



WSS NEWS

January 2010

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are sought for the 2010 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 2010 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 \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2010. 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), Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau), and Lynda Carlson (NSF).

Nominations for the 2010 award will be accepted beginning in February 2010. Nomination packages should contain:

1. 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.
2. Up to six additional letters in support that demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
3. A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

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

For more information, contact Frank Potter, Chair, 2010 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 609-936-2799 or FPotter@Mathematica-MPR.com. Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2010. 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.

JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Beth Kilss, 2010 Chair, Griffith Award Selection Committee

It's time to start thinking about nominating an outstanding supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of a governmental statistical staff who encourages mentoring of junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical system for the 2010 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. Nominations must be submitted no later than March 26, 2010.

This year marked the first time in the award's 7-year history that two winners were chosen, as well as the first time the ASA's Government Statistics Section oversaw the award selection process. Kevin Cecco, Chief of the Corporation Statistics Branch, Statistics of Income Division, IRS, and Lillian Lin, Mathematical Statistician, Division of HIV and AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received their awards at a ceremony held on June 17, 2009, in Washington, D.C.

If you're not familiar with the award or would like more information about the current winners and the history of the award, see the excellent article (including a number of pictures from the ceremony) in the August 2009 issue of *Amstat News*, pp. 51-54, or go to <http://www.amstat.org/publications/amsn/2009/august.cfm>.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was established to honor Dr. Griffith who died in August 2001 after working for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her latter senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

Nominations for 2010 will be accepted beginning in January 2010. The last date for submission of nominations is March 26, 2010, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 7, 2010. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium (to be split if there is more than one awardee), a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2010.

The nomination packages are reviewed by a committee comprising six members who each serve a six-year term:

Emerson Elliott, National Center for Education Statistics (Retired)
Carol House, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Dan Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research
Beth Kilss, 2010 Chair, Internal Revenue Service (Retired)
Stephanie Shipp, 2009 Chair, Science & Technology Policy Institute
Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Andy Orlin, Jeanne Griffith's husband, serves as emeritus member, thus providing continuity and historical perspective.

The recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award previous to this year's two winners are Rich Allen (National Agriculture Statistical Service), 2003; Beth Kilss (Internal Revenue Service), 2004; Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration), 2005; Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau), 2006; Stephanie Shipp (National Institute of Standards and Technology at the time of the award), 2007; and Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008.

The winning mentor(s) will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing,

analysis, presentation and organizational skills and knowledge;

- Encouraging junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self confidence through feedback on their efforts, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee:

- The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers.
- Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.
- The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice counsels with long-term goals in mind thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach a teacher.

Photo copies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2010 award, please go to:

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform10.doc> or
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform10.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact Monica Clark at monica@amstat.org, (703) 302-1860, and Beth Kilss at bakilss@msn.com, (703) 451-7240.

The nomination package may be mailed or emailed no later than March 26, 2010, to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee
c/o The American Statistical Association
732 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943
monica@amstat.org

Sponsors of the Award: The Government Statistics Section (GSS) of the American Statistical Association manages the award. GSS would like to thank our original co-sponsors:

- Washington Statistical Society,
- Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association,
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP),
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics,

and our two new co-sponsors:

- American Educational Research Association (AERA), and
- National Opinion Research Corporation (NORC).

Please contact Stephanie Shipp (sshipp919@gmail.com), if you would like to contribute to the award.

Nominations Sought for the 2011 Waksberg Award

The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joe Waksberg to recognize his contributions to survey methodology. Each year a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in the field of survey methodology. The paper reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joe Waksberg's work.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2011 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium to be held in the autumn of 2011. The paper will be published in a future issue of *Survey Methodology*.

The author of the 2011 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the American Statistical Association. **Nomination of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent before February 28, 2010 to the chair of the committee, Dan Kasprzyk (DKasprzyk@Mathematica-MPR.com).**

Previous Waksberg Award honorees and their invited papers are:

2001 Gad Nathan, "Telesurvey Methodologies for Household Surveys-A Review and Some Thoughts for the Future." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp.7-31.

2002 Wayne Fuller, "Regression Estimation for Survey Samples." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 5-23.

2003 David Holt, "Methodological Issues in the Development and Use of Statistical Indicators for International Comparisons." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 5-17.

2004 Norman Bradburn, "Understanding the Question-Answer Process." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 5-15.

2005 J.N.K Rao, "Interplay Between Sample Survey Theory and Practice: An Appraisal." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 117-138.

