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conference co-chairs

Frank DiIorio, ASG Inc.

Grace Lossman, Smith Hanley Consulting Group

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SESUG '96 Users Group Proceedings

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About The Cover

SESUG '96 continues our group's tradition of displaying speaker and volunteer names on the *Proceedings* cover. Most of the speakers and volunteers as of late July were placed randomly on the American Automobile Association (AAA) map of the SouthEast. (Yes, it really was random—don't read anything into location!). Our apologies for any omissions or misspellings and our thanks to the AAA for their gracious permission to reproduce the map. We also appreciate the creative input of Tommy Johnson and Michael Smith of SAS Institute. The cover was designed by Frank Dilorio, SESUG '96 Conference Co-chair.

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The SouthEast SAS Users Group (SESUG) proudly presents these *Proceedings* of our Fourth annual Conference. At over 500 pages and nearly 100 papers, it is the largest SESUG *Proceedings* to date. It contains the efforts of some of the "old reliable," well-known names in the SAS community as well as numerous new faces. We are grateful for everyone's efforts — the result is not only a record of what was presented at the Conference but also a valuable reference work.

A conference this size is the collective effort of scores of volunteers. Key among these are our section chairs. They solicited papers, handled paperwork, and did all the other tedious but vital chores required to produce what you hold in your hands. The section chairs, in alphabetical order, are:

Advanced Tutorials	Susan Kenny Quintiles	S. David Riba JADE Tech, Inc.
Applications Development	Dan Bruns TVA	Randy Finch TVA
Beginning Tutorials	Melissa Garreans Strategic Technologies and Systems	Margaret Richardson Jefferson Pilot Insurance Co.
Code Clinic	Robert Passmore Passmore Consulting Services	
Coders Corner	Maribeth Johnson Medical College of Georgia	Andrew Kuligowski Nielsen Media Research
Data Warehousing	Chris Toppe Computer Sciences Corporation	
Host Systems	Eric Brinsfield Meridian Software	Paul Dalberth Family Health International
Information Visualization	Deborah Skinner John Alden Life Insurance	
Posters	Hal Corson Miami-Dade Community College	David Harris American Cancer Society
Registration	George Matthews University of Georgia	
Statistics	F. Joseph Kelley University of Georgia	
User Training and Support	Gerri Furlow North Carolina State University	Sally Muller University of North Carolina

While not a section *per se*, the position of site coordinator is a critical one. This year Phil d'Almada went to great lengths to ensure that SESUG attendees would know how to get to the hotel, where to eat, what local sights were worth a visit, and a host of other items. Most of the inserts you received in your confirmation letter were the result of his efforts. Thanks, Phill!

The SESUG Executive Committee (EC) is made up of past, current, and future conference chairs. This year, more than ever, the conference required the collective efforts of the EC. We'd like to extend special thanks to Dan Bruns, Randy Finch, Melissa Garreans, Francis J. Kelley, Andy Kuligowski, S. David Riba, and Debbie Skinner.

We have often had to make Conference and other decisions with the uncomfortable knowledge that we had limited financial resources. We are grateful to the Smith Hanley Consulting Group. They provided SESUG with considerable financial assistance during the year.

We'd also like to thank the staff of SAS Institute for their support. They mailed the Call for Participation, the Registration Packet, and a special Atlanta-area notice. They also published the *Proceedings*, ran the Demo area, provided the online demos, and made several speakers available. We'd like to thank John Boling for his keynote address and would like to extend special thanks to Michael Smith, who coordinated all our dealings with the Institute. That part of the process was much smoother for his guidance.

The Conference is the highlight, not the sum total, of our group's activities during the year. We have expanded our Speaker Sharing program, in which we provide speakers to local user group meetings. In 1996 we reached nearly half of the 21 local user groups affiliated with SESUG.

Last January we met with representatives of other regional groups, SAS Institute, and the SAS Users Group International (SUGI). Among the outcomes of the retreat was an "Affiliation Agreement" which, in essence, redefines the relationship of the regional groups, SAS Institute, and SUGI. We feel that this new organization will improve access to information and resources for conference planners and, ultimately, benefit conference attendees.

We are also looking forward to developing a SESUG home page on the World Wide Web and starting a newsletter.

The last year has taught us much about human nature, our user base, hotel management, word processing, and the other myriad activities that constitute a conference. We are grateful for the opportunity. But as the 1996 conference year winds down we pass, with no small amount of relief, our responsibilities to the able hands of the 1997 co-chairs. Dan Burns and Andy Kuligowski will run SESUG '97, to be held in Jacksonville, Florida from September 21-23. Good luck, gentlemen!



Frank Dilorio
Chapel Hill, NC



Grace Lossman
Morristown, NJ

SESUG '96 Conference Co-chairs