



## HARTFORD AREA SAS® USERS GROUP

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The HASUG Flash is available for reading on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hasug.org>  
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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

By James Blaha

Finally it's out and being released, SAS version 9.1! On March 30<sup>th</sup>, I, along with a few of my sassy co-workers, had our eyes and ears glued to our laptops watching a scheduled SAS web conference. The broadcast audio was great; the video streaming was a bit choppy at times. In the end it looked like a Barbara Walters stage set and SAS was in the spotlight marketing its new major release of SAS 9.1. SAS celebrated with customers and press around the world as it announced its revolutionary breakthrough (their words).

So what does this mean for you? At this time, all the SAS customers interested need to call or email the SAS support team and place a request for the new SAS 9.1 media. I've been using SAS 9.0 since its release and I've been extremely happy with it. I've been looking forward to 9.1 for some time now. While I could write a novel on this product, I highly suggest you check out the web sites below for more information on this great new product release.

SAS®9: Moving Beyond Business Intelligence  
<http://www.sas.com/software/sas9/>

The SAS®9 Interactive Tour  
[http://www.sas.com/software/sas9/tour/itour\\_noflash.html](http://www.sas.com/software/sas9/tour/itour_noflash.html)

HASUG is looking for new members to join its steering committee! New members are always welcome. The responsibilities of the committee are: coordinating the quarterly meetings, selecting topics, finding speakers, preparation of the newsletter. If you have an interest in becoming involved, please email or speak to anyone on the steering committee.

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### EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION STAFF:

Editor	Janet Stuelpner
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Member Lists	Charles Patridge
Web master	Charles Patridge
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	Tom Mansfield
	Peter Prause
	Charles Patridge

## HASUG MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The second quarter HASUG meeting for 2004 is to be held on Thursday, May 27, 2004, 9:00 a.m. to noon at Bristol-Myers Squibb, Research Parkway, Wallingford, CT.

Refreshments will be available at 8:30 a.m. Please pre-register by Monday, May 24, 2004 for this meeting by completing the short pre-registration form. If you have any questions, contact our host(ess) by going to our Registration Page -

Our first presenter will be **Ron Cody, R.W. Johnson Medical School on the new SAS V9 functions/regular expressions.**

Perl regular expressions, implemented in SAS Version 9, provide a way to perform pattern matching of text strings. This is a new capability to SAS and is particular useful in reading very unstructured data. You have the ability to search for text patterns, extract the patterns, or substitute new patterns. Perl regular expressions along with dozens of new character functions, give you enormous power to read and manipulate character data.

Dr. Ron Cody is a Professor in the department of Environmental and Community Medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, New Jersey. He has been a SAS user since the late 70's and is the author of "Applied Statistics and the SAS® Programming Language" (fourth edition), published by Prentice Hall. He has also authored or co-authored the following books for the SAS Institute as part of their Books by Users series: SAS Functions by Example (just published), The SAS Workbook, SAS Programming by Example, Cody's Data Cleaning Techniques, and Longitudinal Data and SAS: A Programmer's Guide. Ron has presented invited papers for numerous local, regional, and national SAS conferences.

Our second featured presentation will be ***The Power of Proc Format*** by **Jonas Bilenas, JP Morgan Chase Bank**. The abstract for this presentation follows:

"The FORMAT procedure in SAS is a very powerful and productive tool. Unfortunately, many beginning programmers rarely make use of them. The FORMAT procedure provides a convenient way to do a table look-up in SAS. User generated SAS FORMATS can be developed to assign descriptive labels for data val-

*(Continued on page 3)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

ues, create new variables and find unexpected values. PROC FORMAT can also be used to generate data extracts and to merge large data sets without having to sort the large data sets. This tutorial will look at how to set up user defined FORMATS, INFORMATS, and PICTURE FORMATS using SAS 9.1. Many examples will be taken from a SAS-Book By User (BBU) with the same title."

Jonas Bilenas has been using SAS on MVS, UNIX and PC platforms since 1986. He has worked in risk management and marketing for the consumer credit card industry. He has worked at Citigroup, American Express and is currently employed by JP Morgan Chase Bank. His current endeavors are in experimental design and pricing simulation/optimization.

