



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

June 2005

Message from the President

I want to make sure that you take note of a few items as we wind down another successful year in the WSS.

First, if you have not yet tried our new electronic voting procedures, I urge you to do so. (Look for the email from WSS Election.) Early returns show a sharp increase in participation, which is what we hoped would occur. The polls close at 5:00 p.m., June 3rd.

Second, our annual dinner, which rotates between sites in Virginia and Maryland, mostly, will be held on Tuesday, June 14, at Stella's Restaurant in Alexandria. Stella's is just a short walk from the King Street Metro Station and has underground parking available. Our guest speaker, and the recipient of the third annual Gertrude M. Cox Statistics Award, will be Prof. Thomas Belin of UCLA. Tom's talk will be lively and enlightening. In addition to letting us enjoy good food and drink amid good company, the annual dinner provides the occasion for presenting several awards, announcing our election winners, and identifying our new ASA Fellows.

Third, our transition to a primarily electronic newsletter is nearly complete. This issue is the last that will be delivered in hard copy to most of you. For those of you who are new to the electronic version, we hope you will enjoy the more timely delivery. If you have not received the electronic version and have not communicated that you wish to continue to receive the newsletter by paper, see the note on page two.

Last, the June meeting of the WSS Board of Directors is open to all who would like to attend. The meeting will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 on Tuesday, June 28, in the BLS Conference Center. If you are not on the BLS seminar list, e-mail your name and affiliation to wss_seminar@bls.gov at least two days in advance.

Sincerely,
John Czajka

WSS and Other Seminars (All events are open to any interested persons)		
June 9	Thurs.	An Assessment of the Comparative Accuracy of Time Series Forecasts of Patent Filings: The Benefits of Disaggregation in Space or Time
13	Mon.	The Fourth Funding Opportunity in Survey and Statistical Research Seminar
16	Thurs.	Household Telephone Service and Usage Patterns in the United States in 2004
July 19	Tues.	Using MASSC to Minimize Information Loss and Control Disclosure Risk

Also available on the Web at the following URL: <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss>

Announcements

2005 Annual Dinner

The WSS Annual Dinner will be held Monday, June 14, at Stella's Restaurant, located across from the King Street Metro station in Alexandria, VA. Please see the enclosed flyer for further details and a reservation form. Thomas Belin, Associate Professor of Biostatistics at UCLA and winner of the 3rd annual Gertrude M. Cox Statistics Award, will be our guest speaker.

As always, this event provides a great opportunity to spend time with friends and make new acquaintances. We look forward to seeing you there!

Renee Miller Wins The 2005 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

Renee Miller has been a supervisory mathematical statistician in the Statistics and Methods Group (SMG) of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) since 1997. She coaches and mentors a team whose responsibilities include the clearance of EIA data collection forms, management of EIA's workshop program, and the provision of statistical and analytic support to EIA program offices. In addition she has been a mentor to a Presidential Management Fellow. For most of her twenty-five years at EIA, Ms. Miller has been involved with data quality issues. She was the principal author of a series of reports assessing EIA data quality (known as the "State-of-the-Data" reports) and also performed quality control audits.

Guy Caruso, Administrator of EIA says of Renee that he can see "the fruits of her efforts." "I have been able to recognize her influence as their work (junior staff members) matured under her guidance."

Recently, she has been working on data integration issues. One aspect of this work pertains to identifying and resolving cross-cutting data issues at EIA by coordinating the work of EIA's Inter-office Issues Group. An accomplishment of this group was the development of a revision policy for data

that had been declared final. Ms. Miller, working with one of the newer people in SMG, presented the results to the American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics.

Ms. Miller oversees the development of new and revised energy data definitions, coaching an SMG team member on coordinating their development. Previously she had chaired EIA's Common Data Definitions Team from 1998, when it was chartered to ensure that EIA has common and accurate data definitions, to 2001 when the agreed-upon work was completed.