2006 Alastair Scott, "Population-Based Case Control Studies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 123-132.

2007 Carl-Erik Särndal, "The Calibration Approach in Survey Theory and Practice." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 99-119.

2008 Mary Thompson, "International surveys: Motives and Methodologies." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 131-141.

2009 Graham Kalton, "Methods for Oversampling Rare Subpopulations in Social Surveys." *Survey Methodology* (forthcoming)

WSS and Other Seminars

(All events are open to any interested persons)

January

- 21 Thurs. **The Challenges of Conducting the Census 2010**
- 21 Thurs. **Developing a Data Analysis System for Categorical Survey Data**
- 27 Wed. **Data, Information and Interpretation in Assessing the Sustainability of the Nation's Forests**

February

- 5 Fri. **Is it Culturally Ethical? Human Rights Challenges in International Survey Research**
- 9 Tues. **The Psychology of Survey Response**
- 17 Wed. **Defining Success in Oncology Drug Development**

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

Announcement

SIGSTAT Topics for Fall/Winter 2009-2010

January 20, 2010: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 3
(http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled “**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition**” by Brocklebank and Dickey. Part 3: This month continues **Chapter 3: The General ARIMA Model**. Topics include using the IDENTIFY and ESTIMATE statements with a number of examples.

February 24, 2010: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 4
(http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled “**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition**” by Brocklebank and Dickey. Part 4: This month continues **Chapter 3: The General ARIMA Model**. Topics include models for nonstationary data and differencing to remove a linear trend.

March 17, 2010: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 5
(http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled “**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition**” by Brocklebank and Dickey. Part 5: This month begins **Chapter 4: The ARIMA Model: Introductory Applications**. Topics include an introduction to seasonal modeling and model identification.

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 will be accepted until January 19, 2010. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@ams.usda.gov.

Announcement

WSS Seeks Suggestions for Seminar Topics

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Seminar series has long provided a fine selection of early afternoon presentations, for the benefit of the Washington area statistical and related communities, as a free public service. Please note the following link for a list of abstracts: <http://science.gmu.edu/~wss/seminar.html>.

In order to better serve the WSS membership and friends, the WSS Board of Directors and the program chairs who sponsor these seminars are now soliciting suggestions for topics that you would like to have covered in upcoming seminars. Please consult the list of program chairs at this URL: <http://www.scs.gmu.edu/~wss/board.pdf>. Topics may fall under the categories of general methodology, agriculture and natural resources, economics, human rights, data collection, public health and biostatistics, national security, public policy, statistical computing, quality assurance, and social and demographic.

Please send your suggestions to the program chair or program chairs that seem most appropriate. Perhaps you would like to consult your colleagues, and/or the supervisor(s) who may approve your attendance at such a professional meeting. You could note that this is a free local learning experience (or “training”).

So, please go to the above link, find a program chair, and send a suggestion, or two, or three, or ...

Thank you,
WSS Board

Announcement

The Challenges of Conducting the Census 2010

Thursday, January 21st, 2010, 9:30-11am

Pew Research Center 1615 L Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC

Speaker: Dr. Robert Groves, Director, U.S. Census Bureau

The Pew Research Center, DC-AAPOR, and the Washington Statistical Society are pleased to announce an event discussing the 2010 Census, how it will be conducted and what it means for researchers. Census Director Robert Groves describes methodological and other challenges the bureau faces. Connie Citro, who has directed National Academies panels that have evaluated the Census; Jeff Passel, a leading expert on demography and a former Census Bureau researcher; and Joe Salvo, who heads up the population office for the nation's largest city, respond from their unique perspectives. The event will be moderated by Pew Research Center Director of Survey Research Scott Keeter.

