Nominations for the 2009 Florence Nightingale David Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 2009 Florence Nightingale David Award. The deadline for nominations for this Award has been extended to *April 15th*.

This Award recognizes a female statistician who exemplifies the contributions of Florence Nightingale David, who was an accomplished statistician in combinatorial probability theory, author or editor of numerous books including the classic on the history of probability theory "Games, Gods, and Gambling", first Chair of Department of Statistics at University of California at Riverside and the first recipient of the Elizabeth L. Scott Award. FN David died in 1993 at the age of 83. The award was established in 2001 and it is offered every odd numbered year, and is sponsored jointly by COPSS and the Caucus for Women in Statistics.

Criteria for the award are excellence in the following: as a role model to women, statistical research, leadership of multidisciplinary collaborative groups, statistics education, and service to the profession.

Past recipients of the Award are Nan M. Laird (2001), Juliet P. Shaffer (2003), Alice S. Whittemore (2005), and Nancy Flournoy (2007). Now it is time for you to nominate the next recipient (your mentor, a former professor, a co-worker, a collaborator, someone you admire).

You can find more information on the award and procedures for nominations at http://www.niss.org/copss/ or contact Juliet Shaffer (shaffer@stat.berkeley.edu), Chair of the Award committee.

19th ANNUAL DOE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

The 19th annual DOE (Department of Energy) National Science Bowl will be held April 30-May 5, 2009, at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland (www.4hcenter.org). This is the first year both the high school and middle school final events are being combined and held at the same time. Sixty-seven teams of high school students and thirty-six teams of middle school students from 42 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico will participate in this event. More than 15,000 high school students and 6,000 middle school students have participated in regional events at DOE sites, other Federal agencies, and educational institutions. You are invited to come and observe the competition this year as the event is open to the public.

Volunteers are needed to serve as academic competition officials (moderator, scientific judge, rules judge, timer, and score keeper) and to assist us at the Science Bowl Information Center to provide information to parents and guests.

Volunteers Needed:

Saturday, May 2, 2009
Middle School Academic Competition (100 Volunteers) – 8:00 am – 3:00 pm for the Round Robin Competition. Double Elimination 3:30 – 7:00 pm (50 volunteers)
High School Division Team Challenge (30 volunteers) – 11:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 3, 2008
Middle School Car Race (30 volunteers at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School)
High School Academic Competition (175 volunteers) – 9:00 am-4:30 pm for the Round Robin Competition where the largest number of volunteers are needed. Double Elimination 6:00 – 9:00 pm (60 volunteers)

Anyone, including DOE employees, DOE contractors, family members, and friends, is welcome to volunteer. Several volunteers come from other Federal agencies and local businesses. Some schools and organizations (e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts) fulfill community service requirements by volunteering for the National Science Bowl.

Science Bowl Academic Competition Officials (Saturday and/or Sunday):

Timer: keeps time for each match (two 10-minute halves)*

Scorekeeper: maintains accurate scoring throughout each match [upper middle and high school students may also volunteer]*

Score runner (prefer upper elementary and middle school students): bring the score sheets to science bowl scoring room after each match

Science Bowl information center: provide information to parents and visitors

High School Division Team Challenge (Saturday):
Room assistants are needed on Saturday to facilitate each team's participation in a hands-on team science problem.

Middle School Car Race (Sunday):
Car race judges and other general volunteers are needed to assist with the hydrogen fuel cell model car races. Event is located at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. No advance training needed, training will be done during the event.

* These volunteer positions require training. Please call Michelle Rathbun at 202-586-9929 or Michelle.Rathbun@science.doe.gov to see if there is still a need for those spots and to arrange training times.

To be included on the volunteer schedule, please sign up by **Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Sign-up on the online form at http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/nsb/volun.htm.**

More information can be found on the Science Bowl Website at http://nationalsciencebowl.energy.gov. The draft schedule of events is located under "National Event."

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

The Government Statistics Section (GSS) and the Social Statistics Section (SSS) of the American Statistical Association (ASA) are pleased to announce the availability of a scholarship in memory of Wray Jackson Smith, a long-time contributor to Federal statistics. The Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship (WJSS), co-sponsored with the Washington Statistical Society, the Caucus for Women in Statistics, Harris-Smith Institutes, Mathematica Policy Research, and Synectics for Management Decisions, Inc., is intended to reward promising young statisticians for their diligence, thereby encouraging them to consider a future in government statistics.

The WJSS Award provides funding of $1,000 for use in exploring any of a broad number of opportunities for furthering the development of a career related to government statistics. Applicants are encouraged to be creative in seeking support for a wide variety of uses, including:

Tuition, board, and books for courses or short courses Conference attendance Purchase of books, software, data sets, or other supporting materials for research projects related to government statistics.

Activities may relate to any level of government, including Federal, state, and local governmental units. They must be statistical in nature, focusing on data, methodology, analysis, or data presentation. Recent award winners have used the WJSS to fund attendance at the Joint Statistical

Meetings, support continued public policy research, and to take short courses to better under-stand and analyze data for current research.