Her inter-agency team participation includes program chair of the 2003 Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Research Conference. In addition she has been on Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology subcommittees on data quality, statistical training, and data editing and was EIA's liaison to the American Statistical Association Committee on Energy Statistics for a number of years.

Prior to coming to EIA, Ms. Miller worked at the U.S. Bureau of the Census. She began her statistical career in the Poverty Statistics Branch and later worked in the Statistical Methods Division. She has an MS in Economic and Social Statistics from Cornell University and a BA in Mathematics from Queens College of the City University of New York. For the past five years she has been participating in the Everybody Wins reading mentoring program, helping elementary school students hone their reading and learning skills.

Email Delivery

If you did not receive this issue electronically and you have not notified us that you wish to receive the newsletter in hardcopy, please send your preferred email address to svm@mitre.org and indicate that this is your address for the WSS newsletter. To continue to receive the newsletter in hard copy, contact the WSS secretary at courtney.n.reiser@census.gov or (301) 763-4142.

Program Announcement

Title: **An Assessment of the Comparative Accuracy of Time Series Forecasts of Patent Filings: The Benefits of Disaggregation in Space or Time**

Speaker: Nigel Meade, Tanaka Business School, Imperial College London

Discussant: Keith Ord, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University

Chair: Peg Young, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Transportation

Date/time: Thursday, June 9, 2005, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 10. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: WSS Economics Section

Abstract: This work with the European Patent Office studies methods for forecasting the filing of patents. The filings are subdivided by regional blocs and industries. Issues addressed are: benefits of multivariate models versus univariate in exploiting correlations between filings in different blocs or industries; effects of aggregation over time and effects of aggregation by bloc or industry on forecast accuracy of total EPO filings. Two approaches are used: the ARIMA framework and the dynamic linear model (DLM) in both univariate and multivariate modes.

We find: that monthly data tends to provide greater accuracy in annual forecasts; no significant benefits are gained from multivariate modelling or aggregating over blocs or industries. There were benefits from using monthly data, the best modelling approach is the univariate DLM; for annual data either the univariate ARIMA or DLM could be used.

The recommended forecasting approach provides a benchmark against which other forecasts drawing on different data sources can be compared.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the September issue of the WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than July 26, 2005. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Announcement

Title: **The Fourth Funding Opportunity in Survey and Statistical Research Seminar**

Organizers: Research Subcommittee of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

Date/Time: Monday, June 13, 2005, 9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. (NOTE SPECIAL TIME)

Sponsors: Washington Statistical Society, and Washington DC/Baltimore Chapter AAPOR

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. Take the Red Line to Union Station. Bring a photo ID to the seminar.

(Note: If you have not registered by May 31 with SDockery@CDC.gov, please e-mail your name, affiliation, and the name of this seminar to wss_seminar@BLS.gov (underscore after wss) by noon June 9 or call 202-691-7524 and leave message.)

Registration: There is no registration fee. If you plan to attend, please e-mail SDockery@CDC.gov by May 31 if possible, to guarantee seating, help with planning refreshments, and to be put on the BLS seminar attendance list.

Abstract: Since 1998, 12 Federal statistical agencies in collaboration with the National Science Foundation and the support of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology have been funding and administrating the Funding Opportunity in Survey and Statistical Research, a research grants program oriented to the needs of the Federal Statistical System. The Fourth Funding Opportunity Seminar features the reports of the principal investigators of 3 research projects that were funded in 2003, and invited speakers and discussants.

The agenda of the 2005 Funding Opportunity Seminar is shown on the following page.

