



# From the President

Well, another *SESUG Informant*, another message from the president. I noticed our editor cut some crucial passages from my last missive (note to self: can he *do* that? I'm the president, for crying out loud), so the elegant flow and cadence of my various and sundry pearls of wisdom may have been disrupted. Let's hope not.

The SESUG 2K conference in Charlotte last fall had a variety of interesting presentations: several papers (as well as workshops) focused on ODS. There was a very interesting presentation on using the socket access method. In Coders' Cor-



F. Joseph Kelley

ner, there was an innovative panel discussion: three respected SAS professionals (Frank DiIorio, Paul Dorfman and Ian Whitlock) had all been presented with the same data and the specifications of a report that was needed. Additionally, they were informed of certain idiosyncrasies that might appear in the data. Each

was to produce both the report and a paper that described how they had done this. The papers themselves showed not simply what they had coded, but why they had chosen the methods they did. At the conference itself, all three participated in the panel discussion. (the papers they wrote as well as all the others mentioned above are included in the *Conference Proceedings*). If you missed the discussion, be sure to read the papers (or check the CD). Other presentations covered OLE DB, Graphics (quite a good deal, in many ar-

(Continued on page 17)

# From the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of Volume 3 of *The SESUG Informant*. Yes, this issue begins the third year for our biannual publication. As the editor, I am deeply grateful for all the contributions I receive



Randy C. Finch

for the newsletter. Articles, tips, book reviews, the president's column, SAS Institute information, conference information, puzzles, and last but not least, advertisements.

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The SESUG Informant; Spring 2001; Volume 3, Issue 1; ©2001 SouthEast SAS Users Group, Inc.

The SESUG Informant is a publication of the SouthEast SAS Users Group, Inc. It is published twice a year; in the spring before the SAS Users Group International (SUGI) conference and again in the fall before the SESUG conference.

If you would like to help out by advertising or writing articles for this newsletter, please contact the editor, Randy Finch, by calling 256-386-2197 or E-mailing rcfinch@tva.gov.

# Extending the SAS Language of Functions with Macros

Let's take a look at how SAS macros can be used to extend the SAS language of functions. Such macros must resolve to a SAS expression. Hence they can contain macro instructions, but they cannot include SAS statements used as SAS statements within the macro. I will take two examples that have been presented on SAS-L by other programmers.

My all time favorite was posted by William Kreuter on SAS-L about 1993. The question was how can you compute an exact age. The answer reminds me of one of my farmer jokes. Two farmers are traveling by train to the city. As they gaze out the window, the train passes a field of grazing cows. The first farmer turns to his friend and says, "Do ya know there are 176 cows standing in that field?" The amazed friend asked, "How did you count them so fast?" The reply, "Why it's easy I just counted the legs and divided by 4."

So what is the stable quantity in counting years? Months! There are always 12 of them, in each year (leap year or not). Now suppose we start in January and go to the next January. Has a year passed? Well it depends on the day of the month we started and ended. If the end day is greater than or equal to the start day then a full 12 months have passed and we have a year. If not then only 11 months have passed and we are short of a year. William's insight was that this correction doesn't matter when the months are different. Either we have more than 12 months and taking one off will not change the year count, or less and it still won't add up to a year.

The number of months is given by

```
intck ('month' , birthdate , refdate )
```

Now the correction amounts to subtracting either 1 or 0. If

```
day(refdate) < day(birthdate)
```

then subtract 1. But the above is a logi-



*Ian Whitlock*

cal formula that resolves to 1 or 0 according to whether the expression is true. It remains to do the integer division by 12. Putting it all together we have

```
int((intck("month",birthdate,
refdate) - (day(refdate)<day
(birthdate)))/12)
```

To package it as a macro we get

```
%macro age ( birthdate , refdate ) ;
(int ( ( intck("month",&birthdate,
&refdate) - (day(&refdate)<day
(&birthdate)) ) / 12 ))
%mend age ;
```

I added the outer parentheses to insure that it would work correctly in all formulas. This may be overkill when the whole thing is wrapped in a function call, but it is a good habit. BIRTHDATE and REFDATE must resolve to expressions yielding SAS dates. These expressions can be variables, literals, or function calls. For example, consider a DATA step to calculate the age today of man born on February 3 , 1980.

```
Data _null_ ;
age = %age ( "3feb1980"d ,
today() ) ;
put age= ;
run ;
```

Note that the macro does no more than relieve us of the burden of remembering a combination of function calls.

In more complex cases some macro instructions may be needed. But if the macro is to be used as a DATA step function then it cannot contain any SAS code except that in the expression being generated.

For a second example, Paul Dorfman gave neat macro function on SAS-L this year to make the first letter of each word in a character string upper case. Usually this is done with SAS code and it cannot be used as a function. Moreover, the code calls for looping with a call to SUBSTR in the loop, which is relatively slow.