Application

To apply for a WJSS Award, the following information must be sent to the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2009:

A completed WJSS Application Form (form is available at:
http://www.amstat.org/sections/ssoc/wrayjacksonsmith.html)
A proposal of activity to be funded
Academic transcript (for current/recent students) or job performance reviews for the past 2 years (for nonstudents) or equivalent proof of superior academic and/or professional performance Two letters of recommendation.

Please send materials to:

Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee c/o Robert A. Kominski electronically to: Robert.A.Kominski@census.gov.

Selection Process

The WJSS Committee, consisting of a total of three GSS and SSS members, will review each proposal, based on an established rating scheme. Each application will be judged based on the following criteria:

Stage in Career
Past Performance
Quality of the Proposed Activity
Relevance of Activity to Government Statistics Innovation/Ingenuity of the Proposed Project
Feasibility of Completion of Activity Two Letters of Recommendation

Selection will be made by June 1, 2009.

Eligibility

The WJSS is targeted at students and persons early in their career in government statistics. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree or equivalent level of education. Membership in the Government Statistics Section, Social Statistics Section, or in the ASA is not required.

For more information, contact Robert A. Kominski by e-mail:
Robert.A.Kominski@census.gov.

HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are sought for the 2009 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

· Dedication to the issues of measurement;
· Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
· Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2009 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American

Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with, and strongly supportive of, these organizations during his career. The award consists of a $1000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2009. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

The previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award are Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (NCHS), Constance Citro (CNStat), Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (Census Bureau), Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau), Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS), Nancy Kirkendall (EIA) and Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau).

Nominations for the 2009 award will be accepted beginning in February 2009. Nomination packages should contain:

· A cover letter from the nominator that should include references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.
· Up to six additional letters in support that document how each contribution demonstrates innovation.
· A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for the 2008 award, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Dwight Brock, Chair, 2009 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-517-4026 or dwightbrock@westat.com. Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2009. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged. Please contact the chair if you need to make arrangements to fax or mail a nomination.

WSS and Other Seminars
(All events are open to any interested persons)

April

8 Wed.   **An LEHD Primer: An Innovative Use of Administrative Data for Policy Analysis**

22 Wed.   **Some History of, and Current Issues in, Seasonal Adjustment**

28 Tues.   **Statistical Challenges in Genetics Studies of Mental Disorders**

30 Thurs.   **Responsive Design for Random Digit Dial Surveys Using Auxiliary Survey Process Data and Contextual Data**

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

Save the Date:
An All-Day Symposium in Honor of Dr. Edmund Gehan on April 27, 2009

The Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics at Georgetown University and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center invite you to an all-day symposium in honor of Dr. Edmund Gehan, Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics. Invited speakers are Dennis Dixon, Jonas Ellenberg, Susan Ellenberg, Emil J. Freireich, Stephen George, J. Jack Lee, Aiyi Liu, Karen Messer, Peter Thall, and Marvin Zelen.

For more information and to register online, visit http://dbbb.georgetown.edu/News/gehansymposium/ or contact Caroline Wu, Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics, Georgetown University, Suite 180, Building D, 4000 Reservoir Road NW; (202) 687-4114; ctw26@georgetown.edu

SUMMER PROGRAM IN APPLIED ECONOMETRICS
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

May 11 - 15, 2009
Financial Econometrics and Volatility Models
Eric Zivot
U. Washington

May 26 - May 30, 2009
Discrete Chice
Bill Greene
NYU

The Department of Economics of American University, Washington, DC, is pleased to announce two upcoming summer program courses, "Financial Econometrics and Volatility Models," with Eric Zivot, U. Washington and "Discrete Choice Models," with Bill Greene, NYU.

The primary purpose of the summer program in applied econometrics is to provide students, researchers and faculty with state of the art econometric methods for analyzing data in the Social Sciences. Each day of the week-long course consists of morning lectures that develop the basic concepts and philosophy as well as their applications to real economic problems and data. Each afternoon, these methods will be applied and practiced in the computer lab. These daily tutorials and work in the computer lab provide students with 'hands on' experience in using these methods with real data.

TARGET GROUP AND REQUIREMENTS

Each course in the program is open to students who have completed at least a year of econometrics at the Ph.D. level, to professional economists, researchers and econometricians who work in government agencies, non-governmental organizations and in the private market.

CLASS MATERIALS

The text for each class will be announced prior to the class and will include a text book and/or a reader consisting of a collection of papers.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Classes begin at 9:00 am and end at 4:30 or 5:00 pm. There will be a morning coffee break, a lunch break and an afternoon break.

REGISTRATION

Please visit http://www.american.edu/cas/econ/summerprogram/summer_program1.htm
for information on how to register.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Further questions about this program should be directed to Amos Golan, Professor and Director of Summer Program, Department of Economics.

