu Sigma Rho

Volume 9

1991

Charleston, SC

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News From the Chapters

Ohio Alpha Chapter - Bowling Green State University

• The Ohio Alpha Chapter of Mu Sigma Rho was granted a charter on February 1, 1991. Eighteen charter members, three undergraduates and 15 graduate students, were initiated on April 19, 1991. A talk by Professor Douglas Wolfe of Ohio State University followed the initiation ceremony.

• Elected officers for 1991-92 are **Michael Dugan**, president; **Gary Rensi**, vice president; **Emelyn Valeroso**, secretary; and **Immaculada Concepcion Baltazar**, treasurer. The faculty advisor is Professor Kathryn Prewitt.

• The Ohio Alpha Chapter is sponsoring a team in the College Bowl to be held during the ASA winter conference in January, 1992.

• **Elsa Valeroso**, after graduating with an MS in applied statistics, is in the Engineering Science Program at the University of Toledo.

Tom Krenzke (MS Applied Statistics, 1991) has joined the United States Census Bureau, Industry Division, Washington, DC.

Mike Dugan (MS Applied Statistics, 1991) will also join the United States Census Bureau in January, 1992.

John Carson, while working on his PhD in statistics at BGSU, is a Project Statistician with OHM in Findlay, Ohio. He presented an invited paper (with **A. K. Gupta**) at the Third International Conference on Environmetrics, Madison, WI in October, 1991.

Yan Jie Feng (MS Applied Statistics, 1991) and **Xiangyi Meng** have joined the biostatistics program at UCLA.

South Carolina Beta Chapter - University of South Carolina

• In light of the continuing excellence achieved by students in the area of statistics, the South Carolina Beta Chapter of Mu Sigma Rho is happy to announce that it is embarking on its fourth year of existence.

• In September 1991, the first meeting of the year was held. Four new members were inducted into the fraternity, bringing the active membership to 12.

- Officers for 1991-92 are **Julie Heyman**, president; **Mindy McCann**, vice president; **Dean Johnson**, secretary; and **Kris Bjorn**, treasurer. Also, faculty advisor **Don Edwards** has been elected national vice president.

- The chapter has participated in two national meetings in the past year. The ASA winter meeting, held in New Orleans in January, was attended by six members and two faculty. Two members and Dr. Edwards were in attendance at the Joint Statistical Meetings held in Atlanta in August. At both conferences, students were given the opportunity to hear many distinguished lecturers, and graduating students were able to speak with employers representing various statistical fields.

- The Beta Chapter plans to start off this year with a banquet to give the new and current members a chance to become better acquainted. Members are very enthusiastic about the 1991-92 campaign, which is expected to provide much enjoyment and reward for the many aspiring students of Mu Sigma Rho. Several local meetings are in the planning stages at this time. In January, several members are expected to attend the ASA Winter Conference in Louisville. Other events highlighting the calendar include lectures to be given by notable statisticians, chapter picnics and a kayaking expedition. These events along with many others should provide a very active year for our members.

Iowa Alpha Chapter - Iowa State University

- The annual initiation banquet was held on April 16, 1991. At that gathering, 20 new members were initiated. Local chapter president **Philip Iverson** spoke on the history and aims of Mu Sigma Rho. As a special added attraction, several musical selections were played by an ensemble consisting of members of Mu Sigma Rho. We are not just statisticians anymore!!

- After the banquet, Dr. Elizabeth Martin, Chief of the Center for Survey Methods Research, United States Bureau of the Census, presented the annual Mu Sigma Rho lecture. Dr. Martin's talk, entitled "Implications of Behavioral Research on Causes of Census Undercount", discussed contributions to the undercount, especially of black males. Two factors contributing to the problem of this undercount are concealment and mobility. Many black males in low income residences may be concealed in an effort to protect welfare or other financial aid. Additionally, mobility and flexible living arrangements make it difficult for census procedures to find many individuals. Dr. Martin also discussed the use of methods of ethnography and participant observation to find out who is missed and why. The talk was a nice mix of applied statistics and behavioral research.

