

The Mu Sigma Rho

Volume 10

1992

Charleston, SC

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News from the Chapters

Iowa Alpha Chapter - Iowa State University

- The 21st annual Mu Sigma Rho lecture was presented by Andrew Solow, research fellow at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts. His talk, "Statistical Issues in Global Warming", was attended by more than 100 persons. A skeptic about the severity of global warming, Solow acknowledged the increase in atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, and the relationship between carbon dioxide concentrations and global temperature. The real question is determining the sensitivity of the climate system to such concentrations. The quantification of the natural temperature differences of Earth and the large variation in predictive models leave this question open to debate. Dr. Solow has written numerous articles in a variety of scientific and statistical journals including *Journal of Climate and Ecology*, *Biometrics*, and *Mathematical Geology*. His visit was co-sponsored by the undergraduate Statistics Club, the Iowa STAT-ers (graduate students in statistics), the ISU Department of Statistics, and many other departments, institutes and research centers at Iowa State University.

- Prior to the talk, 10 undergraduates, 16 graduate students and one faculty member were inducted into Mu Sigma Rho at the annual banquet. Dr. **Andrew Solow** was made an honorary member.

- Current officers are **Thomas Loughlin**, president; **Jeffrey Helterbrand**, vice president; **Brian Olin**, secretary/treasurer. W. Robert Stephenson is faculty advisor to the chapter.

Ohio Alpha Chapter - Bowling Green State University

- Nine members were inducted into Mu Sigma Rho in initiation ceremonies held in April, 1992.

- Elected officers for 1992-1993 are **Phyllis Curtiss**, president; **Kim Menzes**, vice president; and **Marcus Agustin**, secretary/treasurer. Professor Jim Albert is the faculty advisor.

- The Ohio Alpha Chapter sponsored a team to the first College Bowl held during the 1992 ASA Winter Meetings in Louisville. The team, consisting of **Phyllis Curtiss**, **Pritha Bhadra**, **Gary Rensi**, and **Chuck Kuhn**, won first place and received autographed copies of one of Bob Hogg's books. The participants enjoyed the opportunity to meet graduate students from other universities.

- The Chapter also participated in the preparations for the Second Eugene Lukacs Symposium held in Bowling Green in March, 1992.

- **Teresa Hansen** (MS Applied Statistics, 1992) is an instructor at Tiffin College in Tiffin, OH. **Joseph Mayoralgo** (MS Applied Statistics, 1992) is an instructor at BGSU and has also started his PhD program in statistics at BGSU. **Zenia Nobleza** (MS Applied Statistics, 1992) is a PhD student at BGSU. **Gary Rensi** (MS Applied Statistics, 1992) is working for a market research firm in Evansville, IL. **Jose Rubin Aguinaga** (MS Applied Statistics, 1992) has returned to Ecuador to teach. **Patricia Wiley** (MS Applied Statistics, 1992) is an instructor at Wright State University in Dayton, OH. **Joyti Venugopal-krishna** (BSBA, 1992) is with a credit agency in California. **Malcolm Shrimplin** (BSBA, 1992) is a graduate student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. **Adam Wronski** (MA, 1991) is with the Business Survey Department, Statistics Canada, Ottawa. **De-Xin Chen** (PhD, 1992) is teaching at Ohio Northern University, Aida, OH.

South Carolina Alpha Chapter - Medical University of South Carolina

- Current officers are **Julie Recknor**, president; **Michael Pisarcik**, vice president; **Shuiyang Yu**, co-treasurer; and **Paul Berg**, co-treasurer and secretary.

- The first activity of the year was a picnic for the faculty, staff and students of the Department of Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Systems Science (DBESS). The picnic was well attended, and fine food and merriment were had by all.

- The first Brown Bag Seminar was given by Bonnie P. Dumas, an alumnae of DBESS. Dr. Dumas's talk covered her job-hunting experience and comments on working as a statistician for industry. Dr. Dumas works for Westvaco in Summerville, SC.

South Carolina Beta Chapter - University of South Carolina

- The Beta Chapter is proud to announce its fifth year at the University of South Carolina. This has been an eventful year with hard work and fun.

- The first meeting was held in September with the induction of members and election of officers. The new members this year include two undergraduate and five graduate students. The undergraduate members are **Duane Heydt**

and Yumi Lim. The graduate members are **Alphonso Mason** (BS from University of South Alabama), **Li Zhengqing** (BS from University of Science and Technology of China), **Avinash Yewle** (MS from University of Bombay), **Shiow-Jen Lee** (Tamkang University, Taiwan), and **Nairanjana Dasgupta** (BS from Presidency College, India). The officers for this year are **Alphonso Mason**, president; **Laura Gooding**, vice president; **Nairanjana Dasgupta**, secretary; and **Dean Johnson**, treasurer.

