



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

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<http://www.stat.colostate.edu/ASA/newsletters.html>

Fall Meeting

**Saturday September 27, 2003
Long's Peak Room - Lory Student Center
Colorado State University
9 a.m.**

The fall meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the ASA will be held on **Saturday, September 27, 2003** in the Long's Peak Room at the Lory Student Center on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins. The meeting will focus on statistics in industry. Short talks by local statisticians will cover a wide variety of statistical applications while the keynote speaker, **Terry Callanan** from the Six Sigma Team at Kodak, will present a discussion of **Six Sigma** that will include the following topics:

What is Six Sigma?

Kodak's Six Sigma evolution

Training and roles of Green Belts and Black Belts

Successful Six Sigma applications - abstracts of various projects that include reference to statistical and quality tools that were used (but the summaries do not include any data or analysis)

Role of statisticians

The scheduled local speakers for the fall meeting are:

Craig Williamson	Primen
Jack Powers	Ball Containers
Tony Gojanovic	Coors
Dennis Helsel	USGS
Dave Olivero	Seagate

Coffee, bagels and registration are at 9 am, with talks beginning at 9:30. With lunch and coffee breaks, the meeting is expected to conclude between 3 and 4 pm.


	Students	Others
Fall meeting prices:	\$5	\$10

A map to the Lory Student center on the CSU campus is available at:

http://www.map.colostate.edu/loc_main.html

A map of the Lory Student Center showing the location of the Long's Peak Room is available at:

<http://www.sc.colostate.edu/maps.asp?Level=upper>


 A conference is a gathering of important people who singly can do nothing but together can decide that nothing can be done. -- Fred Allen



WEB SITES FOR PUBLISHERS OF STATISTICS BOOKS

The previous edition of this newsletter listed web sites for statistical software. An additional software web site was suggested by one of our readers.

<http://www.seeingstatistics.com>

This edition features web sites for publishers of statistics texts.

<http://www.wiley.com> (Wiley)

<http://www.springer-ny.com> (Springer-Verlag)

<http://books.mcgraw-hill.com> (McGraw-Hill)

<http://www.aw-bc.com/catalog/academic> (Addison Wesley)

And of course, for your favorite journal titles, check the ASA web page: www.amstat.org

WATCH THIS SPACE! – Each newsletter will feature a list of web sites of interest to statisticians. If you would like to nominate a site to be included, please send your suggestion to the newsletter editor.



Local Chapter members at the JSM 2003

The joint statistical meetings (JSM) were held August 3 – 8 in San Francisco. Several members of the local chapter were in attendance, including 3 of the chapter officers: Karen Kafadar, Matt Pocernich, and Tressa Fowler.

Karen Copeland, a statistical consultant and member of the local chapter, organized a session on statistical consulting. **Chih-Ming Wang** of Boulder's NIST laboratories presented "Fiducial Approach for Propagation of Uncertainties in Measurement". **Doug Nychka** of NCAR was an invited discussant about spline ANOVA models and a panelist for a discussion entitled "Should Climate Models be Determined?".

Several students and faculty from CU Denver presented at the JSM. **Mark Werner**, who recently completed his PhD with Karen Kafadar, presented his dissertation research on outlier detection in large data sets. **Karen Kafadar** presented research on length-biased sampling. **Steve Sain** discussed nonparametric modeling of soil characteristics. **Craig Johns** talked

about hierarchical models for chronic wasting disease. **Chan Zeng** of the Health Sciences Center offered a comparison of statistical summary measures of ELISPOT data. Norovsambuu Tumennasan participated in the student statistics trivia bowl.

Colorado State University also had a number of participants. **N. Scott Urquhart** discussed sampling ecological resources. **Devin Johnson**, who recently completed his PhD at CSU, presented "Random Effects Graphical Models and the Analysis of Compositional Data". Devin will no longer be with the chapter, as he has accepted a position as an assistant professor at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. **Jay Breidt**, who spoke at the chapter's spring meeting, talked about semiparametric small area estimation. Jay also co-authored work presented by PhD student **Mark Delorey** on distribution function estimation in small areas for aquatic resources.