Program Announcement

Program of the Funding Opportunity Seminar In Survey and Statistical Research
BLS Conference and Training Center
June 13, 2005

- 8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks
Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB
- 9:10 a.m. Session 1. Invited Speaker
“Future Directions of Total Error Research” Paul Biemer, RTI
- 10:00 a.m. Session 2. “Topics in Small Area Estimation”
Investigators: Malay Ghosh – University of Florida
Tapabrata Maiti – Iowa State University
Discussant: Jerry J. Maples – USCB
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshment Break
- 11:15 a.m. Session 3. “Improved Methods of Estimating Production and Income Across Nations”
Investigators: Alan Heston – University of Pennsylvania
Robert Feenstra – University of California-Davis
Discussant: Raymond Mataloni Jr.- BEA
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch on your own
- 1:30 p.m. Session 4. “Regression and Deconvolution with Heteroscedastic Measurement Error”
Investigator: Leonard Stefanski – North Carolina State University
Discussant: Stephen M. Miller – BLS
- 2.30 p.m. Refreshment Break
- 2:45 p.m. Session 5. Remarks on the Funding Opportunity, Past and Future
Speaker: Robert E. Fay - USCB

Program Announcement

- Title:** Household Telephone Service and Usage Patterns in the United States in 2004
- Chair:** Chet Bowie, Census Bureau
- Speaker:** Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Discussant:** Stephen J. Blumberg, NCHS
- Date/Time:** Thursday, June 16, 2005, 12:30 - 2 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 9. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Section, WSS
- Abstract:** Recent changes in the U.S. telephone system (especially the growing reliance on cell phones) have led to concern about coverage error and productivity in telephone surveys. In 2004, a supplement to the Current Population Survey on telephone service was conducted. This talk will present some of the more interesting results from this supplement with respect to cell phone usage. There also will be a discussion of problems associated with asking questions about household telephone service. In addition, a recent study comparing survey results from a sample of cell phones and a sample of landlines will be discussed. This discussion will include a description of procedures used to improve response rates among the cell phone respondents as well as weighting and estimation issues. Finally, an explanation will be given for why it is unlikely that the major Federal surveys will ever be conducted by telephone.

Program Announcement

- Topic:** Using MASSC to Minimize Information Loss and Control Disclosure Risk
- Speaker:** David Wilson, RTI International
- Chair:** Larry Cox, CDC
- Key Words:** Disclosure risk, Information loss, MASSC, NHIS, NCHS
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, July 19, 2005, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** BLS Conference Room 1. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsors:** Confidentiality and Data Access Committee (CDAC) and WSS Methodology Section
- Abstract:** This presentation describes a statistical disclosure limitation methodology, applicable to microdata, that is designed to control the information loss that occurs as a result of the disclosure treatment. This methodology, developed by RTI and known as MASSC, provides a statistical process that relies partly on random perturbation and partly on random suppression, thus limiting the introduction of bias and variance. With this stochastic framework, MASSC introduces sufficient uncertainty about the presence and identity of a target. As a result, sensitive databases previously unavailable because of confidentiality concerns can be treated with MASSC and made available to researchers. MASSC enables the control of disclosure risk and information loss without modeling assumptions for both tabular and micro data. In addition, standard software for the analysis of survey data may be used to analyze MASSC-treated data sets.

In order to examine the real-world performance of MASSC, we will discuss the application of MASSC to data derived from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The NHIS, conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics, provides information on health-related outcomes in sampled families and individuals. Protecting the confidentiality of families and individuals in the family is of great concern when releasing public use files because they contain confidential information on health-related characteristics. The impact of MASSC treatment will be examined by comparing estimates derived from the 2000 NHIS public use data with estimates derived from the data set produced by applying MASSC to the 2000 NHIS public use data. In particular, the impact of MASSC treatment on a variety of totals, standard errors, proportions, and regression coefficients will be discussed.

Call for Invited Paper Session Proposals

Third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III)

June 18-21, 2007
Hyatt Regency Montréal
Montréal, Québec, Canada

Cosponsored by: American Statistical Association (ASA), ASA Section on Survey Research Methods, ASA Section on Government Statistics, International Association of Survey Statisticians, and Statistical Society of Canada. We invite you to submit proposals for invited paper sessions for presentations to the third International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-III) by December 1, 2005. The ICES-III Program Committee will review the proposals and notify session organizers by the end of February, 2006 if their proposal has been accepted or not. The deadline for contributed papers (including topic contributed sessions) will be June 15, 2006.

