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**Barry Schiller\*** ([bschiller@ric.edu](mailto:bschiller@ric.edu)), Mathematics/Computer Science Department, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI 02908. *DON'T NEGLECT DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS IN A FIRST BUSINESS STATISTICS CLASS.*

Academics rightly believe inference is at the heart of statistics, but many beginning business statistics students will not do research or data analysis. They will more likely be users and purveyors of descriptive statistics which can get short shrift in the textbooks and in many courses. This talk will give a variety of examples (including those chosen from newspapers and journals) and ideas of how descriptive statistics (including numerical measures, graphs, and word problems) might be expanded as a topic in a beginning business statistics class. Examples will include the use of R-square for measuring mutual fund volatility, graphs with multiple components, comparing means and medians of real data; working with rates per thousand, use of "large" numbers, etc. (Received September 15, 2000)