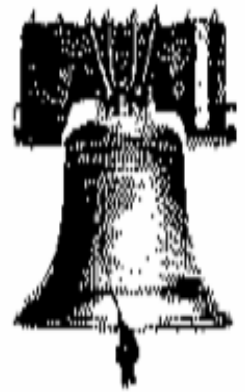# PhilaSUG newsletter

Winter 2005 Meeting Announcement

PhilaSUG Winter 2005 Meeting
Wednesday March 9, 2005

The Philadelphia Area SAS Users Group Winter Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 1:00 PM, and will be hosted by the Philadelphia University at the *Tuttleman Center* on their campus in the East Falls section of Philadelphia, School House Lane & Henry Avenue. A map, detailed driving and parking instructions are available later in the newsletter.

Registration will begin at 12:15 PM and the meeting will commence at 1 PM. Please try to arrive early to register. This is the first meeting of 2005 so all who attend must register and pay dues. A tip – to breeze through registration – bring in the completed registration form found in the back of this newsletter to the meeting. Dues for the year are $20. There are no other fees for attending PhilaSUG meetings. We will accept cash, but a check is preferred. If you are a student and present a current matriculation card, fees will be waived. Registration can be made a lot easier if you attach a business card to a check or $20 bill as there is less writing to do and it is more legible. Please do not mail in your registration fee before hand as this creates unnecessary paper work. Receipts will be available at registration time.
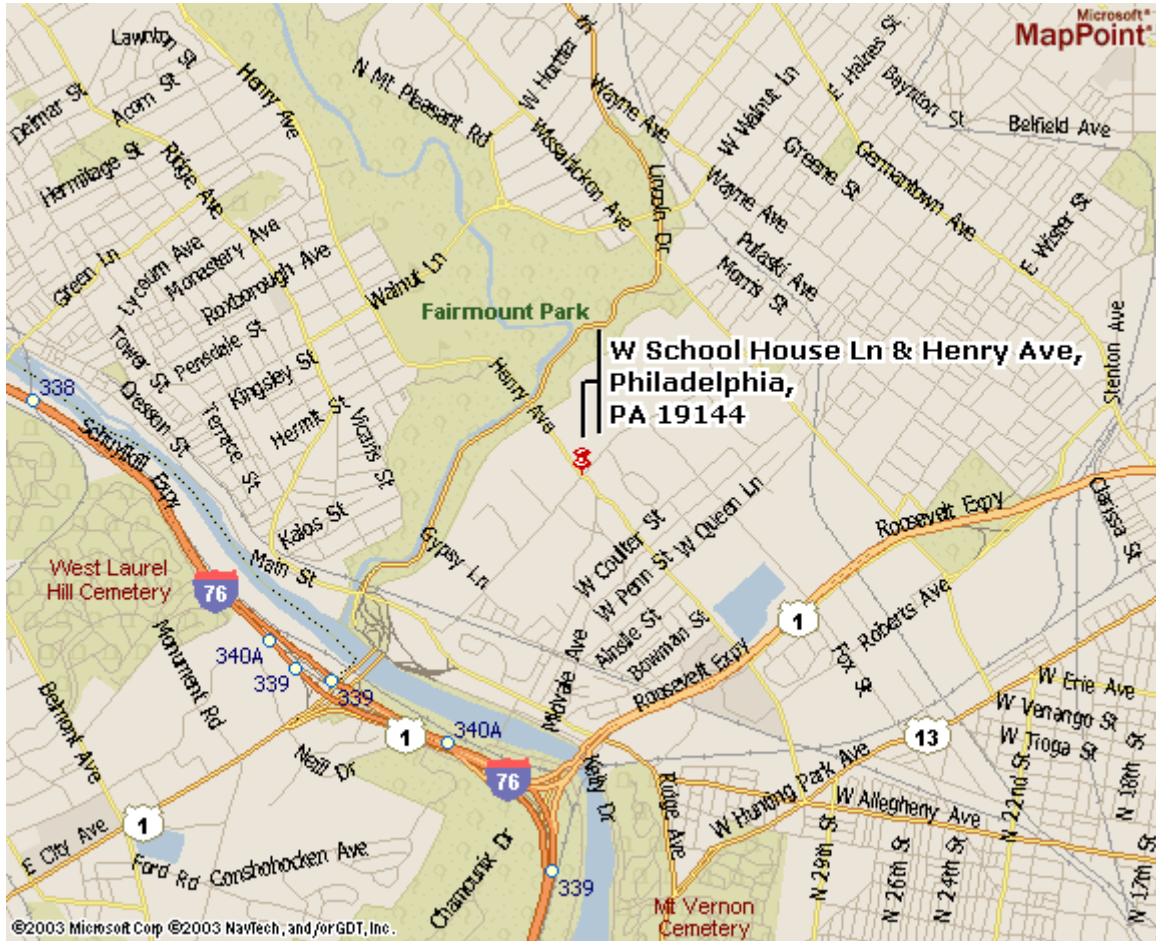
In order to gain access every non-PhilaU attendee must complete the SECURITY **SIGN-IN FORM** found on the PhilaSUG web site. Philadelphia University requires that you do this by March 1st. If you do not have web access send an email message **TO:** registrar@PhilaSUG.org with the **SUBJECT:** Security, with the body of the message containing your name and company affiliation.

