



# PhilaSUG newsletter



## Winter 2007 Meeting Announcement

### PhilaSUG **WINTER** 2007 Meeting Wednesday March 14, 2007

**T**he Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group Winter Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 1:00 PM, and will be hosted by the Philadelphia University at the *Tuttleman Center* on their campus in the East Falls section of Philadelphia, School House Lane & Henry Avenue. A map, detailed driving and parking 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 \$20. There are no other fees for attending PhilaSUG meetings. We will accept cash, but a check is preferred. If you are a student and present a current matriculation card, or 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 \$20 bill, 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.



**Important** - In order to gain access every non- Philadelphia University attendee must complete the **SECURITY SIGN-IN FORM** found on the PhilaSUG web site. Philadelphia University requires that you do

this by March 11th. If you do not have web access send an email message **TO:** registrar@PhilaSUG.org with the **SUBJECT:** Security, with the body of the message containing your name and company affiliation.

### **Agenda** PhilaSUG Winter Meeting Philadelphia University 4201 Henry Avenue & School House Lane Philadelphia, PA 19144

<b>12:15-1:00</b>	Registration, Posters and light lunch
<b>1:00-1:10</b>	Welcoming Remarks, Barry Cohen, PhilaSUG President and Susan Calder, Director of Philadelphia University Off Campus Programs
<b>1:10-2:00</b>	Frank Dilorio - Dictionary Tables and Views: Essential Tools for Serious Applications
<b>2:00-2:30</b>	Tang Li - The Implementation of "Define.xml: Metadata for SAS-Based Clinical Data"
<b>2:30-3:00</b>	Break, Posters, and refreshments
<b>3:00-3:15</b>	Open Forum, Door Prizes!
<b>3:15-4:05</b>	Ron Cody - An Introduction to SAS Character Functions
<b>4:05-4:15</b>	Closing Remarks

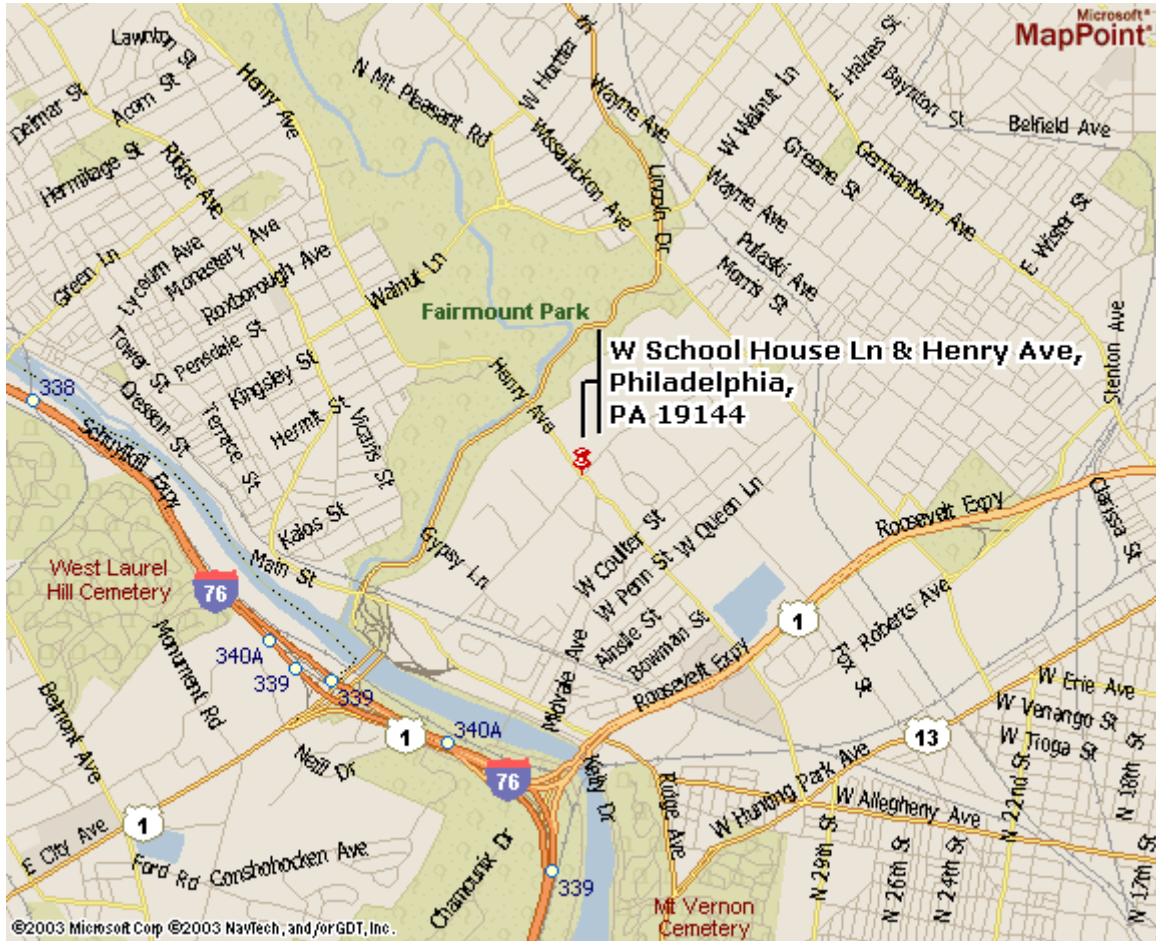
Posters will be on display throughout the meeting. Authors will be present alongside their posters during registration and the breaks for questions and discussions.