Paul's insight was to ask what should you do for making all first letter A's upper case. He used the expression

```
tranwrd ( " " || string , " a" , " A" )
```

By using TRANWRD the space can be used to identify first letters. What if the first letter is not an A? Then nothing happens. To handle both A and B we get

```
tranwrd (tranwrd(" "||string, " a",
" A"), " b", " B")
```

To consider every letter we need to nest 26 calls to TRANWRD. Can that save time? Yes! Looping and SUBSTR are so slow in SAS that even nesting 26 calls to TRANWRD is much faster. There is still looping but now it is done in the underlying C code and hence much faster. In addition to speed, we get the function form free of charge.

How can we use a %DO-loop to write the nested function calls? The answer lies in making a macro variable to hold the result. For the above case of A and B we would have

```
%let ret = " " || string ;
%let ret = tranwrd(&ret, " a",
" A");
%let ret = tranwrd(&ret, " b", " B")
```

*(Continued on page 13)*

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# A Ton O' Tips

## Tip #1: Saving Labels and Formats in SAS Data Sets

Programmers are always looking for ways to save time especially during periods of crunch-time. One technique that I've found useful during these periods is to assign variable labels and formats with all my SAS data sets. It's a fairly easy process, although it does require a little extra time to initially setup. But the rewards of having assigned them generally outweigh any initial time and cost in their creation. I like to think of it as part of the data preparation process – it's an approach that rewards over an over. Sunil Gupta of Gupta Programming offers these suggestions on using labels and formats, *"Labels and formats are stored with many of our important SAS data sets to minimize processing time. A reason for using this technique is that many popular procedures use stored formats and labels as they produce output, eliminating the need to assign them in each individual step. This provides added incentives and value for programmers and end-users, especially since reporting requirements are usually time critical."*

The following example illustrates how a LABEL statement can be assigned to two variables in a data set:



```
data libref.patients ;
  infile 'raw-data-file' missover ;
  input @1 patname $25.
        @30 age 3. ;
  label patname = 'Patient Name'
        age = 'Patient Age' ;
run ;
```

The following example illustrates how a FORMAT statement



Kirk Paul Lafler

can be assigned to a date value:



```
data libref.patients ;
  infile 'raw-data-file' missover ;
  input @40 dob mmddyy10. ;
  format dob mmddyy10. ;
run ;
```

## Tip #2: Performing Table Lookup to Convert Coded Data

Have you ever wanted to substitute one value of information in your data for another. Here's a tip that will make transforming coded data into meaningful information as simple as ABC.

The SAS® System provides an effective way of converting coded data into more descriptive information using a process called table lookup. When information is stored as coded fields of data you may be faced with having to convert the coded data into descriptive information before further processing can continue, such as generating output. The reasons for coding data are numerous, but frequently is due to storage limitations, safeguarding sensitive information, or validating the authenticity or existence of a coded

value. Whatever the reason, you'll need an effective means of handling this situation.

To illustrate how data can be converted, we'll look at an example that is often found when completing surveys. While completing a survey, you may be

**"One technique that I've found useful during these periods is to assign variable labels and formats with all my SAS data sets."**

asked to select one value from a list of choices such as 1 - 5 where "1" represents "Strongly Agrees", "2" represents "Agrees", "3" represents "Unsure", "4" represents "Disagrees", and "5" represents "Strongly Disagrees". After making the selection from the list of choices, the selection is often stored as coded data as either a numeric or character value. Since this code may be useful as a means of indicating our particular response to any given question, it is

**"The SAS® System provides an effective way of converting coded data into more descriptive information using a process called table lookup."**

often void of meaning or unintelligible by itself. For these situations, we can use the SAS System to convert the vague coded data (1 - 5) into more

*(Continued on page 6)*

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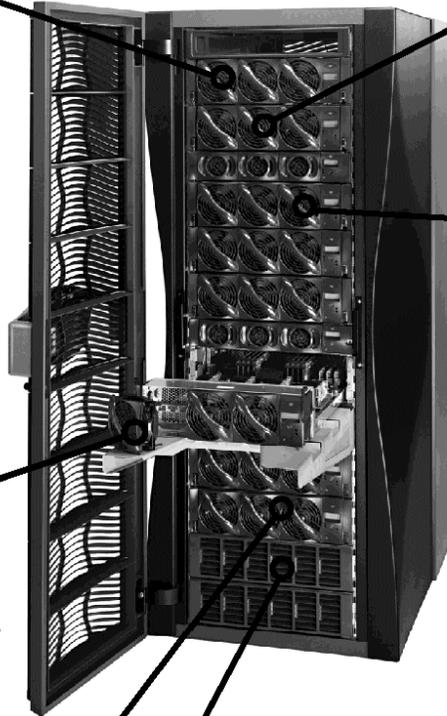
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## A Ton O' Tips (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

meaningful information.