Agenda — PhilaSUG Winter Meeting
Philadelphia University
4201 Henry Avenue & School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Time	Activity
12:15-1:00	Registration, Posters and boxed lunch
1:00-1:10	Welcoming Remarks, Barry Cohen, PhilaSUG President and Susan Calder, Director of Philadelphia University Off Campus Programs
1:10-2:00	Data Validation: Using PROC SQL Effectively, Balakrishna Dandamudii
2:00-2:15	Break, Posters, and refreshments
2:15-3:05	Introduction to SASHELP Dictionary Views, Michael Davis
3:05-3:20	Break, Posters, and refreshments
3:20-3:35	Open Forum
3:35-4:25	The Power of Proc Format, Jonas Bilenas

Posters will be on display throughout the meeting. Authors will be present alongside their posters during registration and the breaks for questions and discussions.

Abstracts and bios are found later in the newsletter.

The presenters and the PhilaSUG Executive Committee will adjourn for dinner at a nearby restaurant when the meeting concludes. You are invited to join us. The location will be announced at the meeting.

Philadelphia University
4201 Henry Avenue & School House Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-951-2700

GETTING TO THE MAIN CAMPUS

BY CAR FROM:

Center City Philadelphia, Southern New Jersey, Central and Western Pa:
Take the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) to the Lincoln Drive exit. Follow Lincoln Drive to Gypsy Lane (first right, (old Victorian Hotel, yellow), Police Station). Gypsy Lane (steep hill up) will end at School House Lane. Turn left on School House Lane to Henry Avenue (first traffic light).

Delaware County:
Take City Line Avenue (Route 1 North) to Lincoln Drive. Follow above directions from Center City, Philadelphia.

Washington, Baltimore and Wilmington
Take I-95 North to I-76 West. Follow above directions from Center City, Philadelphia.

Northeast Extension - Pennsylvania Turnpike
Exit Turnpike at Norristown, Plymouth Meeting (Exit #25). Go right after the exit and head east on Germantown Pike to first traffic light. Make a right onto Chemical Road. Go through three lights and at your fourth light, make a left at the five point intersection onto Ridge Pike. Make a left and take Ridge Pike to the Henry Avenue cutoff (bear left). (You'll be on Ridge Pike for approximately 3.5 miles.) Take Henry Avenue about 6 miles to School House Lane.

Parking

Our conference will be held within the Tuttleman Center at Philadelphia University.

Parking is **NOT** permitted along the side of Vaux Street. This street is not the property of the University and people who park there are subject to being ticketed by the city of Philadelphia.

Parking has been approved for three University lots. In order, attendees should try

1. Tuttleman lot on Vaux St. This is an extremely small lot and will fill very quickly. Parking is **NOT** permitted along the curbs. Please park in official spaces only.
2. Hayward Hall lot on Henry Ave. Larger than Tuttleman, but still not large enough for all attendees.
3. Althouse Hall lot, also on Henry Ave. Large enough for all attendees.

