



WSS NEWS

December 2006

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

Holiday Party

The Holiday Party will be held at Gordon Biersch which is located at 900 F Street, NW, Washington, DC on December 13, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. The flyer is attached.

Nominations Sought for 2007 Julius Shiskin Award

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. The Award was established in 1980 by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and is now cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA). The 2006 award recipient was J. Steven (Steve) Landefeld, Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, for his leadership in improving the U.S. economic accounts and related statistics through effective management, collaboration with domestic and international users, and scholarly research.

Because the program was initiated many years ago, it is little wonder that statisticians and economists often ask, "Who was Julius Shiskin?" At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and earlier served as the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chief Economic Statistician and Assistant Director of the Census Bureau. Throughout his career, he was known as an innovator. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. In 1961, he published *Signals of Recession and Recovery*, which laid the groundwork for the calculation of monthly economic indicators, and he developed the monthly Census report *Business Conditions Digest* to disseminate them to the public. In 1969, he was appointed Chief Statistician at OMB where he developed the policies and procedures that govern the release of key economic indicators (Statistical Policy Directive Number 3), and originated a *Social Indicators* report. In 1973, he was selected to head BLS where he was instrumental in preserving the integrity and independence of the BLS labor force data and directed the most comprehensive revision in the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

Nominations for the 2007 award are now being accepted. Individuals or groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. The award will be presented with an honorarium of \$750 plus additional recognition from the sponsors. A nomination form and a list of all previous recipients are available on the ASA Website at <www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html> or by writing to the Julius Shiskin Award Committee, Attn: Monica Clark, American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1943.

Completed nominations must be received by April 1, 2007. For further information contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, at paben.steven@bls.gov.

WSS and Other Seminars

(All events are open to any interested persons)

December

- 4 Mon. OMB's Proposed Implementation Guidance for the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA)
- 7 Thur. Ephedra: A Case Study of Statistics, Policy, and Politics
- 14 Thur. Weight Adjustments for the Grouped Jackknife Variance Estimator

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

Announcement

SIGSTAT Topics for December 2006 – February 2007

December 20, 2006: Using SAS PROC MIXED to Fit Individual Growth Models

This talk will follow the paper, "Using SAS PROC MIXED to Fit Multilevel Models, Hierarchical Models, and Individual Growth Models" by Judith Singer (1998) which can be downloaded from her website, <http://gseweb.harvard.edu/~faculty/singer/>.

In the December meeting we'll use an individual growth model designed for exploring longitudinal data (on individuals) over time. Charlie Hallahan will be the speaker.

January 17, 2007: SAS/LE (SAS Learning Edition 4.1)

The SAS Learning Edition is an inexpensive (\$199.00) and easy-to-use (comes with the Enterprise Guide menu-based interface) version of SAS with an impressive array of features from SAS Base 9,1,3, SAS/STAT, SAS/GRAPH, SAS/QC, SAS/ETS and SAS Enterprise Guide 4.1. For statisticians, some of the included PROCs are MIXED, GENMOD, ARIMA, GLM, REG, LOGISTIC, and PHREG. See <http://support.sas.com/training/le/> for more information.

SAS/LE will read datasets of any size, but will only process the first 1,500 observations. There is no limitation on the number of variables. Charlie Hallahan will be the speaker.

February 21, 2007: Demo of SPSS Complex Samples

SPSS Complex Samples, an add-on module for SPSS for Windows®, provides the specialized planning tools and statistics you need when working with sample survey data. It enables you to make more statistically valid inferences for a population by incorporating the sample design into survey analysis. You can more accurately work with numerical and categorical outcomes in complex sample designs using two new algorithms for analysis and prediction. This presentation will demo the software and analysis wizards using tutorials and sample data sets provided with the module.