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 Philadelphia University

Philadelphia University  
4201 Henry Avenue & School House Lane  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
215-951-2700



### GETTING TO THE MAIN CAMPUS

#### BY CAR FROM:

##### Center City Philadelphia, Southern New Jersey, Central and Western Pa:

Take the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) to the Lincoln Drive exit. Follow Lincoln Drive to Gypsy Lane (first right, (old Victorian Hotel, yellow), Police Station). Gypsy Lane (steep hill up) will end at School House Lane. Turn left on School House Lane to Henry Avenue (first traffic light).

##### Delaware County:

Take City Line Avenue (Route 1 North) to Lincoln Drive. Follow above directions from Center City, Philadelphia.

##### Washington, Baltimore and Wilmington

Take I-95 North to I-76 West. Follow above directions from Center City, Philadelphia.

##### Northeast Extension - Pennsylvania Turnpike

Exit Turnpike at Norristown, Plymouth Meeting (Exit #25). Go right after the exit and head east on Germantown Pike to first traffic light. Make a right onto Chemical Road. Go through three lights and at your fourth light, make a left at the five point intersection onto Ridge Pike. Make a left and take Ridge Pike to the Henry Avenue cutoff (bear left). (You'll be on Ridge Pike for approximately 3.5 miles.) Take Henry Avenue about 6 miles to School House Lane.

## Parking

Our conference will be held within the Tuttleman Center at Philadelphia University.

Parking is **NOT** permitted along the side of Vaux Street. This street is not the property of the University and people who park there are subject to being ticketed by the city of Philadelphia.

Parking has been approved for three University lots. Parking is **NOT** permitted along the curbs. Please park in official spaces only. In order, attendees should try

1. Tuttleman (Map #35) lot on Vaux Street. This is an extremely small lot and will fill very quickly.
2. Hayward Hall (#17) lot on Henry Ave. Larger than Tuttleman, but still not large enough for all attendees.
3. Ravenhill Mansion (#26) lot on School House Lane. Large enough for all attendees.

The link below will take you to the campus parking map:

[www.philau.edu/announcements/map.pdf](http://www.philau.edu/announcements/map.pdf)  
or  
<http://www.philau.edu/security/parking/parkingmap.pdf>



## SAS Programming Certificate For the Pharmaceutical Industry

Philadelphia University and SAS Institute Inc. are collaborating to provide state-of-the-art training for professionals interested in employment in the dynamic field of clinical research.

This three-month, non-credit program, offered yearly, is designed for recent college graduates, professionals working in related fields, and career changers. Participants complete three distinct units -- classroom training, an independent project, and the opportunity for a paid clinical internship that is available on a competitive basis.

