



**Message from Julie Yee, SSA President:**

Working in the field of statistics, we understand the importance of numbers. This year I found renewed respect for a different kind of power in numbers. We are witness to another year of divisive presidential campaigning in our nation. Just last fall, we witnessed a very remarkable recall in our state. Our society in large numbers places responsibilities into the hands of only one or a few persons. I've always wondered how anyone can do so much. Then, as SSA President, I observed that no one person does it all. The SSA has a tradition of hosting many activities valuable to its members, and I initially felt I had accepted a large responsibility. What I've discovered is that, like many things in nature, the SSA has a life of its own. Its life force comes from its members. This year was productive for the SSA not because of any special effort by the President, but because of the combined contributions of many individuals. The power of numbers that elect is no match for the power of numbers that do. I hold in respect those of you who have volunteered in any way, no matter how small, to keep the SSA active. You are the ones who have attended the meetings, participated in our activities, and given your input. The credit, and the responsibility, has always been with the collective. I encourage more of you to do more. There are, of course, the standout few who have already gone above and beyond. The officers and the councilors of the SSA are indispensable – without their coordinated effort, we would have gone nowhere. For this, I would like to give special recognition to Chandra, Charles, Chris, Farzaneh, Kathleen, Kirsten, Linda, Lisette, Lois, Shannon, and Tam. And I reserve my greatest thanks to Matt for being a trusty sounding board and excellent Vice President.

**Message from Matthew Facer, SSA Vice-President and 2004 Institute Chair:**

The experience of chairing the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Institute on Research and Statistics was very rewarding in several ways. First and foremost was the opportunity to work with many adept and dedicated people – most of whom I barely knew prior to becoming Vice President – in setting up the Institute. Thanking all of them demands a separate paragraph (below). Second was a larger appreciation of how far-reaching the field of statistics is, as a diverse set of abstracts was received (and thank all of you who submitted one). Third was a newfound appreciation of how much teamwork goes into putting together even a small conference – I will always have patience at all future conferences that I attend.

The 2004 Institute could not have happened without the voluntary contribution of many people, and though their names appear throughout this letter, as Chair of the Institute I would like to give special thanks to few of them who provided great personal assistance. Uncertainties came up almost every week leading up to the Institute, and having the experience of Treasurer Charles Chan and Secretary Kathleen Gallagher (both of whom have served as SSA Officers for a number of years) on our side made things much, much easier. Sharon Jordan at CSUS was very friendly and helpful in making the arrangements (and changing them more than once) for the Institute. I am grateful to all of the Councilors for being so flexible with their time during the Institute. Moreover, both Susan Slaughter and Andrew Karp of the Sacramento Valley SAS User's Group (SVSUG) were wonderful at coordinating SVSUG activities within the Institute and were in constant communication in the days and weeks prior. Most pivotal to the success of the 2004 Institute, however, was our President Julie Yee. Her experience chairing the 2003 Institute, combined with her guidance, support, professionalism, and patience, made putting together the 2004 Institute a great experience. In her three years with SSA, Julie has served as Secretary, Vice President, and President, and we at the SSA are extremely fortunate to have a stalwart like Julie as an officer.

## Report on the 2004 Institute on Research and Statistics:

The 25th Annual Institute was held on April 8, 2004, at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). The Institute, sponsored jointly by the Sacramento Statistical Association (SSA) and the CSUS Department of Mathematics and Statistics is a day-long event intended for professional development in research and statistics. Keynote speakers, presentations, special sessions on SAS, and an ASA membership social highlighted the event.

SSA President Julie Yee and Doraiswamy Ramachandran, Chair of the CSUS Department of Mathematics and Statistics, opened the Institute with welcoming remarks to over 100 attendees. President Yee recognized the contributions of the members of the SSA Board of Directors who assisted in planning and conducting the annual Institute: Vice-President Matt Facer organized this year's highly successful Institute, secretary Kathleen Gallagher coordinated the call for papers and distribution of program materials; treasurer Charles Chan organized lunch for all attendees and arranged for the funding of all awards. Councilors Kirsten Knutson, Lois Lowe, Shannon Conroy, and Tam Clay introduced speakers and moderated the concurrent sessions. Councilor Lisette Walker assisted Kathleen, Charles, Kirsten and Shannon in processing on-site registrations and signing in all pre-registered attendees. Councilor and ASA representative Linda Gage coordinated the ASA social. A special award was presented to Past-President Farzaneh Tabnak for her leadership of the Association last year.