The University of Northern Colorado had three participants present at the JSM. **John Young** presented "Analyzing the Effect of the Covariance Matrix on the Average Run Length of the MEWMA Control Chart". In a related talk, **Jay Schaffer** discussed "An Examination of Variable Deletion Within the MEWMA Control Chart Statistic". In the chapter's only (known) contribution to the section on statistics in sports, **Daniel Mundfrom** offered power ratings for NCAA Division II football.

The University of Wyoming had two participants that offered presentations. In the general methodology section, **Shaun Wulff** presented "Explicit Likelihood Estimators in Normal Variance-Components Models". **Timothy Robinson** gave a talk entitled "Analysis Considerations in Industrial Split-Plot Experiments When the Responses are Nonnormal"

Roger Johnson, the keynote speaker at the chapter's winter meeting for high school teachers, presented "Record Values and Surviving Glacial Moraines". **Frank Matejcek** presented work done jointly with Roger Johnson in his talk on statistical graphics entitled "Demonstrating Least Squares Fitting Properties Using a Plot Equivalent to an F test". Roger and Frank are affiliated with the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, but both are members of the Colorado-Wyoming chapter. The chapter officers appreciate their efforts to participate in the chapter activities from so great a distance.

(The newsletter editor does not possess psychic abilities, and thus may have missed some chapter members' contributions to the JSM. If so, sincerest apologies are extended. To be included in the next edition of the newsletter, please send relevant information to the newsletter editor at the address provided at the end of this newsletter.)



A conclusion is simply the place where someone got tired of thinking.

Matt Pocernich, the chapter's new treasurer, attended the Council of Chapters (COC) Annual Business Meeting at the JSM. Matt reports the following on the meeting:

In addition to the free breakfast, this was a neat opportunity to meet with people from other chapters. We (the Colorado/ Wyoming ASA chapter) seem to be similar to the other chapters within our region. Most seem to have two major meetings per year. The San Diego chapter conducts all of their correspondence with members by e-mail. The Puget Sound chapter occasionally has evening meetings at restaurants with speakers. Nevada recently had a very successful career day and in general was making a big push to increase membership.

Official business included some of the following. Chapters may co-sponsor continuing education courses at the JSM. This could be a source of revenue and the deadline for next year is October 15th. Attendance at the San Francisco JSM was estimated to be 5,700. This beat the previous conference record of 5,500 the previous year in New York. About half of the chapters have charters that are not in compliance with the national organization. If these are not changed individually, they will be corrected by the national organization.

For the second year, chapter member **Mark Werner** of CU Denver won the **Gertrude Cox Memorial 5K race** held at the JSM. **Eric Gilleland** of CSU-Statistics and NCAR-Geophysical Statistics Program placed first in his age group and 8th overall.

New Chapter Officers

At the spring meeting, some new chapter officers were elected. Amy Biesterfeld, formerly president-elect, took over as president of the Colorado Wyoming Chapter of the ASA. The president-elect position is held by Craig Williamson, who was formerly treasurer. Matt Pocernich of NCAR will be the chapter's new treasurer. Contact information for these and the other chapter officers can be found at the end of this newsletter. The other offices were not up for re-election, as some of the terms of office are 2 or 3 years.

Profile of Matt Pocernich The Chapter's New Treasurer

Matt Pocernich is a Chicago native who emigrated to Colorado in 1991. After two years of walking through the sewers of Denver as an engineer for the Metro wastewater Reclamation District, Matt decided to go to Colorado State to earn a Master's in Environmental Engineering. Five years as consulting engineer, convinced him of two things: (1) the most fun project involved data analysis and modeling; and (2) he didn't know what he was doing. (But by doing it with confidence, no one noticed.) Returning to school, he spent way too long earning a Masters in Applied Math at the University of Colorado - Denver. Now working for the Research Application Program at NCAR in Boulder, Matt is doing fun stuff with fun people with weather data. Slightly more specifically, he studies extreme value statistics, model output statistics and ensemble models on a variety of data.

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