**"The WHERE statement can be used in procedures to subset or reduce the number of observations more efficiently than with a subsetting IF statement."**

Say, for example, that we have a data set called SURVEY that contains the coded data we want to convert as well as other survey information. A common method of approaching this problem is to use the FORMAT procedure to assign our table entries where each coded data value is equated with its more descriptive information. The PRINT procedure is used (although you could use any output-producing procedure or DATA step) to generate the desired output containing the descriptive meaning for each coded data value entry. By using this approach, you can continue to take advantage of storage efficiencies while being able to display descriptive information.



```
PROC FORMAT ;
  VALUE $CODES '1' = 'Strongly Agrees'
              '2' = 'Agrees'
              '3' = 'Unsure'
              '4' = 'Disagrees'
              '5' = 'Strongly Disagrees'
              OTHER = 'Miscoded' ;
RUN ;

PROC PRINT DATA=SURVEY NOOBS N ;
  TITLE 'Survey Results' ;
  FORMAT CODE $CODES. ;
RUN ;
```



### Tip #3: Using WHERE Statements in Procedures to Subset Observations.

The WHERE statement can be used in procedures to subset or reduce the number of observations more efficiently than with a subsetting IF state-

```
/** LESS EFFICIENT **/
/** TWO-STEP PROCESS USING SUBSETTING IF STATEMENT **/
DATA ELDERLY ;
  SET PATIENTS ;
  IF AGE > 65 ;
RUN ;
PROC PRINT DATA=ELDERLY ;
RUN ;

/** MORE EFFICIENT **/
/** ONE-STEP PROCESS USING WHERE STATEMENT **/
PROC PRINT DATA=PATIENTS ;
  WHERE AGE > 65 ;
RUN ;
```



sets, whereas a WHERE statement can only be used with variables in an existing SAS data set. The WHERE statement first validates the condition to see if the observation is to be kept or not before being read into the Program Data Vector (PDV). (Note: The PDV serves as a temporary storage area for an observation). This is an important efficiency consideration since observations only meeting the WHERE condition are processed. In contrast, a subsetting IF statement reads in the observation and then validates the condition to see if the observation is to be kept or not. Another important distinction between the two techniques is that a WHERE statement can be placed in a procedure to avoid creating an extra SAS data set whereas a subsetting IF statement cannot.

ment. Although WHERE statements and subsetting IF statements produce identical results, that is where the comparisons end. The subsetting IF statement can be used to process raw data files as well as existing SAS data

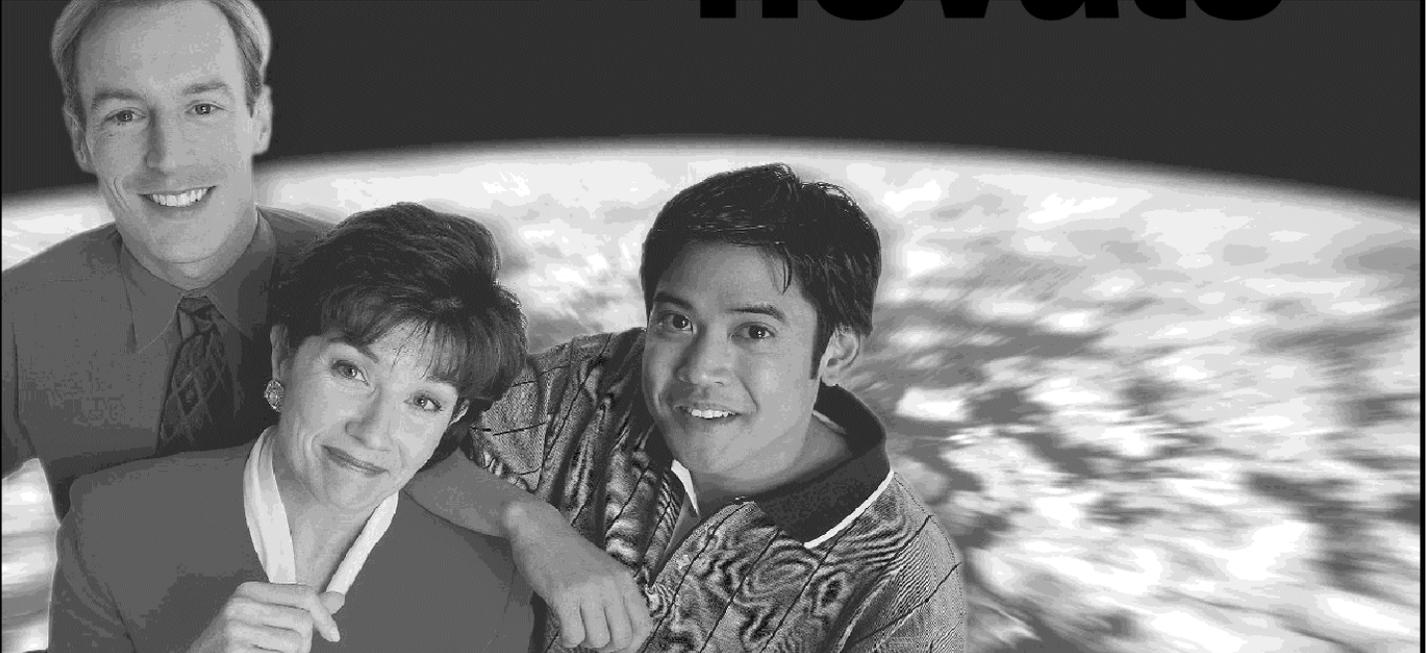
### Tip #4: Using Version 7 Output Delivery System (ODS) for Great Looking Output

Here's a tip that will not only make your procedure output look great, but will permit your output to be web-ready with syntax-correct HTML code.