The link below will take you to the campus parking map:

www.philau.edu/announcements/map.pdf

Philadelphia University and SAS Institute Inc. are collaborating to provide state-of-the-art training for professionals interested in employment in the dynamic field of clinical research.

This six-month, non-credit program, offered twice annually, is designed for recent college graduates, professionals working in related fields, and career changers. Participants complete three distinct units -- classroom training, an independent project, and a paid clinical internship that is available on a competitive basis.

Program participants can expect to qualify for in-demand positions as SAS programmers in pharmaceutical companies and clinical research organizations.

Snow Closing Information

To check for cancellations, check www.Cancellations.com after 10 AM on the day of the meeting for any last minute cancellation notices. On the left hand side of the page where it asks you to Enter an organization and state, for Partial name: just enter **PhilaSUG** and click on the **GO** button. If the next screen says: "PhilaSUG has no cancellations today" we're still on!

PhilaSUG Executive Committee

Barry Cohen, President
John Cohen, Membership
Diane Foose, Secretary
Robert Schechter, Web Master

Ellen Asam	Ellen Brookstein
Max Cherny	Lee Dodoo
Timothy Kelly	Jessica Lam
Karin Lapann	Russell Lavery
Robert Nicol	Randy Noga
Caryn Reape	Terek Peterson
Donna Usavage	

The PhilaSUG Executive Committee meets on an occasional basis, about six times per year. We invite you to become a member. It's a fun and effective way to broaden your SAS horizons.
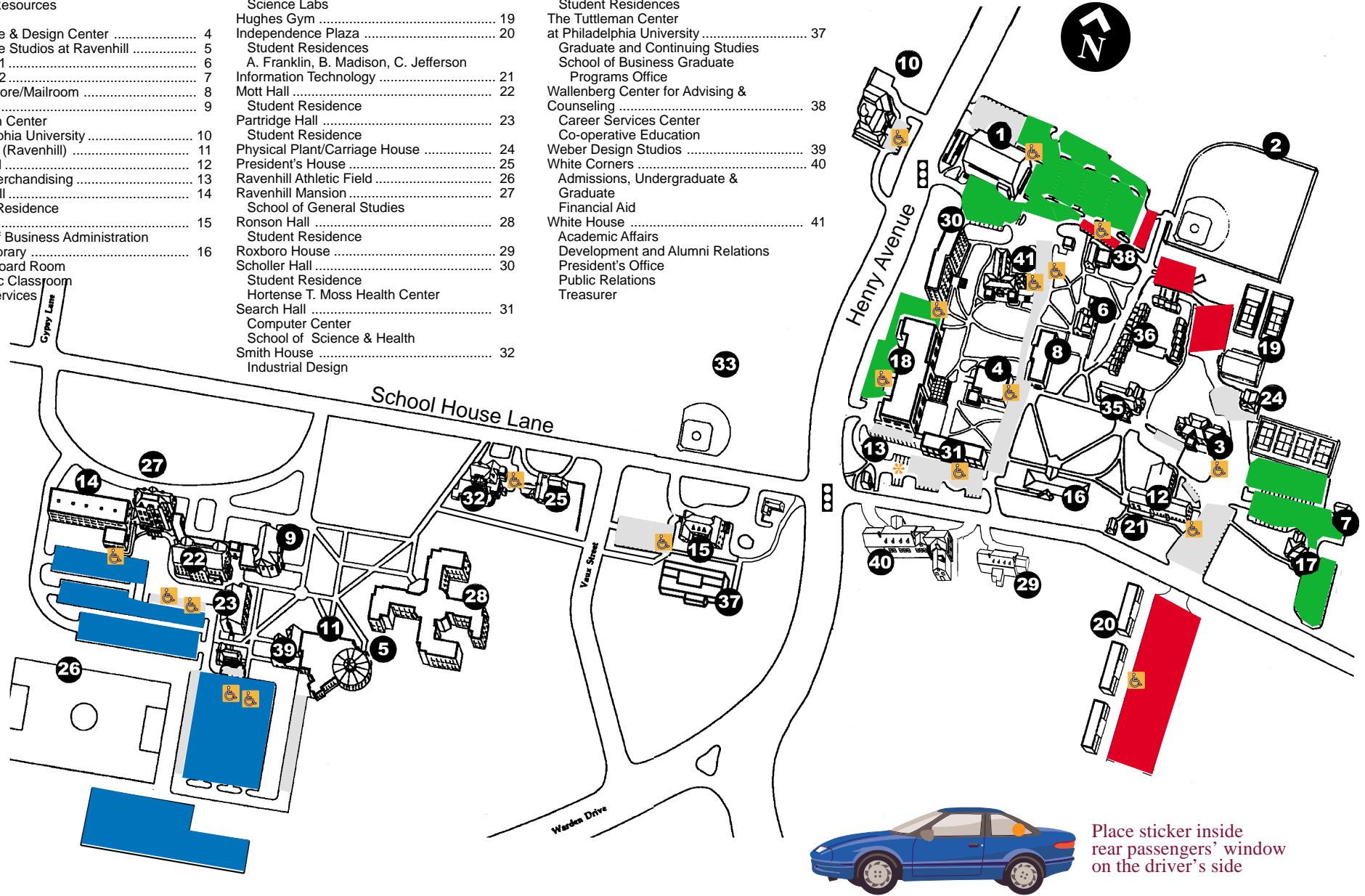
Parking Guide

