



PhilaSUG newsletter



Spring 2011 Meeting Announcement

PhilaSUG Spring 2011 Meeting Thursday, June 23rd

The Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group Spring Meeting will be on Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 1:00 PM, and will be hosted by Saint Joseph's University, Erivan K. Haub School of Business. A map and driving instructions are available later in the newsletter.

Registration will begin at 12:15 PM and the meeting will commence at 1 PM. Dues for the year are \$30. There are no other fees for attending PhilaSUG meetings. We will accept cash, but a check is preferred. If you are a student of St. Joseph's University and present a current matriculation card, or you're an employee of our host, fees for this meeting will be waived. A tip – **to breeze through registration** – bring in the completed registration form found in the back of this newsletter to the meeting, otherwise registration can still be simplified if you attach a business card to a check or \$30 cash, as there is less writing and it will be more legible. Please do not mail in your registration fee beforehand. Receipts will be available at registration time.

RSVP

Please **RSVP** no later than **Monday, June 20th**. RSVPs in advance help to expedite the food count, so if you will be attending, please complete the online PhilaSUG Meeting RSVP form found on our web site.



Agenda

PhilaSUG Spring Meeting
Saint Joseph's University
5600 City Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19131

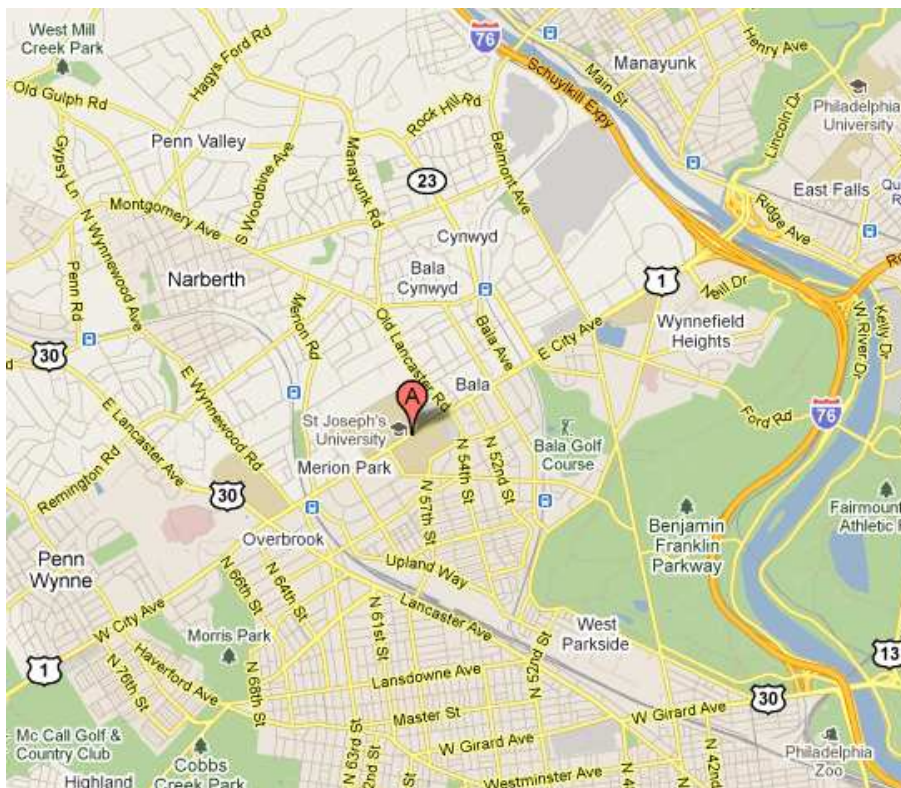
The schedule is tentative and subject to change
Lunch is on your own for this meeting

12:15 – 1:00	Registration and Poster setup
1:00 – 1:10	Opening Remarks
1:10 – 2:00	The DoW-Loop Unrolled, <i>Paul Dorfman</i>
2:00 – 2:15	To Date or Not to Date; What is the Function/Format, <i>A bette Jones-Bey</i>
2:15 – 2:30	Please Don't Lag Behind LAG!, <i>Anjan Matlapud</i>
2:30 – 3:00	Break, Posters, and refreshments
3:00 – 3:15	Open Forum
3:15 – 4:05	Scatterplot smoothing using PROC LOESS and Restricted Cubic Splines, <i>Jonas Bilenas</i>
4:05 – 4:25	Ten Ways to Improve the Efficiency of Clinical Statistical Programming, <i>Amos Shu</i>
4:25 – 4:30	Closing Remarks

Posters will be on display throughout the meeting. Authors will be present alongside their posters during registration and the break for questions and discussions. Abstracts and bios are found later in the newsletter.