Program participants can expect to qualify for in-demand positions as SAS programmers in pharmaceutical companies and clinical research organizations.



To check for cancellations, check [www.Cancellations.com](http://www.Cancellations.com) after 10 AM on the day of the meeting for any last minute cancellation notices. On the left hand side of the page where it asks you to Enter an organization and state, for Partial name: just enter **PhilaSUG** and click on the **GO** button. If the next screen says: "**PhilaSUG has no cancellations today**" we're still on!

## PhilaSUG Executive Committee

Barry Cohen, President	
John Cohen, Membership	
Diane Foose, Secretary	
Robert Schechter, Web Master	
Ellen Asam	Jonas V. Bilenas
Max Cherny	Michael Davis
John Dennis	Lee Dodoo
Timothy Kelly	Jessica Lam
Karin LaPann	Robert Nicol
Randy Noga	Terek Peterson
Donna Usavage	

## 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 Barry Cohen at [President@PhilaSUG.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.



Many of our members might remember our spring '99 meeting host as the Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science. To better reflect the institution's breadth and depth and its successful growth, the College applied for and was granted university status by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1999. And, in a historic move, the Board of Trustees voted to change the College's name to Philadelphia University, the first private university to be named exclusively after the City of Philadelphia. The name Philadelphia University became effective on July 13, 1999.

Philadelphia University is a successful new model in higher education. They are an accredited, private, coed university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in over 40 areas of study - all within a framework of career development.

Since the late 19th century, they've been preparing professionals for a constantly changing economy. Back then, in the late 1890s, their graduates excelled in textile engineering, design, materials management and manufacturing. Today, Philadelphia U's alumni are global leaders in architecture, fashion, design, business, health professions, textiles, materials technology and science. Recent research areas include artificial intelligence, molecular modeling, exploration of key enzyme systems in seeds and animal tissues, mathematical modeling and memory processes.

The 52 buildings on the University's 100-acre campus range from historic Victorian mansions to contemporary classroom, library and residential facilities. The latest additions - The Kanbar Campus Center, a 72,000 square-foot social hub for students, faculty and staff, and the new Athletic and Recreation Center - have transformed the main campus and will have a dramatic impact on the academic and social environment for all members of the University Community. The campus is wired with a sophisticated network directly to the desktop providing campus-wide file-transfer capability, personal directories, email and high-speed Internet access. The campus' advanced technology also provides voicemail and cable television to anyone living in the residence halls, townhouses or apartments. The Tuttleman Center, a

31,500 square-foot, high-tech academic facility, is fully wired and offers students and faculty access to the most sophisticated technology available.

They are located fifteen minutes northwest of Center City Philadelphia, adjacent to Fairmount Park the largest urban park system in the nation on a beautiful, park-like campus. Of course, if you prefer the fast lane, they're five minutes from Philadelphia's major East/West expressway. To learn more about our host visit them online at <http://www.philau.edu/>.



## Thank You to our Host

The PhilaSUG Executive Committee wishes to thank Susan Calder, Director of Student Services, Continuing & Professional Studies at Philadelphia University for arranging this meeting space. In addition, we wish to thank two members of our Executive Committee, Jessica Lam for program coordination, and Bob Schechter for site coordination.

## Presenters Wanted

You are invited to be a Presenter - PhilaSUG constantly seeks 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 watch for our Call For Papers for the next meeting. Your abstract must be submitted online at our web site.

## 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>

## Future Meetings and Events



**PharmaSUG 2007 • June 3-6**  
**Denver, Colorado**



**Next PhilaSUG Meeting**  
**TBD – Mid-June**



## Plan to join us this fall when NESUG celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, November 11-14, 2007 in Baltimore!

In 2007, NESUG will return to one of our favorite conference venues – the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel – centrally located in the charming and bustling Baltimore Inner Harbor.

Over the two and one-half day conference, we plan these concurrent sections to keep you up to date on many areas of SAS knowledge:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foundations & Fundamentals    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applications Big & Small |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programming Beyond the Basics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hands-on Workshops       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Analysis and Statistics       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Posters                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration & Support      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coders' Corner           |

Presentations will be at all levels of SAS expertise – from novice to expert. Also, consider taking advantage of extra training opportunities at Pre-Conference and Sunday Workshops.

