



WSS NEWS

September 2010

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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We congratulate the winners and express our thanks to the other candidates.

ASA Fellows

The following National Capital Area ASA/WSS members became ASA Fellows at the Awards Ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings on August 3, 2010 in Vancouver:

Carol Joyce Blumberg

Telba Irony

Jeri Mulrow

Nagaraj Neerchal

Estelle Russek-Cohen

Laura Zayatz

Congratulations to all!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Jeanne E. Griffith 2010 Mentoring Award Winner: Deborah H. Griffin

By Beth Kilss, Jeanne E. Griffith Award Selection Committee

On the afternoon of June 23, Deborah H. Griffin of the U. S. Bureau of the Census was presented with the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award in the conference center of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The audience of approximately 50 attendees comprised colleagues, family, and friends of Jeanne Griffith and the awardee, the Census Bureau director, as well as members of the award selection committee and the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy.

The Honoree

Deborah H. Griffin is a mathematical statistician at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, a position that she has held for nearly 33 years. Currently, she is special assistant to the Chief, American Community Survey Office. In this role, she serves as a program advisor and is responsible for special projects relating to both program evaluation and implementation.

Debbie received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from the University of Connecticut and completed graduate level courses in statistics and survey methodology. She joined the Census Bureau's Statistical Methods Division in 1977 to provide operational analysis of multiple processing components of the 1980 Decennial Census. During the 1980's, Debbie was a branch chief in the Decennial Planning Division, supervising staff and overseeing project coordination of testing and planning of the 1990 Census. She received her first Bronze medal in 1987 for her role in developing the work flow for the 1990 Census. During the 1990 Census she was the chief of the Census Evaluation Branch, Decennial Statistical Studies Division, and was responsible to monitor census operations, design evaluation studies, and assist with the development of census experiments. This branch included many staff who worked part time while working on degrees in the Joint Program for Survey Methodology.

In 1999 Debbie became a part of the team charged with the implementation and evaluation of the American Community Survey (ACS). She established a staff to conduct important ACS research and evaluation projects. She was responsible for documenting critical research on the feasibility and quality of the ACS and overseeing the production of the ACS design and methodology report. In 2003 the ACS was moved into the Decennial Directorate and Debbie became a special assistant to the Assistant Director for Decennial Census and ACS. In 2006 she received her second Bronze medal as part of an interdivisional team that used ACS data to produce a special product for gulf coast areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

When the American Community Survey Office (ACSO) was established she was reassigned to the ACSO chief. She has authored several papers and given numerous presentations on all aspects of the ACS. Recently she received a third Bronze medal for the development of a set of audience-specific educational materials for ACS data users. In 2009 she was named to the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology.

Susan Schechter states in her nominating letter that “the ease with which Debbie approaches mentoring a wide variety of individuals results consistently in her teaching and improving their skill set and understanding of statistics, surveys, and data quality.” Debbie “has a natural skill in simplifying very complicated issues and teaching to others how to approach and solve very thorny problems.” Susan further praises Debbie’s abilities by noting that “every single day she sets an outstanding example for those around her and it is a testament to her mentoring skills that so many people consider her their mentor...”

Others who work with Debbie have highlighted her amazing abilities to help junior staff grow. One states that Debbie “coaches them through the development of research plans, proposals, analysis and even the writing and presentation. Through Debbie’s motivation and guidance, the staff is able to build the self-confidence needed for their projects and to continue to grow and develop professionally.” Another colleague points out that Debbie doesn’t just teach you how to do something; she encourages individuals to think and solve problems themselves which not only builds esteem and confidence, but surely strengthens skills and abilities. “Among the ways Debbie helped us grow was encouraging us to become more involved in the survey methodology community—attending conferences, making presentations, and sharing our results with as many people as possible.”

In conveying her thanks, Griffin stated, “I get a lot of satisfaction when I see someone I’ve worked with get a promotion, give a great presentation, or complete an important project. It’s clear to me that young staff that get the support they need will grow in skill and confidence and be able to take on the challenges of the upcoming decades.”

She also stated that, “the support I have received has encouraged me to want to pass it on—by mentoring and supporting staff around me. To teach when that’s needed and to always be aware of the example I’m setting. As I’ve gained confidence, and learned by both successes and failures, I felt in a position to advise others, to listen and give my honest opinions.

For mentoring to be successful it requires two things: Someone like myself (and so many of the people here today) who are willing to find the time to reach out to junior staff, to have an open door for colleagues and who care about the example they set, and someone who is willing to ask for help and listen to advice.”