Further questions about registration and administrative issues should be directed to Stephanie N'garsanet, Senior Administrative Assistant, or Glen Arnold, Administrative Coordinator, Department of Economics:

ADDRESS: Department of Economics, American University
             Roper Hall 105, 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW
             Washington, DC 20016
PHONE: (202) 885-3770
FAX: (202) 885-3790
EMAIL: ECON@AMERICAN.EDU, ngarsane@american.edu or gwarnol@american.edu

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the April issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until April 14, 2009. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Announcement

SIGSTAT Topics

April 15, 2009:   **GeoDA - Part 4**
                       (https://www.geoda.uiuc.edu/)

GeoDa is the latest incarnation in a long line of software tools developed by Dr. Luc Anselin's Spatial Analysis Laboratory (SAL) in the Department of Geography at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. It is designed to implement techniques for exploratory spatial data analysis (ESDA) on lattice data (points and polygons). The free program provides a user friendly and graphical interface to methods of descriptive spatial data analysis, such as spatial autocorrelation statistics, as well as basic spatial regression functionality. The latest version contains several new features such as a cartogram, a refined map movie, parallel coordinate plot, 3D visualization, conditional plots (and maps) and spatial regression.

Continuing the February discussion, this month will cover: Distance-Based Spatial Weights, Spatially Lagged Variables,   Global Spatial Autocorrelation, Local Spatial Autocorrelation, and   Spatial Autocorrelation Analysis for Rates.

May 20, 2009:   **GeoDA - Part 5**
                       (https://www.geoda.uiuc.edu/)

GeoDa is the latest incarnation in a long line of software tools developed by Dr. Luc Anselin's Spatial Analysis Laboratory (SAL) in the Department of Geography at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. It is designed to implement techniques for exploratory spatial data analysis (ESDA) on lattice data (points and polygons). The free program provides a user friendly and graphical interface to methods of descriptive spatial data analysis, such as spatial autocorrelation statistics, as well as basic spatial regression functionality. The latest version contains several new features such as a cartogram, a refined map movie, parallel coordinate plot, 3D visualization, conditional plots (and maps) and spatial regression.

Continuing the April discussion, this month will cover: Bivariate Spatial Autocorrelation, Regression Basics, Regression Diagnostics, Spatial Lag Model, and Spatial Error Model

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/**.

Program Announcement

Title: **An LEHD Primer: An Innovative Use of Administrative Data for Policy Analysis**

Speaker: Julia Lane, National Science Foundation.

Discussants: Ron Jarmin, Census Bureau
                Nicholas Greenia, Internal Revenue Service

Chair: Michael L. Cohen, Committee on National Statistics

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 8, 2009 / 12:30 - 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 email your name, affiliation and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (note that there is an underscore after "wss") by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message with this information. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.)

Sponsor: WSS Section on Public Policy

Abstract: The talk will provide a general overview of the challenges faced with the establishment of the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program. It will describe the initial goals of the project and how they evolved in response to pragmatic challenges. It will also describe the difficulties faced in obtaining and merging the input data sets, various disclosure avoidance issues raised and the techniques used to address them, as well as other relevant methodological issues faced at the outset. The speaker will also discuss the actual and realized potential of various areas of application, including the development of indicators of employment and earnings dynamics, mapping applications, and research in a variety of policy areas. (This is one of several talks in a series that the WSS Section on Public Policy has been presenting this year on the uses of state and local administrative records to inform public policy issues.)

Program Announcement

Title: **Some History of, and Current Issues in, Seasonal Adjustment**

Speaker: William R. Bell, U.S. Census Bureau
                  2008 co-winner of the Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics

Chair: Stuart Scott, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 22, 2009 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center. 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 two 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 Program, WSS

Abstract: The talk will be in two parts. The first part will review the history of seasonal
                  adjustment, tracing its development from initial efforts starting around 1920, through
                  the development of the X-11 program (Shiskin, Young, and Musgrave 1967), and
                  continuing on to the development of model-based seasonal adjustment. Some
                  comparisons with the history of seasonal time series modeling will be made. The
                  second part of the talk will discuss some current technical issues in seasonal
                  adjustment. This will not be an attempt at a comprehensive review of current issues,
                  but rather will focus on some issues on which the speaker has done some work.
                  Issues expected to be discussed (time permitting) include seasonal adjustment with
                  sampling error, seasonal adjustment variances, ARIMA versus ARIMA component
                  time series models, time-varying trading-day effects, and comparing X-12 and
                  model-based seasonal adjustment filters. In discussing these issues the emphasis will
                  generally be on presenting results from applications, not on technical derivations
                  related to the models used.