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## **NOVEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

**By Tomas E. Mansfield, III**

The first quarter 2004 meeting of the Hartford Area SAS Users Group (HASUG) was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at Pfizer in New London, Connecticut. Rene Laurecot of Pfizer hosted this meeting. Rene did a fantastic job working with the Pfizer Research facility to conduct our HASUG meeting at their facility. Thanks Rene!

The first presentation was given by Ralph W. Leighton, who presented his first paper entitled "Working With Arrays: Doing More with Less Code". Ralph went through his paper in great detail and showed how he used SAS Arrays to produce an Investment Report. The SAS arrays allow you to organize elements in your data that will save you the need to write more code with less SAS statements. Ralph also showed how PROC TRANSPOSE could be used for reporting. Ralph made reference to this in his second paper entitled "Some Uses (and Handy Abuses) of PROC TRANSPOSE". Ralph mentioned that this procedure is somewhat under utilized as a data manipulation tool in Base SAS. Both of these papers were handed out to all sixty-three HASUG attendees.

Ralph currently works at The Hartford and manages a group of four people. His group is a 100% SAS shop. Ralph did an excellent job presenting his papers, and his contribution to this meeting made it exciting while learning better SAS coding techniques.

Ralph, along with Michael L. Davis, delivered the second presentation. Michael is with Bassett Consulting Services, Inc. They went through their paper called "SCL Rides Again! Porting RESMENU to the WEB". Ralph started off explaining that the SAS/AF RESMENU Interface screen was text based, because the Open VMS System with which he was working had limited system resources. Ralph then introduced Michael to explain how the SAS IntrNet and SAS Component Language (SCL) was the winning alternative in porting RESMENU to the WEB. Michael did a great job in presenting alternative solutions.

The meeting concluded at 11:40 a.m. The Steering Committee then met for lunch and conducted their normal meeting in preparation for the next HASUG Meeting, which is scheduled for May 2004.

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Future General Meetings and Conferences:**

May 9-12, 2004	SUGI, Montreal, Canada
May 27, 2004	Bristol Meyers Squibb, Wallingford, CT
August 12, 2004	Yale University, New Haven, CT
November 14-17, 2004	NESUG, Baltimore, MD

### **HASUG Steering Committee Meetings:**

May 27, 2004	Immediately after HASUG meeting
June 17, 2004	Conference call, 11:30-12:30
August 12, 2004	Immediately after HASUG meeting
September 9, 2004	Conference call, 11:30-12:30

**CONTINUING WITH EDUCATION...****Peter Prause, The Hartford**

The SAS Institute Regional Training Center in Glastonbury, CT is offering these courses through December 2004. Course information for these courses and many other non-local courses is available on the Internet at the support.sas.com web site. To register for a course or to get more information, phone SAS Institute at 1-800-333-7660.

Programming I: Essentials	May 19 — 21
New Features in SAS System 9	May 24
SAS Macro Language	May 25 — 26
SAS Macro Programming: Advanced Topics	May 27
SAS Programming II: The DATA Step	Jun 2 — 4
Querying / Reporting: Using Enterprise Guide	Jun 23 — 24
SQL Processing with the SAS System	Jun 29 — 30
Intro to Programming Concepts Using SAS	July 21 — 22
SAS Programming I: Essentials	July 27 — 29
SAS Programming II: The DATA Step	Aug 31 — Sep 2
SAS Programming III: Advanced Techniques	Sep 9 — 10
Optimizing SAS Programs	Sep 14- — 5
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Sep 28 — 30
Intro to Programming Concepts Using SAS	Oct 13 — 14
Creating Detail and Summary Reports	Oct 26 — 28

SAS Macro Language	Nov 3 — 4
SAS Programming I: Essentials	Nov 8 — 10
New Features in SAS System 9	Nov 30
SAS Programming II: The DATA Step	Dec 1 — 3
Querying and Reporting Using Enterprise Guide	Dec 13 — 14
SQL Processing with the SAS System	Dec 15 — 16

Destiny Corporation is offering the following courses at their training facility located at 2075 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, CT. You can reach Destiny at 1-800-787-2464 or at 860-721-1684, or send email to info@destinycorp.com. You can visit their web site at www.destinycorp.com.