The Output Delivery System (ODS) in Version 7 of the SAS® System controls the formatting of all proce-

(Continued on page 8)

# innovate



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## A Ton O' Tips (continued)

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procedure output. ODS provides added control for users to 1) create customized procedure output, 2) generate "master" templates, 3) produce output as two objects: a data component and a template component, and 4) generate output as HTML code to simplify web enablement.

**"The Output Delivery System (ODS) in Version 7 of the SAS® System controls the formatting of all procedure output."**

### Web Enabling ODS Output

With the popularity of the Internet, you may find it useful to deploy selected pieces of output on your web site. ODS makes deploying procedure output to the web a simple and painless process. Syntactically-correct HTML code is automatically produced and ready for you to deploy using your Internet browser's software.

The ODS statement syntax to use is:

```
ODS html body = 'user-  
defined-html-file-name' ;  
< SAS procedure code > ;  
ODS html close ;
```

For example, if you wanted to generate HTML code on a SAS table using the UNIVARIATE procedure, all you'd have to do is surround the following ODS statements around your procedure code:

```
ODS html body = 'user-  
defined-html-file-name' ;  
PROC UNIVARIATE  
DATA=movies ;
```



```
TITLE1 'ODS HTML  
UNIVARIATE Procedure  
Output' ;  
RUN ;  
ODS html close ;
```

where:

'*user-defined-html-file-name*' is the user-designated location and file name given to the HTML output file, such as 'c:\ods-univariate.html'. This file is where the HTML code and output will reside.

**"Because each output object's content is different, Output Delivery System (ODS) uses a technique referred to as *tracing* to discriminate between the various objects."**

### Tip #5: Tracing Procedure Output with ODS

Several output producing procedures create multiple pieces of information (or objects). Because each output

**"The trace record displays information about the data component, the table definition, and the output object."**

object's content is different, Output Delivery System (ODS) uses a technique referred to as *tracing* to discriminate between the various objects. The ODS statement syntax used to perform this tracing feature is: ODS trace ON / Listing;. The results of a trace are printed to the SAS Listing file. For example, to turn object tracing on for the Univariate procedure, the following code is specified.

```
ODS Trace ON / Listing ;  
Proc univariate  
data=libref.movies ;  
Run ;  
ODS Trace Off ;
```

The trace record displays information about the data component, the table definition, and the output object. For example, the trace record displays the following output objects to the SAS Listing destination: 1) Moments, 2) BasicMeasures, 3) TestForLocation, 4) Quantiles, and 5) ExtremeObs. A sample trace record containing each output object's name, label, template, and path is displayed for the Univariate procedure. Note that for each output object, the name, label, template, and path is displayed.

```
Output Added:  
-----  
Name: Moments  
Label: Moments  
Template: base.univariate.  
Moments  
Path: Univariate.age.  
Moments  
-----
```

(Continued on page 14)

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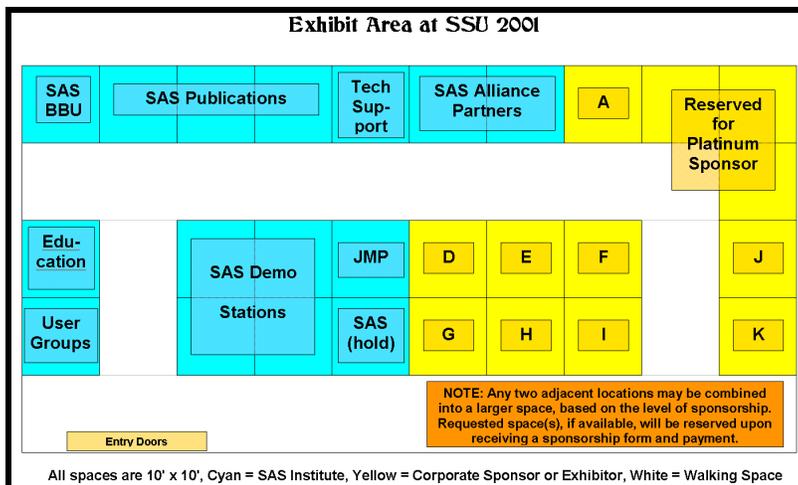
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The pattern is clear - initialize RET and then loop through all letters. Using hard coded letters makes it difficult. The BYTE function translates numbers to letters, thus making the required numeric loop index possible. For example

```
"A" = BYTE(65)
```