The presenters and the PhilaSUG Executive Committee will adjourn for dinner at a nearby restaurant when the meeting concludes. You are invited to join us. The location will be announced at the meeting.

DIRECTIONS TO THE HAUB SCHOOL'S MANDEVILLE HALL AT SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

BY TRAIN: From 30th Street Station Amtrak / SEPTA -- Take the R5 local Paoli/Thorndale one stop to Overbrook train station and walk 1/2 mile north to Saint Joseph's University campus.

BY BUS: Take SEPTA's Bus #65 to campus on City Line Avenue.

FROM THE NORTH:

New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 6 (PA Turnpike connector). Follow PA Turnpike to Exit 20 (Rt. 476—Blue Route). Follow Rt. 476 South to Rt. 76 East toward Philadelphia. Follow Rt. 76 East to Exit 33 (Rt. 1, City Avenue). Follow two miles to Saint Joseph's University.

For Parking: Turn Left onto 54th Street. [*] Go approximately 1/4 block to the parking lot entrance on the right. That will put you in the Mandeville Hall parking lot. There is an entrance on each side of the building. See detailed campus map at <http://www.sju.edu/about/map.pdf>, Mandeville Hall is marked as building 1.

FROM THE SOUTH:

Take Interstate 95 North to Route 476 North (Blue Route). Follow Route 476 North to the Springfield/Route 1 North Exit. Saint Joseph's University lies approximately 12 miles North on Rt. 1 (City Avenue). Go down City Avenue to 54th Street.

For Parking: Turn Right onto 54th Street. See Parking above [*]

FROM THE WEST:

Take the PA Turnpike to Valley Forge Exit (Exit 326). Go east off the Turnpike exit onto Route 76 (the Schuylkill Expressway) to Philadelphia and follow to the City Avenue Exit. Continue on City Avenue approx. 2 miles to 54th Street.

For Parking: Turn Left onto 54th Street. See Parking above [*]

FROM THE EAST:

Take Route 76 West (the Schuylkill Expressway) to City Avenue Exit. Continue on City Avenue approx. 2 miles to 54th Street. For Parking: Turn Left onto 54th Street. See Parking above [*]

About Our Host

Our spring meeting will be hosted by the Master of Science in Business Intelligence program, at Saint Joseph's University, Erivan K. Haub School of Business

The Master of Science in Business Intelligence Program at Saint Joseph's University offers a unique approach to business education, designed specifically for those who wish to become strategic partners within their organization. At the Erivan K. Haub School of Business at Saint Joseph's University, our programs have been dual accreditation by AACSB International. This places the Haub School of Business at Saint Joseph's University among the top 5 percent of business programs in the world.

Learn more about the Master of Science in Business Intelligence at Saint Joseph's University by visiting www.sju.edu/hsb/bi or call 610-660-1318 or personal assistance.



The PhilaSUG Executive Committee wishes to thank Patricia D. Rafferty, Director, Erivan K. Haub School of Business, Saint Joseph's University. In addition, we wish to thank Michael Davis and Jonas Bilenas of the PhilaSUG Executive Committee for their efforts to coordinate this meeting.

Host Sites Wanted

We continuously seek host sites for future PhilaSUG meetings. There is not a lot of work involved, and it is a great way to put your company on the local SAS map. We need your help with this. If your company would like to host a meeting, within reasonable geographic proximity to Philadelphia, PhilaSUG would be grateful if you would contact Randy Noga at President@PhilaSUG.org.

E-mail Announcements

PhilaSUG-L is a low volume, announcement-only e-mail notification service provided free of charge to all members who wish to subscribe. In order to sign up for this service, you need only send a blank e-mail message to: PhilaSUG-L-subscribe@onelist.com. Note that you can subscribe as many times with as many different e-mail addresses as you wish to have the e-mail sent to; e.g., home and office.

PhilaSUG Executive Committee

Randy Noga, President	
John Cohen, Membership	
Diane Foose, Treasurer	
Robert Schechter, Web Master	
Ellen Asam	Jonas V. Bilenas
Max Cherny	Barry Cohen
Michael Davis	Lee Dodoo
Timothy Kelly	Jessica Lam
Karin LaPann	Terek Peterson
Meenal (Mona) Sinha	Kajal Tahiliani
Donna Usavage	

PhilaSUG Web Site

Our site on the World Wide Web always contains the latest information concerning upcoming meetings, SAS training and seminars, links to SAS related hot topics, and local SAS job opportunities.