Program Announcement

Office of Biostatistics Research
Division of Prevention and Population Sciences
(Bio) Statistics Seminar Series

Title: **Statistical Challenges in Genetics Studies of Mental Disorders**

Spearker: Heping Zhang, Ph.D. Professor of Biostatistics, Department of Biostatistics, Yale
                University School of Medicine

Date: Tuesday, April 28th, 2009

Time: 3pm-4pm

Location: Conference room 9091, Two Rockledge Center

Abstract: It has been a century since early preliminary reports suggested heredity in some
                psychiatric disorders such as insanity. Decades have passed since the modes and
                levels of inheritance were documented for a number of psychiatric and behavioral
                disorders such as Tourette's Syndrome and nicotine dependence. Despite recent
                landmark successes that led to discoveries of genetic variants for several complex
                diseases, the hunting for genes underlying mental disorders remains largely elusive.
                In addition to political challenges, there are also major clinical and analytical
                challenges. Mental disorders are difficult to characterize both phenotypically and
                genetically. Beyond the challenges that are common for complex diseases such as
                cancer and   age-related macular degeneration, there are great intrapersonal
                variations and uncertainties, particularly over time. The diagnoses of mental
                disorders generally depend on instruments that include many descriptive questions,
                and comorbidity is common. I will present some of the joint work conducted by my
                group in recent years that is motivated by the need arising from studying mental
                disorders. For example, we have developed methodology and software to analyze
                ordinal traits and multiple traits commonly encountered in mental health research.
                The potential of these methods has been demonstrated through simulation as well as
                several genetic analyses of several mental disorders such as hoarding, nicotine
                dependence, and alcohol dependence.

Program Announcement

Title: **Responsive Design for Random Digit Dial Surveys Using Auxiliary Survey Process Data and Contextual Data**

Speaker: Sunghee Lee, Department of Biostatistics, UCLA School of Public Health

Chair: TBA

Date/Time: Thursday, April 30 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center.   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 Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS & D.C. AAPOR

Abstract: This study examines a potential framework for a random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey design that responds to findings from nonresponse bias studies. In order to overcome the absence of data for nonrespondents, the major challenge of studying nonresponse bias for RDD surveys, this study will use the following two types of data that are available regardless of response status. The first set of data, termed as paradata, comes from the survey process. Paradata exhibit the history of all calls made to each sampled number (e.g., number of calls placed, calling dates and times) and the indicator of survey design features used for each number (e.g., advance letter, monetary incentives, refusal conversion). The second type is what is known as contextual or ecological data. They come from external sources (e.g., decennial census data) and are prepared by linking the geographic identifier (e.g., address, census tract, ZIP code) of all sampled telephone numbers to the external data available at the corresponding geographic level. They include various characteristics of the corresponding geography, such as demographics and socio-economics, which are assumed to approximate the characteristics of individuals residing in the geography.

As the literature indicates, this study is premised on stochastic nature of survey response behavior, where the participation decision is influenced simultaneously by the traits of the sample, the survey features, and the situational circumstances, and the perceived importance of these factors. Therefore, this study models the response behavior with variables in the paradata from California Health Interview Survey and contextual data mostly from Census SF-1 and interactions among these variables. Multilevel models using the two types of data are tested to predict how response behaviors change given hypothetical design features. The model is applied to any sample with the same set of variables, and the response behavior of a new sample can be predicted before fielding the survey. Based on the predicted response behavior, the design features may be tailored for each case so as to maximize positive response behavior for fixed costs.

The major element of this study is that the design tailoring will be done not only to increase response rates but also to decrease potential nonresponse bias. This will be

done by using a bias indicator, such as a variable highly associated with key survey variables and available regardless of response status. By modeling the bias indicator similar to the response behavior as described above, the expected value of the indicator can be estimated for the new sample before conducting the survey. By applying the expected response status, the estimate of the chosen variable will be calculated for respondents and nonrespondents separately. Comparisons of these estimates will indicate the magnitude of nonresponse bias.

Student Corner

On the birthday problem

The two birthday problem has been well studied. In fact, in one of my first statistics classes I recall our professor using quite a bit of chalk answering the question, "What is the number of people needed in a room in order to have a better than 50% chance of two people having the same birthday." This problem must be quite common because I ran across it while reading The Drunkard's Walk by Leonard Mlodinow a few days after my birthday in January. Although I wouldn't recommend the book, Mr. Mlodinow correctly argues why we should expect to find one pair of individuals with the same birthday in a room of 23 random persons about half the time. To get this solution, Mr. Mlodinow assumed that birthdays are uniformly distributed across the year and that the population is large. Even wikipedia has a delightful article on the popular problem at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birthday_paradox

The, perhaps surprising, answer to the two birthday problem is that there is a 50% chance that two people will have the same birthday in a room of only 23 people. One of the reasons the two birthday problem is so surprising is that the fundamental question is often confused with the same-birthday-as-you problem, "What is the number of people needed in a room in order to have a better than 50% chance of two people having the same birthday as you." The answer to this problem is that there is a 50% chance that someone will have the same birthday as you in a room with 253 people in it.

Last month, I posed the three birthday problem. Specifically, I asked what the probability would be that any three people in a group of 50 would have the same birthday. My friend Santanu, who just graduated from the University of Maryland, calculated the probability of exactly three people having the same birthday in a room of 50 to be 0.00579. Rather than solving this problem in detail, I thought it might be more interesting to highlight two fun assumptions that one could make when solving a problem as ambiguously worded as the one I posed.

