Proposal to ASA Strategic Initiatives Program, 2004

A High School Outreach Course

Title: A High School Outreach Course: “Sampling, Surveys, Monte Carlo and Inference”.


Contact Individuals:

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Description of Initiative: MMSS is an intensive summer program for high school students (nationally and internationally) in math and science. Statistics has been a central topic from its beginning in 1997. Our goal is to attract students into the sciences by presenting challenging programs at as close to a University level as we can. We follow up with our students (we have a sizeable number of second year students), though this is largely based on the individual professors. So far the Statistics faculty have been particularly good about this. This year’s statistics topic will be “Sampling, Surveys, Monte Carlo and Inference”, which was a great success last year in its first year.

Budget Requirements: We are asking for $7500 for tuition and fees for 5 students, at $1550 for two weeks including room and board. This may be used to attract more than five students to the Statistics program since we use our own financial aid statement to apportion our financial aid according to need.

Term: One year, though the project is ongoing. We are looking to bridge to potential support from industry.

Personnel Needs: None from ASA. MMSS has staff for all needed functions, and Professor Rothman will be teaching the course with graduate and undergraduate student assistants provided by MMSS. Overall MMSS leadership is Professor Burns.

Relation to ASA Strategic Plan: Basically, this is an outreach effort to draw high school students into the sciences. Statistics and math form the majority of our program, and they benefit from being presented in a lively and challenging manner intimately bound up with concurrent programs in the sciences.

URL’s: http://www.math.lsa.umich.edu/mmss/, and