Seating is limited. Since an RSVP is required, please visit the DC-AAPOR website: <http://www.dc-aapor.org/upcomingevents.php> to do so.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Developing a Data Analysis System for Categorical Survey Data**
- Speaker:** Phillip S. Kott
Senior Research Statistician, RTI International
- Discussant:** Jonaki Bose
Office of Applied Studies
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- Chair:** Brian Meekins, BLS
- Organizer:** David Judkins, Westat
- Date/Time:** Thursday, January 21, 2010 / 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.
- Video Link:** Westat, Rockville Offices. On a trial basis, Westat is opening up its conference center for watching the lecture remotely. Reservation required. Call Fran Winter, 301-294-4419.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Program, WSS
- Abstract:** Many government statistical agencies are either thinking about developing a data analysis system (DAS) to display interactively the results of their surveys or already have one in place. A DAS can be used to generate tables at the user's request and may even be able to conduct more sophisticated (but still limited) statistical analyses. Before constructing such a system, there are a number of questions the agency must address. Two in particular are of concern here for categorical data derived from a sample survey: How is the anonymity of the survey respondent to be protected given that the same user can make multiple requests of the system; and should public users be protected from the release of estimates with overly large coverage intervals? We argue that the users themselves can decide whether estimates are accurate enough for their purposes, but to do that there need to be well-behaved coverage intervals for those estimates. It turns out that the rule needed to construct a good coverage interval for the estimated target is very similar to that needed to assure data confidentiality.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Data, Information and Interpretation in Assessing the Sustainability of the Nation's Forests**
- Speaker:** Guy Robertson, Ph.D.
Sustainability Program Lead
U.S. Forest Service
- Chair:** Mike Fleming
- Date/time:** Wednesday, January 27, 2010 / 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. 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:** WSS Agriculture and Natural Resources Section
- Abstract:** The Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for Forest Sustainability (MP C&I) provide the foundation for the 2010 National Report on Sustainable Forests, a major Forest Service reporting effort currently underway. The processes through which the MP C&I were derived and applied as well as the specific content of selected indicators will be the focus of this talk. The MP C&I include 64 indicators spanning ecological, economic and social dimensions associated with the sustainability of forest ecosystems, and they entail a host of technical and conceptual issues related to data gathering, reporting and interpretation. Moreover, the underlying concept of sustainability presents various challenges both when considered generally and within the context of specific indicators. These topics and others will be discussed within the general context of presenting the overall findings of the 2010 Report.
- Point of contact e-mail: grobertson02@fs.fed.us

Program Announcement

Title: **Is it Culturally Ethical? Human Rights Challenges in International Survey Research**

Speaker: Safaa Amer, Senior Statistician
NORC at the University of Chicago

Discussant: Mary Gray, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics
American University

Chair: Michael P. Cohen, Senior Consultant
NORC at the University of Chicago

Date/Time: Friday, February 5, 2010 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: PLEASE NOTICE CHANGE FROM USUAL LOCATION. Barbara Jordan
Conference Center, Kaiser Family Foundation, 1330 G St NW

RSVP Instructions: The Kaiser Family Foundation has asked for an approximate number of attendees by January 25, 2009. If you are planning on attending this seminar, please respond by January 24, 2009 via email to Carol Joyce Blumberg at carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov. It is fine to change your mind either way closer to the date of the seminar.

Sponsors: WSS Data Collection Methods, WSS Human Rights and DC-AAPOR

Abstract: In a global research world the need continues to arise for an umbrella of standards to shield human participants' rights and research ethics. When a team of survey researchers works on an international project where a mix of cultures, languages, or regions is handled, careful eyes should look at ethical and human rights issues. Although the basics of research ethics tend to seem simple, cultural considerations, differences of laws and regulations, level of vulnerability of the population, and many other factors add a twist to the situation. This calls for special handling due to inherent differences in the population of interest and their surrounding environment. This talk presents examples from around the world of challenges faced in social and behavioral projects; use and abuse of cross-cultural ethics; some lessons learned, and future considerations.

Important Note: Videoconferencing will not be available for this seminar.

For further information contact Carol Joyce Blumberg at carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov or (202) 586-6565.

Announcement

ASA Survey Research Methods Section

Our second webinar is going to be February 9, 2010. Details are on the website:
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/webinar.cfm>

Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 1 to 3pm EST

The Psychology of Survey Response

Instructor: Roger Tourangeau

Abstract

This two-hour course examines survey questions from a psychological perspective. It covers the basics on how respondents answer survey questions and how problems in this response process can produce reporting errors. The class will focus on behavioral questions. The course is intended as an introduction for researchers who develop survey questionnaires or who use the data from surveys and want to understand some of the potential problems with survey data. It describes the major psychological components of the response process, including comprehension of the questions, retrieval of information from memory, combining and supplementing information from memory through judgment and inference, and the reporting of an answer. The course has no specific prerequisites, though familiarity with survey methodology or questionnaire design would be helpful.

