

The Mu Sigma RhoVER

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1998

Charleston, SC

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News From the Chapters

Virginia Alpha Chapter - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

:: Officers for this year are **Daniel Eno**, president; **Samuel Wilcock**, vice president; and **Steven Kathman**, secretary/treasurer.

:: There were 16 new members inducted into this chapter in the 1998-1999 academic year. The five new undergraduate members were **Anthony J. Young**, **Paula C. Johnson**, **Deborah K. Ford**, **Kathryn Elizabeth Tucker**, and **Taryn Swanson**. The new graduate student inductees were **Michael F. Schneider**, **B. Alden Starnes**, **Megan Janet Waterman**, **Seth Kenneth Stanley Clark**, **Robert B. Noble, Jr.**, **Sundardas S. Dorai-Raj**, **Melissa M. Courtade**, **Janet Elizabeth Bernard**, **Hong Liu**, **Lei Liu**, and **David Allan Burt**. Honorary inductees were Robert G. Wilkinson and Berton Gunter.

:: Eight students completed their studies in 1998 with BS degrees in statistics. Some employers are Consumer Products Safety Commission, Virginia Tech Center for Survey Research and the Internal Revenue Service. Some students have decided to continue their education.

:: Sixteen students completed the requirements for the MS degree in statistics. Their employers include Johns Hopkins University, Eli Lilly and Astra Pharmaceuticals. Some students will be continuing on to graduate school at places like Yale University, North State University and Virginia Tech.

:: Seven students have completed the PhD degree and are joining companies like Merck, Lubrizol Corporation, Abbott Laboratories, and Eli Lilly.

:: In November, 1998, the chapter hosted a visit from Robert G. Wilkinson, Manager of Statistical Services at the Lubrizol Corporation. He presented a colloquium entitled "Bayesian Variable Assessment."

:: In April, 1999, we expect Berton Gunter, of Merck Research Laboratories, to visit us and present a colloquium.

Utah Beta Chapter -- Brigham Young University

:: The Utah Beta Chapter is proud to announce its new members. They are **James M. Anderson, Amy L. Bascom, Douglas James Burton, Evan R. Christensen, Jonathan Todd Coffey, Willis Aaron Jensen, Christopher R. Layton, Landon H. Seago, Jesse E. Ward,** and **Lisa A. Woodland.**

South Carolina Alpha Chapter - Medical University of South Carolina

:: Our chapter inducted eight members last fall. They are **Rickey E. Carter, Richard B. Daehler-Wilking, Pamela L. Ferguson, Russell A. Goodman, William Harrington Richardson, Jr., Lorelei H. Schwacke, Gizelle S. Tessier,** and **Carolyn N. White.** All are PhD students.

:: In late October the chapter had a picnic to honor the inductees. New officers for the 1998-99 school year were elected at the first meeting held prior to Christmas break. They are **Richard Carter,** president; **Russell Goodman,** vice president; and **Pam Ferguson,** secretary/treasurer.

:: We would like to thank the following individuals for their support and assistance during the past year: **James M. Anderson,** president; **William Harrington Richardson, Jr.,** vice president; **Pam Ferguson,** secretary/treasurer; **Richard Carter,** president; **Russell Goodman,** vice president; and **Pam Ferguson,** secretary/treasurer.

Minutes
Mu Sigma Rho Council Meeting
Dallas TX
August 12, 1998

Present:

Jim Albert, director at large, Bowling Green State University
Don Edwards, past president, University of South Carolina
Golde Holtzman, secretary/treasurer, Virginia Tech (VPI)
Carol Lancaster, editor, Mu Sigma Rho, Medical College of South Carolina
J.L. Madrigal, vice president, Brigham Young University
Mark Payton, president, Oklahoma State University
Bob Stephenson, director at large, Iowa State University

Absent:

Larry Haugh, director at large, University of Vermont

1. Minutes of 1997 Meeting - Golde Holtzman. Minutes were not kept
2. Treasurer's Report - Golde Holtzman.
 - a. A written report was submitted. To summarize here, the balance, including receivables, is \$2,228.52. However, the treasury has yet to be transferred from the former treasurer to the present treasurer, who took office at the 1997 annual meeting in Anaheim, California. The bulk of the treasury is deposited in an Iowa Bank c/o the former treasurer, and the remainder is held in uncashed checks by the current treasurer. Measures have been taken and will continue to be taken to straighten out the treasury.
 - b. Bob Stephenson submitted a copy of the "Iowa 1998 Annual Report for an Iowa Nonprofit Corporation." This, and Bob's offer to help, should go a long way toward bringing the treasury up to date.
3. Old Business
 - a. Bowl 1998 - Mark Payton
This is number 6, and it is going well.
 - b. New Chapter Nibbles - Mark Payton
 - c. Certificate Changes - Golde Holtzman
A new, computer generated form of the certificate was issued this year to all initiates. An example of the new certificate was circulated. The secretary/ treasurer was praised and thanked for developing this new form; however he, and others, stated a preference for a combination of the "old" printed style and the new computer-generated style. Bob Stephenson again came to the rescue with the information that printing plates for the original certificate are at Iowa State University. It was decided that Bob and Golde would cooperate to further improve the quality of the certificates.
4. New Business
 - a. College Bowl 1999. College Bowl number 7 is scheduled in Baltimore. Mark Payton will continue overseeing the College Bowl. He has done it for three years, and has graciously offered to continue, as the learning curve is steep.
 - b. Membership Drive
 - i. J.L. Madrigal, as vice president, will take over the lead effort of creating new and reviving old chapters, e.g., Kansas State, Bowling Green, University of Iowa. His plan is to divide the nation into regions, and have one member of

council work in each region.

