

PARAMETER



Newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association

Volume 51 Number 6

January 2008

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Happy New Year!

CCASA Tuesday Luncheon Program



January Luncheon

Luncheon Announcement

Noon to 1:30PM

TUESDAY January 22, 2008

The East Bank Club, 500 N Kingsbury, Chicago 60610

Please join us for the first exciting '08 event in the CCASA's 2007-2008 Luncheon Program.

Our January speaker is Emily Gransky, Executive Recruiter at Smith Hanley Associates.

Abstract:

January's speaker will be Emily Gransky, an Executive Recruiter & Manager at Smith Hanley Associates right here in Chicago. An expert on careers in the field of statistics, Emily will enlighten luncheon guests with her insights into "**Statistics: How to Model Your Career**" (all puns intended). Focusing on the essential facts of working within the industry, the discussion will cover some of the common questions and topics that arise when navigating the job path such as:

- Industry Cross Pollination: Should you jump to a new field? How late is too late? What are the implications?
- To MBA or Not to MBA?: How to position yourself for your long-term career goals.
- Communication Skills: One key to climbing the corporate ladder.
- Salaries Across the Field: This one is self-explanatory!

Sure to be informative to anyone who is or hopes to be working within the field, this luncheon is one NOT TO MISS! **Great conversation, great people, and great food- what a way to start the year off right.** We hope to see you there!

The **February Luncheon** will be held on Tuesday, February 19, and the speaker will be **Jennifer Zinkel**, who will discuss DIF Analysis of Cross-Cultural Differences in Pain Perception.

Plans for our future luncheons will be included in our upcoming announcements and in the Parameter. Lunch is \$30 for CCASA members, \$35 for nonmembers. Nonmembers, join the chapter for a year for only \$15 and get the discount plus all the other benefits of membership!

Contact Lou Fogg, VP for Luncheons Phone: 312-942-6239 or E-mail:louis_fogg@rush.edu

****Editor's note:** I can certainly vouch for Emily's industry expertise as her colleague for the past 4 years. That said, in my 24 years I've had the pleasure (or not!) of weathering not one, but two recessions. I'll plan to speak to this during Emily's talk.

- Linda Burtch, Managing Director, Smith Hanley Chicago



As we are now officially in an election year, the importance of the role of statistics becomes even more apparent. With everyone casting their prediction as to which way the "cookie will crumble", the eyes of America are on the predicted outcomes at the poles.

The New York Times Opinion section published an interesting piece on the recent outcome of the New Hampshire poles. Written by Andrew Kohut of the PEW Research Center, we thought you might want to take a look...

Getting It Wrong

By ANDREW KOHUT Published: January 10, 2007

THE failure of the New Hampshire pre-election surveys to mirror the outcome of the Democratic race is one of the most significant miscues in modern polling history. All the published polls, including those that surveyed through Monday, had Senator Barack Obama comfortably ahead with an average margin of more than 8 percent. These same polls showed no signs that Senator Hillary Clinton might close that gap, let alone win.

While it will take time for those who conducted the New Hampshire tracking polls to undertake rigorous analyses of their surveys, a number of things are immediately apparent.

To read the rest of the article, click the link below:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/10/opinion/10kohut.html>

The ASA Council of Chapters **Traveling Short Course** Committee is pleased to announce the **2008 course offerings**.

Bootstrap Methods and Permutation Tests for Doing and Teaching Statistics

March 24-27 or March 29

(deadline for applying January 31, 2008)

For more information on the courses, presenters, course application, and committee members please see the ASA website, Chapters, Traveling Courses.

Visit Online at: <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/index.cfm?fuseaction=travelingcourses>

CCASA Workshop Announcement: Save the Date!

Short Course on Applied Survival Analysis

Presenter: **Susanne May**, University of California, San Diego

Date: **Friday, March 14, 2008**

Time: **8:30-5:00pm**

Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611-4316
312-464-8787

Early bird registration deadline March 1, 2008. Look for more information to come!

Monster.com recently published an article on the outlook of careers in 2008. With some interesting predictions, we encourage you to take a look!

Hiring Outlook 2008

By JOHN ROSSHEIM, Monster Senior Contributing Writer

You want a New Year's prediction for the US labor market? Here you go: 2008 will be the year of the quant.

By quant, we mean not just quantitative analysts, those brainiacs of finance who drive many a hedge fund's oversized returns -- and occasionally help set off market crises like the recent mortgage-backed securities meltdown.

No, for 2008, we have the entire range of creative workers who excel in the logical and mathematical in mind, for they are in intense and increasing demand in fields like systems design, electronic engineering, accounting and, yes, finance.

Read on to see how your corner of the economy will fare in the new year.

<http://career-advice.monster.com/job-search-essentials/Employment-Outlook-2008/home.aspx>

Editor

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PARAMETER, newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the American Statistical Association, is published 10 times a year as a service to its members. To submit material for publication, contact the Editor, Linda Burtch, email: lburtch@smithhanley.com

PARAMETER provides a job listing service by publishing Positions Available and Positions Wanted, the latter being free to Chapter members. Companies may list positions for \$75. Contact the Editor for more information.

For additional information about Chicago Chapter ASA, please visit us on the web at: www.ChicagoASA.org Also, visit the National ASA web site www.amstat.org.

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