Bio sketch

Roger Tourangeau is a Research Professor at the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center and the Director of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JSPM) at the University of Maryland. He has been a survey methodologist for nearly 30 years, with extensive experience in a wide range of surveys. Tourangeau is well-known for his methodological research on the impact of different modes of data collection and on the cognitive processes underlying survey responses. He is the lead author of a book on this last topic (*The Psychology of Survey Response*, co-authored with Lance Rips and Kenneth Rasinski and published by Cambridge University Press in 2000); this book received the 2006 Book Award from the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). He is also one of the co-editors of a collection of papers (*Cognition and Survey Research*, published by Wiley in 1999) from a conference on cognitive aspects of survey response. In addition, he has published a number of papers on mode effects (including a very widely cited paper on audio-CASI with Tom Smith) and on forgetting and telescoping in surveys.

In 2002, Tourangeau received the Helen Dinerman Award for his work on the cognitive aspects of survey methodology. This is the highest honor given by the World Association for Public Opinion Research. In 2005, he received the 2005 AAPOR Innovators Award (along with Tom Jabine, Miron Straf, and Judy Tanur). He was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1999 for his work on survey measurement error and his contributions to federal surveys as a sampling statistician. In 2006, he served as the chair of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association. He has a Ph.D. in Psychology from Yale University.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Defining Success in Oncology Drug Development**
- Speakers:** Richard Pazdur, M.D., Director, Office of Oncology Drug Products,
Rajeshwari Sridhara, M.D., Acting Director, Division of Biometrics V, OB,
CDER, Food and Drug Administration
- Discussant:** TBD
- Chair:** David Judkins, Westat
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 17, 12:30-2:00pm
- 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.
- Video Link:** Westat, Rockville Offices. On a trial basis, Westat is opening up its conference center for watching the lecture remotely. Reservation required. Call Fran Winter, 301-294-4419.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Program, WSS
- Abstract:** [To be announced in February newsletter, but touching generally on issues of interest to statisticians from the perspectives of physicians.]

Announcement

ASA Committee on Law and Justice Statistics Open Solicitation for Research Proposals

The American Statistical Association (ASA) Committee on Law and Justice Statistics announces a small grant program for the analysis of Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and other justice-related data. This program is designed to encourage the creative and appropriate use of these data to inform substantive and methodological issues. Awards are generally to be completed within a two-year period and are typically in the range of \$25,000 to \$40,000.

Proposals must be e-mailed by January 15, 2010. More information can be found at: <http://www.amstat.org/careers/pdfs/BJSsolicitation.pdf>

Announcement

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed at different times between March and June 2010 -- to judge entries in the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project; to judge entries in the WSS Statistical Poster Competition; and to judge science fair projects at the regional science fairs in Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia. The WSS needs **you** to volunteer now for any one – or all three!

The WSS has a longstanding and active program of reaching out to elementary and secondary school students to encourage them to gain an understanding and appreciation of Statistics. We do this in part by sponsoring two annual competitions – the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize and the WSS Statistical Poster Competition – and by awarding prizes at the annual regional high school science fairs.

Since 1986, WSS has provided special awards at the five **regional science fairs** to students whose projects demonstrate excellence in data analysis or the application of statistical methods. The fairs are held on Saturdays in March. They need volunteers willing to devote one Saturday morning to interact with students, judge their projects, and give them some guidance and encouragement. Those who have participated in these activities have very much enjoyed meeting the students, talking with them, and seeing the widely diverse projects they have presented. Last March, 32 of your fellow WSS members judged and awarded prizes to projects in Behavioral and Social Sciences, Medicine and Health, Environmental Sciences, Biology, Engineering, Plant Sciences, Chemistry, and Mathematics. If you are interested in being a science fair judge, contact Bob Clickner at Robertclickner@westat.com, or 301-294-2815.

The **Curtis Jacobs Award** program focuses on gathering information and analyzing for making decisions. Entries are typically due in May; judges review and score the entries at their convenience and transmit their evaluations and scores by late May. If you are interested in volunteering to judge the entries, contact Tom Krenzke at TomKrenzke@westat.com or 301-251-4203.

The **poster competition** is open to students in grades K-12 and entries may be in any area of statistics. Judging is typically in May or June. If you are interested in judging, contact Cammy Fine at Cammy.Fine@ey.com or 202-327-7730, or Nicole Miller at nicole.miller@ey.com or 202-327-8309.

Announcement

Nominations Sought for 2010 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 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. Completed nominations must be received by March 5, 2010. For questions or more information, please contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at paben.steven@bls.gov or call 202-691-6147.

