

Twin Cities Chapter's Third Career Fair

John Fieberg, Stan Lipovetsky, Zengri Wang, An Liu, Shon Magnan

The Twin Cities (TC) Chapter of the American Statistical Association held its third Career Fair, consisting of two events. First – participation in the University of Minnesota's (UMN) Graduate and Professional Student Career Fair held on March 23, and second – discussions regarding careers in statistics during a Chapter Meeting the subsequent week, on March 29, 2006. The timing of the two events was highly beneficial. The UMN Career Fair provided an opportunity to talk to statistics and biostatistics students seeking jobs and summer internships as well as students from other related fields who expressed interest in pursuing jobs/internships or advanced degrees in statistics/biostatistics. A number of these students decided to attend our next Chapter meeting to learn more about careers in statistics and to network with statisticians in the TC area.

The TC Chapter hosted a table at the UMN Career Fair along with 43 other organizations representing a diverse range of employment settings, including several state and federal governmental organizations, non-for profit groups, and private sector companies. Admission was free and open to students, UMN alumni, and Chapter members. Chapter members were on hand to discuss various career opportunities, and ASA Career brochures and articles were made available for interested attendees. The career fair provided a first introduction to ASA for many students and professionals attending the fair, who were motivated to follow up conversations with Chapter members by attending our subsequent Chapter meeting.



Picture 1 University of Minnesota Graduate and Professional Student Career Fair held on campus at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center on March 23, 2006. Pictured left to right are: John Fieberg (Chapter President), Zengri Wang (Chapter Past-President), An Liu (Chapter Webmaster).

On March 29 our Chapter held a meeting that featured a stimulating statistical talk by Professor Mike O’Fallon from the Mayo Clinic, titled “Methodological issues encountered in the review of the TPA trials: a statistical and neurological odyssey.” The meeting was held on campus at the UMN, and food and drinks were provided (free to newly registered members of the Chapter). We added 18 new members to our Chapter, including 14 new student members. These new members were fortunate to hear a very interesting talk by a former ASA president, Professor Mike O’Fallon.



Picture 2 Professor Mike O'Fallon from the Mayo Clinic addresses a full room of TC ASA Chapter members on March 29, 2006.

Following the statistical talk, Mike O'Fallon also spoke about careers in Biostatistics in general as well as specific career paths (e.g., BA, MS, and Ph.D. level positions) available at the Mayo Clinic. He described his educational and professional background and related several enjoyable experiences involving collaborative efforts with other statisticians and project team members during his career as a Biostatistician at the Mayo Clinic.



Picture 3. A former ASA President, Professor Mike O'Fallon from the Mayo Clinic describes his educational and professional background and related enjoyable experiences at the Twin Cities ASA Chapter Meeting on March 29, 2006.

Mike's presentation was followed by a discussion of career opportunities in market research by Shon Magnan (GfK Custom Research Inc.). Shon described several career paths available to statisticians in his company and emphasized the importance of both technical and communication skills. In particular, he stressed the value of being able to communicate statistical results in simple layman terms. Students were very encouraged by Shon's description of possible internships at market research companies in the Twin Cities area. Overall, the

meeting was a great success. Seasoned Chapter members enjoyed hearing a very inspiring statistical talk as well as interacting with students drawn to the meeting by a desire to learn more about careers in statistics and to network with established statisticians in the TC area.



Picture 4. At the Twin Cities ASA Chapter Meeting on March 29, 2006. Pictured in front left to right are: Stan Lipovetsky (Chapter Secretary/Treasurer), John Fieberg (Chapter President), Shon Magnan (Chapter President-elect).

The TC Chapter hopes to continue to host career awareness opportunities in the coming years and looks forward to speaking with officers from other Chapters that have held career events in the past or are planning to hold their first career day. We would like to thank Lynne Schuman, Jane Vega and Barbara Laporte for organizing the UMN Career Fair and Yuriy Malashenko for

taking photographs at the Chapter Meeting. Past-president, Sarah Kogut, was instrumental in planning the Career Fair. We also appreciate support from the ASA Career Development and Career Day Grants Committee for their support of our activities by providing us with a Chapter Career Day Grant.