See http://www.spss.com/complex_samples/ for more information. Linda Atkinson will be the speaker.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the **CPCUG**, the Capital PC User Group, and **WINFORMS**, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from **12:00 to 1:00**. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the **SIGSTAT** website, <http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the February issue of the WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than December 26, 2006. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Announcement

- Title:** OMB's Proposed Implementation Guidance for the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA)
- Chair:** Katherine K. Wallman, Office of Management and Budget
- Speaker:** Brian Harris-Kojetin, Office of Management and Budget
- Date/Time:** Monday, December 4, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center 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 or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Public Policy Section, WSS
- Abstract:** The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA) can provide strong confidentiality protections for statistical information collections, such as surveys and censuses, as well as for other statistical activities, such as data analysis, modeling, and sample design, that are sponsored or conducted by Federal agencies. On October 16, 2006, OMB issued proposed implementation guidance on CIPSEA for public comment. The purpose of the proposed CIPSEA implementation guidance is to inform agencies about the requirements for using CIPSEA and clarify the circumstances under which CIPSEA can be used. In this session, we will provide an overview of the key issues and requirements covered in the guidance and their implications for agencies using CIPSEA to protect information.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Ephedra: A Case Study of Statistics, Policy, and Politics
- Chair:** Dwight Brock, Westat
- Speaker:** Sally C. Morton, RTI International
- Date/Time:** Thursday, December 7, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 9. 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 or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Washington Statistical Society's Section on Public Policy
- Abstract:** In February 2004, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prohibited the sale of dietary supplements containing ephedrine alkaloids (ephedra), stating that such supplements present an unreasonable risk of illness or injury. The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (DSHEA) of 1994 governs dietary supplement regulation in the United States. DSHEA places the burden of proof for safety on the government rather than on the manufacturer, and thus differs significantly from regulations that govern the marketing of drugs. Part of the evidence the FDA used in reaching its decision was a systematic review of the efficacy and safety of ephedra conducted by the Southern California Evidence-Based Practice Center. In addition to a meta-analysis of controlled trial data, the review contained an evaluation of observational case report data, a study design that has limited inferential abilities regarding cause and effect.
- How did the FDA decide what data were relevant to its decision? How did the FDA argument for the ban differ from a decision based solely on statistical hypothesis testing? This talk will address these questions by describing the systematic review approach, the evidence presented, the interpretation of that evidence by those on both sides of the argument, and the process by which the decision was made.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Weight Adjustments for the Grouped Jackknife Variance Estimator**
- Chair:** Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Speaker:** Richard Valliant, University of Michigan
- Discussant:** Phillip S. Kott, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Date/Time:** Thursday, December 14, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in G440. 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 or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. 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:** The jackknife variance estimator is often implemented by dropping groups of units rather than a single unit at a time. This has the practical advantages of economizing on computation time and file size because a separate weight is appended to the analysis file for each jackknife replicate. If the replicate weight adjustments and the grouped jackknife itself are not appropriately constructed, the variance estimates can have some extremely pathological behavior when estimating totals. When the dropout groups all do not have exactly the same number of first-stage units, the standard version of the grouped jackknife may be a severe overestimate. This problem is most likely to arise in single-stage samples with a large number of first-stage units in many of the strata. The standard grouped jackknife variance estimator and two alternatives are examined for the situation of unequally sized groups through a simulation study of school districts in the 50 United States and the District of Columbia. (Joint work with J. Michael Brick, Westat and Jill A. Dever, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland.)

The work of Richard Valliant was generously supported by grant SES-0416662 from the National Science Foundation: Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program in the Division of Social and Economic Sciences.

Announcement

Spring Courses

The Department of Statistics, George Mason University (website <http://statistics.gmu.edu>) is accepting applications for its masters and doctoral programs for Fall 2007. The Department also announces the following graduate course offerings in Spring 2007:

STAT 544	W 7:20-10:00 p.m. Prereq: STAT 344	Prof Habib	Applied Probability
STAT 554	M 4:30-7:10 p.m. Prereq: STAT 344	Prof. Sutton	Applied Statistics
STAT 652	T 7:20-10:00 p.m. Prereq: STAT 544	Prof. Diao	Statistical Inference
STAT 657	W 4:30-7:10 p.m. Prereq: STAT 554	Prof. Davis	Nonparametric Statistics
STAT 660	Th 4:30-7:10 p.m. Prereq: STAT 535 or 554	Prof. Diao	Biostatistical Methods
STAT 662	Th 7:20-10:00 p.m. Prereq: STAT 554	Prof. Miller	Multivariate Statistical Methods
STAT 758	W 7:20-10:00 p.m. Prereq: STAT 658	Prof. Bell	Advanced Time Series Analysis
IT 875	W 4:30-7:20 p.m. Prereq: STAT 654	Prof. Carr	Scientific and Statistical Visualization

STATISTICAL CONSULTING CENTER

Professor Clifton Sutton, Director

The Department of Statistics, George Mason University, Fairfax, is pleased to announce that a new fee-for-service Statistical Consulting Center has been established to provide state-of-the-art consultation on statistical problems for the local community. The consulting staff consists of tenured faculty members in the Department and advanced graduate research assistants. A brief initial consultation is provided free of charge.

Types of services:

- Experimental design
- Data processing
- Statistical analysis
- Proposal preparation
- Presentation of results
- Non-standard statistical problems

Contact:

Clifton Sutton, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Statistics
Director, Statistical Consulting Center
Science and Technology Building II, Room 148
csutton@gmu.edu
703-993-1684

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) 373-6645.

WESTAT

AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED RESEARCH CORPORATION

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 1,800 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/6001)

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 is 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.

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**The George Washington University
School of Public Health & Health Services**

Faculty Member in Biostatistics

The Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics is recruiting for a full time faculty member at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with expertise in biostatistics.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to join a growing Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the nation's capital that has a highly respected and energetic teaching and research faculty and the opportunity to conduct clinical trials research at The Biostatistics Center.

Under the leadership of its new Chairman, Alan E. Greenberg, MD, MPH, the Department has expertise in HIV/AIDS, cancer, behavioral, and aging epidemiology, geographical health information systems, and biostatistical methods. In addition, the Department has established collaborative opportunities with other Departments in the GWU School of Public Health and Health Services, the GWU Medical Center, the Veterans Administration Hospital, Children's National Medical Center, the National Cancer Institute, the Department of Defense, and the DC Department of Health.

The Biostatistics Center is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institute of Health. The center is renowned for its leadership in multi-center trials in diabetes, cardiovascular disease, maternal/fetal clinical medicine, osteoporosis, and urology, and the genetic basis for a series of diseases.

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is involved in the MS and PhD degree programs in biostatistics and in epidemiology, among other graduate degree programs. The MS and PhD degree programs in biostatistics and in epidemiology admitted its first class in 1995. There are currently 15 doctoral students matriculated in the PhD degree in biostatistics and 10 students matriculated in the MS degree in biostatistics. More than half of the doctoral students in biostatistics are working on their dissertation research.

Responsibilities of the position will include teaching upper level courses in theoretical and applied biostatistics, mentoring masters and doctoral students in biostatistics, participating in clinical trials research at the GWU Biostatistics Center (<http://biostat.bsc.gwu.edu>), and developing an externally-funded research program.

Faculty rank and compensation will be commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin on March 1, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. Send letter of application, CV, and a list of 3 references, preferably electronically, to:

Dr. Dante A. Verme

Chair, Search Committee, Biostatistics

E-mail: sphdav@gwumc.edu (electronic submissions strongly preferred)

Vice Chair for Educational Activities

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

The George Washington University

School of Public Health & Health Services

2300 Eye St., NW, Ross Hall 125

Washington, DC 20037

GWU SPHHS Webpage: <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs>

The Biostatistics Center Webpage: <http://biostat.bsc.gwu.edu>

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

The Biostatistics Center

CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS

M.S. and Ph.D. Level Positions

With an opportunity for substantial leadership responsibility in studies of international public health import.

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health. We enjoy over \$45 million per year of NIH research funding for major studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. The center has a staff of over 100 with 27 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 10 faculty. We are recruiting M.S. and Ph.D. level staff to participate in these and future studies. Please visit our web site (below).

Master's Level Research Positions: These positions require a Master's in Biostatistics or Statistics and 1-5 years experience in analysis, supervision of data management and study design for biomedical applications. Good written and oral communication skills, and detailed knowledge of SAS required. Send CV to address below.

Assistant to Full Research Professorial Positions are available immediately to serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and to provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs. We are seeking individuals who want to join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists; who desire to contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, enjoy interacting with medical investigators; take pride contributing to the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and desire to make an impact on the public health. Our faculty also participate in graduate programs in biostatistics, epidemiology and statistics which afford opportunities for teaching at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration with research active Center faculty and graduate students.

Minimum Position Requirements: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science with a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience.

Application Procedures: Applicants must send a Curriculum Vitae and three letters of reference; a letter to include a synopsis of their role in collaborative medical research that has led to medical scientific presentation or publication and a statement of career purpose indicating their career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals; and applicants for Assistant Research Professor positions must send an Official Transcript of graduate coursework leading to the doctoral degree to: Sarah Fowler, Research Professor and Director, The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852. [HTTP://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu)

Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children.

All research and regular faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may be apply for the Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award. For a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research and a discretionary fund to support professional activities, travel to professional meetings, supplies and equipment.

Applicants for the research faculty position may also apply for the Greenhouse Award while their faculty application is being considered. For complete information including Award Application Materials Requirements, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu.

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer

US Army Evaluation Center

The Army Evaluation Center (AEC) evaluates the capability (effectiveness, suitability, and survivability) of Army and Joint materiel acquisitions. Organized into directorates assigned a specific mission area, AEC evaluators and analysts plan and conduct evaluations while partnered with tailored contingents of developmental and operational testers. The evaluations rendered by AEC personnel ensure that America's soldiers are the finest equipped in the world.

AEC is currently recruiting for the following position:

Operations Research Analyst / Mathematical Statistician

Senior analyst and lead member of interdisciplinary teams engaged in full spectrum of statistical and intelligence analysis. This position supports multi-service evaluations regarding materiel acquisition programs of national security scope and interest. The analyst contributes technical and analytical input to products prepared by Army and multi-service working groups. The analyst formulates evaluation strategies that derive informational and data requirements for technical and operational test designs and modeling efforts, as well as monitors test execution and data collection activities.

Candidates for this position must have strong backgrounds in statistical analysis, modeling, and communication skills. Candidates must possess one year of specialized experience and training equivalent to the former GS-11 level in Federal service that included comprehensive analysis and integrated evaluations of weapons systems and/or automated information systems. Candidates must be able to obtain and maintain a TOP SECRET/SCI clearance. The US Army Evaluation Center became part of an alternative personnel system known as the Acquisition Demonstration Project on February 28, 1999. The Demonstration replaces GS grade levels with occupational families and pay bands. The salary range of the position being filled (NH-III) will not be decreased with the change to pay bands. This position incorporates former GS-12 step 1 through GS-13 step 10 grade levels and salary levels. Finally, due to the Base Realignment Commission (BRAC), this position will relocate to Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, prior to 2010.

For more information, interested parties should contact the AEC website:

http://www.atec.army.mil/aec/HRD/career_tech.asp



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Washington Statistical Society

Holiday Party



Wednesday December 13, 2006

6:00 to 9:00 pm

Finger Foods and Cash Bar

Gordon Biersch Brewery

900 F Street NW, Washington DC

Close to the Gallery Place Metro Station (green, yellow or red line)

Wings-Hummus Salad-Pizza-Artichoke Hearts

Featuring Gordon Biersch Lagers

\$24 per person

Send Cheque Payable to WSS by December 7, 2006

Send to Yves Thibaudeau, 1037 17th ST S, Arlington, VA 22202

If it is too late to mail your check, please contact Yves to make arrangements at (301)-763-1706 or at

yves.thibaudeau@census.gov

Please print name and organization/affiliation, as you would like it to appear on your badge:

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