Visit us regularly at: <http://www.PhilaSUG.org>

Presenters Wanted



You are invited to be a presenter. The PhilaSUG Executive Committee requests presentation abstracts from individuals who wish to participate actively in our meetings by presenting various SAS topics in the form of delivered papers or posters. This is a great way to share your knowledge with others, to brush up your presentation prior to delivery at NESUG or SUGI or some other major conference, and to gain confidence as a speaker. Short technical SAS related articles are also desired for inclusion in the Newsletter. If this is of interest to you, please use the online abstract submission form found on our web site. Presentations can be from a few minutes to 50 minutes. If you wish to participate, the deadline for the fall meeting is **August 13th**. Your abstract must be submitted online at our web site.

Paper Abstracts

The DoW-Loop Unrolled

Paul Dorfman and Lessia S. Shajenko,
Dorfman Consulting

The DOW-loop is a nested repetitive DATA step programming structure, intentionally organized in order to allow for programmatically and logically natural isolation of DO-loop instructions related to a certain break-event from actions performed before and after the loop, and without resorting to superfluous conditional statements. Readily recognizable in its basic and most well-known form by the DO UNTIL (LAST.ID) construct, which naturally lends itself to control-break BY-processing of grouped data, the DOW-loop, however, is much more morphologically diverse and general in nature. In this talk, we aim to examine the internal logic of the DOW-loop and use the power of example to reveal its aesthetic beauty and pragmatic utility. To some industries, for example, pharma, where “flagging” every observation in a group based on conditions within the group is ubiquitous, the DOW-loop lends itself as an ideal logical vehicle by greatly simplifying the alignment of stream-of-consciousness and SAS® code.

Paul started using SAS while pursuing a Ph.D. in computational plasma physics. Thereafter, he has worked as an Independent SAS Consultant in telops, banking, credit card, pharmaceuticals, and managed health care industries. When particularly idle, Paul delves into Data step implementations of high-performance algorithms. Over years, he has earned a number of honorable nicknames, such as “SasHole” from a group of COBOL bigots, “Most Valuable SAS-Ler” and “Hall-of-Famer” from SAS-L, and “Hash-Man” from SAS R&D.

Lessia started using SAS while pursuing her Masters in Finance and has stuck with SAS as her main data processing, analytical, and modeling software tool throughout ensuing years of her career in the banking industry. Lessia has successfully teamed with Paul Dorfman to present papers at PhilaSUG, NESUG, SESUG, and SUGI.

To Date or Not to Date; What is the Function/Format

Abette Jones-Bey, Centocor OrthoBiotech

SAS seems to have a date function for every occasion. You just need to know that they exist. My presentation is an overview of how the more common format/functions differ as well as how the more arcane ones have helped me in manipulating the dates I have to use in a final analysis.

My objective is to ideally provide a very brief overview of some of the straightforward format/functions and use the majority of the time providing examples of how I used INTCK and INTNX for a recent project.

Abette Jones-Bey has over 15 years working in IT, at Scott Paper, AIG and Merck. Abette's accomplishments include managing an IT portfolio supporting Fortune 100 pharma sales force using SDLC methodology. As project leader and manager, she programmed and implemented, along with her team, territory management applications across platforms including mainframe, midrange and pc resulting in increased sales. She then redirected her efforts by incorporating marketing competencies to successfully launch an award winning catering business.



Please Don't Lag Behind LAG!

Anjan Matlapudi and J. Daniel Knapp
Pharmacy Informatics and Finance

SAS ® version 9.2 has excellent features including over 450 built-in functions to make a programmer's job easier. It is always important to have a basic understanding of some of these functions while writing SAS code. There are numerous occasions when a programmer is required to refer to the previous or the next data observation for analysis. The LAG and LEAD functions will then come in handy.

This paper illustrates the LAG function in more detail inclusive of using LAG in conjunction with other functions to compute values between data points.



Scatterplot smoothing using PROC LOESS and Restricted Cubic Splines

Jonas Bilenas, Barclays Global Retail Bank/UK

SAS has a number of procedures for smoothing scatter plots. In this tutorial we will review the nonparametric technique called LOESS which estimates local regression surfaces. We will review the LOESS procedure and then compare it to a parametric regression methodology that employs restricted cubic splines to fit nonlinear patterns in the data. Not only do these 2 methods fit scatterplot data but they can also be used to fit multivariate relationships.

Jonas Bilenas has been using SAS since 1986 in the areas of consumer credit applications. His expertise includes statistical model building and reporting. He is the author of the SAS Press book titled "The Power of PROC FORMAT" and has presented at many local, regional and international SAS user groups. is also an adjunct professor at Saint Joseph University.