The Institute featured two plenary sessions highlighted by three plenary talks on a diverse set of topics. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Howard Roth, Chief Economist at California Department of Finance, who presented "The California Economy: Looks Much Better, but Where Are the Jobs?" A second featured speaker was Dr. James Carey, Program Director for Biodemographic Determinants of Life Span and Professor in the University of California at Davis (UCD) Department of Entomology, who presented "The Future of Human Longevity: Probabilities and Possibilities." The closing plenary session featured a talk by Dr. Robert Rodriguez of the SAS Institute entitled "Statistical Graphics Using ODS in SAS 9.1."

Student fellowship awards were presented to undergraduate student Dung Nguyen in the Math Department of CSUS and doctoral student Fangxin Hong in the Statistics department of UCD. The students were selected for their outstanding scholarship and awarded \$500 each. Councilor and Professor of Statistics Christiana Drake and Doraiswamy Ramachandran headed the committees for selecting these recipients at UCD and CSUS, respectively.

Papers presented in concurrent sessions throughout the day highlighted recent research activities:

- Parul Purohit, Center for Image Processing and Integrated Computing, University of California, Davis presented "A *Metabolomic Study of Abalone Health Using Discrimination Models and Variance Stabilizing Transformations of NMR Data.*"
- Willard Hom, Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges presented "A *Framework for Exploring Data Quality in a Large Data System.*"
- Andrew Karp, Sierra Information Services, Inc. provided "A *Peek at PROC DOCUMENT.*"
- David Cowling and Jessica Schumacher, California Department of Health Services presented "Using *Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) to Assess the Relation between Tobacco Retailers and Youth Tobacco Use Behaviors in California*" and "Bar Revenues Are Not Affected by Smoke-free Laws in California – The Last Call."
- Robert N. Rodriguez, SAS Institute, also presented "New *Statistical Software in SAS 9.*"
- Christiana Drake, Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis presented "Relative Survival, *Observational Studies and Missing Data Patterns.*"
- David Heiser presented "Excel 2003 For Statistics: *What's New, What's Been Fixed and What Are The Problems?*"
- Xueying Zhang, California Department of Health Services presented "Impact of the *Distributional Assumptions of Random Effects on Model Fitting.*"
- Fangxin Hong, Department of Statistics, University of California, Davis presented "Statistical Methods for Analysis of *Microarray Time Course Gene Expression Data.*"

SVSUG sponsored Dr. Rodriguez's presentations, and SAS and SVSUG donated numerous books and other SAS-related items for a popular end-of-the-day raffle. Andrew Karp and Susan Slaughter of SVSUG coordinated all SAS-related activities, including Dr. Rodriguez's schedule and travel arrangements from the SAS Institute in North Carolina. A generous award from the ASA provided membership information and allowed an opportunity for networking and refreshments both during the day and after the conclusion of the formal program.

## Upcoming SSA Events:

### *Short Courses in 2005*

Dr. Alan Fenech will be presenting a short course on logistic regression sometime during winter quarter (January – March) of 2005. Dr. Fenech is currently an Emeritus Professor of Statistics at UC Davis, where he has had 30 years of experience teaching statistics. Dr. Fenech provided an excellent short course on statistical sampling for SSA a few years ago. Course details will be formally announced in the next couple of months.

SSA's past president, Dr. Farzaneh Tabnak, will also be presenting a short course next year on a topic yet to be determined. More information on this course will be provided as it becomes available.

### *Annual Membership Dinner*

The 2004 annual membership dinner will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2004 at 6:00pm at Zócalo's Restaurant. The restaurant, featuring Mexican dining, is located at 1801 Capitol Ave. in Downtown Sacramento. More information about the restaurant can be found at <http://www.sacticket.com/dining/story/10501954p-11421218c.html>. The purpose of this evening is to elect officers for the upcoming year, and all current members and their guests are invited to the event. **Please contact Charles Chan at [cchan@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:cchan@dhs.ca.gov) to confirm your attendance.**

### **Other Information:**

#### *UCD Statistical Seminars*

For the past few years, SSA members have been invited to attend special seminars on advanced statistical methodologies at UCD by students and visitors. SSA's secretary, Kathleen Gallagher, notifies SSA members of these seminars. If you are interested in the seminars, please give Kathleen your e-mail address for notification. Contact information is shown below.

#### *2005 Institute*

It isn't too early to start thinking about being a presenter at the 2005 institute. This is your opportunity to share with others the methods you use and/or the outcome of your work. Contributions by members are much appreciated.

### **Board Members: 2004 Officers and Councilors**

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