SQL Processing in SAS Software	May 24 — 25
Enterprise Guide	Jun 1
Version 9 Changes and Enhancements	Jun 7 — 8
Creating Static and Dynamic Web Solutions Using SAS/IntrNet	Jun 21 — 23
Programming I: SAS Essentials	Jul 19 — 21
Version 9 Changes and Enhancements	Aug 16 — 17
Output Delivery System (ODS) Basics	Aug 23 — 24
Intro to Programming Using SAS	Sep 9 — 10
Version 9 Changes and Enhancements	Sep 14 — 15
Macros in SAS Software	Sep 29 — Oct 1

*Continued on page 5*

Education Continued from page 4

Programming II: Using the Data Step	Oct 6 — 8
Advanced Macros	Oct 26
Version 9 Changes and Enhancements	Nov 8 — 9
SQL Processing in SAS Software	Nov 15 — 16
Creating Static & Dynamic Web Solutions Using SAS/IntrNet	Dec 6 — 8
Statistics I: Basic ANOVA Regression and Logistic Regression	Dec 13 — 15

Sierra Information Services is presenting the following **one-day** SAS Training Seminars at Yale University and at a hotel adjacent to the Yale campus. These seminars are sponsored by the Yale School of Medicine's Program on Aging, and are also open to the public. Details on seminar outlines and on registration information are available at [www.Sierrainformation.com](http://www.Sierrainformation.com). You may contact Sierra by phone at 707-996-7380, or via email at [Sierrainfo@aol.com](mailto:Sierrainfo@aol.com)

The SAS Output Delivery System for Data Analysts and Statisticians	Jun 18
The SAS Output Delivery System for Data Analysts and Statisticians	Jun 21
SAS 101: An Introduction to the SAS System	Jun 22
Summarizing and Reporting Data Using the SAS System	Jun 23
Advanced Reporting with the SAS Output Delivery System	Jun 24
SAS System Programming Efficiencies: Tips and Techniques	Jun 25

## THE HASUG RECRUITING POLICY

HASUG's primary mission is to provide a forum for SAS professionals to meet and share experiences. HASUG also recognizes that searching for new employment opportunities is a normal activity when professionals meet. Since we depend on our respective employers to support HASUG by providing time for members to attend, prepare presentations, and provide meeting facilities, we do not wish to jeopardize those relationships we have all nurtured.

Therefore, when attending any of our quarterly meetings, we request that all parties engaged in recruiting activities be "professional and discreet", and suggest that such activities be carried outside and after our meetings. Those seeking or offering positions may display materials at a location designated by HASUG at each quarterly meeting. The materials may include resumes, job openings, contract opportunities, business cards, etc. None of the materials may include salary information. All such materials left after the meeting will be discarded. Violators of this policy may be asked to leave the meeting.

For other recruiting opportunities, please see the SAS CONSIG article elsewhere in this newsletter or visit [www.sconsig.com](http://www.sconsig.com).

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## THE HASUG SPONSORSHIP POLICY

All parties are encouraged and welcome to attend our quarterly HASUG meetings scheduled during the months of February, May, August, and November of each year. Usually these meetings are scheduled the 3rd Thursday from 9:00 am to noon at various locations throughout Connecticut. Past locations have included Hartford, Meriden, Middletown, Norwalk, Glastonbury, Stamford and New Haven. We are always looking for new hosts within the state of Connecticut. If you feel your organization can host a meeting of up to 70 or so people, please contact one of the Steering committee members.

## HASUG2-L DISTRIBUTION LIST

This service is provided free of charge to all who wish to subscribe the email notification process. In order to sign up for this service, you need only point your browser to the HASUG web site, <http://www.hasug.org>, and click on the hyper-link

[Join HASUG Email Distribution List](#)

Or go directly to

<http://listserv.pace.edu/archives/hasug2-l.html>

then click on

[Join or leave the list \(or change settings\)](#)

You will see:

All you need to do is to:

1. type in your email address and name
2. click on "Join the List" button to Join
3. or, if you wish to unsubscribe click on "Leave the list" (still need to type in your email address and name)

If you know and understand the various options, feel free to alter them as desired. However, HASUG suggests you leave them "as is".

Your name and email address is not displayed nor given out to any party, including members of the HASUG steering committee. Only the list administrators have access to subscription information.

If you should change your email address under which you subscribed, you will need to unsubscribe with your old email address, and then re-subscribe using your new email address.

Typically, a notice is sent approximately 3 weeks before meetings, as well as a couple of days beforehand to remind people of the date, time, location and topics to be presented.

