

SANDS Meeting – Friday, June 8th, 2018

SAS[®] Workshop and Presentations

From the President

SANDS is excited to welcome fellow SAS colleagues for an engaging afternoon workshop and three presentations on Friday, June 8th, 2018! Kirk Paul Lafler will teach a “free” 2-hour afternoon workshop (3:00 pm – 5:00 pm) on the techniques used to debug macro program coding errors. Our first presentation (6:15 pm – 6:35 pm), by Scott Leslie will show us how to use SAS[®] Visual Analytics to elevate our reports and dashboards from good to great. Our second presentation (6:40 pm – 7:00 pm), by Karen Walker will reveal how to use special analytic software, “SAS[®] Viya™”, running under UNBUNTU. Our third presentation (7:05 pm – 7:25 pm), by Ryan Paul Lafler will introduce random sampling techniques using PROC SURVEYSELECT. We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to attend the upcoming SANDS meeting to boost your skills and knowledge with some awesome SAS[®] products, programming techniques, and procedures.

Date: Friday, June 8th, 2018

Agenda: 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Workshop – Kirk Paul Lafler)
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Dinner and Networking)
6:00 pm – 6:10 pm (Welcome and Meeting Introduction)
6:15 pm – 6:35 pm (Featured Presentation – Scott Leslie)
6:40 pm – 7:00 pm (Presentation – Karen Walker)
7:05 pm – 7:25 pm (Presentation – Ryan Paul Lafler)
7:30 pm – 7:45 pm (Door Prizes and Giveaways)

Building: CB2

Location: Pfizer La Jolla Campus | 10770 Science Center Drive | Room CB4 | San Diego, CA 92121 (see map)

I’d like to take this opportunity to give thanks to our sponsors and advertisers. SANDS meetings are held with no cost to our members because of their generous sponsorship. Thank you, SANDS EC and Pfizer!

From everyone in the SANDS organization, we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Wei Cheng

SANDS Workshop Topic (3:00 pm – 5:00 pm)

SAS® Macro Debugging Techniques

By Kirk Paul Lafler

SAS® users are always surprised to discover their programs contain bugs (or errors). In fact, when asked, users will emphatically stand by their programs and logic by saying they are error free. But, the vast number of experiences along with the realities of writing code says otherwise. Errors in program code can appear anywhere; whether accidentally built into the software by developers, or introduced by programmers when writing code. No matter where an error occurs, the overriding sentiment among most users is that debugging SAS programs can be a daunting, and humbling, task. This workshop introduces topics related to the various types of macro errors that exist, the debugging technique(s) to identify the macro error(s) in your code, the impact that the macro error(s) presents, and techniques on how to fix or repair your program code so it works as intended.

Intended Audience: All SAS users

Prerequisites: None

Type of Workshop Presentation: Tutorial with code examples

Length: 2-hours, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Bio for Kirk Paul Lafler

Kirk Paul Lafler is an entrepreneur, consultant and founder at Software Intelligence Corporation, and has been using SAS since 1979. Kirk is a SAS application developer, programmer, certified professional, mentor, provider of SAS consulting and education services, advisor and adjunct professor at UC San Diego Extension, educator to SAS users around the world, and emeritus sasCommunity.org Advisory Board member. As the author of six books including Google® Search Complete (Odyssey Press. 2014) and PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS, Second Edition (SAS Press. 2013); Kirk has written hundreds of papers and articles; been an Invited speaker, educator, keynote, and section leader at SAS user group conferences and meetings around the world; and is the recipient of 25 “Best” contributed paper, hands-on workshop (HOW), and poster awards.

Featured Presentation Topic (6:15 pm – 6:35 pm)

Mile-High Visual Analytics: Ways to Enhance Reports and Dashboards

By Scott Leslie

The recent versions of SAS® Visual Analytics include enhancements to several useful features that can elevate your reports and dashboards from good to great. This presentation describes workable solutions to common obstacles faced by report developers and data scientists. Topics include the use of parameters, when and how to calculate items, adding dynamic chart titles and creating hierarchies to add drill-down functionality. This paper is suitable for users of all experience levels and demonstrates how to optimize SAS Visual Analytics to elevate your reports and dashboards to the next level.