The first assumption is pathological. If we assume that the 50 people are a birthday club for people with a birthday on a particular day (for example February 29), then the probability that at least three people having the same birthday should be very close, if not equal to 1.

An alternative framework, common to survey researchers, is to assume that the birthdays of our finite population of 75 persons are fixed. Thus, if our initial population of 75 persons has 3 persons with the same birthday, then the probability that the meeting with 50 people has 3 people with the same birthday is the probability that all three people sharing the same birthday show up. Likewise, if there were four people in the population of 75 with the same birthday, the desired probably is the probability that at least three of the four people with the same birthday are in the sample of 50 people.

Thank you to all of the people who pondered and responded to last month's student corner.

Tim Kennel (tkennel@survey.umd.edu)

JPSM Short Courses

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION
JPSM Short Courses
www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

May 11-12, 2009
Methods for Testing Survey Questions
Pamela Campanelli
Deadline: April 27, 2009

May 28-29, 2009
Bayesian Inference in Surveys
Roderick Little and Trivellore E. Raghunathan
Deadline: May 14, 2009

June 3-4, 2009
Analysis and Presentation of Economic Data
Katharine G. Abraham and Deborah P. Klein
Deadline: May 20, 2009

Course Details and Online Registration
www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

Sponsor Affiliate List
projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

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 1,900 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/90001)
A total of 3 or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Applicant 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.
Westat
Attn: Resume System
1650 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850-3195
Email: resume@westat.com / FAX: (888) 201-1452
Equal Opportunity Employer.

www.westat.com

ASSOCIATE TO FULL PROFESSOR OF STATISTICS OR BIOSTATISTICS

The Department of Statistics (DOS) and The Biostatistics Center (BSC) of The George Washington University are recruiting a tenured faculty position at the Associate Professor or Professor level. Basic Qualifications are a PhD in Statistics or Biostatistics, an established program of research, and a strong national and international reputation. Core responsibilities of the position will be to serve as Principal Investigator or co-Investigator on one or more BSC major projects; to teach 1 course per year in the DOS and to advise PhD students in Statistics and Biostatistics. The position will be tenured and funded 100% in Year 1. Salary support will decrease to 25% over a 5-year period. The remaining salary will be funded by sponsored projects (either at the BSC, or other external funding secured by the faculty member). Review of applications will begin May 1, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. For additional information and the application procedure, please see http://www.gwu.edu/~stat/.

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

TERM INSTRUCTOR OF STATISTICS
Department of Statistics
George Mason University

The Department of Statistics, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, is seeking a Term Instructor of Statistics. The position is for the 2009-2010 academic year only, but is potentially renewable. Qualified applicants should have a master's degree (Ph.D. preferred) in Mathematics or Statistics and three years experience teaching undergraduate statistics and probability courses. Teaching load is 4 undergraduate courses per semester. Salary level: $57,000 - 60,000/9 months depending on education and experience. Apply at http://jobs.gmu.edu under Position F9206Z. George Mason University is an equal opportunity employer encouraging diversity.

Sr. Statistician

Company Profile
Trinity Partners, LLC ("Trinity") www.trinitypartners.com is a leading life sciences consulting firm specializing in the pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device industries. We work with companies around the globe who are leaders in their markets, ranging from large-cap institutions to venture-backed start-ups. Our case work spans topics including long-term commercial strategy, mid-term tactical design and short-term operational implementation. At Trinity, our vision is to become the gold-standard partner for our clients by delivering innovative insights and cutting-edge solutions across all types of commercialization issues.

Our core capabilities include strategic marketing and planning, brand tactics, launch strategy, licensing and acquisition due diligence, market analytics, and sales force optimization. The company consists of approximately 90 employees and is headquartered just outside of Boston, MA with offices in New York City.

Trinity is an EEO organization.

Position Summary
Trinity is seeking an experienced Sr. Statistician to join its Statistics team. The Statistics practice at Trinity provides consulting and strategic support to clients by offering market sizing, market research, and data analysis using statistical estimation techniques. The ideal candidate is a strong team-player who is hard-working, able to provide quality support and contribute to the firm's success. The primary responsibilities of the Sr. Statistician will be to lead a team of statisticians; provide statistical data analysis of complex and large datasets; using statistical skills, conduct market research; develop and implement statistical analysis plans to address project objectives; produce sophisticated SAS code and sound statistical reports; by working across multiple internal and

external groups, effectively present statistical findings to teams of statisticians and non-statisticians; and perform other tasks as assigned.