and

```
"a" = BYTE(65 + 32)
```

What about BYTE, when should it execute? If we let SAS execute it then it will be executed 52 times for every string. The letters are fixed. We just want to write them once. This means we want the macro facility to execute the function BYTE to generate the required letters, instead of letting SAS do it over, and over. Thus, we use

```
"%sysfunc(byte(65))"
```

to get "A". %SYSFUNC is a macro function for executing DATA step functions during macro execution time. In our case it is during the time that the DATA step compiles. Hence the code is executed once (BYTE is called twice for each letter). Now here is the macro.

```
%macro up ( string );
  %local i ret ;
  %let ret = lowcase(" "||&string) ;
  %do i = 65 %to 90 ;
    %let ret =
      tranwrd ( &ret ,
        "%str( )%sysfunc(byte(&i+32))" ,
        "%str( )%sysfunc(byte(&i))" ) ;
  %end ;
  substr(&ret,2)
%mend up ;
```

To test the macro, one might use

```
data _null_ ;
  string = "ABC DEF GHI ZYX" ;
  string = %up(string) ;
  put string= ;
run ;
```

%UP does not solve capitalization in messy name problems such as "MARY O'REGAN III", but then it isn't intended to and nothing but a lot

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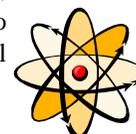
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The *SESUG Informant* is always on the lookout for new authors and new sponsors. If you are interested in helping this newsletter in either of these ways, please contact the editor, Randy Finch, by phone at 256.386.2197 or by Email at [rcfinch@tva.gov](mailto:rcfinch@tva.gov).

of special case hard programming work will solve this form of the problem.

Hopefully you will find the macros useful. Certainly, any time spent understanding how they work and how to make the techniques demonstrated your own will be well rewarded whether you use these macros or not.



```

Output Added:
-----
Name:      BasicMeasures
Label:     Basic Measures
of Location and Variabil-
ity
Template: base.univariate.
Measures
Path:      Univariate.age.
BasicMeasures
-----

```

```

Output Added:
-----
Name:      TestsForLocation
Label:     Tests For Loca-
tion
Template: base.univariate.
Location
Path:      Univariate.age.
TestsForLocation
-----

```

```

Output Added:
-----
Name:      Quantiles
Label:     Quantiles
Template: base.univariate.
Quantiles
Path:      Univariate.age.
Quantiles
-----

```

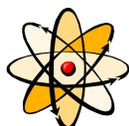
```

Output Added:
-----
Name:      ExtremeObs
Label:     Extreme Observa-
tions
Template: base.univariate.
ExtObs
Path:      Univariate.age.
ExtremeObs
-----

```

If you would like more information or have any questions about these tips, please contact:

Kirk Lafler  
Software Intelligence Corporation  
E-mail: KirkLafler@cs.com  
Phone: 619.660.2400