***Only List administrators will be able to send out email messages to the HASUG2-L members.***

## HYPERLINKS OF INTEREST

SAS Users often ask, "How can I find any recent SUGI papers that deal with a particular subject?" Lex Jansen has put up the following link that lets one search the online SUGI proceeds using the Google search engine:

<http://www.lexjansen.com/sugi/>

Similarly, to search the SAS-L archives, one can use the following two links:

<http://www.axomsoftware.com/sas-l.php>

<http://groups.google.com/groups?hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&group=comp.soft-sys.sas>

The SAS Consultants Special Interest Group's web site URL is:

<http://www.sconsig.com>

Read Past SUGI Proceedings Online at:

(link supplied by Curtis Smith):

<http://support.sas.com/usergroups/sugi/proceedings/index.html>

Information about the North East SAS Users Group (NESUG), including information about the 2004 conference in Baltimore can be found at:

<http://www.nesug.org>

SAS OnlineDoc is available from SAS on the World-Wide Web. To register to view SAS Version 8 OnlineDoc on the web, register at the following URL:

<http://www.sas.com/v8doc>.

To register to view SAS Version 9 Online Doc on the web, register at the following URL:

<http://www.sas.com/v9doc>.

Some of the papers and other handouts distributed at recent HASUG meetings can be found at the following two web sites:

<http://www.hasug.org>

<http://www.bassettconsulting.com>

## CONSULTANTS' SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SCONSIG)

The SAS Consultants' Special Interest Group (SCONSIG) operates and maintains a web site located at [www.sconsig.com](http://www.sconsig.com). The site lists employment opportunities, contracts, vitas, resumes, and companies seeking SAS professional talent. It is updated weekly. You are encouraged to visit that web site or to contact Charles Patridge at:  
[Charles\\_S\\_Patridge@prodigy.net](mailto:Charles_S_Patridge@prodigy.net)

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## TIPS AND TECHNIQUES FROM SCONSIG

### Disclaimer:

"Each tip included here addresses a problem, and presents a use of one or more SAS concepts. Use it to stimulate your thinking and help you on your way to solving your own problem. Some tips may or may not work in your environment or with your version of the SAS Software, and you should use these tips with this in mind. Neither HASUG nor contributing Author(s) should be held responsible for any direct and/or indirect damage to you or your applications from using these free tips."

***SAS, SAS/ACCESS, SAS/CONNECT, SAS/FSP, SAS/GRAPH, SAS/IntrNet, and SAS/STAT are registered trademarks of SAS Institute Inc., Cary, North Carolina***

### Quick Tip: Using CARDS/DATALINES in Place of an INFILE Statement

This short tip by Andrew Cartwright, statistical consultant at JCPenney, explains how to replace the name of a file with either CARDS or DATALINES.

Read More at: <http://support.sas.com/sassamples/quicktips/04feb/inputfile.html?ETS=1731&PID=44951>

### Quick Tip Extra: PROC Output in Excel Using ODS

Unwanted formatting can be fixed with what you learn about ODS templates. Brian Watts, SAS senior technical specialist in Sydney, Australia, shows you how to get very clean PROC output into Excel using ODS.

Read More at: <http://support.sas.com/sassamples/quicktips/04feb/ods-excel.html?ETS=1731&PID=44951>

### Scheduling the Enterprise Guide Running EG projects unattended

Each generation of SAS software brings increased ease-of-use. The introduction of Enterprise Guide (EG) brought such a degree of ease-of-use that SAS was opened-up to a much larger audience. But interactive use is only part of the picture of a typical commercial environment: there is a strong need to run processes on a regular, scheduled basis.

We have found more than one of our clients to be labouring under the false impression that EG projects cannot be used in a scheduled fashion. In fact, you can use a wide range of scripting languages to launch/run chosen EG projects.

SAS Note #2696 (<http://support.sas.com/techsup/unotes/SN/002/002696.html>) has the detailed low-down on how to do this with VBscript. Using the steps described in the Note you can run one or more EG projects on a regular basis.

### Quick Tip: Traffic Lighting with SAS

With ODS HTML, you can easily color a table cell based on the

value of the cell. This is called traffic lighting because it highlights any value in your output that is greater than, less than, or equal to a given value.

