

PARAMETER



Newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association

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March Greetings!



American Statistical Association

March Luncheon

CCASA Tuesday Luncheon Program



Luncheon Announcement

Noon to 1:30PM

TUESDAY March 18, 2008

The East Bank Club, 500 N Kingsbury, Chicago 60610

Please join us for another outstanding event in the CCASA's 2007-2008 Luncheon Program.

Our March speaker is David Henry- University of Illinois at Chicago. The presenter, David Henry, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has served as the methodologist on numerous federally-funded projects and is widely engaged in consultation on research methods, particularly for ecological or community research. The presentation's other authors also are members of the working group: Louis Fogg, Ph.D., of Rush University and UIC, Michael Schoeny, Ph.D. of the Institute for Juvenile Research at UIC, Jenna Watling Neal of the Health Research and Policy Center of UIC, and Zak Neal of the Department of Sociology at UIC.

Abstract:

Permutation Analysis. Random permutation tests involve obtaining probabilities associated with sample statistics by permuting rows or columns of the data matrix and recalculating the sample statistics a sufficient number of times. These tests have been suggested as an alternative to parametric tests with small samples, in situations where the shape of the sampling distribution is unknown, and when dependencies in the data are not easily modeled. Such situations are frequent in social setting research, such as modeling the effects of friendship network density or homophily on behavior, or analyzing small cross-nested samples.

The **April luncheon** will be held on **Tuesday, April 22**, and the speaker will be **Nate Silvus**, from Baseball Prospectus. He will discuss statistical models used to predict performance in baseball.

Plans for our future luncheons will be included in our upcoming announcements and in the Parameter. Lunch is \$30 for CCASA members, \$35 for nonmembers. Nonmembers, join the chapter for a year for only \$15 and get the discount plus all the other benefits of membership!

Contact Lou Fogg, VP for Luncheons Phone: 312-942-6239 or E-mail:louis_fogg@rush.edu

SOY Award Dinner 2008

As was announced in last month's Parameter, the 2007-2008 Statistician of the Year is **David Wallace**, Professor Emeritus of Statistics at The University of Chicago.

The award will be presented to Professor Wallace on **Thursday, May 15**, at a ceremony to be held at the East Bank Club. The event will include a dinner in David's honor.

Congratulations, David!

CCASA Workshop Announcement: This Week!

Short Course on Applied Survival Analysis

Presenter: **Susanne May**, University of California, San Diego

Date: **Friday, March 14, 2008**

Time: **8:30-5:00pm**

Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611-4316
312-464-8787

Early bird registration deadline was March 1, 2008.

Course Summary

Introduction to survival analysis:

- *Survival analysis data*
- *Descriptive methods*
- *Comparison of survival functions*

Regression modeling of survival data:

- *Fitting the Cox proportional hazards model*
- *Interpretation of the fitted model*
 - *Model building strategies*
 - *Assessing model adequacy*

Extensions of the proportional hazards:

- *Stratified proportional hazards model*
- *Time-varying covariates*

Other topics:

- *Frailty models*
- *Sample size and power*

The course does not assume prior knowledge of survival analysis techniques, but familiarity with either linear or logistic regression is assumed. Mathematical details are kept to a minimum. Approaches will be illustrated with examples from health-related studies.

Early Registration Fees

Student: \$95

Member: \$395

Non-Member: \$495

* After March 1, 2008, add \$50 to the early registration fees.

The fee includes extensive materials and a copy of the book "Applied Survival Analysis: Regression Modeling of Time to Event Data, 2nd ed.," breakfast items, lunch, and refreshments for AM and PM breaks. Space is limited. To ensure yourself a place, please register early.

Questions? Contact Tony Babinec, VP Workshops (tbabinec@sbcglobal.net)

For more information, including instructor biography and registration information, visit the Chicago Chapter ASA website at www.chicagoasa.org

Statistics in Action

The New York Times recently published an article on the important statistical work behind determining the unemployment rates of the country. With the state of the economy at the front of everyone's mind, we thought you might like to take a look!

