



**NEWSLETTER OF THE COLORADO – WYOMING CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION**

**Volume 33, Number 2**

**May 30, 2002**

**ADDRESS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As the new President of the Colorado Wyoming Chapter of the American Statistical Association, I am asking chapter members in all areas of academia and industry to renew your involvement in chapter meetings, activities, and functions. The strength of any organization comes from its members, regardless of their specialized areas or section affiliation.

We are a diverse group, yet we are united by our common bond as members of this statistical chapter.

We are in the process of planning chapter activities for the coming year and would appreciate your input. Please feel free to contact any member of the chapter's executive committee with ideas on how the chapter can meet your professional needs. The e-mail addresses of chapter officers are posted in this edition of the newsletter.

I look forward to serving you this year and hope to meet you at our upcoming chapter meetings.

- Jim Luhring

**SPRING MEETING SUMMARY**

The Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Statistical Association held its spring meeting at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder on April 5, 2002. The meeting included the following talks: "Age Replacement Policies in Two Time Scales" by Major Scott Frickenstein, USAFA; "Trout Streams, Slot Limits, and a Generalized Probability Distribution" by James Luhring, Cherry Creek High School; and "Bootstrap Confidence Intervals For The Binomial Parameter: How Good is Their Coverage When The Sample Size is a Poisson Random Variable" by Tressa Fowler, NCAR.

The chapter presented Maurice Davies Awards to the following outstanding statistics students at Colorado-Wyoming Universities: Melissa Laeser, Colorado School of Mines; Cathy Cullinane, Colorado State University; Justin Brown, Denver University; Tressa Fowler, University of Colorado-Denver; Chan Zeng and Dexiang Gao, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; and Michelle Bourassa, University of Wyoming.

The chapter also presented signed certificates to several outstanding area high school Advanced Placement statistics students nominated by their high school statistics teachers.

**Thomas Gatliffe** completed his term as president and is succeeded by **James Luhring**, previously president-elect. Other elected officers include: President-Elect **Amy Biesterfeld**; Secretary **Jack Powers**, Treasurer **Craig Williamson**, ASA Chapter Rep **Karen Kafadar**, Newsletter Editor **Tressa Fowler**, and Webmaster **Jim zumBrunnen**. Contact information for the officers is provided at the end of this newsletter.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**Fall Meeting  
CU Denver  
Saturday October 26**

**Winter Meeting  
Cherry Creek HS  
Saturday February 8**

More information on these meetings will be available in the next newsletter and on the chapter web site.  
<http://www.stat.colostate.edu/ASA>

Often statistics are used as a drunken man uses lampposts -- for support rather than illumination.

## THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMETRICS SOCIETY (TIES) 2002 CONFERENCE

The International Environmetrics Society has the goal of promoting collaborative research between statistics and environmental science. It sponsors annual meetings, with the next one to be held in Genoa, Italy, 18-22 June. The meeting topics span a wide range of environmental issues, including a session on Climate and Statistics. Noteworthy is that all of the speakers in this particular session have ties to Colorado, being either current or former postdoctoral fellows in the Geophysical Statistics Project at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder. The speakers and titles are as follows.

**SESSION:** "Climate and Statistics"

**ORGANIZER:** **Richard W. Katz**, National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR)/Environmental and Societal Impacts Group, Boulder, CO USA

### **SPEAKERS:**

- (1) **Enrica Bellone**, NCAR/Geophysical Statistics Project (GSP), "Modelling precipitation at dense networks in large geographical areas".
- (2) **Thomas Bengtsson**, NCAR/GSP, "Estimating ocean currents from freely floating buoys".
- (3) **Philippe Naveau** (with P. Keckhut, A. Hauchecorne, and L. Goldfarb), Institut Pierre Simon Laplace, Service d'Aeronomie, Cedex, France, "Multi-resolution analysis of the temporal evolution of polar stratospheric ozone and the detection of vortex breakpoint".
- (4) **Brandon Whitcer**, NCAR/GSP (with S. Jain, NOAA/CIRES, Boulder, CO USA), "Wavelet analysis of climate-related flood variability".

For more information about TIES 2002, see <http://www2.stat.unibo.it/ties2002/>.

### **OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST**

**Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM)**, August 11 - 15, 2002. New York City, New York.

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2002/>

Many other statistical meetings are being held this summer. For a complete list, consult the ASA meetings web site at:

<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/>.