Details on how to submit the proposal can be found at:
<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2007/index.cfm>

Invited sessions will have four slots of twenty-five minutes each. These will be used for three 25-minute presentations, followed by a 15-minute formal discussion, and a ten-minute floor discussion.

The first International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-I) in 1993 convened more than 400 experts in the area of surveys of businesses, farms, and institutions. This conference set the stage by formally documenting the state of the art in 1993. In 2000 a second conference took a forward look at methods for surveying businesses, farms, and institutions.

The Conference also will include:

- Three short courses on Monday, June 18,
- A keynote speaker and reception on Monday evening,
- Poster sessions, and software demonstrations throughout the conference, and
- Following the conference, a CD ROM of all presented papers will be sent to all Conference participants.

Montréal is a city rich in history, art, culture, and learning and sports. It combines the smarts of North America with the laid back *insouciance* of Europe, high tech and high style. The city's architecture too is an artful mix of old and new, with graceful historic structures lovingly preserved and merged with the cool lines of the 21st century. The visual arts flourish here at the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, the Musée D'art Contemporain, and hundreds of top-notch local galleries.

All Conference activities will be held at the Hyatt Regency Montréal. The Hyatt Regency Montréal web site is <http://montreal.hyatt.com/>. (Hotel reservations will be open on March 1, 2007.)

Attendees from outside Canada, and this could include United States passport holders, must ensure they have the proper travel documents - e.g., passport, visa - to enter and leave Canada.

Further Conference information can be accessed on the ICES-III Web link provided above.

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, WSS News provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 387-3032.

Position Desired

Masters level survey sampling Statistician is looking for a job. Has five years of experience with SAS SPSS, CHAID, WESVAR. Willing to change the area of Survey sampling Statistics. Please contact 202-441-9661.

WESTAT

Westat is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,700 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in

teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities. We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/5001)

Three or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume by one of the following methods to: **[Job Code is REQUIRED to apply]** Westat, Attn: Resume System, 1650 Research Boulevard, Rockville, MD 20850-3195; Email: resume@westat.com ; FAX: (888) 201-1452. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Statistical Analyst

Location: Rockville, MD
 Employment Status: Full-Time Regular
 Required Experience: 2-5 years
 Required Education: Masters Degree or Equivalent
 FLSA: Exempt (Salary)
 Work Hours Per Week: 40
 Required Travel: 0%
 Relocation: Yes
 Summary/Description: Responsible for statistical programming and data analyses for clinical and/or non-clinical studies. Develop statistical programs to support clinical and non-clinical studies. Actively participate in programming and statistical discussions. Develop analysis datasets and

specifications. Work with Biostatisticians on statistical analysis plans. Support the writing of final clinical study reports. Assist in the development the technical infrastructure to expedite operations and improve quality control. Be familiar with ICH guidelines and CDISC standards.

Requirements: Masters in Statistics, Biostatistics, or related field. Bachelor's degree in Statistics with extensive experience in the pharmaceutical or biopharmaceutical will also be considered. Extensive knowledge of S-Plus, SAS, R statistical packages. Knowledge of HTML highly desirable. Excellent verbal and written communication skills a must. Knowledge of computer systems, web technology highly desirable. Working knowledge of electronic document management systems desirable.

Our Culture: Dedicated to bringing new gene-based treatments and cures to patients who need them, Human Genome Sciences offers the opportunity to combine breakthrough science and business work in a fast-paced and fast-growing organization. HGS places no limits on the career opportunities that employees can pursue as the company realizes its goal of becoming an independent and global biopharmaceutical leader. Committed to supporting employees both professionally and personally, HGS offers tailored education, benefits and personal life support programs to help employees achieve their full potential.

Apply: To apply for this position now, or to view other positions available at HGS, please visit our website at <http://www.hgsi.com/jobs>. You may also email your cover letter and resume to kunal_chadha@hgsi.com. or Fax to 301-309-1845.