Intended Audience: All SAS users

Prerequisites: None

Delivery Method: Tutorial with code examples

Length: 20 minutes, 6:15 pm – 6:35 pm

Bio for Scott Leslie

Scott Leslie is a Manager of Advanced Analytics for MedImpact Healthcare Systems, Inc. with 15 years of SAS® experience in the pharmacy benefits and medical management field. His SAS skills include SAS/STAT, SQL, Enterprise Guide, and Visual Analytics. Scott holds a doctorate degree in Epidemiology from the University of California San Diego. He is an author of a SAS book chapter and has presented at local, regional and international SAS user group conferences as well as various clinical and scientific conferences. He contributes to SAS Global Forum conference teams, is a previous executive committee member of the Western Users of SAS Software (WUSS) and involved with the San Diego SAS Users’ Group (SANDS).

Second Presentation Topic (6:40 pm – 7:00 pm)

Open Source Platform Unveiled

By Karen Walker

Learn how to install OPEN SOURCE platform software and deploy it on your computer. SAS® Viya™ permits advance systems development without the sacrifice of quality control. This presentation reveals how to use the special analytic software “SAS® Viya™”, running under UNBUNTU.

Intended Audience: All SAS users

Prerequisites: None

Delivery Method: Tutorial with code examples

Length: 20 minutes, 6:40 pm – 7:00 pm

Bio for Karen Walker

Karen has been developing SAS programs for more than 30 years. She has served the following industries: Manufacturing, Finance, and Pharmaceuticals Research and Development. As a programmer of many languages she stays current by continued training, and participating in users groups. Karen contributes papers at WUSS, PHARMASUG, and volunteers at SAS Global Forum.

Third Presentation Topic (7:05 pm – 7:25 pm)

Introducing Random Sampling Techniques Using PROC SURVEYSELECT

By Ryan Paul Lafler

Data's presence has been more important now than ever before. Populations, too large, costly and inefficient to completely analyze contain valuable data important to individuals and firms in every industry. Random sampling allows individuals to effectively understand the statistics of large populations, ultimately reducing sampling bias while not incurring the inefficiency of analyzing *all* members of a population. In this paper, three types of random sampling will be discussed, including simple random sampling, stratified random sampling and systematic random sampling using PROC SURVEYSELECT. Examples for each of the three random sampling techniques will be performed using the SASHELP data sets, comparing each sample's statistics with the population using descriptive and graphical functions.

Intended Audience: All SAS users

Prerequisites: None

Delivery Method: Tutorial with code examples

Length: 20 minutes, 7:05 pm – 7:25 pm

Bio for Ryan Paul Lafler

Ryan Paul Lafler is a sophomore majoring in statistics and minoring in economics at San Diego State University in San Diego, California. Ryan's interests include statistical testing, data analysis and programming techniques using the SAS University Edition software, open source software, the implementation of different operating systems, and the application of cyber-security strategies and techniques for removing malicious software (malware) issues and threats. Ryan is the recipient of a “Best” contributed paper at the 2013 Western Users of SAS Software (WUSS) Conference.

Map to Pfizer La Jolla Campus



Directions to the Campus Buildings

Please refer all Contractors and Visitors that will be visiting CB1-CB6, CB10 or The Pfizer Incubator to the CB2 Visitors Check-in Center.

A photo ID is required for visitor check in.

Groups of 15 or more will check-in at the lobbies of the buildings visited.

Visitors should arrive 15 to 20 minutes early to allow enough time for check-in.

CB2 Visitors Center

10770 Science Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92121

From San Diego International Airport.

Follow signs to I-5 North.

Proceed on I-5 North for approx. 10 miles.

Exit I-5 at Genesee Ave. and make a left at the stop light.

Make a right at the second stop light which will be Science Center Drive.

CB2 Visitors Center is located at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Visitor Parking is to the left. Please follow Visitors Signs.



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