Read More at: [http://support.sas.com/rnd/base/topics/templateFAQ/Template\\_special.html#s30](http://support.sas.com/rnd/base/topics/templateFAQ/Template_special.html#s30)

### Quick Tip: %SQUEEZE-ing Before Compressing Data

Ross Bettinger, a SAS analytical consultant, provides this tip to optimize the space required to store numeric and character variables in a SAS dataset. Read More at: <http://support.sas.com/sassamples/quicktips/03dec/squeeze2.html?ETS=1727&PID=44951>

### TIP00398 - Dump a SAS Dataset to a Flat File (%FLATFILE) by Ian Whitlock

```

/**** TIP 00398 ****/
/**** Dump A SAS Dataset to a Flat file
****/ Author: Ian Whitlock

```

```

/* flatfile2.sas- simplification of SI
macro including doc */
%macro flatfile
(lib=,dsn=,file=print,tl=3);
  %local putlist ;
  %let lib=%upcase(&lib);
  %let dsn=%upcase(&dsn);

```

```

proc sql noprint ;
  select
  case

```

```

when format ^= " " then
  name || " " || format
when upcase(type) = "CHAR"
then
  name || " $"||put(length,z3.)
||"."
  else
  name || " best10."
end into :putlist separated by "
+1 "
from dictionary.columns
where libname = "&lib" and mem-
name = "&dsn" ;
reset print ;
title&tl "Layout for &lib.&dsn to
&file" ;
select name , type ,
case
when format ^= " " then trim
(format)
when upcase(type) = "CHAR"
then "$"||put(length,z3.)||"."
else "best10."
end || " +1 " as fmtlen
from dictionary.columns
where libname = "&lib" and mem-
name = "&dsn" ;
title&tl ;
quit;

data _null_;
  set &lib.&dsn;
  file &file ;
  put &putlist ;
run;
%mend;

```

Typical usage might be:

```
%flatfile(lib=sasuser, dsn=houses)
```

```

/**** end of tip 00398 ****/

```

**"The Guardian of HASUG"  
By Charles Patridge**

As founder and creator of HASUG, I can say it was my distinct pleasure to be the founder of HASUG in 1983. However, much of how HASUG matured and developed has to do with our "Guardian of HASUG - Michael Davis".

Michael Davis is no longer part of HASUG but will always be an honorary member of our group and Steering Committee. In addition, his efforts and contributions to HASUG over the past 20 years has had a profound impact on how HASUG developed and why it is what it is today - a fantastic resource of SAS knowledge, skills and training at no cost to its members.

And Michael's attitude, resourcefulness, commitment and dedication to HASUG brought our group to the highest level of professionalism one could possibly ask for. He will be greatly missed

as a friend and colleague, and we do hope he will be able to join us whenever he is in town!

I consider Michael Davis as the nurturing parent of HASUG and marvel at his dedication to making HASUG a great organization, and his humanitarian efforts to help his fellow colleagues. He is a perfect role model to emulate. I am proud to have worked with Michael Davis. It was an honor to have had Michael in my professional career.



**THE HASUG STEERING COMMITTEE**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Telephone</u></b>	<b><u>E-Mail</u></b>
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**Directions to:  
Bristol-Myers Squibb, Research Parkway, Wallingford, CT**

**Via Route 15 (Merritt / Wilbur Cross Parkways)**

- Exit 66 in Wallingford
- Left at light at end of ramp onto Rte. 5 South
- Stay on Rte. 5 for approx. 1/2 mile
- Left immediately past Shell station onto access road for Rte. 68
- Left at light onto Rte. 68 East
- Follow Rte. 68 past Courtyard Hotel (on left), past entrances to I-91
- Left at 1st traffic light past I-91 (not incl. Entrance to I-91 North) onto Research Parkway
- Bristol-Myers Squibb is the 1st building on the right