Position Requirements
Education: MS or PhD in Statistics or Biostatistics
Work Experience:
· 5-8 years of direct work experience as a Sr. Statistician, with at least 1 year of team management
· Applied experience with regression modeling, survival analysis and longitudinal models is a must
· Proficient in SAS software, including Macro and Graph components
· Experience with Business Development and/or Client-Base expansion a plus
· Knowledge of survey sampling and/or market research preferred

Other Skills:
· Exceptional analytical skills
· Ability to work independently in a multi-task environment
· Strong presentation, verbal and written communication skills

Application Submission
Qualified candidates, please submit your resume and cover letter to careers@trinitypartners.com and reference position title in the subject line. Selected candidates will be contacted for further discussions. No phone or email inquiries please.

Sr. Statistical Programmer

Company Profile
Trinity Partners, LLC ("Trinity") www.trinitypartners.com is a leading life sciences consulting firm specializing in the pharmaceutical, biotech and medical device industries. We work with companies around the globe who are leaders in their markets, ranging from large-cap institutions to venture-backed start-ups. Our case work spans topics including long-term commercial strategy, mid-term tactical design and short-term operational implementation. At Trinity, our vision is to become the gold-standard partner for our clients by delivering innovative insights and cutting-edge solutions across all types of commercialization issues.

Our core capabilities include strategic marketing and planning, brand tactics, launch strategy, licensing and acquisition due diligence, market analytics, and sales force optimization. The company consists of approximately 90 employees and is headquartered just outside of Boston, MA with offices in New York City. Trinity is an EEO organization.

Position Summary
We are seeking an experienced Sr. Statistical Programmer to join its Statistics team. The Statistics practice at Trinity provides consulting and strategic support to clients by offering market sizing, market research, and data analysis using statistical estimation techniques. The ideal candidate is a strong team-player who is independent, self-motivated, hard-working, and able to provide quality statistical programming support and contribute to the team's success. The primary responsibilities of the Sr. Statistical Programmer will be to develop SAS programs and tests, as well as documenting the programming codes. This individual will also provide statistical data analysis of complex and large datasets, and effectively communicate statistical findings to a team of statisticians and non-statisticians.

Position Requirements
Education: BS in Mathematics, Statistics, Economics, or Computer Science

Work Experience:
· At least 6 years of direct work experience as a Statistical Programmer
· Proficient in SAS software, including Macro and Graph components
· Knowledge of survey sampling and/or market research

Other Skills:
· Exceptional analytical skills
· Ability to work independently in a multi-task environment
· Strong presentation, verbal and written communication skills

Application Submission
Qualified candidates, please submit your resume and cover letter to careers@trinitypartners.com and reference position title in the subject line. Selected candidates will be contacted for further discussions. No phone or email inquiries please.

Company Name: Synergy Enterprises, Inc.
Job Title: NIDA's Center for Clinical Trials Network Analyst/Data Manager

Responsibilities:

Monthly Trial Progress Report (TPR). Every month-
- Check the TPR for incorrect, incomplete, or missing information
- For the active clinical trials, produce a list of key issues that need to be addressed
- Collect recruitment information for Clinical Trials Network (CTN) ancillary studies and add tables in Part IV of the TPR
- Monitor the inclusion and exclusion of individual trials in the TPR
- Distribute the TPR to Center for Clinical Trials Network (CCTN) staff and post on Livelink and V drive

Secondary analyses and CTN's Public Data Share Web site:

- Monitor progress of all active CTN secondary analyses
- Assess the quality of data posted on CTN's Public Data Share Web site
- Perform basic descriptive analyses using data from CTN's Public Data Share Web site
- Collaborate with CCTN colleagues to conduct analyses of data on CTN's Public Data Share and other NIDA clinical trial databases
- Maintain a schedule for posting new data on CTN's Public Data Share Web site, monitor progress, and keep CCTN staff informed
- Work with CTN's Data and Statistics Center to continuously improve the Public Data Share Web site in content, look and navigation
- Participate in trial-related data management calls with the Lead Team and CTN's Data and Statistics Center and keep CCTN's staff informed of any serious issues and potential solutions
- Use the monthly recruitment data provided by CTN's Data and Statistics Center to develop regular as well as ad hoc tables related to recruitment in CTN trials
- Keep track of and update protocol timelines and keep CCTN's staff informed

Qualifications:

Required:
- Bachelor's or master's degree in a quantitative field
- Experience in analyzing data and producing reports
- Basic knowledge of SAS or other statistical software
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Strongly Preferred:
- Knowledge of basic statistical techniques

- Basic knowledge of data management activities (including electronic data capture systems) in multisite clinical trials
- Familiarity with National Institutes of Health operations and information systems

Please send resume with cover letter and salary requirements to jobs@seiservices.com. For more information about Synergy Enterprises, Inc., please visit our website at http://www.seiservices.com.

