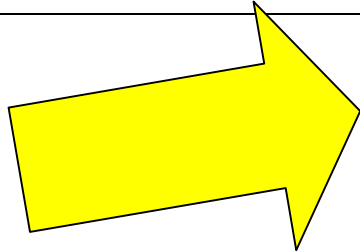


ASAP Newsletter

The Philadelphia Chapter of the
American Statistical Association



September, 2005



<http://www.amstatphilly.org/>

Check it out!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome! I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable summer. It was great to see so many of you at our **Summer Short Course** with *Tim O'Brien* in July. Thank you for all your comments as well, as we greatly appreciate all the feedback we receive from our chapter members. Feel free to provide any additional feedback, comments or suggestions to any of our Chapter Officers at any time of the year -- contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

I would like to welcome my fellow **Chapter Officers**: *Paul Johansen* has been elected Vice President and will continue serving as Newsletter Editor. *Paul Lupinacci* and *Bob Gagnon* have been re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. *Devan Mehrotra* will continue as our appointed Chapter Representative, *Debbie Panebianco* will continue as our appointed Web Master and *Cindy Gargano* has accepted the formidable and important task of reviving the position of appointed Outreach Officer. I would like to thank our outgoing President *Diane Miller* for her many contributions to our Chapter these past two years. And thank you to all the chapter members that voted in this year's election.

It is time for our annual **Fall Meeting**, which will be held on Friday October 14th. We have a very exciting and unusual program, jointly sponsored by the *Organizational Dynamics Program* and the *Political Science Department* at the University of Pennsylvania. We are honored and pleased to present two illustrious speakers expressing opposing views on the 2004 exit poll controversy: *Steve Freeman* from UPenn Organizational Dynamics and *Warren Mitofsky*, President of Mitofsky International, the research organization that conducted the exit polls. Rounding out our program will be *Jianjun (David) Li* from Merck, with a talk entitled, "Can Statistics make a difference in these negative trials?" Biosketches and abstracts, as well as registration and venue information, can be found on pages 2-4.

Please read on for information about other exciting meetings, including the **13th Merck-Temple Conference** and the **9th Insightful User Conference** (both on page 7). [Hope to see you on October 14th!](#)

~ Lisa Hickey

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, October 10	ASQ NQ Month Statistical Symposium (Penn State Great Valley)
Friday, October 14	ASAP Fall Meeting (University of Pennsylvania)
Wednesday, October 19	Demographic Analysis workshop (Philadelphia, www.CalmRiver.com)
Thur-Fri, October 20-21	GIS workshop (Philadelphia, www.CalmRiver.com)
Friday, October 21	13 th Merck-Temple Conference, Plymouth Meeting DoubleTree Hotel
Wed-Thur, October 26-27	9 th Annual Insightful User Conference, Westin Princeton
Saturday, October 29	ATMOPAV Fall Conference, The Haverford School
December 5-9	61 st Deming Conference on Applied Statistics, Atlantic City, NJ
Friday, January 27, 2006	ASAP Mid-Winter Gathering, The Sedgeley Club
March 19-22, 2006	ENAR in New Orleans (www.enar.org/meetings.htm)
Late March, 2006	ASAP Spring Meeting (www.AmstatPhilly.org)
Early April, 2006	ATMOPAV Spring Conference (www.atmopav.com)
July, 2006	ASAP Summer Short Course (www.AmstatPhilly.org)
August 6-10, 2006	Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle (www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2006)

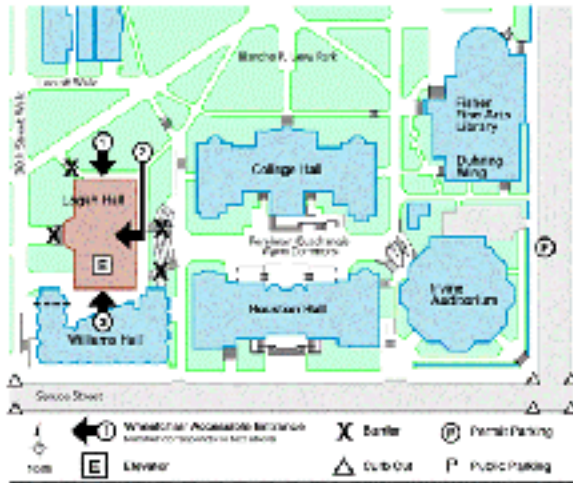
ASAP FALL MEETING RSVP by **Friday, October 7**

ASAP would like to acknowledge the generosity of the **Organizational Dynamics Program** (center.grad.upenn.edu/program/nav.cgi?page=welcome) and the **Political Science Department** (www.ssc.upenn.edu/polisci) at the University of Pennsylvania for sponsoring the venue for this event and for helping to defray the cost of refreshments.

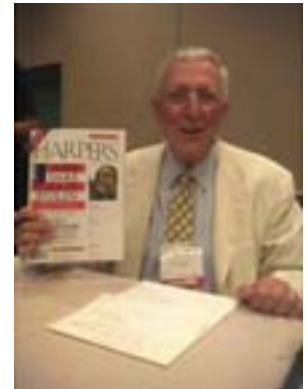
DATE:	Friday, October 14, 2005, 11:30am-3:30pm	
LOCATION:	University of Pennsylvania (Terrace Room, Logan Hall, 249 South 36 th Street)	
LUNCH DETAILS: Buffet: Assorted sandwiches (turkey breast, roast beef, albacore tuna), seasonal tossed green salad, side salad (pasta, potato), kettle chips, decadent dessert bars, cookies, bottled water, soda, coffee, and tea.	TIME	PROGRAM
	11:30 - noon	<i>Meeting check-in</i>
	noon - 1:00	<i>Networking Lunch</i>
	1:00 - 1:05	Introduction – Lisa Hickey (President, ASAP)
	1:05 - 1:50	Polling Bias or Election Fraud? – <i>Steve Freeman (University of Pennsylvania)</i>
	1:50 - 2:35	2004 Exit Polls: What Bloggers And Others Got Wrong – <i>Warren Mitofsky (Mitofsky International)</i>
	2:35 - 3:00	Discussion
	3:00 - 3:15	<i>Networking Break</i>
3:15 - 4:00	Can Statistics Make a Difference in These Negative Trials? – <i>David (Jianjun) Li (Merck)</i>	
Cost: \$25 including lunch; \$10 for full-time students.		