North Carolina Alpha Chapter - North Carolina State University

- The North Carolina Alpha Chapter of Mu Sigma Rho held its 1991 membership induction banquet in Raleigh on April 19, 1991. Dr. Harry Smith, a 1955 Department of Statistics graduate of North Carolina State University, was the speaker. Undergraduate students inducted were **Brian Garrett**, **Kevin Kirby**, **Katherine McAuliffe**, and **Stacey Smith**. Graduate students inducted were **Jeffrey Buzas**, **Rebecca Doerge**, **Victor Fenton**, **SeHyug Kwon**, **Dominique Latour**, **Paul Maiste**, **Charles Sheffield**, and **Sara Wheless**.

• **Dr. Daniel Solomon**, Head of the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University, was inducted into Mu Sigma Rho in recognition of his leadership in the statistical profession and his support for improvement in statistical education.

• **Brian Garrett** was elected President and **Rebecca Doerge** was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the North Carolina Alpha Chapter of Mu Sigma Rho for 1991-92.

• **Dr. Jackie Hughes-Oliver**, a 1990 inductee into Mu Sigma Rho, completed her doctorate degree and is presently working as a post doctoral fellow in the Department of Statistics at the University of Wisconsin for the 1991-92 year. After completing her post doctoral year, she will return to Raleigh to begin work as an assistant professor in the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University. Dr. Hughes-Oliver was also a recipient of an NCSU Graduate Dean's Achievement Award.

• **Mary Woessner**, an inductee as an undergraduate, has returned to the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University from a position at Glaxo, Inc. in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina to begin work on an MS in Statistics with support from a Patricia Roberts Harris Scholarship.

• **Laura Kirkland**, a 1990 inductee into Mu Sigma Rho, won the "Outstanding Senior Award" for the Department of Statistics and has entered the graduate program in statistics at North Carolina State University.

• **Rebecca Doerge**, a 1991 inductee, received a National Science Foundation Fellowship in Mathematics and Molecular Biology.

• **Paul Maiste**, a 1991 inductee, received a conference award from the Southern Region Council on Statistics.

• **Spencer Vance Muse**, a 1986 undergraduate inductee, received a National Science Foundation Fellowship to continue his studies in the Statistical Genetics program at North Carolina State University and was recognized by the Department of Statistics for outstanding academic achievement for obtaining the highest score on the departmental qualifying examination for the PhD degree.

• **Charles Sheffield**, a 1991 inductee, received a National Science Foundation Fellowship to continue his studies in Statistics at NCSU and was recognized by the Department of Statistics for outstanding academic achievement for obtaining the highest score on the departmental basic examination.

Oklahoma Alpha Chapter - Oklahoma State University

• The Oklahoma Alpha Chapter initiated six new members, three graduate and three undergraduate. Initiates are **Mekabib Altaye**, **Ardith Baker**, **Keri Lane**, **Scott Mills**, **Amy Pitchford**, and **Nena Rowe Sanchez**.

• **Mekabib** graduated with an MS in the summer of 1991 and has returned home to Ethiopia in a government position. **Nena** graduated with her BS in the summer and is currently pursuing an MS in Statistics at OSU. **Ardith** and

Scott are continuing work on their MS degrees, and Keri and Amy on their BS degrees.

- Recent graduates include Dr. Mark Payton who is currently an assistant professor of statistics and consultant with the Agricultural Experiment Station at OSU. Mark has been a member of Mu Sigma Rho for three years and is past president of the chapter. Carol Coon completed her MS and is now employed by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA). Carol has been a Mu Sigma Rho member for two years and is also a past chapter president.

- James Burton has accepted a position with the United States Census Bureau and is continuing work on his MS thesis in absentia.

Virginia Alpha Chapter - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- Ten new members were initiated. The undergraduate student is David A. Russell. New graduate members are Thomas Allenburg, Mark Heise, Matthew McKenzie, Kyoungah See, Kelly Stebbins, Clark Gaylord, Alexandra Kapatou, Young Moon, and Shanthi Sethuraman.

- The 1991-92 officers are Lewis VanBrackle, president; Paul Savarese, vice president; and D'Arcy P. Mays, secretary-treasurer.

