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American Statistical Association to Conduct R Language Course

Class at ASA's Alexandria headquarters is open to members and non-members; covers functionality of R language, not statistical concepts and techniques

ALEXANDRIA VA (PRWEB) MARCH 3, 2009 –The American Statistical Association (ASA) is sponsoring a two-day, hands-on LearnStat workshop on R, the free interactive programming language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. “An Introduction to the Fundamentals and Functionality of the R Language” is intended for those interested in learning the basics of R. No prior experience with R is necessary, but basic programming knowledge is helpful. The class will be held Thursday and Friday, April 9 and 10, at ASA headquarters, 732 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

The course is open to ASA members and non-members and will emphasize the fundamentals and functionality of the language, not statistical concepts and techniques. Day one presents an overview, which will cover some of the fundamentals but also get right into the functionality. By the end of the first day, the goal is to make participants very comfortable interacting with R. Day two covers the nuts and bolts and will cover various topics in more depth. In addition to graphics in R, the fundamental topics to be discussed over both days include assignment; the creation, attributes, and manipulation of data structures; the conditional and repetitive evaluation of expressions; and functions, including their vectorization, the implicit and explicit looping of them, and writing your own. The extensive course notes will also include a catalog of various R functions, a graphics reference, and numerous practice exercises (and solutions).

The course will be taught by Theresa Scott, who has offered a weekly R Clinic at Vanderbilt University since 2005. She also is a member of the project to develop the R add-on report package that produces statistical reports in LaTeX for clinical trials, such as interim reports for data monitoring committees.

Registration will remain open until April 3, 2009. Complete information on downloading and installing R, course pricing and online registration is available at <https://www.amstat.org/education/learnstat/fundamentalsofR.cfm>

The ASA's LearnSTAT program offers continuing education opportunities to statisticians beyond those offered at the Joint Statistical Meetings. The target audience for these courses is primarily professional statisticians-academicians, government employees, and applied statisticians. LearnSTAT courses are intended to enhance statisticians' understanding of contemporary theory, methodology, and application of the science. Three other LearnStat courses will be presented as follows:

- April 17 - Fundamental Statistics Concepts in Presenting Data: Principles for Constructing Better Graphics
- April 30 – Survival Analysis in Clinical Trials
- May 1 – Introduction to Meta-Analysis

More information about these courses can be found at <https://www.amstat.org/education/learnstat/index.cfm>

About the American Statistical Association

The American Statistical Association (ASA), a scientific and educational society founded in Boston in 1839, is the second oldest continuously operating professional society in the United States. For more than 160 years, ASA has been providing its 18,000 members serving in academia,

government, and industry and the public with up-to-date, useful information about statistics. The ASA has a proud tradition of service to statisticians, quantitative scientists, and users of statistics across a wealth of academic areas and applications. For additional information about the American Statistical Association, please visit the association's web site at <http://www.amstat.org> or call 703.684.1221.

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