- The Beta Chapter co-sponsored a seminar with **G. Steve Few** (BS, 1984) who is now a principal consultant of a division of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group. He gave a colloquium talk on experimental design and talked with students about potential employment opportunities.

- We are proud to announce the achievements of some of our past students. Three of our past undergraduates are currently in graduate school. They are **Kris Bjorn** (Ohio State), **Julie Heyman** (Georgia Tech) and **Terra Slaton** (USC). **Edwin Lee** is now a visiting professor at Clemson University. **Patricia Reynolds** is presently employed by Westinghouse in Aiken, SC.

- Next year's plans include a banquet, lectures, seminars and picnics.

Virginia Alpha Chapter - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- Twenty-three BS degrees were awarded in 1992. Some employers were USDA, Cigna Corporation, Price Waterhouse, US Census Bureau, Central Intelligence Agency, and Corning Glass Works with salaries ranging from \$26K to \$36K. Eighteen MS degrees were awarded with employers including University of Minnesota, Tennessee Eastman, 3M, Universal Instruments Corporation, Price Waterhouse, CNA Insurance, and Merck Sharp and Dohme Pharmaceuticals. Salaries ranged from \$28.5K to \$42.5K. Those awarded the PhD degree went to work for Kyung Pook National University (Korea), Sterling-Winthrop Pharmaceuticals and Kennesaw State College.

- Officers for this year are **Paul Savarese**, president; **D'Arcy P. Mays**, vice president; and **Mark Heise**, secretary/treasurer. Faculty advisor is **Dr. Jeffrey Birch**.

- The Chapter sponsored three colloquia during the 1991-1992 academic year. They were **Dr. William Parr** of the University of Tennessee who spoke on "Experiences of a Statistician in Industry", **Dr. James Davenport** of Virginia Commonwealth University speaking on "Testing Claimed Minimal Detectable Concentrations of In Vitro Medical Diagnostic Devices", and **Dr. John P. Morgan** discussing "Let's Make a Deal: The Player's Dilemma".

- New graduate student initiates are **Iksung Cho**, **Jennifer Jean Davison**, **Kristi L. Griffiths**, **Karole Jo Herzog**, **Jane Elizabeth Jessee**, **William C. Letsinger II**, **Chao-Wen Lu**, **Milan Mangeshkar**, **James Edward Mays**, **Matthew D. Rotelli**, **Kwan-Soo Park**, **Shin Cheng Wang**, and **Xueli Zou**. New faculty initiates are **Anya M. McGuirk** and **Marvin Lentner**. Honorary members are **Nozer D. Singpur** and **William C. Parr**.

August 1, 1992

Minutes of 1991 Annual Meeting
of Mu Sigma Rho

President Bob (W. Robert) Stephenson from Iowa State University called the 1991 Annual Meeting of Mu Sigma Rho, held in Atlanta, Georgia in conjunction with 1991 Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association, to order at 7:30 AM on August 20, 1991. There was an introduction of attendees. The list of attendees is given below:

Name	Institution
Beth Eltinge	Texas A & M
Don Edwards	Univ. of South Carolina
Lee Hendrix	Brigham Young Univ.
Klaus Hinkelman	Virginia Polytechnic
	Institute and State Univ.
Carol Lancaster	Medical Univ. of South Car.
Edd Mannsfield	Univ. of Alabama
S. R. Rao	Bowling Green State Univ.
Phil Rust	Medical Univ. of South Car.
Cindy Van Ess	Cornell Univ.
Bill Warde	Oklahoma State Univ.
John Wasik	North Carolina State Univ.

The minutes of the 1990 meeting and the treasurer's report for the 1990-91 budget year were read by John Wasik, Secretary/Treasurer. The minutes and treasurer's report were approved as presented.

Bob Stephenson presented a motion of thanks to Carol Lancaster for her editorship and publication of the 1990-91 Mu Sigma Rhover edition. Carol cheerfully agreed to continue working on the newsletter.

Bob Stephenson led a discussion on methods to ensure continued publication of the ASA sponsored journal, STATS. Bob reported having written letters while Edd Mansfield requested members of the board to urge their colleagues to consider writing articles of general interest for the journal. Bob also reported that the Iowa State University newly inducted members of Mu Sigma Rho were provided copies of STATS.

Discussion then turned to the upcoming 1992 Winter ASA Meeting which was to be devoted to the a Statistical Education theme. Bob Stephenson reported that he was responsible for the sponsorship of a "College Bowl" and described the general format of the proposed quiz. He asked attending members to try to bring teams to participate in this highlight session. Beth Eltinge also recommended that participants consider attending sessions on Teacher Assistant training to be offered at the 1992 ASA Winter Meeting. Bob suggested seeing if Mu Sigma Rho could have a booth.