**Via I-95 (New England Thruway) and New Haven Area**

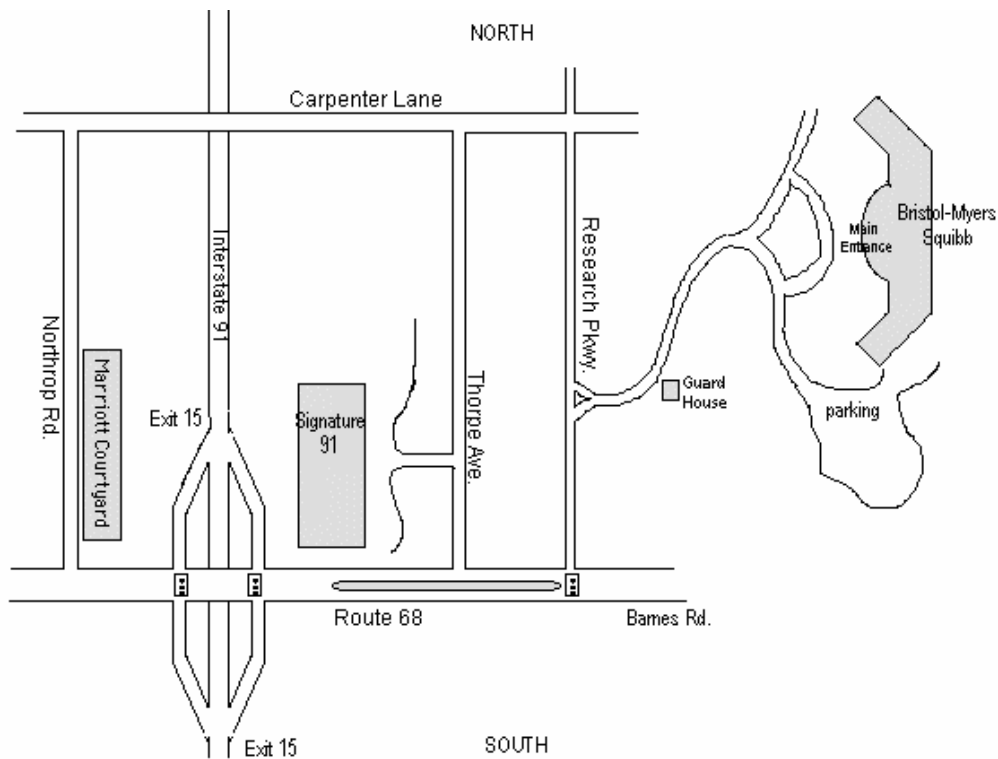
- I-95 North to Exit 48 (left exit) onto I-91 North
- Stay on I-91 for about 15 miles to Exit 15 (Rte. 68)
- Right off exit onto Rte. 68 (east toward Durham)
- Left at 1st light onto Research Parkway
- Bristol-Myers Squibb is the 1st building on the right

**Via I-91 (from Hartford)**

- I-91 South to exit 15 (Rte. 68)
- Left at light at end of ramp
- Left at 1st traffic light past I-91 (not incl. Entrance to I-91 North) onto Research Parkway
- Bristol-Myers Squibb is the 1st building on the right

**Visitor Parking:**

- Park your vehicle in the Parking Lot and walk to the Main Entrance
- Please bring a picture ID for identification
- Again, please register in advance to attend this meeting



# 'Twas the Night Before SUGI

## The Life and Times of a SAS® Programmer

**Daniel T. Cannon**  
**The Hartford**

( with apologies to Major Henry Livingston Jr. and Clement Clarke Moore )

'Twas the night before SUGI , and all through the hotel  
Not a program was running, not even Excel®;  
The papers were hung on the poster boards with care,  
In hopes that SAS® users soon would be there;

The attendees were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of BOFs danced in their heads;  
And having viewed next day's schedule, PC in my lap,  
I'd just started thinking of taking a nap.

When on my PC there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter.  
Opening Windows®, I proceeded to type in slash slash,  
Pulled up the Internet, to view the HASUG Flash.

The luminescent screen emanated a glow  
Gave the lustre of mid-day to the article below,  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
A new version of SAS® soon would be here.

With a little foreknowledge, knowing what was in line,  
I knew in a moment it must be Version 9.  
More rapid than eagles new functionality came,  
And I knew very soon, I'd know it by name;

"Now, DOCUMENT! Now TEMPLATE! now, ETL Studio!  
On, XML! on 64-BIT! on NLS and THREADED I/O!  
To Scalability! Interoperability! Management Console!  
Now Manageability! Usability! And BI for all!"

Came opening ceremonies, with plenty of cheer,  
The CEO typed, new solutions appeared.  
A tap of his keyboard, and whoosh! multi-threading,  
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to be dreading;

He sprang from his podium, gave the reins to his team,  
And stood there like Santa, like from some long lost dream.  
But I heard him exclaim, ere he stepped out of sight,

"HAPPY SUGI TO ALL FROM DR. GOODNIGHT!"