

# PARAMETER



Newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association

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## Greetings!

*National ASA Joint  
Meetings*

**American Statistical Association**

This year's joint statistical meetings (JSM) were held in **Salt Lake City, Utah** on **July 29 through August 2, 2007**. On the agenda was the announcement of this year's various new committee members, Chapter Service Recognition awards, the discussion of continued education courses, and Council Service Projects- along with multiple other items.

For details about and minutes from the business meeting, please visit <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/index.cfm?fuseaction=home>.

For other information about National ASA happenings, visit the American Statistical Association online at: [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).

*September Luncheon*

# CCASA Tuesday Luncheon Program



Luncheon Announcement

Noon to 1:30PM

TUESDAY September 25, 2007

The East Bank Club 500 N Kingsbury, Chicago 60610

Please join us for this first exciting event in the CCASA's 2007-2008 Luncheon program.

**Our September speaker is Kurt Fuqua, Chief Technologist for Cambridge Group Research. He has more than 20 years experience in computational linguistics, has created grammars for several languages and products related to machine translation, vehicle navigation and telephony. His talk is entitled: The Math of Language Identification.**

**Abstract:**

Is it possible to automatically identify the spoken language of a phone call? For obvious reasons, this has become an important area of research for government security organizations. The structure of a natural language is governed by the logic of grammar, yet each language has distinct statistical usage patterns. Solving the problem of automatic language identification involves the complex application of both logic and statistics. This talk will be an introduction to the complexity of this elusive problem.

The October luncheon will be held on October 23, and the speaker will be Emma Adam, from Northwestern University. Dr Adam will be discuss her work on using longitudinal growth curve models to describe the secretion of salivary cortisol.

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! **The deadline for luncheon registration is Friday September 21, 2007.**

**Contact Lou Fogg, VP for Luncheons Phone: 312-942-6239 or E-mail: [louis\\_fogg@rush.edu](mailto:louis_fogg@rush.edu)**

### **Save the Date: 2007-2008 Luncheons**

All luncheons are being held at the East Bank Club.

- September 25, 2007-Kurt Fuqua, Vail Systems, Computational Linguistics.
- October 23, 2007--Emma Adam, Northwestern University, Growth Curve Modeling of Salivary Cortisol.
- November 7, 2007(WED)-Andrea Rau, Meredith Wascher, STATCOM: Statistical Volunteers in the Community is Coming to Chicago.
- December 4, 2007-Arnold Zellner, Recent Developments in Bayesian Statistics
- January 22, 2008-Emily Gransky, The Job Market for Statisticians in the Chicago Area.
- February 19, 2008-Jennifer Zinkel, DIF Analysis of Cross-cultural Differences in Pain Perception.
- March 18, 2008- David Henry, Permutation Analysis
- April 22, 2008-TBA

### ***Entry Level Salaries***

As an insight into the industry, here are some interesting numbers for statisticians entering the business world after completing a **Master's Degree**.

The **average base salary** of someone entering the field this year is **\$62,500** , as reported by Kristen Wetta, statistical recruiter at Smith Hanley Associates. Interestingly enough, there was very little difference in salary regardless of geographic location. Salaries in the more expensive East Coast region closely matched other parts of the country.

### ***Statistics in Action***

Board member Tony Babinec brought a recent article in the New York Times to the attention of the CCASA Board. The piece centers on a recent health issue that seems to be plaguing honeybees- an issue that statistics are helping to solve. To Tony's understanding, the researchers involved employed a type of research design used in epidemiology - a retrospective study. They examined the genetic material of bees from healthy hives and from hives that exhibited Colony Collapse Disorder, and found that the presence or absence of Israeli acute paralysis virus was a distinguishing characteristic. A next step is to conduct an experiment featuring the deliberate infection of colonies with the virus.

## Virus Is Seen as Suspect in Death of Honeybees



Scientists sifting genetic material from thriving and ailing bee colonies say a virus appears to be a prime suspect - but is unlikely to be the only culprit - in the mass die-offs of honeybees reported last fall and winter.

[Read more...](#)

**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](mailto: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](http://www.ChicagoASA.org). Also, visit the National ASA web site [www.amstat.org](http://www.amstat.org).

Email change of address to: [suzanne.niemi@walgreens.com](mailto:suzanne.niemi@walgreens.com)