The Ceremony

Beth Kilss, Katherine Wallman, Andy Orlin, and Carol House conducted the awards ceremony. Kilss, formerly of the IRS and currently chair of the award selection committee, chaired the ceremony. Wallman, chief statistician at the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President, and Chair of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, introduced the

honoree and members of the audience. She also talked about the award during its early life. Andy Orlin, Jeanne E. Griffin's spouse, congratulated the Debbie Griffin and expressed his appreciation to the award selection committee and to the Government Statistics Section of ASA for assuming direction and management of the award process and for further strengthening the program over the past 2 years. House, formerly of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and award selection committee member, presented Griffin's award and read her citation. Griffin's supervisor, Susan Schechter, Chief American Community Survey Office, U.S. Bureau of the Census, highlighted Griffin's extensive mentoring talents and her many contributions to the ACS Office, and noted on a personal level how she had benefited from Griffin's exceptional skills.

Census Bureau Director Bob Groves, who was a member of the first award selection committee, congratulated Griffin, whom he has known for over 20 years. He also spoke about the value of mentors by noting that while Human Resource staffs seek equity and consistency, they do not often express care and support, and as organizations grow, the humanity is threatened. Large Federal organizations are susceptible to this; hence, the value of mentors. Groves also noted that some of the qualities of a good mentor, among others include a love of people; they are unrushed and take time; few are flashy or "in your face"; they occupy all levels of the hierarchy; and they listen before talking.



The Griffin Family—left to right: husband Mark, son Brian, Deborah, son Kevin



Left to right: Robert Groves, Beth Kilss, Deborah Griffin, Katherine Wallman, Andy Orlin, Susan Schechter, and Carol House (Photo by Tim Ware, Ideal Vision, LLC, idealvision@verizon.net)

The History

Jeanne E. Griffith worked for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her 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 junior staff to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along. After her death from breast cancer in 2001, the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was set up to honor Jeanne's memory by encouraging mentoring of junior staff in the Federal statistical system.



Jeanne E. Griffith

The Jeanne E. Griffith award has honored mentors across the government since 2003:

Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Winners

Rich Allen, National Agriculture Statistical Service	2003
Beth A. Kilss, Internal Revenue Service	2004
Renee Miller, Energy Information Agency	2005
Martin O'Connell, U.S. Bureau of the Census	2006
Stephanie Shipp, National Institute of Standards and Technology	2007
Rosemary D. Marcuss, Bureau of Economic Analysis	2008
Kevin Cecco, Internal Revenue Service	2009
Lillian S. Lin, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	2009
Deborah H. Griffin, U.S. Bureau of the Census	2010

Transition to the Government Statistics Section

In 2007, Orlin and Elliott—two of the award's founders—approached the Government Statistics Section about managing the award. When they met with the section's board, there was no hesitation in taking on the leadership role; in fact, there was much enthusiasm and delight in being asked. Carol House was chair of the section at the time, and ASA Director of Operations. Steve Porzio and Sections Coordinator Monica Clark were instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition.

The Government Statistics Section will not only administer the award process from now on, but will—as a priority—raise the visibility of the award by emphasizing the importance of mentoring across the government and particularly the Federal, State, and Local Statistical communities.

Sponsoring the Award

Four organizations have joined the GSS in providing financial support for the award. The Award Committee would like to thank John Thompson of the National Opinion Research Center (NORC), Sol Pelavin of the American Institutes for Research, Ed Spar of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS), and Felicia Levine of American Educational Research

Association (AERA) for their generous contributions. The Award committee would also like to thank Katherine Wallman of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) for its continuing support of the program.

GSS is seeking long-term corporate sponsors to help increase the amount of the honorarium and to allow for more awards to be given. The section will continue to raise funds each year until a sufficient amount is raised to make the award self-sustaining.

Contact Stephanie Shipp at sshipp@ida.org if you would like to be a supporter. *Individual contributions are welcome as well and can be sent directly to ASA, noting the contribution to the Jeanne E. Griffith award on the check. (American Statistical Association, 732 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-1943.)*

Nominations for the 2011 Award

Nominations for the 2011 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award will be accepted beginning in January. Look for an article in *Amstat News* toward the end of 2010 that will describe the nomination process. Also, check out the newsletters and listservs of the Government Statistics Section and the Washington Statistical Society for information.

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Title: Statistics Without Borders Post-Earthquake Efforts in Haiti

Speakers: James D. Ashley and Justin S. Fisher, U.S. Government Accountability Office

Discussant: Fritz Scheuren, NORC

Chair: Scott Clement, Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 14, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Pew Research Center 1615 L Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036-5621

RSVP Instructions: If you are planning on attending this seminar, please email Michael P. Cohen at mpcohen@juno.com by Tuesday, September 7.

