

Past, Present, and Future... who KNEW (Knows New Exciting Ways)?

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ABSTRACT

Did you ever think, "Someone must have done this before"? If you've ever coded anything that took some time or was challenging, someone probably has done it another way. The other way could be different, the same, easier, or slightly advanced. This paper will provide a list of past, present, and future SAS users and authors who are experienced in writing code and teaching methods through SAS® papers and BBU (Books by Users). This will be valuable for googling SAS papers and finding the right code for your needs.

INTRODUCTION

When any programmer has been seen as a leader in the industry, an expert within their field, or the 'go to' person for asking a certain coding question, one has to wonder why isn't their name in flashing lights? There are several SAS experts in various fields. Some SAS programmers are more knowledgeable in some areas because they have been looked to as the expert for so long that they just keep enhancing their knowledge. This paper will provide one user's experience over the years at a who's who list of programmers in this industry at the time of this paper.

PAST

The following programmers were instrumental when I begin my career during the Y2K time period and their reputation as experts still holds true today. Their legacy code still exists and when they do attend conferences, they still are willing today as in past years to discuss code and offer solutions.

MAL FOLEY: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC

Mal is a teacher and a consultant. He has served on the Executive Committee of PHARMSUG and has presented several workshops and training classes including:

- Merging, Combining and Subsetting SAS® Data Sets (Tricks, Traps and Techniques)
- Merging vs. JOINING: Comparing the DATA Step with SQL

His expertise is in finding the fastest solution to merging files and providing details on time-saving ways to code when there is more than one dataset to merge. He provides examples in his papers with small snips of code and illustrates how it works in a manner which is easy to recognize and understand.

IAN WHITLOCK: Independent Consultant (Formerly of Westat, Inc. in Rockville, MD)

Ian's papers are a step above the rest. The term 'DOW-loop' was named after him. He explains the 'SUPERQ' SAS function with great detail, as all his papers exceed expectations. He is a leader in the SAS world when it comes to teaching Do Loop, Search strings, and Macro functions. These are a few examples:

- How to Think Through the SAS® DATA Step
- A Serious Look Macro Quoting

His papers are not for the faint at heart or for those who do not understand the PDV (Program Data Vector). If you don't know what the PDV is or how it works, his papers will explain that too.

PRESENT

These instructors have been around since I began my career and have offered SAS webinars, consulting services, and weekend workshops. They are still teaching and presenting at the time of this paper at SAS conferences.

KIRK PAUL LAFLER: Consultant / Adjunct Professor at University of California San Diego

Kirk has been a consultant and teacher at numerous SAS conferences and is known to give out SAS ribbons for name badges which state 'Data Geek' or 'SAS Nerd' to wear proudly at a conference. Here are a few books that Kirk has written over the years and updated with new versions.

- PROC SQL: Beyond the Basics Using SAS
- Power SAS: A Survival Guide

His papers and workshops are not to be missed if you have the opportunity.

ART CARPENTER: Consultant /Owner California Occidental Consultants

Art has presented at SAS conferences through the years and even SAS webinars. His skills are widespread and any paper you find is worth a read. Specifically helpful to me were any of his PROC REPORT series:

- PROC REPORT: Basics Getting Started
- PROC REPORT: Compute Block Basics

His published SAS Press book, Carpenter's Complete Guide to the SAS REPORT Procedure, is worth an investment.

FUTURE

These programmers appear to be the up and coming rising stars that may have been presenting for years, but are now recognized for their expertise and knowledge as leading experts in the community.

JENNIFER WALLER: Associate Professor and Graduate Director at Georgia Regents University

Jennifer has been involved in the SAS community since 1999 and is the SAS Global Forum Conference Chair for 2016. She has been leading the way for volunteers beginning with regional conferences and proving that sharing your knowledge of SAS is both rewarding and 'fun'. Here's just a few of her papers.

- Chi-Square and T-Tests Using SAS®: Performance and Interpretation
- Many to One Using a SAS® DATA Step and PROC MEANS

NATE DERBY: President Stakana Analytics

Nate can take a statistical paper or presentation and convey it in an easy to understand way for non-statistical programmers. He has several papers and slides available online at these user group sites:

- Regina SAS User Group
- Western Users of SAS Software (commonly known as 'WUSS')

His papers can be found on Lex Jansen's site referenced below.

THOSE WHO KNEW (Knows New Exciting Ways)

These are other names I would recommend searching on for papers, good programming practices, and advice on beginning or advancement in the SAS community. They are SAS conference leaders, mentors and served as volunteers at numerous SAS conferences and venues.

VINCE DELGOBBO: Senior Software Developer at SAS

Vince has the best Hands on Workshop (HOW) around on Multi-Sheet Microsoft Excel Workbooks with SAS. He has upgraded and perfected this series at numerous SAS conferences over the years. If you've seen it before, you may want to consider attending the upgraded version or seek out the paper and handouts provided. It's worth the price of admission at any SAS conference because it's included free with your paid conference fee.

PETER EBERHARDT: Owner Fernwood Consulting Group, Inc.

Peter was the PharmaSUG China 2015 Academic Chair and SESUG Academic Chair in 2012. His papers include topics such as Hadoop, SAS Enterprise Guide, OLAP, HASH objects, DS2, and many more.

MARJE FECHT: Sr. Partner, Prowerk Consulting

Marje has worked in various capacities and was the SAS Global Forum Conference Chair in 2014 and has presented at countless conferences over the years. Her presentations are not to be missed and always pack a room.

ARTHUR TABACHNECK: CEO Analyst Finder, Inc.

Art has over 40 years of expertise in anything you can image. At the time of this paper going to press, he had recently started his own company for SAS analysts and companies searching to find the perfect 'match' when needed. His papers can be found all over Lex Jansen's website and he is a heavy SAS-L power user.

CONCLUSION

This paper has provided a list of what this author considers the SME (Subject Matter Expert) for various subjects. However, there are many other names not mentioned in this paper and the list could be very long. Names of SAS presenters can be found in the references provided and by asking a colleague or one of the authors mentioned in this paper. Everyone knows someone who knows someone else. If you never seek, you will never find.

REFERENCES

www.google.com

www.sas.com

www.lexjansen.com (Myriad of SAS papers cataloged)

www.pharmsug.org

www.sascommunity.org

www.wuss.org (Western User SAS Software)

http://www.sas.com/en_ca/user-groups/ReginaSAS.html

<https://listserv.uga.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=SAS-L> (SAS-L)

<http://www.gasug.org/papers/> (Greater Atlanta SAS User Group)

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RECOMMENDED READING

- *MERGING vs. JOINING : Comparing the DATA Step with SQL: SUGI 30 Paper 249-30*
- HOW to DOW: SAS Global Forum 2012 Paper 156-2012
- *The Little SAS® Book for Enterprise Guide® 4.2*

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Disclosure: The views and opinions within this paper are of the author and do not include the long list of mentors and SAS experts within the SAS community and will continue to be SAS leaders for many years.

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