Note: Some lots are for both Commuters & Residents

N

Gypsy Lane

Henry Avenue

School House Lane

Vaux Street

Warden Drive

Place sticker inside
rear passengers' window
on the driver's side

Handicapped Parking

Visitor Parking

Blue, Gold, Green
and Yellow Decals

Red Decal

White Decal

Green and Gold
Decals

Philadelphia University
School House Lane & Henry Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144-5497
215-951-2700

Many of our members might remember our spring '99 meeting host as the Philadelphia College of Textiles & Science. To better reflect the institution's breadth and depth and its successful growth, the College applied for and was granted university status by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1999. And, in a historic move, the Board of Trustees voted to change the College's name to Philadelphia University, the first private university to be named exclusively after the City of Philadelphia. The name Philadelphia University became effective on July 13, 1999.

Philadelphia University is a successful new model in higher education. They are an accredited, private, coed university offering undergraduate and graduate degrees in over 40 areas of study - all within a framework of career development.

Since the late 19th century, they've been preparing professionals for a constantly changing economy. Back then, in the late 1890s, their graduates excelled in textile engineering, design, materials management and manufacturing. Today, Philadelphia U's alumni are global leaders in architecture, fashion, design, business, health professions, textiles, materials technology and science.
Recent research areas include artificial intelligence, molecular modeling, exploration of key enzyme systems in seeds and animal tissues, mathematical modeling and memory processes.

Their current 3,400 students have a choice of over 40 degree programs, 20 laboratories and studios, a world-class library and unique hands-on professional learning opportunities. Five million dollars were recently plowed into technology on campus for high-speed access to cyberspace. And, they just broke ground for a new high-tech classroom building to open fall 2001. In addition, students enjoy a traditional campus life with loads of features.

They are located fifteen minutes northwest of Center City Philadelphia, adjacent to Fairmount Park the largest urban park system in the nation on a beautiful, park-like campus. Of course, if you prefer the fast lane, they're five minutes from Philadelphia's major East/West expressway. To learn more about our host visit them online at http://www.philau.edu/.

Thank You to our Host

The PhilaSUG Executive Committee wishes to thank Susan Calder, Director of Off Campus Programs at Philadelphia University for arranging this meeting space. In addition, we wish to thank two members of our Executive Committee, Randy Noga for program coordination, and Bob Schechter for site coordination.

Host Sites Wanted

We continuously seek host sites for future PhilaSUG meetings. There is not a lot of work involved, and it is a great way to put your company on the local SAS map. We need your help with this. If your company would like to host a meeting, within reasonable geographic proximity to Philadelphia, PhilaSUG would be grateful if you would contact Barry Cohen (610) 649-8701 or E-mail President@PhilaSUG.org

Presenters Wanted

You are invited to be a Presenter - PhilaSUG constantly seeks individuals who wish to participate actively in our meetings by presenting various SAS topics in the form of delivered papers or posters. This is a great way to share your knowledge with others, to brush up your presentation prior to delivery at NESUG or SUGI or some other major conference, and to gain confidence as a speaker. Short technical SAS related articles are also desired for inclusion in the Newsletter. If this is of interest to you, please use the online abstract submission form found on our web site. Presentations can be from a few minutes to 50 minutes. If you wish to participate in the PhilaSUG Spring 2005 Meeting, please submit an abstract and bio by April 17, 2005. Your abstract must be submitted online at our web site.

