Some More Lab Experiences in Introductory Statistics.

For several years, I have used "lab" experiences in teaching Introduction to Statistics I, in which students collect or generate the data themselves. At Georgia Southern, we also have Introduction to Statistics II, which is taken by a few majors such as Information Technology, Political Science, International Studies, and Economics. From the list of majors who are required to take it, you can sense that this is a diverse group, and one in which many (most) really don’t want to be in the course.

Over the past several years, I have attempted to use more active data collection and analysis in this course as a means of making the class more "real" as well as hoping to grab (and keep) student interest. To that end, I have devised several active lab experiences in the spirit of what I do in the first course. For example, we guess the number of jelly beans in jars for linear regression (and inference), measure the strength of facial tissues (two-sample t-test), and measure absorbency of paper towels (one-way analysis of variance).

This presentation will discuss the projects, how they were received by the students, and the successes and failures with my approach. (Received September 21, 2009)