Directions/Parking: Logan Hall is located just off Spruce Street above 34th Street (see map). For directions to the University of Pennsylvania campus by car and public transportation, please go to www.facilities.upenn.edu/visitUs. Metered pay parking is available on many city streets. There are ten, public pay parking facilities around the campus, including at the Palestra (east side of 33rd Street, lot #5), South Street & Convention Avenue (lot #7), between 33rd, 34th and Spruce Streets (lot #8), **the NE corner of 38th and Walnut Streets (lot #30)**, the NW corner

or 34th and Chestnut Streets (lot #34), and the NW corner of 40th and Walnut Streets (lot #40). Parking in lot #30 is \$8 for the 1st hour and \$2/hour thereafter; other lots are comparably priced.



Logan Hall



Warren Mitofsky

Registration: PLEASE REGISTER AND PAY IN ADVANCE by **Friday, October 7** to assist with the head-count. Contact ASAP Treasurer Paul Lupinacci at paul.lupinacci@villanova.edu / (610) 519-7435, **specifying if you are a student, if you are an ASA and/or an ASAP member, and your company/institution.** Checks should be made payable to "ASAP" and sent to Paul Lupinacci / Department of Mathematical Statistics / Villanova University / 800 Lancaster Avenue / Villanova, PA 19085.

Abstract: "Polling Bias or Electoral Fraud? An Examination of State-Level Discrepancies Between the Official Count and Exit Poll Results in the 2004 US Presidential Election"

Exit poll data, based on 114,559 sampled voters at 1,460 precincts across the nation who were asked in confidential questionnaires how they voted, suggest that John Kerry won the 2004 US Presidential election. These survey data deviate 6.5 percentage points from the official counts in those same precincts (Within Precinct Error or WPE), a discrepancy which extrapolates to eight million votes nationwide.

The official explanation for the discrepancy – that Kerry voters participated in the exit polls at a higher rate than Bush voters – is unsubstantiated by evidence. The very data presented to justify the “reluctant Bush respondent” thesis seems to contradict it entirely. Unfortunately, the National Election Pool has refused access to the precinct level data that could be used to properly investigate claims of polling bias and electoral fraud.

In this presentation, I use publicly available, state-level data to investigate theories put forward to explain the discrepancy. Statistical analyses indicate no support for the “reluctant Bush respondent” thesis; rather, the data suggest that the exit polls slightly *overstate* support for the President. Data do reveal, however, statistically significant correlations between WPE and Republican gubernatorial control, state electoral importance, voting technology, and other election administration variables. These relationships are inconsistent with theses of polling bias, but consistent with theses of electoral fraud.

Biosketch

Steve Freeman is the recipient of several prestigious research awards for outstanding scholarship from the Academy of Management and the author of numerous journal articles, research reports, cases, and education notes. His upcoming book, Was the 2004 US Presidential Election Stolen?: Exit Polls, Election Fraud, and the Official Count, co-authored with Joel Bleifuss (editor of *In These Times*), will be published by Seven Stories Press (www.sevenstories.com) later this year.

Freeman has held academic positions at the University of Pennsylvania -- where he is currently a member of the Center for Organizational Dynamics -- the Universidad de San Andreas in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Central American Institute of Business Administration (INCAE); and also has extensive industry experience as a consultant, researcher and entrepreneur. He earned his PhD in Organization Studies from MIT's Sloan School of Management in 1998, and his MS in Social System Sciences from the Wharton School in 1987.

Abstract: "2004 Exit Polls: What Bloggers And Others Got Wrong"

The 2004 exit polls were generally believed to have indicated a victory for John Kerry. Nothing could have been further from the truth. This was compounded by the conspiracy theorists after the election who mistakenly claimed the exit polls validated their claim. There was no evidence in the exit polls to substantiate these claims. On election day the misinformation about the exit polls was spread by inexperienced people trying to make sense of complex statistical data. After the election the academics who yelled election fraud were no better. It is time to set the record straight.

Biosketch

Warren J. Mitofsky was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1989. Since 1994 he has been President of Mitofsky International (MI), an election and public opinion survey research company. He has conducted surveys in the US for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, CBS, ABC, FOX, NBC, PBS and the Associated Press, in Mexico for Televisa, and other news organizations worldwide. Mitofsky is also a Director of Edison Media Research (EMR). EMR and MI conducted exit polls for analysis and projections for the 2004 presidential primaries and elections for the National Election Pool. He is currently working on a book about exit polls. He worked at the Census Bureau prior to 1967, where he designed many surveys during the early days of the poverty program, for Presidential Commissions investigating the selective service system, the Watts riots and other demographic surveys.

Mitofsky is the past president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), and the National Council on Public Polls and the Research Industry Coalition. He received AAPOR's lifetime achievement award in 1999 and was admitted to the Market Research Council Hall of Fame in 2005. In 1995 he was a fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and was a visiting professor at the University of Michigan. He serves as Director of Interactive Communication research at Marist College and is an adjunct lecturer at Columbia University. He did graduate work at the University of Minnesota.