Announcement

JPSM Short Courses

www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

January 11-12, 2010
Web Survey Design
Mick P. Couper
Registration Deadline: December 28, 2009

February 1-2, 2010
Experimental Design for Surveys
Roger Tourangeau
Registration Deadline: January 18, 2010

February 23-24, 2010
Balancing Data Confidentiality and Data Quality
Lawrence Cox
Registration Deadline: February 9, 2010

March 3-4, 2010
Introduction to Survey Estimation
David Morganstein and Richard L. Valliant
Registration Deadline: February 17, 2010

March 29-30, 2010
Writing Questions for Surveys: A Workshop
Nora Cate Schaeffer
Registration Deadline: March 15, 2010

April 22-23, 2010
Cognitive Interviewing Methods: A Hands-On Approach
Gordon B. Willis
Registration Deadline: April 8, 2010

May 4-5, 2010
Sampling and Estimation for Establishment Surveys
Richard Valliant and Phillip Kott
Registration Deadline: April 20, 2010

May 26, 2010 (1-Day course)
Introduction to Item Response Theory (IRT) Modeling and Applications
Bryce B. Reeve
Registration Deadline: May 12, 2010

JPSM SHORT COURSES: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses; SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST: projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors; JPSM HOME PAGE: www.jpsm.org

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/>.

CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University is currently recruiting biostatisticians 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.

Basic 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. All interested applicants at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may 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, professional activities and travel. Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. For complete information and application procedures, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu. Only complete applications will be considered

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

Biostatistician

The Georgetown University Medical Center seeks a well-qualified Biostatistician for the Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Biomathematics. The successful candidate will be knowledgeable in biostatistical methodology, proficient with statistical programming packages, and possess good communication and writing skills. Under general direction of a faculty biostatistician, this individual will provide biostatistical consultation and collaboration on the design, conduct, analysis, and interpretation of research projects. These projects involve basic science, clinical medicine, and population science. The individual will prepare reports and analyses of research projects both for scientific papers and grant proposals. Requirements are a Master's degree in biostatistics/statistics, programming skills in SAS and S-Plus, at least two years' experience with biostatistical aspects of medical research projects, and some experience in a consulting environment.

All qualified candidates should send resume, a list of three references, and cover letter to:

Françoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Ph.D., Chair
Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics
Georgetown University Medical Center
4000 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20057
E-mail: lrs8@georgetown.edu



P.O. Box 2033

Washington, DC 20013

Washington
Statistical
Society

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

President John Eltinge	202-691-7404	Past President Karol P. Krotki	202-728-2485	President-Elect Michael Brick	301-294-2004
	Secretary Darryl Creel	301-770-8229	Treasurer Jane Li	240-314-2566	
Vice Chair for District 2 of Council of Chapters Glenn White			Council of Chapters Representative Jonaki Bose		
	202-327-6414	Representative-at-Large			
	Jim Knaub	202-586-3014	Elizabeth Margosches	202-564-7636	
	Christine Cox	301-458-4164	Robert Santos	202-261-5904	
Student Representative Timothy Kennel			301-763-6795		

Agriculture and Natural Resources		Economics		Methodology	
Mel Kollander	703-642-8079	Linda Atkinson	202-694-5046	Brian Meekins	202-691-7594
Mike Fleming	202-366-0183	Anne Polivka	202-691-7395	David Judkins	301-315-5970
Barry Nussbaum	202-566-1493				
Public Health and Biostatistics		Public Policy		Quality Assurance and Physical Sciences	
Grant Izmirlan	301-496-7519	Michael L. Cohen	202-334-3765	Amrut Champaneri	202-366-5998
Carolyn Carroll	202-320-8709	Shelly Martinez	202-395-3147	Alan Jeeves	202-366-4194
Defense and National Security		Human Rights			
Wendy Martinez	540-284-1032	Michael P. Cohen	202-232-4651		
Myron Katzoff	301-458-4307				
Short Courses		Social and Demographic Statistics		Statistical Computing	
Sylvia Dohrmann	301-610-5119	Judy Droitcour	202-512-9145	Charlie Hallahan	202-694-5051
		Promod Chandbok	202-366-2158		
Electronic Mail Committee		Data Collection Methods		Membership	
Michael Greene	301-504-7335	Carol Blumberg	202-586-6565	John Czajka	202-484-4685
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-
Webmaster		WSS NEWS Editor		Curtis Jacobs Award	
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	Jill Montaquila	301-517-4046	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	
Yasmin Said	301-538-7478	Dwight Brock	301-517-4026	Stuart Scott	202-691-7383
Yves Thibaudeau	301-763-1706	Marilyn Seastrom	202-502-7303	R. Clifton Bailey	703-893-8719
Chris Cummiskey	301-704-4576	Randy Curtin	301-458-4172		
		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