- Two colloquia were sponsored by the chapter. Dr. Harry Khamis of Wright State University spoke on "Generalizations of Buffon's Needle Problem" on November 2, 1990. Angela Neff and Howard Rauch of Tennessee Eastman Company discussed "Statistics at Tennessee Eastman Company" on March 21, 1991.

- Among the employers of the 13 recent BS degree graduates are USDA, Cigna Corporation, Price Waterhouse, US Census Bureau, Pharmaceutical Research Associates, Central Intelligence Agency, and Corning Glass Works. The salary range is from \$26,000 to \$36,000.

- Some of the 20 recent MS degree graduates have gone to work for Bowman-Gray School of Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine, 3M, Universal Instruments Corporation, Price Waterhouse, USDA, Central Statistical Office (Zambia), and Merck, Sharp & Dohme Pharmaceuticals. Salaries ranged from \$28,500 to \$42,500.

- For the 5 PhD graduates, employers included University of Northern Kentucky, University of Rochester, Shell Corporation, and Proctor and Gamble.

August 1, 1991

Minutes of 1990 Annual Meeting
of Mu Sigma Rho

President Bob (W. Robert) Stephenson from Iowa State University called the 1990 Annual Meeting of **Mu Sigma Rho**, held in Anaheim, California in conjunction with 1990 Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association, to order at 7:30 AM on August 8, 1990. There was an introduction of attendees, including Vice President William Warde of Oklahoma State University, Secretary/Treasurer John Wasik of North Carolina State University, and Board of Director member, Carol Lancaster of the Medical College of South Carolina. Also attending was Philip Rust, chapter advisor from the South Carolina Alpha Chapter (Medical College of South Carolina) and Edd Mansfield, chapter advisor from the Alabama Chi Alpha Phi Chapter (University of Alabama).

The minutes and treasurer's report were read by John Wasik, Secretary/Treasurer. After a correction to the minutes of the 1989 meeting, the minutes and treasurer's report were approved as amended.

Bob Stephenson presented a motion of thanks to Carol Lancaster for her editorship and publication of the 1989-90 Mu Sigma Rhover edition. Carol cheerfully accepted the editorial responsibility of the newsletter and asked that a subscription to STATS be provided in order to allow her to keep current on matters of interest to the **Mu Sigma Rho** leadership. A motion to this effect was passed on a unanimous vote.

Bob Stephenson reported that **Mu Sigma Rho** was a sponsor (alone or jointly) of four sessions at the 1990 Annual Meeting. He also discussed responses to the STATS article which indicated a certain amount of interest on the part of students to become members who were located at institutions without formal statistics programs or large enough number of majors. It was suggested establishment of a new category of **Mu Sigma Rho** membership category which would allow such "orphan" students to become affiliated with a local chapter or with a national chapter. It was decided that further study would be made on this issue along with a review of the fraternity Constitution and Bylaws which have not been changed in ten years.

John Wasik presented the petitions for new **Mu Sigma Rho** chapters submitted by Bowling Green State University and the State University of New York at Oneonta. Discussion of the two petitions led to the acceptance of the Bowling Green State University proposal and comments that the Bowling Green petition represented a model for other institutions to use in submitting a petition for a **Mu Sigma Rho**. The State University of New York at Oneonta petition was not accepted because of a lack of supporting background information.

It was suggested that permission be obtained from the faculty advisor of the Bowling Green State University chapter for use of their new chapter submission petition as a model by the faculty of the State University of New York at Oneonta for a chapter petition resubmission. The Secretary/Treasurer agreed to carry out this directive of the Board.

The board was involved in some brainstorming on developing ideas of trying to recruit new chapters and re-invigorate present moribund chapters. Bob Stephenson suggested possible use of pins to be passed out at booth in the ASA meeting display area.

Bob Stephenson also reported on letters submitted to ASA President, Janet Norwood to promote holding meetings in cities with lower convention costs so as to enable attendance by students majoring in statistics at their national association's annual meeting. It was suggested that the local chapters of the ASA could take the lead in finding low cost housing at universities near the Meeting site (e.g., Georgia Tech for the Atlanta Meeting).

