News, News, News

On Wednesday, February 13, 2002 the Chair wrote:

“self-respecting stat departments have printed newsletters (maybe three times/year), they send them to alumni, sister departments, and so on. how about having one?”

Hilarity ensues....

So what in the world is this newsletter to which Jan refers? Like many things in the UCLA Department of Statistics, it’s a complicated and sordid story. Luckily, you have F-THIS! to explain it to you! Aren’t you so happy we exist?

Here’s the SHORT VERSION: The official departmental newsletter is NOT what you are reading right now.

SLIGHTLY LONGER VERSION: The department has decided to have an official departmental newsletter describing the general goings-on of our little spot on Earth. The purpose of this newsletter is to tell the world about all the wonderful things we are doing. The “world” in our case is other statistics departments, UCLA Stat alumni (we have some!) and other interested people. This newsletter is supposed to civilized, genteel, and full of useful information. Currently, the official newsletter board consists of Dean, Coen, Ivo, Jose, and Katie.

What you are currently reading is F-THIS!, which is essentially the opposite of the official newsletter. It is neither civilized, genteel, nor full of useful information. F-THIS! was created by an intrepid group of UCLA Statistics graduate students to bring humor and joy to the graduate student community. Of course, faculty and staff are welcome to read it too. However, it is assumed that faculty and staff already have humor and joy in their lives, so F-THIS! will likely be less relevant to their well being.

So far, F-THIS! has gotten a very warm and fuzzy reception, which is why we continue to write it. As for the official departmental newsletter, well, we’re still waiting for Issue 1.

Publication of the official newsletter has been delayed. Keep reading this extra special edition of F-THIS! to find out why.

What’s in a Name?

So what in the world is the name of this “official departmental newsletter”?

Well, that’s certainly the question of the day! So far the newsletter has no title. Why is this, you ask? Because apparently, choosing a title for the newsletter is a matter of such weight and gravity that major planets and meteors will crash into the Earth unless the correct title is chosen.

Of course, we at the editorial board of F-THIS! are firm believers of correctly chosen titles for newsletters. For example, we deliberated for quite a long time (maybe 2 minutes!) before we were able to achieve the correct balance of humor, emotion, and statistical relevance. We think we succeeded.
A Start!

On Wednesday February 27, 2002, the following email was sent to the official newsletter board:

To the Editor:

Here are some suggestions that I’ve received from grad students for titles for the department newsletter. Feel free to use any one or none of them.

Stats Incredible!
Data Bruin
Above the Mean
The UCLA Probability
DV8
Nonlinear Multivariate Newsletter
F this!
Asymptopics
Asymptopia
Random Noise
Statistical Noise
The Standard DeViAtIoN
Stat-tribution
RANDOM DEVIATES
That’s Stat
SimUcLAtion

Cheers!
-roger

These titles were taken as suggestions from the graduate students (and Dean). What happened to these titles? Well, they were thrown out of course, but not without good reason, we assume.

The Journey Continues

Another list! These suggestions, from the official newsletter board, included Bruin Observations, The Model Bruin, Statistical Moments, and The Data Bruin.

Are these titles any better? Well, apparently, there was some disagreement. A high-level member of the department was quoted as saying:

– I don’t like titles with “Bruin” in it
– It does not have to be cute.
– How about just calling it “Observations”
– or “Repeated Trials” or “Odd Moments”

Yet another high-level member was quoted as saying:

I had a male UCLA cheerleader in my M11 class.

Hmm....

A Title is Chosen!

Well, we’ve finally reached the end of the road. After a long and torturous inter-departmental battle, the title of the official departmental newsletter was chosen to be

NOYZ IN DA 'WOOD

Pretty clever, huh? We think so. Runners up were Kurtosis Neurosis, The Empty Set, and The Newsletter Formerly Known as Σ. We’d like to thank everyone who participated in this glorious process.

Lunch Column

We would never leave you without a Lunch Column. Here’s what the official newsletter board had for lunch. Enjoy!

Coen 4 wheat sandwiches, 2 with cheese, 2 with liver sausage (“leverpastei”). The cheese was swiss, with some lettuce on it. Sandwiches made with love by Mrs. Bernaards.
Beverage: Diet Snapple, Raspberry.

Ivo pizza and juice

Jose burrito

Katie slightly stale blueberry bagel

Dean turkey bacon sandwich (with stolen fries)