Favorite conference features will be back, including Futures Forum, Code Clinic, and the SAS Demo area. There will also be time for fun, networking and relaxation at the Get-Acquainted Mixer and Tuesday night Attendee party. We plan a special Monday night event at the National Aquarium – a block away from the conference hotel!

And, for this landmark 20th anniversary conference, we plan a historic Opening session keynote presentation and the return of the ever-popular SAS Bowl competition!

## Paper Abstracts

### Dictionary Tables and Views: Essential Tools for Serious Applications

Frank Dilorio, CodeCrafters, Inc.



Dictionary tables were introduced to the SAS System during the mid-life of Version 6. Laden with information that is often difficult, and sometimes impossible, to get through other means, they still appear to be on the outside of many programmers' Bag of Tricks.

This is both perplexing and unfortunate for as we will see in this paper, once their content and organization is understood, they are readily adapted for a range of applications that "are only limited by your imagination." Indeed, it is difficult to think of a robust, generalized system utility that would not benefit from use of this metadata.

This paper describes dictionary tables and their associated SASHELP library views. It:

- presents scenarios that show how they can be used
- gives high-level descriptions of some of the more important (a relative term, to be sure) tables
- identifies features of SQL and the macro language that are commonly used when writing programs that effectively use the tables
- shows examples of the tables' use, emphasizing the use of SQL and the macro language interface

The reader should come away from the discussion with an understanding of the tables as well as with a checklist of SQL and macro skills that are required to use the tables most effectively.

*A SAS programmer since 1975, Frank Dilorio is President of CodeCrafters, Inc. and the author of "SAS Applications Programming: A Gentle Introduction" and "Quick Start to Data Analysis with SAS." He is past President of the SouthEast SAS Users Group, and co-chaired its 1994 and 1996 conferences. He is also active in the Research Triangle (NC) SAS Users Group and was a co-founder of the Research Triangle CDISC Users Group. A native New Yorker, he has lived in North Carolina since 1974 but plans to move back Up North to his Yankee roots "real soon now."*

### The Implementation of "Define.xml: Metadata for SAS-Based Clinical Data"

Tang Li, Cephalon

Clinical data submitted to the FDA as part of a Marketing Application must be accompanied by metadata structures that are formally named "the Case Report Tabulation Data Definition (CRT DD) specification" and commonly referred to as the "Define.xml". The Define.xml describes the submitted Case Report Tabulation (SAS) datasets and variables in a machine-readable format, and it replaces the older specification call the "Define.pdf". This presentation will introduce the structures of the new specification, including the schemas, languages, and definitions of domains, variables, value lists and code lists. An implemented case will be used to demonstrate the application of the Define.xml, including use of SAS software to produce the Define.xml file. The challenges and complexities of development and implementation of the Define.xml are discussed.

*Tang graduated from University of Florida with a Ph. D in Molecular Biology and Protein Chemistry and a M.Sc. in Computer Sciences and Engineering. He has worked as a developer of software and a scientist in bioinformatics and genomics for more than 5 years. He has used SAS package for statistics analysis, data mining and statistics modeling for more than 10 years. He is currently a senior clinical programmer to develop macros and applications to process clinical data (based on CDISC and eCTD standards) in Cephalon Inc.*

## An Introduction to SAS Character Functions (Including some SAS 9 functions)

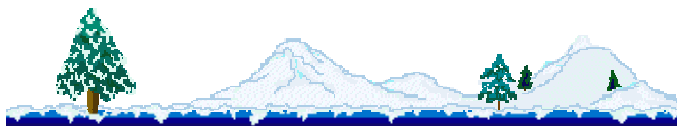
Dr. Ron Cody



SAS® software is especially rich in its assortment of functions that deal with character data. This class of functions is sometimes called STRING functions. With over 30 new character functions in SAS 9, the power of SAS to manipulate character data is even more impressive.

