



Western Users of SAS Software

Fourteenth Annual Conference

September 27 - 29, 2006

Hyatt Regency Hotel
Irvine CA

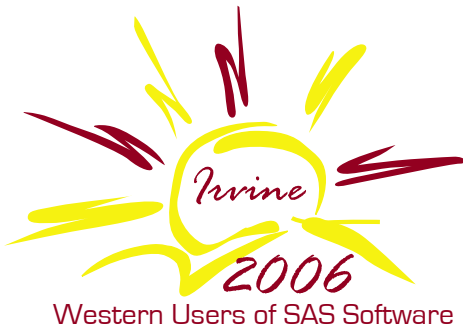
Proceedings

Academic Program

Lauren Haworth
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Operations

Diana Suhr
University of Northern Colorado



Western Users of SAS Software (WUSS) Proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Regional Conference.

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The paper you choose is displayed. In the Bookmarks panel, invited papers are shown in blue and contributed

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From the Conference Chairs . . .

Western Users of SAS Software (WUSS) 14th annual conference was held September 27 - 29, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine, California. SAS users attended from all the WUSS region's states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah, as well as many other states outside of the region.

The conference ran from mid-day Wednesday through mid-day Friday, including the ever-popular WUSS Happening Mixer on Wednesday evening. The learning officially commenced with the keynote address, "We're Not in Kansas Anymore," presented by Vince DelGobbo, Senior System Developer in the Web Tools Group at the SAS Institute. Thursday's Customer Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by SAS, included a luncheon keynote address, "SAS and U: Exploring the U Factor," presented by David Baggett, SAS Director of Executive and User Events.

This year attendees chose from over 100 paper presentations and Hands-on Workshops and posters. Code Doctors diagnosed coding ills, while the WUSS Exhibit and Demo Area let attendees experience the latest innovations from SAS in a hands-on setting. The SAS Essentials section let beginning SAS programmers immerse themselves in SAS for a day-and-a-half. VDestiny's Virtual Learning Cafe provided attendees with a virtual learning venue.

But there was more! The pre- and post-conference half-day classes offered Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon and full-day classes on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday provided additional opportunities to for attendees to add new tools and knowledge to their SAS toolbox.

WUSS 2006 also marked the sixth annual Children's Book Drive at WUSS to benefit needy children in the conference area. WUSS attendees are known for their generosity; many dropped off new or gently used books at the registration area during the conference.

We would like to thank the following people for their dedication and hard work:

- SAS for the support and guidance they always provide. In particular, we would like to thank Patsy Harbour, Users Group Liaison, who was consistently responsive, patient, and helpful as we prepared for WUSS 2006. We also thank SAS for producing this Proceedings CD-ROM.
- The Conference Committee and WUSS Executive Committee who contributed to planning WUSS 2006 and ensuring its success.
- All the volunteers and attendees who put in long hours and contributed to the success of this conference.
- Our employers and colleagues who supported our commitment to this conference.

We hope that you benefited from your conference experience, and that you had the opportunity to expand your SAS expertise.

See you in San Francisco for WUSS 2007!

Lauren Haworth
Academic Program
Kaiser Permanente

Diana Suhr
Operations
University of Northern Colorado

Keynote Addresses



Opening Session Keynote Address *Vincent DelGobbo: "We're Not In Kansas Anymore"*

The Opening Session began on Wednesday, with a keynote address by Vince DelGobbo, Senior System Developer in the Web Tools Group at SAS. He is the developer for the HTML Formatting Tools and the SAS Design-Time Controls, and is developing other new Web- and server-based technologies, as well as integrating SAS output with Microsoft Office. He believes that if you are like most people, you woke up one day and realized that you were living in a strange, new world.

Abstract: Many of our existing users are well-versed in the traditional realm of SAS – Data Steps and PROCs. A large portion of these people are intimidated by the expansion of the software line, especially the strides SAS has made in Business Intelligence. They wonder if they are going to become irrelevant because they are SAS programmers. This talk will cover where SAS has been, where we are now, and where we are headed. I will show you that you can choose to stay right where you are now (Data Steps and PROCs), if you like, and still be valuable. Then I will present some “light” slides to explain our BI offering. One thing I want you to understand is that if you tweak your existing skills a little, you can (for example) convert your existing code into Stored Processes, and plug them into the new BI platform. Doing so will actually increase your value, not make you irrelevant. The choice is yours!

Luncheon Keynote Address *David Baggett: "SAS and U: Exploring the U Factor"*



The SAS Customer Appreciation Luncheon keynote address on Thursday featured David Baggett, SAS Director of Executive and User Events. In his 24 years at SAS, David has focused on meeting and supporting users.

Abstract: SAS users are the very heart beat of SAS. You are what makes us tick and keeps us focused. All 10,000 SAS employees across the world, whether in R&D, Technical Support, Publications, Education, Marketing, Users Group Support, or any other SAS organization, go to work everyday with you in mind. How can we connect with you? How can we support you? How can we learn from you? How can we develop and deliver software that meets your needs? How can we help you succeed? How can we form and nurture effective partnerships with you? How can we delight you? You, you, you . . . you're at the center of our universe and what motivates us and fuels SAS' success! During his presentation David will explore the relationship between SAS users and SAS.

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Kirk Laffler, Software Intelligence Corp.

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Gary Levy, University of Utah

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WUSS 2005
San Jose, CA
2005 Best Contributed Paper Award Winners

CODER'S CORNER

Alice Cheng
Scios, Inc.

"Duration Calculation from a Clinical Programmer's Perspective"

DATA ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS

Lawrence Rasouliyan & David Pasta
Ovation Research Group

"Characterizing Patterns of Longitudinal Completeness through Successive Refinement"

DATA PRESENTATION

Jennifer Harper
California Department of Health Services
Lisa Pappas

"Coding with Compassion - Giving Everyone Access to The Power to Know"

DATA WAREHOUSING AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Kirk Paul Lafler
Software Intelligence Corporation

"Exploring DICTIONARY Tables and Views"

POSTERS

Keh-Dong Shiang
City of Hope National Medical Center

"Deployment of a Data Transfer Application using PROC SQL and Nested Macros"

SAS SOLUTIONS

Art Carpenter
California Occidental Consultants

"Make 'em %LOCAL : Avoiding MACRO Variable Collisions"

Upcoming Conferences

SAS Global Forum

April 16-19, 2007: Disney Swan and Dolphin Resort, Orlando, FL
Spring, 2008: San Antonio, TX

WUSS 2007

October 17-19: Grand Hyatt, San Francisco, CA