Strategic Planning and Performance Management Specialist

Responsible for monitoring and assessing USAID programs, reviewing program strategies and indicators and providing recommendations for program development to USAID staff and development partners in Washington and in the field. Some assistance with research and analysis will also be required. He/She reports to the Asia and Near East Supervisor.

US Citizenship and Criminal background check required; Masters required plus 5 year(s) of relevant experience required; expertise in program evaluation and monitoring required; knowledge of USAID performance management policy, guidance, and practices, evaluation methodologies desirable ; experience in strategic planning and program design for USAID or other donor organizations; overseas experience in Asia or the Middle East or in other developing countries desirable; familiarity with computerized information systems, especially online databases and the Internet.

Interested applicants should send resume with cover letter referencing position #KN5076ipr to: AED/HR, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; fax: (202) 884-8413 or email: employ@aed.org. For additional information, visit our website at <http://www.aed.org> AA/EOE/M/F/D/V

U. S. Postal Service, Finance Department, Revenue and Volume Reporting

Two Mathematical Statistician Positions (EAS 21, Salary Range \$48,520 to \$77,321; EAS 23, Salary Range \$54,207 to \$88,154)

The Postal Service is seeking to fill two Mathematical Statistician vacancies to work in the area of the design, sampling, development, implementation, and improvement of large scale sample surveys and systems used to estimate revenue, pieces, weight and service performance of its product lines. Successful candidates must be knowledgeable in: mathematical statistics, including sampling techniques and measures of precision; applied statistical methods; large scale survey sample design; operating systems and languages, particularly SAS; application of appropriate probability methods to design surveys, sampling plans, estimation measures of reliability and precision; and analysis of statistical estimates and the control of measurement errors and other non-sampling errors associated with data collection and data processing. Successful candidates will have experience, and or can demonstrate the ability to work, in a structured report processing environment that supports the Postal Service's official measurements of mail revenue and volume used in Postal rate

regulation and other applications. The candidate will be able to demonstrate the ability to verbally communicate technical statistical issues in non-technical terms. The extent to which the candidate meets these requirements will determine the position level, either EAS-21 or EAS-23, obtained. More information on the two positions including application instructions can be found at the following links:

www.usps.com/employment/documents/5189.htm

www.usps.com/employment/documents/5190.htm

LOMBARDI COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

FACULTY BIOINFORMATICIAN

The Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center invites applications for a position of tenure-track assistant professor of Bioinformatics. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in Bioinformatics, Computer Science, Information Systems, or a related discipline, with experience in the design and mining of databases. The requirements for this position are a strong research background, excellent communication skills and an interest in teaching. The successful candidate will design databases, mine institutional and public databases, and conduct independent bioinformatics research. The Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics is developing its graduate curriculum, and the successful candidate will be expected to be involved in those educational activities.

The Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center is committed to an outstanding state-of-the-art translational research program in cancer and the Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics is an integral part of this effort. Interested individuals should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses (including e-mail address) of three references to:

Françoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch
Director, Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
Georgetown University Medical Center
Building D, Suite 180
4000 Reservoir Road
Washington, DC 20057-1484

or cobbso@georgetown.edu

This position has a starting date of July 1st 2005. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.

FACULTY BIOSTATICIAN

The Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center invites applications for a position of tenure-track assistant professor of Biostatistics. Applicants should have a Ph.D. in Biostatistics, Statistics, or a related discipline, with experience in the design and analysis of clinical trials. The requirements for this position are a strong research background, excellent communication skills and an interest in teaching. The successful candidate will review trial protocols, design institutional trials, analyze data from ongoing and closed trials, and conduct independent biostatistical research. The Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics is developing its graduate curriculum, and the successful candidate will be expected to be involved in those educational activities.

The Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center is committed to an outstanding state-of-the-art translational research program in cancer and the Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics is an integral part of this effort. Interested individuals should send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses (including e-mail address) of three references to:

Françoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch
Director, Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics
Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
Georgetown University Medical Center
Building D, Suite 180
4000 Reservoir Road
Washington, DC 20057-1484

or cobbso@georgetown.edu

This position has a starting date of July 1st 2005. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.



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