Unemployed, and Skewing the Picture

By DAVID LEONHARDT, Published: March 5, 2008

In 1878, Carroll D. Wright set out to do something that nobody in the United States had apparently ever done before. He tried to count the number of unemployed.

As is the case today, the 1870s were a time of economic anxiety, with a financial crisis - the panic of 1873 - having spread into the broader economy. But Wright, then the chief of the Massachusetts Bureau of the Statistics of Labor, thought there weren't nearly as many people out of work as commonly believed. He lamented the "industrial hypochondria" then making the rounds, and to combat it, he created the first survey of unemployment.

The survey asked town assessors to estimate the number of local people out of work. Wright, however, added a crucial qualification. He wanted the assessors to count only adult men who "really want employment," according to the historian Alexander Keyssar. By doing this, Wright said he understood that he was excluding a large number of men who would have liked to work if they could have found a job that paid as much as they had been earning before.

Read on to learn more...

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/05/business/05leonhardt.html>

K-12 Teachers: Sharpen Your Statistics Skills

The **Meeting Within a Meeting** (MWM) Workshop for K-12 Teachers Will Be Held in Conjunction with the 2008 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM).

MWM will occur this summer (**August 4-5, 2008**) in Denver for K-12 math and science teachers to **enhance their understanding and teaching of statistics within the math/science curriculum**. Do you know any K-12 teachers who might be interested in attending MWM?

For more info visit:

<http://www.amstat.org/education/mwm/index.cfm?fuseaction=mainK-12>

CCASA Board Member Gives Workshop

Rush University's Office of Faculty Practice and Outreach Presents:

"Longitudinal Modeling" Louis Fogg, PhD

**Friday, April 4, 2008
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(registration at 8:30 a.m.)**

METC Lab, 9th Floor
Armour Academic Center
600 South Paulina
Rush University Medical Center

This interactive workshop will provide researchers with the tools required to conduct, interpret and report advanced statistical analyses by use of SPSS software. Attendees will generate a longitudinal analysis from a dataset and learn how to present the data by the end of the workshop.

Content Includes:

Description and demonstration of Longitudinal Data Analysis Demonstration and

interactive use of SPSS software Attendee generated models using SPSS

Program cost: \$300.00
Reduced fees for: Rush Employees & Alumni \$175.00
Student fee \$125.00

To register, please send your Name, Title, Email, Phone number, and a check in the amount of your registration costs to Marilyn Wideman at the address below:

Marilyn Wideman, DNP, RN-BC
Director, Faculty Practice and Outreach
600 South Paulina, ACC 1080
Rush University Medical Center
Chicago, IL. 60612

Questions? Feel free to call or contact: Phone: 312-942-7013
Fax: 312-942-3043

Marilyn_K_Wideman@rush.edu

***Make checks payable to:**
Rush University College of Nursing; Attn: Marilyn Wideman

Job Wanted

CCASA Member Seeks Career Opportunity:

- PhD statistician, 6 years credit card experience (Marketing Acquisition Analytics)
- Experimental design, statistical modeling, data mining, data analysis, targeting
 - Strong SAS skills
 - Forward-thinking, creative, innovative, proactive, analytical leader
- Superlative references focus on statistical skill/insight and creative, outside-the-box thinking
 - Keen interest in statistical methods and business intelligence, strategy
- Special interest in marketing and consumer credit, but would consider cross-over to web analytics
 - Permanent or contract

Contact Stephen Rowe, (630) 428-9701,
StephenRowe@CreditRiskAnalytics.com

Editor

Editor: Linda Burtch (312) 629-2400

PARAMETER, newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association, is published 10 times a year as a service to its members. To submit material for publication, contact the Editor, Linda Burtch, email: lburtch@smithhanley.com

PARAMETER provides a job listing service by publishing Positions Available and Positions Wanted, the latter being free to Chapter members. Companies may list positions for \$75. Contact the Editor for more information.

For additional information about Chicago Chapter ASA, please visit us on the web at: www.ChicagoASA.org Also, visit the National ASA web site www.amstat.org.

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