### **AMY BIESTERFELD** (THE CHAPTER'S NEW PRESIDENT ELECT) **INTRODUCES HERSELF**

I got my undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in 1990 and my Ph.D. from UCLA in 1996. My thesis advisor was Thomas S. Ferguson. My dissertation is in the area of sequential analysis. My other mathematical areas of interest are in probability and game theory. My main area of interest is in statistics education. Since 1997, I have taught summer workshops to high school statistics teachers.

After graduating from UCLA, I was an Assistant Professor at Carleton College, a small liberal arts college in Northfield, Minnesota. However, we moved to Colorado in 1999 to be near my husband's family. I've been teaching in the Applied Mathematics Department at CU-Boulder since 1999.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Bryan, and two small children (Nathan, 3 1/2 years old, and Nicholas, 16 months old). I also like cooking, reading, watching movies, and running. In fact, I'm hoping to run my first marathon this September. Wish me luck!...

-Amy Biesterfeld



### **WEB SITES LISTING STATISTICS SEMNARS**

The following web sites list statistics seminars as well as seminars in other related fields. If you know of any additional sites that should be added to the list, please email the URL to the newsletter editor (address provided at the end of this newsletter).

<http://amath.colorado.edu/seminars/>

[http://www-math.cudenver.edu/statistics/stat\\_seminars.htm](http://www-math.cudenver.edu/statistics/stat_seminars.htm)

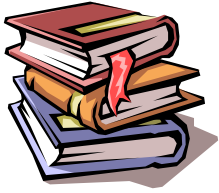
<http://www.stat.colostate.edu/seminars.html>

<http://www.uchsc.edu/sm/pmb/pmb/seminars.htm>

<http://www.cgd.ucar.edu/stats/seminar.shtml>

Many of these organizations also maintain email lists for notices of seminars.

Numeric stability is probably not all that important when you're guessing.



## STATISTICIANS ARE TOPS!

The most recent version of the *Jobs Rated Almanac*, by Les Krantz, lists both statistician and actuary among the 10 top jobs in the US. Jobs were rated based on salary, work environment, stress levels, outlook, security, and physical demands. Statisticians were judged to have the best working environment among the more than 250 jobs that were rated. Mathematician was second in this category.

### (Not quite) RANDOM MEMBER PROFILE

#### MARK FITZGERALD



**Mark Fitzgerald** is a new member of the statistics faculty in the Applied Math Department at CU-Denver. Mark completed his Ph.D. in Statistics at Carnegie Mellon University in 1996. His interests are Bayesian statistics, massive data sets, simulation, and statistical physics.

Most of Mark's research has been focused on applying statistics and computing to applications in the sciences. In particular, he is interested in the analysis of massive, structured data sets, such as series of images or sets of time series, where stationarity is generally a fallible assumption. Additionally, he is interested in improving simulation techniques involving systems that are too large to simulate exhaustively, such as statistical physics models and particle-tracking models.

When asked for an anecdote about himself, Mark submitted the following "How I ended up in Denver" story.

It was a two-body problem that eventually brought Mark to Denver. In May 1999, Mark married Karen Jenni, whom he'd met in graduate school at Carnegie Mellon University. Their

offices had been across the hall for three years before they finally met, and they never dated while in graduate school.

Mark graduated and took a job at Los Alamos National Lab in New Mexico, and Karen graduated (with a Ph.D. in Engineering and Public Policy) a year later and took a job at Applied Decision Analysis in the Bay Area. It was under these convenient circumstances that they began dating. In the fall of 2000, they decided they'd like to live in the same state.

Mark began looking for a job in the western U.S., since Karen is a Montana girl and didn't want to move east (or at least much east) of the Rockies. The math department at CU-Denver was a good fit, but Karen had recently switched companies to an environmental engineering firm, Geomatrix, and wasn't set up to work from home and telecommute yet. So Mark deferred at CU-Denver and moved to California to take a job as "leech," "kitchen boy," "bum," or one of many other names one could construct for house-husband. A year later, Mark re-joined the ranks of the employed by joining CU-Denver.

Karen had planned to move to Denver and work from home, but conveniently Geomatrix opened up a Denver office in LoDo.

The two-body problem was solved.

The chapter extends a warm welcome to new member Mark Fitzgerald. We look forward to his involvement in the local statistical community and chapter activities.

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The Statistics Department – where mean is normal and deviation, standard.