E-mail Announcements

PhilaSUG-L is a low volume, announcement-only e-mail notification service provided free of charge to all members who wish to subscribe. In order to sign up for this service, you need only send a blank e-mail message to: PhilaSUG-L-subscribe@onelist.com. Note that you can subscribe as many times with as many different e-mail addresses as you wish to have the e-mail sent to; e.g., home and office.

PhilaSUG Web Site

Our site on the World Wide Web always contains the latest information concerning upcoming meetings, SAS training and seminars, links to SAS related hot topics, and local SAS job opportunities.

Visit us regularly at: http://www.PhilaSUG.org

Future Meetings and Events

SUGI 30
PHILADELPHIA
SAS' USERS GROUP
INTERNATIONAL
APRIL 10-13, 2005

PharmaSUG '05
May 22-25, 2005
Phoenix, Arizona

Next PhilaSUG Meeting
June 15, 2005, Hosted by Merck & Co., Inc.
at their Upper Gwynedd site

MERCK

September 11 – 14, 2005

NESUG 2005 Portland, ME

Paper Abstracts

Data Validation: Using SAS® PROC SQL Effectively

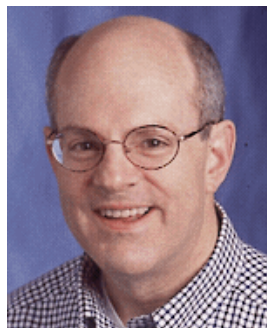*Balakrishna Dandamudi,* **sfbc** International

This paper explores PROC SQL (i.e. SAS version of SQL) from a clinical data validation perspective. In particular, a comprehensive and cohesive overview of the PROC SQL features is provided in the form of examples. The PROC SQL examples presented can be effectively used in the process of building the best tool for clinical data validation.

Balakrishna Dandamudi is a Senior SAS Programmer providing the programming support to Clinical Data Management department at SFBC New Drug Services. He has more than 8 years of programming experience and enjoys learning new technologies and applying them in solving business problems. Krishna has the passion to share his learning and enthusiasm for SAS programming. Krishna presented papers in the past at PhilaSUG meetings.

You Could Look It Up: An Introduction to SASHELP Dictionary
Michael Davis, Aetna Integrated Informatics

This presentation is an introduction to all those views automatically created by the SAS System and found in the SASHELP libref and prefixed with a "V". The dictionary views track items and their attributes for features such as catalogs, data set variables columns), external files, indices, macro variables, data set members, titles, portable system options, and of course, views. The focus of the presentation is to illustrate how the dictionary views can be used in common situations. Last, for the SQL-phobic, it will be shown how these views can be accessed through Display Manager and through DATA step programming.

Michael Davis is a Lead Informatics Analyst for Aetna Integrated Informatics. He develops and maintains web-enabled SAS applications in support of the analytic platform. Prior to joining Aetna, Michael was an independent consultant, during which time he authored this presentation and paper. He previously worked for Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Connecticut and the Connecticut Hospital Association. Michael has been a SAS user since 1985 and has specialized in developing decision support and data warehousing systems. He has frequently presented papers at SUGI, NESUG, and local SAS user groups. Michael holds a Masters in Health Administration from Duke University.

Power of PROC FORMAT
Jonas Bilenas, JP Morgan Chase

The FORMAT procedure in SAS is a very powerful and productive tool, yet many beginning programmers rarely make use of it. The FORMAT procedure provides a convenient way to do a table look-up in SAS. User generated Formats can be used to assign descriptive labels to data values, create new variables and find unexpected values. PROC FORMAT can also be used to generate data extracts and to merge data sets. This paper will provide an introductory look at PROC FORMAT for the beginning user and provide sample code that will illustrate the power of PROC FORMAT in a number of applications. This paper updates the paper presented at NESUG 2000 with the same title.

