

The December 6, 2005 presentation by Erin McKean, Oxford University Press

## Is Dictionary-making a Numbers Game?

The Chicago chapter of the American Statistical Association is pleased to have **Erin McKean**, editor in chief of US Dictionaries for Oxford University Press, as the luncheon speaker on Tuesday, December 6, 2005. The luncheon will be held at the East Bank Club, 500 N. Kingsbury, Chicago, at 12 noon.

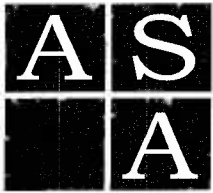
With the advent of large corpora (language databases) and the upswell of interest in corpus linguistics, there's certainly an impetus towards making more "scientific" determinations of which words belong in a dictionary and which words do not. Can we devise an algorithm to determine a word's inclusion, and if we can, should we? Or is there still more art than science involved in lexicography?

Erin McKean is the editor in chief of US Dictionaries for Oxford University Press and the editor of *VERBATIM: The Language Quarterly*. She is also the author of *Weird and Wonderful Words* and *More Weird and Wonderful Words*, both from OUP. When not working with words she likes to sew and roller-skate, although not simultaneously.

Registration begins at 11:45 am. The luncheons usually go from noon to approximately 1 to 1:30 pm. The cost is \$30 for Chicago Chapter ASA members, \$35 for nonmembers. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. **Reservations for the luncheon can be made before Saturday, December 3**, by contacting by contacting Steve Maguire at 847-286-0453 or via e-mail to [smagui3@sears.com](mailto:smagui3@sears.com). Please include your name and telephone number in all messages. If you make a reservation but are unable to attend, Steve must receive your cancellation by 9 am Monday, December 5. Otherwise, we must ask that you pay, as the Chapter is liable for all meals ordered. As usual, the Lucile Derriek Fund will purchase a limited number of tickets for students who wish to attend.

### Save This Date: May 5, 2006

The American Statistical Association Chicago Chapter's Spring Conference will be held on Friday May 5, 2006. The topic will be **Cost-Benefit Analysis**. For more information, please contact Lou Fogg by email at [Louis\\_Fogg@rush.edu](mailto:Louis_Fogg@rush.edu).



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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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