

1106-G5-2059 **Carl Toews*** (ctoews@pugetsound.edu), 318 N Yakima Ave, Tacoma, WA 98403. *Computational inquiry in elementary statistics.*

The profusion of data in almost every aspect of applied science has made statistics an important course in the undergraduate curriculum. Unfortunately, many undergraduates who take elementary statistics have an uneasy relation with mathematics, and strongly theory-based approach can lead to frustration and other negative reactions. On the other hand, introductory statistics courses often have a tightly prescribed set of topics, coverage of which can be hard to reconcile with a more open ended, exploratory approach.

The purpose of this talk is to report on my experience using computational guided inquiry in the R programming language as a means of bringing an inquiry based learning approach into the elementary statistics classroom. The computational work is structured just like the sequenced activities of conventional inquiry based learning, but it is implemented on the student's own laptops, and is augmented by group work, file sharing, and physical lab notebooks. In addition to building fluency with statistical ideas, this approach also cultivates computational literacy, and ultimately empowers students to view their laptops as exploratory tools. (Received September 15, 2014)