Thanks must go to many people for keeping this newsletter viable. I would especially like to thank Ian Whitlock, Kirk Lafler, and Andy Kuligowski for the quantity of articles they have provided this newsletter. A special thanks must go to our sponsors. It is their advertising dollars that allow us to provide *The SESUG Informant* to our conference attendees at no cost to them.

```

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```

You may be wondering how we determine who receives this newsletter. Well, it's quite simple. Everyone who has attended at least one of the last three SESUG conferences from the date of publication is suppose to receive this newsletter. I say "suppose to" because I am well aware that our records may not be perfect and that some conference attendees may not have made it on our list. Also, I am aware that people move jobs frequently and we may not have the current addresses of all eligible recipients. So, if you change addresses, please remember to sent me an Email with your new address, phone and fax numbers, and preferred Email address so I can update our records. Also, if you know of anyone that should be receiving the *Informant* but isn't, please have them inform me and I will make sure they get put on our mailing list. Lastly, if you know of people who would like to receive the *Informant*, but it has been a while since they attended a SESUG conference (or perhaps they have never attended), just have them

send me a request, and I will gladly add them to our mailing list. In case you are not aware of it, *The SESUG Informant* is also published in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format on SESUG's Web site ([www.sesug.org](http://www.sesug.org)) so that anyone with an Internet connection, a Web browser, and Adobe Acrobat Reader can gain access to this newsletter.

Perhaps you have noticed some changes with this issue of *The SESUG Informant*. Traditionally, I modify the look of the newsletter for each new volume. However, several other things are new about this newsletter. Even though the printed version of the newsletter is still in its original, affordable gray-scale format, the online version is now in color. Also with this issue we are introducing AdLink. Now you can click on any advertisement in the PDF version and link directly to the advertiser's Web site. In addition, don't be surprised if you find a few other links spread throughout the newsletter. Just look for Web addresses and Email addresses throughout the newsletter. They may not all have links, but most will.

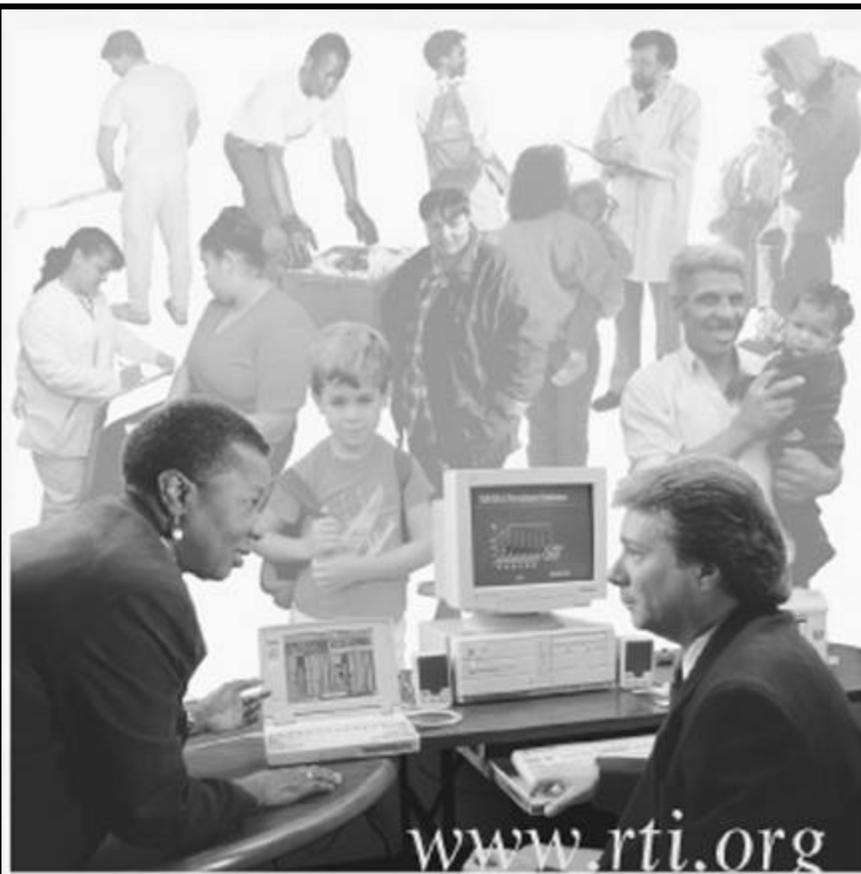
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```

Well, it's time for you to read the rest of the newsletter. (You *DO* read my column first, don't you?) This time we have some interesting articles from Ian Whitlock, Kirk Lafler, Frank DiIorio, Andy Kuligowski, and the Institute. So, ON WITH THE SHOW!!





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## A Review of Rick Aster's "Professional SAS Programming Logic"

As the scope of SAS software grows, so does the complexity of the task facing the would-be author of SAS books. Should the book focus on a particular SAS product, such as SAS/ETC or SAS/GRAPH? Should it describe the use of all SAS products used in a specific industrial sector, such as pharmaceuticals? Should it be a reference work or a tutorial?

Rick Aster's new book, *Professional SAS Programming Logic*, answers too many of these questions in the affirmative. It is directed toward people who want to go beyond the "paint by numbers" approach of tem-



Frank Dilorio

8, it does not discuss the interface, and gives scant attention to the Output Delivery System. It also bypasses discus-

sion of accessing data from Microsoft Access, SQL Server, ODBC data sources, and other popular "foreign" formats. Even though these SAS/ACCESS products are beyond the nominal scope of the book (that is, Base SAS), they are a part of every day life for most SAS programmers, and should have been included.

The organization of the book is sometimes unintuitive. Many of the early chapters deal with DATA step and I/O basics, but it isn't until Chapter 20 that the PRINT procedure is discussed. PRINT, SORT, and CONTENTS are, arguably, three of the most used PROCs, yet the earliest any of them are discussed is page 231, nearly

half way through the book. Reordering these and other chapters would have been helpful, as would dividing some of them into basic and

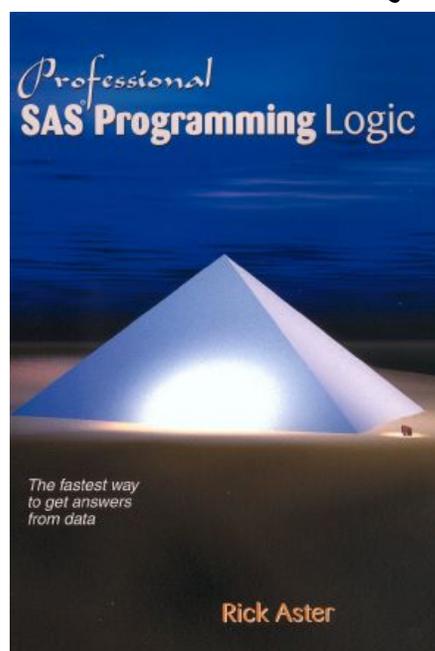
advanced topics, revisiting the more technical material in later chapters.

Readers who favor text over graphics will find the book's in-depth discussions helpful. They usually provides a good narrative of *why* you would want to use a particular tool as well as *how*

**"The book's intended audience is somewhere above beginner and below expert."**

to use the tool. I thought some of the "how to" discussion could have been communicated more effectively with annotated portions of Log and Output files, but perhaps that simply reflects a personal, rather than global, preference.