Jonas Bilenas has been programming in SAS since 1986 in the consumer credit card industry. He has worked at Citigroup, American Express and now at JP Morgan Chase. His current projects include experimental design, pricing simulation and price optimization. He has presented numerous times at NESUG and local SAS user groups. He is currently finishing a book for SAS/BBU press titled "The Power of PROC FORMAT" which will be released in April 2005.

Poster Abstracts

Sending SAS® files here, there and everywhere (receiving too!)
Stephen Rhoades, IMS HEALTH Inc.

SAS Connect® is an effective tool for sending and receiving SAS files between platforms once it is set up. However for those unfamiliar with it, there are a number of hurdles to overcome that can be both frustrating and time consuming. I thought about setting up a menuing system to ease this pain.

SAS works quite well with Microsoft's VB.Net® product, thus allowing easy creation of GUI interfaces to pass parameters into SAS code. Several years ago I created a number of custom SAS Connect interfaces to allow for upload and download of files on other platforms. This code resides on a PC and needs to be modified to identify the path, name of the local file and remote files. For MVS, DCB parameters are often required.

Even though the sections of code to be changed are well delineated and there are different scripts for each platform and direction (To and From), these scripts are intimidating to the new or casual user. Wouldn't it be nice if this could be menu driven? Using Microsoft's VB Net it can be, just follow the prompts, and productivity increases and aggravation decreases.

I have presented several posters for NESUGs in the last few years. I first started working with SAS in 1983 and twenty-one years later I am still working with it. I am considered the SAS expert at IMS, which is sometimes humbling and often challenging in our multi-platform environment. During that time I have provided both individual and group training and answered countless questions about SAS. For my latest poster, the picture of the old guy doing martial arts is me. I have been involved with martial arts for over eighteen years, taught for at least twelve and have a third degree in Tae Kwon Do. We have also worked in Hapkido and Kali. If you live in the West Chester are interested in training let me know.

NESUG Call for Papers now open!

We hope you all had a very happy new year and are now thinking about writing papers for 2005. NESUG 2005 will be held September 11-14 in Portland, Maine and the Call for Papers is now open. The deadline for submitting an abstract is April 15 but you don't have to wait until then. You can submit an abstract any time. If accepted, a draft of your paper will be due on June 23 and the final paper is due on July 21.

This is the first time NESUG will be in Portland, Maine. The city has much to offer whether you are interested in history, museums, recreational activities, shopping, scenery, or cuisine. This is a perfect location to plan a few extra days before and/or after the conference. The weather should be fantastic at that time of the year.

So now is the time to take action! You can submit an abstract in any of our sections:

- Administration & Support
- Analysis
- Applications
- Coders' Corner
- Data Presentation
- Hands-On Workshops
- Ins & Outs
- Posters
- Programming & Manipulation

If you have never presented before, this is the time to give it a try. First time presenters are always welcome and encouraged. You can submit a short paper (10 min) in the Coders' Corner section, or longer ones (20 min or 50 min) in any of the other sections, or you can prepare a Poster. Our Section Chairs will guide you through the process so that you will feel comfortable and be successful.

And remember, all presenters get a discounted registration fee.

For detailed information, please go to our web site (www.nesug.org) and read the Call for Papers. It includes a description of the sections, instructions for submitting an abstract, and all deadline information.

Philadelphia Area SAS User Group (**Phila**_SUG_)
Membership Form

To speed through registration complete this form (please print) and return it to the registration desk of any PhilaSUG meeting (do **NOT** mail it). Checks should be made payable to PhilaSUG. Our membership year runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

This is a __ new, __ renewal or __ update / correction.

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

       _____

City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____
Day Time Phone Number: (   ) _____ - _____

PhilaSUG-L is a low volume, announcement-only e-mail notification service provided free of charge. By subscribing you'll be notified of the latest information about upcoming events, especially meeting announcements. By listing your e-mail address below you will be added to the electronic mailing list, you can cancel at anytime.

E-mail: _____
(Be sure to clearly distinguish a dash from an underscore)

For updates / corrections, please list your old / incorrect information below: