

Editor's Letter

Mike Larsen,
Executive Editor



Dear Readers,

This issue of *CHANCE* contains articles about a variety of interesting topics. Three articles are associated by their concern with missing data and methods for imputation, or filling in the missing values. Tom Krenzke and David Judkins use data from the National Education Longitudinal Survey to illustrate a semiparametric approach to imputation in complex surveys.

In the area of health, Michael Elliott describes a study of childhood obesity and some of its associated complications. Novel mixture model and multiple imputation approaches are used to address unusual observations, probable transcription errors, and missing data. His medical collaborator, Nick Stettler, comments on aspects of their interaction that enhanced the consulting experience for all parties involved. Mark Glickman brings us an article using multiple imputation in his Here's to Your Health column. In this issue, Yulei He, Recai Yucel, and Alan Zaslavsky model the relationship between cancer registry data and survey data and use multiple imputation to improve the quality and quantity of information available for analysis.

Two articles have sports themes. Eric Bradlow, Shane Jensen, Justin Wolfers, and Adi Wyner address the debate about baseball pitcher Roger Clemens and whether he used steroids. They examine a broad set of comparison pitchers on several dimensions. Read the article to learn their conclusions! Phil Everson, in his A Statistician Reads the Sports Pages column, examines the importance of offense versus defense in Women's World Cup Soccer. In particular, did the United States make a strategic mistake in the 2007 final?

Peter Freeman, Joseph Richards, Chad Schafer, and Ann Lee illustrate the mass of data coming from the field of astrostatistics. The quality and quantity of information will allow examination of fundamental questions. Simo Putanen and George Styan discuss postage stamps with a probability and statistics theme. Actually, there are many more such stamps, and they will be described in upcoming articles. Peter Olofsson critiques arguments made by supporters of the idea of intelligent design on grounds of probability and hypothesis testing logic.

Two additional columns and a letter to the editor complete the issue. Grace Lee, Paul Velleman, and Howard Wainer take on claims by computerized dating services in Visual Revelations; Donald Berry comments on the previous Visual Revelations column in a letter to the editor; and Jonathan Berkowitz brings us his first puzzle as column editor of Goodness of Wit Test. Some guidance on solving this and other puzzles accompany this first column.

In other news, *CHANCE* cosponsored eight sessions at the recent Joint Statistical Meetings. (See the online program at www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2008 and select "*CHANCE*" as the sponsor.) We hope to encourage submissions to *CHANCE* in diverse areas on significant issues such as those discussed in these sessions. Plans for current issues of *CHANCE* to go online (in addition to the print version) for subscribers and libraries in 2009 are moving along. I think this will be a positive development for readers and authors of *CHANCE*.

I look forward to your comments, suggestions, and article submissions.

Enjoy the issue!

Mike Larsen