This is Mr. Aster's fifth SAS book. Personally, my favorite remains the first one he wrote, co-authored by Rhena Seidman. *Professional SAS Programming Secrets* had a more logical ordering of chapters, benefited from a visually friendlier presentation, and had its target audience more clearly defined.



**"Readers who favor text over graphics will find the book's in-depth discussions helpful. They usually provides a good narrative of why you would want to use a particular tool as well as how to use the tool."**

plate-driven interfaces. As you take a more hands-on approach to coding, the reasoning goes, you will become more productive, and have the responsibility of being thorough in the design and coding of the program. While I agree with the sentiment, I have some reservations about how it is executed on paper.

The book's intended audience is somewhere above beginner and below expert. Focusing on Base SAS software, it goes into great depth on some topics, such as text file I/O, functions,

and format, while giving others short shrift (the macro language, for example, gets as much space as the chapter on loops and arrays). Although the book is written for Version

**"Although the book is written for Version 8, it does not discuss the interface, and gives scant attention to the Output Delivery System."**

From the President (Continued from page 1)

eas), databases, SQL, data analysis and manipulation and so much more, that I'm going to have to stop here. I will add, however, that the conference co-chairs, Maribeth Johnson and Philip d'Almada, organized and presented a remarkably informative and enjoyable conference. It had something to teach the most seasoned veteran as well as the newest rookie. I would like to commend Maribeth and Phil as well as the outstanding team of section chairs they recruited for the great job they did with SESUG 2K. I would also like to thank the many, many speakers, session coordinators, and registrar's assistants (and a number of attendees who just joined in to help) for all they did to make this a great conference.

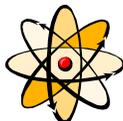
It was fun. Let's do it again. This time, in New Orleans.

As many of you know, the South Central SAS Users Group (SCSUG) and the SouthEast SAS Users Group (SESUG) are sponsoring a joint conference in New Orleans in August of this year. The joint conference will be the "Southern SAS Users Conference" (and we're calling it "SSU 2001"). Conference Co-Chairs are Deborah Buck and S. David Riba. Debbie and Dave have the planning for this well underway; and it looks as though there will be a great deal for everyone. For one thing, there will be 2 ½ days of presentations. For another, among the innovations Debbie and Dave have introduced is a new section called "Introduction to SAS". This will be a one-day session (Monday) and will go from morning until late afternoon. I've had the privilege of seeing the topic/speaker list and it is well thought out, with some great presenters. Heck, I've been using SAS for almost 20 years and I might be at some of those sessions. I'll talk some more about this exciting conference in my next column. For more information now, go to the site:

<http://www.ssu2001.com>

Finally, the SESUG Executive Council has grown with the addition of the co-chairs for SESUG 2002: Heidi Markovitz and David Maddox. Heidi and David have both chaired sections at previous SESUG conferences and are both active in their local user groups: Heidi with South Florida and David with Birmingham (BUGS). It is a pleasure to welcome them aboard.

Now, about that pesky editor...



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*Interested applicants for the above positions should submit a resume and cover letter with salary expectations to: Statistician Search, c/o Nancy Wildermann, Duke Clinical Research Institute, P. O. Box 17969, Durham, North Carolina or email [wilde002@mc.duke.edu](mailto:wilde002@mc.duke.edu).*

## SESUG Speaker Sharing Quiz

Everyone get out your # 2 pencils; we're going to have a short quiz on the SESUG Speaker Sharing Program:

**Question:** True or false, SESUG speakers can only be heard at the annual conference.

**Answer:** FALSE. The conference obviously provides the best opportunity to hear a variety of speakers over the span of a few days. However, the SouthEast SAS Users Group maintains a speaker's bureau, and can provide speakers to Local User Group meetings throughout the Southeast via the SESUG Speaker Sharing Program. In addition, keeping with the spirit of cooperation between SESUG and SCSUG, the Speaker Sharing program has been expanded to include the South Central region up to this year's SSU conference in August.

**Question:** Where have SESUG speakers made Local User Group and Special Interest Group presentations since the last conference?

**Answer:** Andrew T. Kuligowski has represented SESUG in front of two different groups this year. He spoke on "Getting Data Into SAS" to approximately 25 members of the South Florida SAS Users Group in December – what made this meeting unique is that it was held on a yacht during a 2-hour cruise through the Florida Intracoastal Waterway. Andrew also gave this talk in February at Louisiana State University for the statistics students as well as other interested members of the LSU faculty and members of the Baton Rouge professional community.

Please note that this was a trick question. There have been other SESUG speakers who have spoken to various SAS User Groups outside the auspices of the Speaker Sharing program; the host groups themselves sponsored these appearances. S. David Riba gave a talk on the Data Step Debugger to