Bob Stephenson presented his thoughts on revising the Constitution and Bylaws of **Mu Sigma Rho**. He proposed that we change the bylaws concerning fees to reflect the actual charges that had been used for the previous five year period. He also suggested a name change to from **Mu Sigma Rho Fraternity** to **Mu Sigma Rho Society**. The discussion following this suggestion did not see a problem with the present name. However, the board went along with the suggestion of implementing a name change only if the change would not entail a large cost to make the name change (made by Stephenson) and that changes in printed materials not be made until present supplies are exhausted (made by Warde). Bob then suggested that there be a special consideration for "singles" who were students at institutions which either did not have a statistics department or a departments that did not have enough students to establish a chapter. Bob suggested that students in these situations could possibly link with other locally convenient institutions with a chapter or else establish a chapter sponsored by two or more institutions in the general geographic region. One final question was raised by John Wasik about the possibility of increasing the number of hours completed in statistics courses from 8 hours to 9 hours before a student could be inducted at the undergraduate level. There was little support for this proposal and so it was dropped from further consideration as a possible change in the **Mu Sigma Rho** constitution. The board then passed a resolution asking Bob Stephenson to investigate the implications of the suggested changes and to consider submitting the proposed changes to the full membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 AM on August 20, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Wasik
Mu Sigma Rho
Secretary/Treasurer

MU SIGMA RHO
National Statistical Honor Fraternity

Report of Treasurer

August 8, 1992

<u>Balance on Hand: July 15, 1991</u>	\$707.89
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Income (No. of New Members in Parentheses)

Membership Fees	
Alabama - Univ. of Al. (7)	\$35.00
Iowa - Iowa State University (20)*	40.00
North Carolina - NCSU (16)	80.00
Ohio - Bowling Green State Univ. (9)	45.00
Oklahoma - Oklahoma State Univ. (4)	20.00
South Carolina - Univ. of So. Car. (4)	20.00
Utah -Brigham Young Univ. 3 Years (45)	225.00
Virginia - VPI & SU (19)	<u>95.00</u>
Total Income	\$560.00

Expenses

Lettering Services	\$129.00
Shipping/Postage	<u>63.40</u>
Total	\$192.40

<u>Balance on Hand: August 1, 1992</u>	\$1075.49
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* 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

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about what has and has not been happening with Mu Sigma Rho at both the national and chapter level.

At the national level, you will notice a change on the membership certificates. We are now the National Statistical Honor **Society**. It took a little longer than expected to make the change. If your certificates were delayed, don't blame our secretary/treasurer John Wasik; the problem was with the printers at Iowa State University.

Mu Sigma Rho sponsored an invited paper session at the 1992 Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston this past August. The session, "**Undergraduate Research Programs in Statistics**", was co-sponsored by the Section on Statistical Education and the Section on Teaching Statistics in the Health Sciences. The session organizer, Christine E. McLaren, Moorhead State University, put together a fine session. The papers by Don Bentley, Pomona College; Joyce Blumberg, Winona State University; and Christine McLaren covered a wide range of experiences. Don spoke about a data-driven course that involves students in an investigation of a real world problem. Joyce talked about off-campus statistical experiences for undergraduates. A number of Joyce's students work at the Mayo Clinic in nearby Rochester, Minnesota. Christine's paper dealt with undergraduate apprenticeships and internships where students not only learn about statistics but earn money as well.

Mu Sigma Rho will continue its partnership with the Section on Statistical Education by sponsoring an invited paper session at the 1993 meetings in San Francisco. Jeff Witmer, Oberlin College, is organizing a session on current NSF projects that are working on new approaches to the introductory statistics course. It should be an interesting session and provide information about using your tax dollars to support statistical education.

In this and every issue of the **Mu Sigma RhoVER**, you can read about some of the activities of the local chapters across the United States. Obviously, some chapters are more active than others. Given the size of and the resources available to the individual chapters, we should not be surprised at the variability in the amount and scope of activities undertaken. Still it is unfortunate that chapters do not at least participate in the main activity of Mu Sigma Rho. That activity is recognizing students' achievements in the area of statistics. Every chapter **should** be identifying outstanding students in statistics and inviting them to join Mu Sigma Rho. Several chapters take advantage of college- or university-wide award ceremonies to recognize these students. This not only gives more visibility to the students but to Mu Sigma Rho as an honor society.

For those chapters that are active in initiating new members and/or in more elaborate ways, I wish to acknowledge your effort and encourage you to keep up the good work. For those chapters that have let Mu Sigma Rho slip into the background, I would like to encourage you to reactivate the chapter. The first step, and it is not such a big one, is to begin again to identify students deserving of membership. The national secretary/treasurer John Wasik and I will be glad to help.