Chris Lacke* (lacke@rowan.edu), 201 Mullica Hill Rd., Glassboro, NJ 08071. Some (Fast) Food For Thought - Gathering and Using a Meaningful Data Set for College Students. Preliminary report.

Many introductory statistics professors, including the author, obtain data from their students for use in the class, hoping that the data will pique their interest. A statistically improper survey of such teachers at past meetings has resulted in a fairly consistent conclusion - we haven't found the right variables. In what will hopefully work out as a moment of genius, the author decided to have students pick their favorite fast food restaurant from a list of eight, go to the nutrition calculator at the respective website, enter their favorite meal, and obtain the nutrition information. Each student was required to submit the information, and the data are being used in a series of mini-projects throughout the semester, including graphical and numerical summaries, approximating probability distributions, determining sampling distributions, demonstrating the influence of outliers on the t procedures for inference, and regression analysis. The talk will include a description of the project components, some interesting (and shocking) results from the data, and student feedback regarding the project. (Received September 20, 2007)