Andrew T. Kuligowski

approximately 75 members of the D.C. SAS Users Group in Washington last September. He also gave this talk in November to the Florida Community College SAS Users Group for 25 enthusiastic attendees. In addition, Dan Bruns told of the wonders of PROC Tabulate to an estimated 24 members of the Birmingham (Alabama) SAS Users Group in November.

**Question:** True or false, the SESUG Speaker Sharing Program is limited to Local User Groups in the Southeast region.

**Answer:** FALSE. (This one should have been a giveaway, since the previous answer addressed this issue.) This statement is false on multiple levels. For starters, given that this year's con-

ference will be a joint effort between SESUG and SCSUG, the SESUG Speakers Bureau will consider requests from the Local Users Groups in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. This offer, by its very nature, expires at the conclusion of this year's SSU conference. Secondly, SESUG will consider speaking to SAS Special Interests Groups within the region; requests should be made in the same manner as Local Users Groups.

**Question:** True or false, SESUG will provide a speaker to every user group in the Southeast every year.

**Answer:** FALSE. SESUG would like to provide a speaker to each Local Users Group in the Southeast each year. Unfortunately, there are budgetary issues to consider – SESUG can only afford to send a limited number of speakers out each year, depending on the success of the previous year's conference. We'd like to provide a speaker to everyone, but we may have to decline if we are overwhelmed. In addition, the SESUG speakers' schedules may conflict with the Local Users Groups' planned meeting.

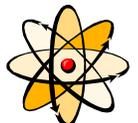
**Question:** Who should you contact if you want to request a SESUG speaker?

**Answer:** Randy C. Finch or F. Joseph Kelley. Their contact information is on the back page of this newsletter.

**Scoring:**

**5 correct answers** – you are probably a member of the Speaker's Bureau.

**0 to 4 correct answers** – you should consider asking the President of your Local Users' Group to request a SESUG speaker to come to your Local User Group meeting.



# Important Information From SAS

## SAS Support Contacts

- SESUG Liaison – Lisa Brugh, 919-531-2320; e-mail [lisa.brugh@sas.com](mailto:lisa.brugh@sas.com)
- SESUG Local Users Group Liaison - Patsy Harbour, 919-531-2855; e-mail [patsy.harbour@sas.com](mailto:patsy.harbour@sas.com)

## Local Users Groups Active in the SouthEast

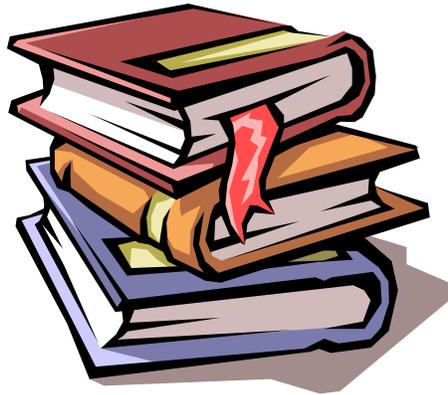
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## Upcoming Local Users Group Meetings

### March 22:

#### Birmingham SAS Users Group

Contact: David Maddox, 205-977-0415, [David.Maddox1@bridge.bellsouth.com](mailto:David.Maddox1@bridge.bellsouth.com)



Location: Birmingham, Alabama  
Time: 09:00-11:30 AM  
Speaker: David Shamlin, SAS, Cary  
Topic: Version 8.2 Enhancements

## SUGI 26 News

Make plans now for SUGI 26, scheduled for 22-25APR01 in Long Beach, California!

Conference Chair Frank Fry has announced great conference features for SUGI 26 such as:

- a three-day Executive Conference for your top-level managers that will focus on the aspects of Enterprise Performance Management— customer, supplier and organization.
- a luncheon keynote speakers; Daniel Burrus, “Technostrategies: Creating and Sustaining Strategic Advantage” and Susan O’Malley, “Seven Keys to Business Success”
- the SUGI Cyber Cafè with Internet access for all attendees
- access to SUGI papers, via the Web, prior to the conference.

## What’s New at SUGI 26?

- More dynamic Opening Session
- New papers, new solutions and new strategies
- Informative lunch keynote speakers
- Sunday Seminar Hands-On Workshop
- Expanded Executive Conference

- First-Timers Lounge
- Special discounted meal package
- SUGI proceedings available at the conference via CD-ROM only
- Volleyball

## Upcoming SUGI 26 Deadlines

### March:

**9** – Deadline for early registration  
**23** – Deadline for special hotel room-block rate

**30** – Deadline for pre-registration or notice of cancellation

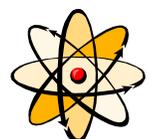
You can register online and find out more about SUGI 26 by visiting [www.sas.com/sugi26](http://www.sas.com/sugi26)

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- contains features about SAS users group services
- includes reminders for upcoming users group conferences
- lists SAS and BBU speakers scheduled for upcoming users group meetings
- provides tips and news from leaders in the SAS users group community

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Philip J. d'Almada, Secretary (2000 co-chair)	404-639-6120	pdalmada@cdc.gov
Frank C. Dilorio (1994 & 1996 co-chair)	919-942-2028	fcd1@mindspring.com
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