Some of the functions we will discuss are: LENGTH, SUBSTR, COMPBL, COMPRESS, VERIFY, INPUT, PUT, TRANWRD, SCAN, TRIM, UPCASE, LOWCASE, REPEAT, || (concatenation), INDEX, INDEXC, AND SOUNDEX. Some of the new and exciting Version 9 functions that we will cover are the "ANY" and "NOT" functions, the concatenation functions (and call routines), COMPARE, INDEXW, LENGTHC, PROPCASE, STRIP, and COUNT.

*Dr. Ron Cody was a Professor at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey for 26 years and is now a private consultant and writer. He has been a SAS user since the late 70's and is the author of "Applied Statistics and the SAS® Programming Language" (fifth edition), published by Prentice Hall. He has also authored or co-authored the following books for the SAS Institute as part of their Books by Users series: SAS Functions by Example, The SAS Workbook, SAS Programming by Example, Cody's Data Cleaning Techniques, and Longitudinal Data and SAS: A Programmer's Guide. Ron has presented invited papers for numerous local, regional, and national SAS conferences.*



## Poster Abstracts

### Oracle Clinical for SAS Programmer

Kevin Lee, Adolor Corporation

Oracle Clinical (OC) is a tool that is widely used in the pharmaceutical environment for data entry. An understanding of OC databases can lead to better preparation of analysis SAS data sets.

*Kevin Lee has been a SAS programmer since 1998. He has worked at IMS Health, Care Science, Merck, First USA and AstraZeneca as a contractor. He is currently a Senior Clinical Trials SAS Programmer at Adolor Corporation, where he has been since 2004. In addition to SAS programming, Kevin has been busy building Oracle Clinical databases. Kevin is married with one child. He loves watching sports, especially the Eagles.*

### Designing and Building an Administrative Model for the SAS® Drug Development Tool

Margaret Coughlin, Merck & Co., Inc.

Regulated industries such as pharmaceuticals require specific functionalities of computer systems such as audit trails, version control and restricted access for users. The SAS Drug Development (SDD) tool provides these required functionalities in a manner which allows the SDD licensee to customize them to their work processes. Thus, the design and implementation of an administrative model for SDD is an important consideration for potential licensees of the product. In this paper, one administrative model is proposed to help manage and organize clinical trials analysis and reporting within the SDD tool.

*Margaret Coughlin currently works at Merck & Co., Inc. in the North Wales, PA, office and is a manager of statistical programmers who support clinical trial drug and epidemiology studies. She has been a SAS user her entire career having used SAS since the 1980s. She is currently involved with evaluation of the SAS Drug Development tool at her company and will share the rationale for implementing the tool and how the tool can be customized to support an area's work structure.*

**Because We Can: Using SAS System Tools to Help Our Less Fortunate Brethren**  
*John Cohen, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals*

From <http://support.sas.com/>

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 working in the Pharmaceutical Industry for over fifteen years, presently supporting Commercial Analytics at AstraZeneca LP. He thinks he remembers writing his first SAS program in 1976, but he's still working on the spelling. He lives in Newark, DE with his wife and two bassett hounds. In his spare time he likes to eat and sleep.*



**Microsoft Windows Vista™ will be supported beginning with SAS 9.2**

Microsoft launched its latest operating system, Windows Vista, on January 30th, 2007. SAS will be adding support for Windows Vista for the first time with the release of SAS 9.2. Note that SAS 9.1.3 and earlier releases are not supported on the Windows Vista operating system.

In conjunction with Microsoft's general availability of Windows Vista Operating System, SAS will be adding support for this operating system for the first time with release of SAS 9.2.

- SAS 9.2 will support the following three Windows Vista editions (both 32-bit and x64 bit versions) that are targeted at the business market:
  - Windows Vista Business
  - Windows Vista Enterprise - available only to Microsoft Enterprise Agreement customers
  - Windows Vista Ultimate
- SAS 9.2 will NOT support the following two editions targeted at the consumer market:
  - Windows Vista Home Premium
  - Windows Vista Home Basic
- SAS 9.2 will also support Internet Explorer 7, the default Web browser for Windows Vista.
- SAS 9.1.3 and earlier releases are not supported on the Windows Vista operating system.





# 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.

This is a \_\_\_ new, \_\_\_ renewal or \_\_\_ update / correction.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Time Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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:



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