
North Texas Chapter American Statistical Association

Volume 18, Issue 1

September 2016

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 15, 2016

Refreshments: 6:30 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Southern Methodist University Heroy Hall Room 153

Speaker: James L. Hess, Ph.D.

Presentation: Statistical Leadership: What Is It and Who Needs It?

Abstract: The ASA has given much attention to the topic of statistical leadership over the past several years including several columns and articles in AmstatNews. Two of our last four ASA presidents have invested much of their presidential capital in the statistical leadership topic. The ASA Ad Hoc Leadership Committee recently submitted a three year proposal for accelerating the leadership development of statisticians that was affirmed by the ASA Board of Directors.

In order for our profession to thrive in the long term, it will be critically important to foster the development of statistical leadership skills in a wide range of our colleagues at the early career, mid-career and senior levels. These leadership skills should be viewed as essential complements to, and not substitutes for, the strong technical skills currently provided by high-quality academic department of statistics and biostatistics. Our success as statisticians ultimately depends on getting others to understand and act on our work. Leadership is not a footnote for statisticians; it is integral to being successful as a statistician.

This presentation provides a definition of statistical leadership and begins to develop an understanding of how statisticians can improve their skills with a focus on the larger organization/business view and influence. Every statistician is on a leadership journey; learn how to up your game.

Biography: James L. Hess is currently retired after a career in industry spanning 30+ years. He retired in 2012 as a Vice President of Leggett & Platt, Incorporated with corporate responsibility for the Risk Management, Environmental Affairs, Leggett Business Systems, Continuous Process Improvement, and Logistics functions. He worked with Leggett & Platt for seventeen years. Prior to joining Leggett & Platt, he worked for the DuPont Company for fifteen years as a statistical consultant and a manager in their Quality Management & Technology Center. Before joining DuPont, he was on the faculty at Kansas State University in the Statistics Department. Jim has an undergraduate degree in Applied Mathematics from Missouri University of Science and Technology and his Ph.D. in Mathematical Statistics from Southern Methodist University. He is the author of several articles on the application of statistics to process improvement, and has co-authored a book titled *Statistical Design and Analysis of Experiments* published by John Wiley & Sons. During 2015 Jim had the pleasure of being a Visiting Research Professor in the Department of Statistical Science at Southern Methodist University.

Announcements:

- Professor Linda Hynan (Department of Clinical Sciences, UT Southernwestern Medical Center) received the ASA Award for Outstanding Chapter Service at the Joint Statistical Meeting 2016.



- The Conference of Texas Statisticians (COTS) will be held at the Southern Methodist University in Spring 2017. More information will be provided soon.

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