- ii. Golde Holtzman suggested establishing a Mu Sigma Rho national teaching award to recognize excellence in the teaching of statistics, and, incidentally of course, promote Mu Sigma Rho. Don Edwards suggested making it a "Career Educator Award". The suggestion of an award was enthusiastically received by those present. Mark Payton volunteered to write a proposal and send it to Holtzman for review, and then to the full council.
 - iii. It was brought forth that it is difficult to get older faculty advisors to activate their chapters. It was suggested that older faculty advisors, who are busy with newer projects, suggest younger replacements.
 - c. 1999 Undergraduate Data Analysis Contest. We received a written request (24 July 98) from Gigi Williams of the Air Force Academy asking for support for their 1999 undergraduate data analysis award. Council decided we can support this program by asking our chapters to submit entries. President Payton will respond to Williams.
 - d. Other New Business
 - i. Don Edwards suggested asking sections for money to support the College Bowl.
 - ii. Someone suggested asking ASA for explicit affiliation, e.g., as an official section. The down side would be having to deal with the ASA board of directors. We would be giving up control and independence. It was suggested that we just ask ASA to recognize Mu Sigma Rho as the statistics honor society.
5. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Golde I. Holtzman,
Secretary/Treasurer

Summary of the 1997-98 Mu Sigma Rho Financial Summary

Balance Forward	\$1968.52
Income from Chapter Dues (52 inductees)	260.00
Income, other	<u>4.00</u>
Total	\$2232.52

President's Column

Mark Payton, Oklahoma State University

I would like to begin this column by first giving a brief report on the Mu Sigma Rho College Bowl at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Dallas in 1998. The Bowl went well with six teams participating. Iowa was again dominating as they returned three starters from their 1997 championship team. The point margins in Iowa's victories were 150 to 200 points or more. The Hawkeyes defeated Bowl newcomer Texas A&M in the finals. The teams that lost to A&M and Iowa in the semifinals were Virginia Tech and Florida. Other teams participating were Oklahoma State and perennial powerhouse Iowa State. The victory by Iowa makes it four out of the past five College Bowl championships going to teams from the Hawkeye State. Must be something in the water! Nonetheless, members of the Iowa team have assured me that they are graduating and that the field for '99 will be a little more evenly matched.

No College Bowl goes smoothly without a lot of help from volunteers. First of all, a special thanks to Jim Albert of Bowling Green U. for his help in organizing and securing teams. Jim was also chair of the quarterfinals. The moderators were Wayne Woodward of Southern Methodist U. and John Boyer of Kansas State. Both were excellent moderators and gave the Bowl fluidity. Doing his usual superb job as buzzermeister was ex-Prez Don Edwards of U. of South Carolina. The judges were Bob Stephenson of Iowa State and Chuck McCulloch of Cornell; scorekeepers were Dennis Wackerly of U. of Florida and Rhover editor Carol Lancaster of the Medical U. of South Carolina. To all: MANY THANKS!!! I'll be calling on your repeat service soon. I would also like to thank Tracey Dowden of ASA for her help in arranging space and time at JSM. Also, I would like to extend thanks to Michelle Larson of U. of Iowa whose enthusiasm for the Bowl has kept me going. I'll miss her spirit as a player, but look forward to having her a "Bowl hand" in the future.

College Bowl VII is under preparation for JSM '99 in Baltimore. I've already had a couple of new teams throw their hats into the ring. Hopefully all will go well. Wish us luck. Stop by and see the show if you're in Baltimore in August.

What's new on the Mu Sigma Rho horizon? In last August's Council meeting we approved Golde Holtzman's concept of a Mu Sigma Rho Teaching Award. I will be working with Golde to get a proposal into shape to submit to the Council in Baltimore. Hopefully we'll have the first award ready to present by the year 2000. This will be a major step by the Society to get further publicity for us as well as recognizing the great statistical educators that have served our profession over the years.

In closing I would like to ask each of you reading this column to please think of the health of our Society and identify potential members, potential College Bowl teams, and potential chapters. Also think of the Chapters that are inactive and help bring them back to the Society. If you know of a faculty member at a university with an inactive chapter that would be a good catalyst for the chapter, get them involved. We will all benefit from having an organization that is well represented.

Here's hoping your year goes well.

Mark E. Payton
President