

STEVE FIENBERG AND STUDENT RESEARCH

SAMUEL L. VENTURA

Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics & Data Science
e-mail address: sventura@stat.cmu.edu

As a graduate student, I was nervous when giving my first research presentation to the US Census research group at Carnegie Mellon's Department of Statistics: Steve Fienberg was in the room, and I was not sure if my record linkage research was any good. While I was presenting, Steve seemingly paid no attention to what I was saying. I would glance his direction when presenting each slide, and every time, he was typing something on his iPad and not watching my presentation at all. That's okay, I thought. He's probably really busy, and shouldn't be wasting his time on my talk.

After the meeting, I got back to my desk and checked my inbox, only to find seven emails from Steve, each with a paper that I should read about record linkage that related to the different aspects of my research. His feedback in these emails helped shape the directions of my future research.

That was Steve. He always made time for sharing constructive feedback on student research, he always knew more than you thought he did about your research, and he could multitask better than anyone I've ever met.

Sam Ventura

Key words and phrases: reminiscences, Fienberg.