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Myron Katzoff	301-458-4307	Hormuzd Katki	301-594-7818

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		Promod Chandbok	202-366-2158		

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S.V. (Vince) Massimini	703- 983-5893	Eugene Burns	202-586-1385	John Dixon	202-691-7516
				Timothy Kennel	301-763-6795
				Adam Safir	202-691-5175
				Fritz Scheuren	202-320-3446

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Dan Jacobs	301- 405-6383	Michael Feil	202-690-3130	Tom Krenzke	301-251-4203

Employment		**Quantitative Literacy**		**Local Arrangements**	
Anne Peterson	703-979-1191	Carolyn Carroll	202-320-8709	Kevin Cecco	202-874-0464

Video Librarian		**Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition**		**Quantitative Literacy Workshop**	
Phil Kalina	703-725-6600	Cammy Fine	202-327-7730	Mark Otto	301-497-5872
		Ryan Petska	202-327-7245		

Social Arrangements		**WSS Committee on ASA Fellows**		**Financial Advisor and Audit Committee**	
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Chris Cummiskey	301-704-4576	Carol House	202-720-4333		
		Marilyn Seastrom	202-502-7303		
		Fritz Scheuren	202-320-3446		

Video Coordinator		**Historian**		**Science Fair Coordinator**	
Dan Gillman	202-691-7523	Tom Mule	301-763-8322	Bob Clickner	301-294-2815

Washington Statistical Society Makes Presentation & Statistical Game Demonstrations at the National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

On Saturday, March 14, 2009, volunteers for the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) made onsite interactive exhibitions at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center at Fairfax Virginia for the Girl Scout Day. More than 2000 Girl Scout Guests plus many regular museum visitors attended the special event.

The three WSS volunteers -- Junshan Qiu who just completed her Ph.D. study in statistics and is currently a research fellow at the Federal Drug Administration, Kirsten Lum, who just completed her Master degree in statistics and is currently a predoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Health, and Jenny Zhang, an eighth grade student in the GT center program at the Longfellow Middle School -- helped kids to learn and cultivate interests in statistics through graphics and navigation system, using weighted and unweighted dices. "You really made statistics fun for the kids," expressed by many staffs from the museum as well as the parents.
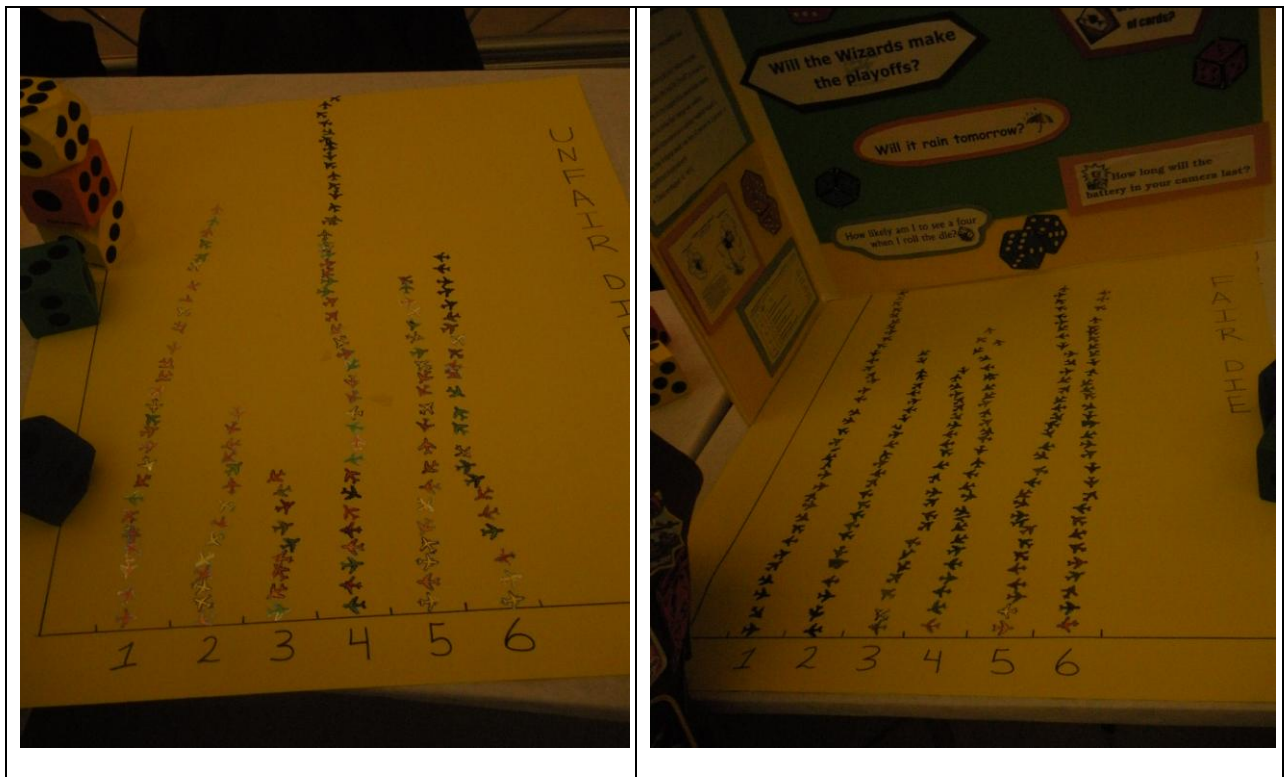
With many young kids hooked by the interesting games which the WSS team demonstrated and facilitated, some others and especially many adults were also attracted by a poster entitled "*Statistics, Airplanes, and Decision-Making – A True World War II Story*" that Jenny Zhang

