

The Life of George C. Tiao: The Graceful Path to Wisdom

by Lou Fogg

Professor Tiao has spent his life addressing some of the knottiest problems of statistics with solutions that are both useful and elegant. He is currently the W. Allen Wallis Professor of Econometrics and Statistics at the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago. Over his long and distinguished career, Professor Tiao has been a faculty member, first at University of Wisconsin, and later at the University of Chicago for more than 40 years. He has served as the chairman of the statistics department at Wisconsin, he has edited several scholarly journals and helped to found one relatively new one (*Statistica Sinica*). He has served as a consultant to both governmental agencies and businesses.

Among his several books, Professor Tiao has written a classic statistics text that is still widely read today (*Bayesian Inference in Statistical Analysis* with G. E. P. Box). He has published scores of influential articles over the last 40 years. He introduced some of the seminal ideas still used in the analysis of time series data. He has written extensively in the area of Bayesian statistics, seasonal adjustment, forecasting models and statistical modeling of environmental phenomena, particularly the concentration of ozone in the atmosphere.

Professor Tiao's work on time series includes his development of intervention models designed to help model and estimate the effects of policy changes. These methods can be equally used on correlated economic time series or on meteorological data. He has also developed methods

for principle components analyses of multiple time series. His long running research on atmospheric data, such as that on ozone levels in the upper atmosphere, has played an important role in increasing our understanding of the role of human economic activity in such processes, and been influential in the planning by government agencies. His work there is currently being carried out with support from EPA as part of the activities of the University of Chicago's Center for Integrating Statistical and Environmental Science (CISES).

Despite this lifetime of exemplary achievement, Professor Tiao remains one of the warmest, friendliest and most engaging gentlemen of my acquaintance. He is currently emeritus at the University of Chicago, but continues to work with an energy and zest for life that belies his maturity and station. He remains one of the most enthusiastic and creative researchers in the world. There is no question that Professor Tiao is a great scholar and a fine human being. The Chicago Chapter is proud to be able to honor such a man.

The 2005 Statistician of the Year Award Dinner honoring Professor Tiao will be held at The East Bank Club, 500 N Kingsbury, on Tuesday October 11. Dinner will be served at 6:30PM. Professor Tiao will accept the award at 7:30, and will give a brief lecture on his work.

To register, please contact Jerry Enenstein at (847) 475-4403 or via e-mail at JEResearch@ameritech.net.



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Position Available — Programmer Analyst

The Rush Institute for Healthy Aging, in conjunction with the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, Rush University Medical Center, has an opening for a master's-level Programmer Analyst. The group is a multi-disciplinary research group focused on investigating chronic conditions of aging, such as changes in physical functioning and cognitive functioning, and diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. To support this research, the statistics group includes a staff of programmer analysts who have primary responsibility for reviewing data and running statistical analyses, under the supervision of a Senior Systems Programmer Analyst in conjunction with a faculty statistician. Most of the programming is done in SAS®, with some S-Plus® as well, in both unix and PC environments. The statistical methods used range from linear and logistic regression to more complex multivariate models for longitudinal data. The successful candidate will have a combination of solid statistical knowledge, good programming skills, and excellent communication skills (oral and written), and will be a good team player. Master's degree in statistics or biostatistics is preferred. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume via e-mail to Dr. Julia Bienias, jbienias@rush.edu. Rush University Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer.

Do you know PHP-NUKE?

The Chapter is looking for a volunteer with knowledge of PHP-NUKE to help implement an advanced feature on the new website. If you know PHP and can invest a few hours, we would greatly appreciate your help. Please contact Gerry Funk at gmf@math.luc.edu 773-508-3561 or Kathy Morrissey at kathy@themorrisseygroup.biz 847-927-5307.

Redesigned Chicago ASA Website Launched

The Chapter website (www.chicagoasa.org) has been redesigned and launched. You will find the same helpful information in a new, more pleasing and functional format. Please check it out. More features will be added over the coming months.

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PARAMETER provides a job listing service by publishing Positions Available and Positions Wanted, the latter being free to Chapter members. Contact the Editor for more information.

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