

PARAMETER

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

CHICAGO CHAPTER



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President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members of the Chicago Chapter, ASA:

Every year the new President of the Chicago Chapter writes an introductory letter to members. Every year the letter is upbeat. There is less reason than ever to break the tradition this year.

The Chicago Chapter can look back on a year of outstanding service to the profession and substantial financial success.

Finding the Needle in the Haystack was the catchy title of last fall's Workshop on Sampling Technique for Rare Populations. Catchy titles caught on. Early this summer the Chapter's Conference on Expert Systems and Statistics was billed as **The Sorcerer's Apprentice**.

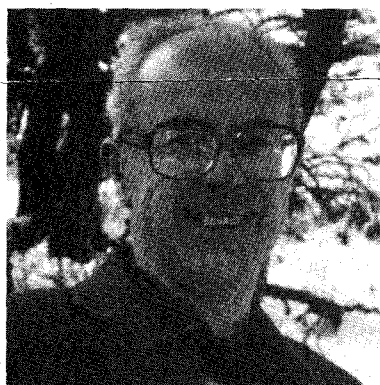
Both events were great successes. The Chicago Chapter thrust itself forward into important new subject areas. It brought leading researchers and practitioners together with audiences eager to find out about new subjects. We asked those attending each event to complete evaluation forms. Both distributions of grades were heavily weighted toward the top end of the scale.

In both events the Chicago Chapter took prudent financial risks but in the end took in more money than it put out. Many Chapter members worked hard, unsure of the outcome, but later enjoyed the satisfaction of having made things happen the way they should. Fortune favors the brave? Or randomness rewards risk-takers?

The luncheon program was consistently successful. Attendance was high. (It could be higher, and should be.) Each luncheon seemed to attract a gratifyingly different audience.

The Chicago Chapter is rightly proud of its unique **Outstanding Statistician of the Year Award**. This year's recipient, selected after polling the distinguished past recipients, was Ed Deming. The Award luncheon drew just over two hundred people and was a splendid and memorable occasion. Oral tradition, formerly known as rumor, says this is a record attendance for a Chicago Chapter event. The previous record is said to be 168. Can you confirm or elaborate? Call me, call Sam Mayo the Chapter's Historian, or write a letter to the new Editor of **PARAMETER**, Steve Schwartz.

I have deliberately not identified the leading contributors to these successes and I will not attempt to identify others who so faithfully supported the Chapter's regular staff functions and activities; the infrastructure, if you will. Both lists



About The New President

Vincent Hodgson is a Senior Operations Research Consultant with Amoco Corporation. Born and educated in England, he has lived in the United States since 1961. He attended the London School of Economics, and received the degrees of B. Sc. (Econ.) and Ph. D. in Statistics from the University of London. His 1961 doctoral dissertation was on a subject now called Queues with Vacations.

He taught Statistics at Florida State University from 1961 to 1968. After two and a half years as an Operations Research Analyst with Sperry & Hutchinson in New York, he joined Amoco in 1971.

would be long and the inevitable cuts invidious.

However, the immediate Past President, Ed Hirschland, must be singled out for his drive, his energy, his enthusiasm, his sound judgment, in a word, his leadership, over the last twelve months. I respect and admire Ed for the way he pushed the Chapter forward to superior achievement this past year. I am sure the Board of Directors concurs.

The Board of Directors itself deserves praise. It has worked hard and harmoniously. I am fortunate that most of this board of many talents will continue to serve this coming year, with the customary rotation of vice-presidencies

I am pleased to welcome four new members of this year's Board. Two are newcomers: Marilyn Einspanier of Illinois Bell

(Continued on Page 2)

President's Letter

(Continued from Page 1)

is the new Treasurer and Kathy Morrissey of CNA Insurance Companies is the new Secretary. A former President of the Chapter, Linda M. Clark of LMC Consulting Corporation, and Ken Wollenberg of Illinois Bell return as Directors. These are four good people to have working for the Chapter.

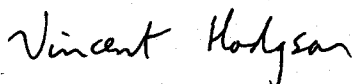
This coming year the Chicago Chapter will continue to serve its members and the statistical profession, broadly defined. As usual, *PARAMETER* will be published monthly and there will be a series of speakers at monthly luncheons at the Midland Hotel. The annual Workshop and the annual Conference will be held. In addition, this November the Chicago Chapter will sponsor a Careers in Statistics Forum for high school students, as it does every second year.

A new Directory of members will be published this year: a difficult, time-consuming, and expensive task but one that members seem to appreciate very much.

After the exultation, the exhortation. Please give some thought to becoming more active in the Chapter. You may be pleasantly surprised how satisfying and enjoyable it is. The more Chapter members step forward and volunteer ideas and involvement, the more successful will be the coming year:

- Steve Schwartz, Editor of *PARAMETER*, will appreciate news items, short articles, and letters. Free announcements about the job market are welcome, and so are paid advertisements.
- Brian Wesbury, Vice-President for Luncheons, has already selected some speakers for luncheons but has room in his schedule for more.
- Paul Levy and Richard Smiley, Vice Presidents for Conferences and Workshops, respectively, would like suggestions of topics and speakers for one-day meetings.
- Susan Groshong, Vice-President for Special Events, and Sam Mayo will be calling for volunteers to attend the Careers Forum and answer students' questions.
- Linda Clark believes that members don't want meetings with dinner and a long statistical talk after work, but she wonders if cocktails, hors d'œuvres, and a short program would appeal to members. Call her or me and tell us how to make this work, or why it won't work.
- Every member of the Board would be responsive to your suggestions for new activities the Chapter could undertake. Put it to the test. Call one you know or one you don't know. Though elected at large, they like to hear from their constituents.

In summary, the Chicago Chapter is doing well and needs your support to do better.



Vincent Hodgson

Luncheon Meeting Dates Set

Tentative dates for luncheons for the 1988-89 year are the following nine Tuesdays:

Sept. 13, 1988; Oct. 11, 1988; Nov. 15, 1988; Dec. 13, 1988; Jan. 10, 1989; Feb. 14, 1989; March 14, 1989; April 11, 1989; and May 9, 1989.

Please reserve these dates on your calendar.

1988-1989 Officers and Directors

President	Vincent Hodgson Amoco Corporation, 856-7310
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James Kennedy James N. Kennedy & Assoc.	Harry Roberts University of Chicago G.S.B.
Albert Madansky University of Chicago G.S.B.	Ken Wollenberg Illinois Bell

The Marketplace

Parameter offers a free placement service for ASA Chicago Chapter members. Write to: Stephan Schwartz, *Parameter* Editor, Dept. 753, BSC 44-12, Sears Roebuck and Co., Sears Tower, Chicago, IL 60684.

Job applicants should include a draft of their advertisement and a resume. Applicant names will remain confidential if requested.

Editor: Stephan Schwartz

875-2908

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Materials for publication should be submitted to the editor at the above address.