prepared and presented[1]. "I was initially motivated to participate mainly to fulfill my community services hours for my civics class, but when I prepared the presentation materials and after I communicated directly with many people and other volunteers, my interest in statistics also grew and it's a lot of fun to talk directly with people and learn how people responded and appreciated," said Jenny Zhang. "Anyway, what're the chances to present such a thought-provoking story on statistics and airplanes surrounded by really big airplanes?" added Jenny.

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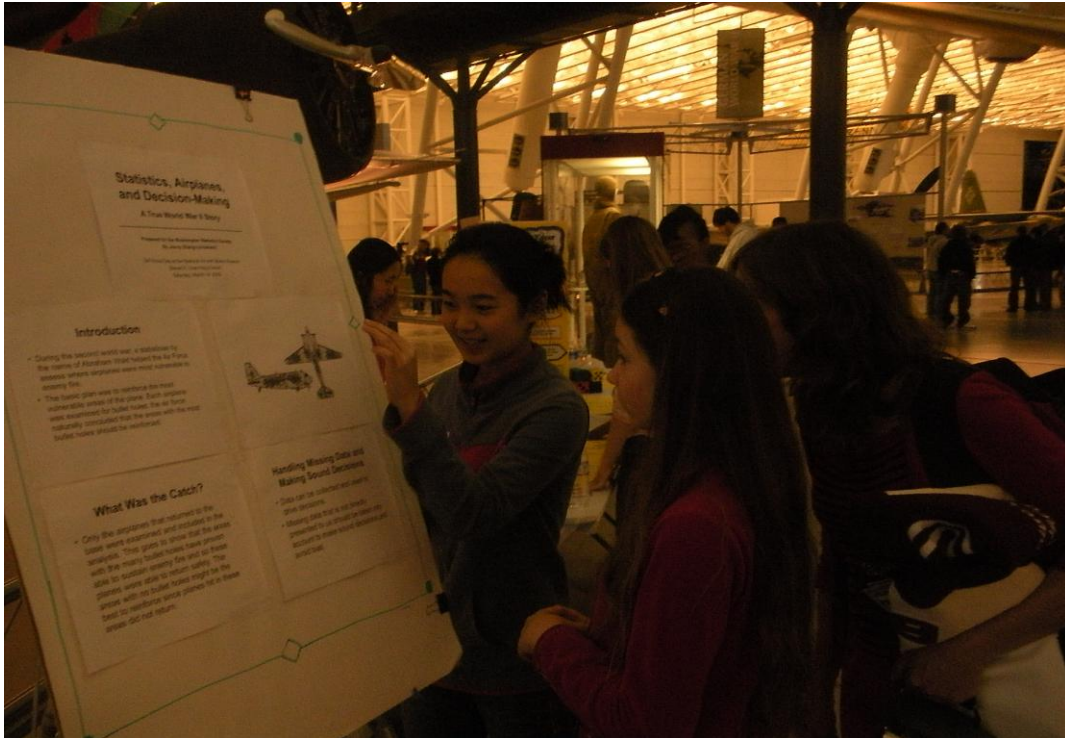
[1] The story itself is as follows: During World War II, a young statistician by the name of Abraham Wald was hired to help the British and U.S. air forces to assess the most vulnerable areas of an airplane. The basic plan was to reinforce the needed areas with additional armor. Each airplane was carefully examined for bullet holes. The Air Force naturally was about to conclude that the areas with the most bullet holes were the most vulnerable and thus, needed to be reinforced with armor. However, there was a catch. Only the returning airplanes were examined and included in the analysis. This provides reason to believe that the areas with the many bullet holes had proven to be able to sustain enemy fire and so these planes were able to return to the base successfully. The areas with no bullet holes would be the most-needed to reinforce since, presumably through logic, planes hit by in those areas did not return. The lesson learned, according to Jenny Zhang's presentation, was that (1) data can be collected and used to test assumptions and arrive at life-saving conclusions; (2) related data not observed should also be taken into account in order to make sound decisions and avoid bias.

Washington Statistical Society is the largest local chapter of the American Statistical Society, with about 1000 local members. Carolyn Carroll at the StatTech and Anna Nevius at the Federal Drug Administration coordinated this WSS educational activity. Other agencies and organizations that hosted education activities at the museum on the Girl Scout day included the Girl Scout First Aid Station, Federal Aviation Association, NASA, National Capital Astronomers, National Museum of the U.S. Navy, US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Defense, U.S. Public Health Services, and some other agencies and local organizations.

Washington Statistical Society Provided Game and Presentation at the National Air and Space Museum on 2009 Girl Scout Day