Edd Mansfield requested that Mu Sigma Rho formally support the publication of STATS, the ASA publication for students. Bob Stephenson agreed to send a letter supporting continued publication of the Journal to the President, Council of Chapters, and Executive Director of the American Statistical Association.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 AM on August 8, 1990.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Wasik
Mu Sigma Rho
Secretary/Treasurer

MU SIGMA RHO

National Statistical Honor Fraternity

Report of Treasurer

August 1, 1991

Balance on Hand: August 7, 1990 \$581.62

Income (No. of New Members in Parentheses)

Membership Fees

Alabama - Univ. of Al: (7) \$35.00

Colorado - Colorado State Univ. (1) 5.00

Iowa - Iowa State University (18)* 36.00

North Carolina - NCSU (13) 65.00

Ohio - Bowling Green State Univ. (18) 90.00

Oklahoma - Oklahoma State Univ. (6) 30.00

South Carolina - Univ. of So. Car. (10) 50.00

Virginia - VPI & SU (10) 50.00

Total Member Dues \$361.00

Ohio Initiation Fee - Bowling Green State 10.00

Total Income \$371.00

Expenses

Lettering Services \$151.25

Shipping/Postage 66.15

Supplies 8.33

STATS 19.00

Total \$244.73

Balance on Hand: August 1, 1991 \$707.89

* Membership fees submitted by Iowa State Univ were \$2.00 per initiate which is allowed by section 3 of bylaw 1 of the Mu Sigma Rho National Constitution and Bylaws as presented on page 12.

President's Column

One of the topics of discussion at this year's meeting of Mu Sigma Rho chapter representatives at the ASA annual meeting in Atlanta was revision of the Constitution and By-laws of Mu Sigma Rho. Based on the discussions at that meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to formally propose changes to the constitution and by-laws. In addition to the proposed changes, I have tried to summarize the reasons for and ramifications of each change. Of course, the chapters will have the opportunity to vote to adopt or reject each proposed change. Any comments or suggestions for improvement are welcome.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF MU SIGMA RHO FRATERNITY

Proposal 1 Change the name of the corporation to the Mu Sigma Rho Society.

In an effort to use the language that indicates that Mu Sigma Rho is an organization that recognizes achievement in statistics by all persons, the Executive Committee, with the support of chapters attending the annual meeting, proposes to change the name from Mu Sigma Rho Fraternity to Mu Sigma Rho Society. It will cost \$10 to change the name with the State of Iowa. All current stock of membership certificates, constitutions, etc. with Mu Sigma Rho Fraternity on them will be used. When new certificates and constitutions are printed, they will incorporate the name change. This may incur an additional cost as a new printing plate would be made.

Proposal 2 The Qualifications for a Chapter will include a provision for a joint application. Specifically, add to Article III Section 2.1 the following sentence: "Several institutions in the same geographic area may jointly apply as a petitioning institution."

This change would allow groups of colleges, e.g. Bowdoin, Bates and Colby in Maine, or the Claremont Colleges in California, to petition jointly for a chapter. This would allow smaller programs to meet the requirements of a chapter. It is implied by this change that the schools joining together for the purpose of forming a chapter would have joint activities at those schools.

Proposal 3 The Procedure in Admission will include a provision for electing members from schools that do not qualify for a chapter because of their size. Specifically, add to Article IV Section 4 the following sentence: "Existing chapters may identify eligible persons at neighboring institution(s) without a chapter and elect them to membership with the consent of the neighboring institution(s)."

This change would allow a chapter like Iowa Alpha to elect to membership deserving undergraduate students in statistics from, say, Grinnell College. This arrangement would have to be mutually agreed upon. An individual at the neighboring institution(s) would need to be willing to identify eligible students there. Should at some future time the neighboring institution apply for its own chapter, this sort of arrangement would not interfere with that application.

Proposal 4 The petition filing fee and charter fee will be combined into one charter application fee. This fee will be set at \$25.

The cost of processing an application for a chapter to Mu Sigma Rho has risen dramatically due to postage rates and the need to send documentation to existing chapters to allow them to make an informed choice. Rather than have two fees, it seems reasonable to combine them into one fee. Should the chapters adopt this change, the fee will apply to those applications received after adoption. Applications already being processed will pay the old fees.

Proposal 5 Change the fee charged to the local chapter for each new member from two to five dollars.

This is to bring the By-laws up to date.