Ten Ways to Improve the Efficiency of Clinical Statistical Programming

Amos Shu, INC Research

The competition among Clinical Research Organizations (CROs) is extremely fierce. Improving programming efficiency is a way to lower cost in the clinical statistical analysis area. This paper discusses ten ways to improve the programming efficiency: 1) avoid unnecessary sorts, 2) use sortseq = UCA (numeric_collation =on) option, 3) use criterion option in PROC COMPARE, 4) use compute block to add more than 10 footnotes, 5) use alias method of columns in PROC REPORT to create wide reports, 6) find the first and last day of the same month, 7) use picture statement in PROC FORMAT to align decimal places, 8) add alphabet letters to easily sort statistics, 9) use dummy datasets to make up tables that do not have data available, 10) create treatment "total".

Amos Shu has been working in the US Pharmaceutical Industry for 9 years. He is an experienced SAS user with both Advanced and Base SAS Certificates. His SAS experience ranges from clinical statistical to commercial prescription analysis. He holds Masters degrees in Business Administration and Medicinal chemistry.

Poster Abstracts

Because We Can: Using SAS System Tools to Help Our Less Fortunate Brethren

John Cohen, Advanced Data Concepts LLC

We may be called upon to provide data to developers -- frequently for production support -- who work in other programming environments. Often external recipients, they may require files in specific formats and variable/column order, with proscribed delimiters, file naming conventions, and the like. Our goal should be to achieve this as simply as possible, both for initial development and ease of maintainability. We will take advantage of several SAS tricks to achieve this goal.

John has been using SAS in a variety of industries since at least before cell phones and is active in several SAS user communities. He lives in Newark, Delaware with his wife, a dog, and a cat. In his spare time he likes to eat and sleep.



Displaying Small Sample Size Datasets Effectively

Xingshu Zhu, Merck

Visualizing individual data, empirical distributions, and summary statistics for small to moderate sized samples is critical for effective statistical analysis and inference in early phases of drug research. We present a customized SAS® macro, %HangingDotPlot, which displays dotplots with either parametric or nonparametric descriptive statistics and confidence intervals, for each of multiple bins of data displayed simultaneously on the same page. Potential statistical outliers are identified with a fence rule from an adjusted boxplot for skewed distributions, which incorporates the medcouple, a robust measure of skewness. The flexibility and utility of the macro, including back-to-back dotplot presentations, is demonstrated with swim maze testing data in rats.

Xingshu Zhu is a senior Statistical Programmer Analyst at Merck. She has 10+ years of SAS programming experience in pharmaceutical industry. Prior to that, she worked in the academia doing research for several years. She received a M.S degree in Applied Statistics from Villanova University and a Ph.D degree in Molecular Science and Physics from Southern Illinois University.

PhilaSUG Fall 2011 Meeting

Hosted by: Omnicare Clinical Research

Location: 630 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Date: Thursday, October 27, 2011

Abstracts for the fall meeting must be submitted using our online submission form no later Monday, June 20th

A banner for NESUG 2011. The text "NESUG 2011" is in large, bold, orange letters. To the right, "September 11-14" and "Portland, Maine" are written in white. The background of the banner shows a lighthouse and a house on a cliffside.

NESUG 2011 September 11-14
Portland, Maine

Registration opens June 7

Philadelphia Area SAS User Group (**PhilaSUG**) Membership Form

To speed through registration complete this form (please print) and return it to the registration desk of any PhilaSUG meeting (do **NOT** mail it). Checks should be made payable to PhilaSUG. Our membership year runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Dues for the year are \$30.

This is a ___ new, ___ renewal or ___ update / correction.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ STATE: ___ Zip: _____

Day Time Phone Number: () _____ - _____

***Privacy Statement** - Local SAS User Groups are requested to share their membership/ mailing list with SAS Institute on an annual basis. We respect your privacy and will never rent, sell or trade your personal information provided with any other group or individual and the information provided will only be used for PhilaSUG mailings. We will not share your name, address and email address with SAS unless you Opt In below.*

Check this box (Opt In) if you agree to allow us to share *your name, address and email address with SAS.*

PhilaSUG-L is a low volume, announcement-only e-mail notification service provided free of charge. By subscribing you'll be notified of the latest information about upcoming events, especially meeting announcements. By listing your e-mail address below you will be added to the electronic mailing list, you can cancel at anytime.

E-mail: _____

(Be sure to clearly distinguish a dash from an underscore)

For updates / corrections, please list your old / incorrect information below: