

The Mu Sigma RhoVER

Volume 17

1999

Charleston, SC

The Officers

President

Mark Payton
Department of Statistics
301 Math Sciences
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078-0002

Vice President

J. L. Madrigal
Department of Statistics
Brigham Young University
222 Tmcb
Provo, UT 84602-1044

Past President

Don Edwards
Department of Statistics
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

Secretary/ Treasurer

Golde Holtzman
Department of Statistics
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Directors- at-Large

James H. Albert
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0001

Larry D. Haugh
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Vermont
16 Colchester Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401-1455

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

Editorial Board

C. Lancaster Editor
M. Adams AL α D. Dickey NC α R. Canfield UT α
D. Boes CO α V. Rohatgi OH α B. Collings UT β
W.R. Stephenson IA α W. Warde OK α L. Haugh VT α
D. Wackerly FL α (Position available) PA α J. Birch VA α
G. Milliken KS α R. Kennedy SC α G. Hobbs WV α
A. S. Katiyar LA α D. Edwards SC β R. Cochran WY α
C. McCulloch NY α E. Eltinge TX α

News From the Chapters

Louisiana State Alpha Chapter - McNeese State University

Our University has experienced low enrollment in upper division statistics classes because not many students wanted to graduate with a B.S. in Statistics and then go out of state to get a graduate degree in Statistics from some other university (we do not have a graduate degree program as such.) Consequently, we lost the undergraduate degree program in statistics. We still have many service courses in statistics at undergraduate and graduate level but we no longer have students who qualify even for Mu Sigma Rho membership. We meet with Computer Science and Mathematics associations, and have speakers from time to time. These sessions are not exclusively for statistics students.

We still offer good classes in statistical quality control, design of experiments, and regression.

Vermont Alpha Chapter - University of Vermont

For several years Our Statistics Student Association (SSA) has successfully organized a journal club series, in which the students select papers for discussion and lead the discussion, having distributed the papers prior to the meeting. Both students and faculty attend these monthly pizza luncheon meetings, which are fortunately supported financially by the College of Engineering and Mathematics. We also have had our usual social events, including a statistics student/faculty mixer in September, a fall departmental picnic, a fall departmental mountain peak hike, and a departmental pizza luncheon prior to graduation to honor our graduates. We will add a spring mixer at the Program Director's home this year.

Our new initiates for Spring, 2000 are **Anjun Cao** (M.S.), who served as President of the SSA, will receive our Graduate Award in Biostatistics and our Nam Scholarship, and is now in the midst of employment interviews as well as having applied to Ph.D. programs; **Christopher Lee** (M.S.), who will be joining the next class of UVM's College of Medicine in the fall, **Allison Kuzmitski** (senior), who is continuing her statistics major part-time while working on campus, and will receive our Undergraduate Achievement

Award; and **Yijun Yang**, who will also receive a Graduate Award in Biostatistics, has had employment interviews. and applied to Ph.D. programs.

Our new initiates for Spring, 1999 were **Kristie Hannah** (M.S.), now working for a market research firm in Vermont; **Mark MacLaughlin** (M.S.), also working in Vermont, for a health nonprofit; **William Smith** (M.S.), who received our graduate award in statistics and is now working for a state agency in Vermont; **James Eudicone**, who received a departmental award in biostatistics and was accepted into a Ph.D. program; **Philip Yates** (M.S.), who received our graduate award in biostatistics and a Nam Scholarship, and was accepted into a Ph.D. program; and **Zachary Scott** (B.S.), who received our undergraduate award. Both Phil and Zachary made presentations of their biostatistical research projects on campus during Graduate Research Day and Undergraduate Research Day.

Our new initiates for Spring, 1998 were **Jackie Bartlett** (M.S.), now in a Ph.D. program; **Peter Fisk** (M.S.), now in medical school; **Peter Forester** (M.S.), now working for a health nonprofit in Vermont; **Stephen Magill** (M.S.); **Mike Szarek** (M.S.), now working in Massachusetts; and **Brian Gura** (UG minor).

North Carolina Alpha Chapter – North Carolina State University

The North Carolina State University Chapter of Mu Sigma Rho sponsored a talk by Bill Hunt, former director Emissions, Monitoring and Analysis Division, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, at the Y2K initiation banquet. The talk "Managing the Air Pollution from Kuwait Oil Fires" included fascinating pictures and reminiscences from the speaker's visit to Kuwait to assess environmental conditions shortly after the Gulf War.

The ceremony included a banquet at the Velvet Cloak Inn after which several undergraduate and graduate students were welcomed as new members of Mu Sigma Rho. Our initiates were: (undergraduates) **Amy Ann Aumiller, Lisa Ann Cason, Theodore E. Cherico, Jennifer Carolyn Coon, Ronald Charles DeFrancis, Jason Andrew Grissom, Daric Richard Harrington, Tammy Katrine Hodges, Sharon Leona Isley, Kristen Lynn Madsen, Susanna Rose Stevens, and Angela Blue Teachey**, and (graduates) **Lisa Crossland Bohman, Deboleena Dutta, Yao Huang, Brent Alan Johnson, Kaifeng Lu, Na Lu, Xiaohui Luo, Julie Pilar McIntyre, Pralay Mukhopadhyay, Palanikumar Ravindran, Xiao Song, Xiaolu Su, Bin Xiang, Eric Odel Yount, Jiuzhou Wang, Kai Wang, William Anthony Wheeler, and Di Yu.**

President's Column

Mark Payton, Oklahoma State University

As I near the end of my term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have been so helpful to me over the past 2 years or so. I would also like to ask the Mu Sigma Rho Chapter Representatives to help us out with a couple of endeavors MSR has undertaken.

Thanks to all the MSR officers and directors, especially Golde Holtzman for his excellent service as Treasurer-Secretary. I know his job hasn't been an easy one, and I have greatly appreciated his diligence and his patience. Golde has taken this organization "up a notch". I would also like to express gratitude to Carol Lancaster for her service as the Rhoer editor and to Don Edwards for being my sounding board. Don has also accepted the chore of running the upcoming elections. Thanks, Don! And let me remind the chapter reps out there to vote.

I must now ask for your help with a couple of items important to Mu Sigma Rho. First, MSR has sponsored College Bowl at JSM since 1996, but the event has faltered lately due to a lack of teams participating. This year appears to be heading in that direction. My request: please do what you can to put a team together from your university. Many have told me that this event is one of their favorites at JSM, but we can't continue doing it unless students are there to participate.

Secondly, we have sponsored the MSR Statistical Education Award. See the December 1999 issue of Amstat News (page 20) for the announcement and details on how to nominate someone. Please help us out by nominating your top educator from your department. The award will be presented at JSM in Indianapolis in August. We hope this will be an annual event and that some of our great statistics teachers can get the national recognition they deserve.

Please feel free to contact me at (405) 744-5684 or email me at mpayton@okstate.edu if you have any questions regarding College Bowl or the teaching award.

[Editor's note: Since this column was written, the College Bowl has been cancelled, a winner has been determined for the first MSR Statistical Education Award, and elections have been completed. Results will be announced at the August JSM meeting in August, 2000.]