Point of Contact: Michael P. Cohen, mpcohen@juno.com or (202) 232-4651

Sponsors: WSS Human Rights, DC-AAPOR, and Capital Area Social Psychological Association

Abstracts:

Considerations in the Study Design of a Mobile Phone Survey of the Haitian Population

Presented by James D. Ashley, U.S. Government Accountability Office

We outline the feasibility and benefits of conducting telephone interviews to measure the economic impact of the January 2010 Haitian earthquake using a random digit dial (RDD) sample of mobile phone numbers. Traditional methods of sampling and data collection after the earthquake would have been difficult, time consuming, and costly. The logistical challenges caused by the destruction of buildings and roads, the large amount of internal displacement, migration away from the Port-au-Prince population center, and the increasing use of mobile phones in Haiti made this kind of survey an attractive option. Moreover, mobile technology in Haiti allowed us to deliver instant incentives by adding pre-paid minutes to the respondents' cell phones. Our presentation will focus on coverage issues, contact and response rates, defining households, and the construction of appropriate household weights. This survey has provided invaluable information about the potential of conducting mobile phone interviews after a natural disaster and may help shape methodological directions for collecting data in developing countries around the world.

Survey Administration in the Wake of a Natural Disaster

Presented by Justin S. Fisher, U.S. Government Accountability Office

Only two months after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, our goal was to collect quality data to inform aid decisions by measuring the earthquake's economic impact and any changes in household composition. Because of the extent of the damage, and the slow nature of recovery work, the physical infrastructure and living conditions of many Haitians presented special challenges for our data collection efforts. Our initial objective of conducting an area sample proved unrealistic, given the situation on the ground. Consequently, we decided to conduct a survey entirely by mobile phone, which required special consideration be given to minimizing non-sampling errors. We will focus on questionnaire development, cooperation incentives, and supervisor and interviewer training (as well as logistical considerations) in light of the challenges that this collection mode poses for measurement, non-response, coverage, and processing errors.

Title: Child Health and the Environment: Do Epidemiology and Survey Statistics Make a Difference Globally?**Speaker:** Ruth H. Allen, PhD, MPH

US EPA (retired) and Visiting Scientist at Johns Hopkins University

Chair: Mel Kollander**Date/Time:** Thursday, September 16, 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.

Point of Contact: ruth.allen@gmail.com**Sponsor:** Agriculture and Natural Resources**Abstract:**

The state of the world's children is a sensitive marker of global health and environmental progress. Statistics are the core element in any reassessment of progress over the last several decades. Concepts of survey statistics and epidemiology provide a framework for a reexamination of child mortality, morbidity, including birth defects and childhood brain cancer, education and special environmental circumstances in the last forty years. Data come from published sources including the UN, World Bank, public and private sector. The objective of this presentation is to evaluate what happened and to recommend next steps to several audiences of scientific, governmental, private sector and ordinary people.

Title: Conducting Nonresponse Bias Analysis for Business Surveys**Speaker:** Joanna Fane Lineback, Mathematical Statistician, U.S. Census Bureau**Discussant:** Clyde Tucker, Senior Survey Methodologist, Bureau of Labor Statistics**Chair:** Maura Bardos, Research Assistant/Programmer, Mathematica Policy Research**Date/Time:** Wednesday, September 22, 2010 / 12:30 - 2:00 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.

Point of Contact: Grace.O'Neill@eia.doe.gov or (202) 586-6485.**Sponsors:** WSS Data Collection Methods and DC-AAPOR**Abstract:**

Office of Management and Budget Statistical Standards require survey programs to conduct a nonresponse bias analysis when response rates fail to meet target values. The literature focuses largely on nonresponse bias analysis methods for demographic surveys. Such surveys are generally characterized by multi-stage designs with heterogeneous populations within selected clusters. In contrast, business surveys are characterized by single-stage designs with

highly skewed populations. In this presentation, I discuss nonresponse bias analysis methods for business surveys, including response rate analysis, the use of frame data, and the examination of the response prediction and propensity models. I illustrate these methods with examples from ongoing economic programs conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Modeling Log-Linear Conditional Probabilities for Prediction in Surveys

Speaker: Yves Thibaudeau, U.S. Census Bureau, Principal Researcher

Organizer: David Judkins, Westat, WSS Methodology Section Chair

Chair: Adam Safir, BLS, WSS Methodology Program Chair

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 29, 2010, 12:30-2:00 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: Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract:

It is shown how to model conditional probabilities subject to log-linear constraints and construct estimators that are more efficient than the Horvitz-Thompson weighted sum estimator for estimating population sizes in the context of a poststratified survey with unknown stratum sizes. Our approach rests on computing an hybrid predictor, similar to that of Pfeffermann et al (1998), and the expansion of a specific parameterization for conditional probabilities restricted by log-linear constraints, as proposed by Thibaudeau (2003). This parameterization facilitates the computation of MLE's and makes it possible to apply the method of Laplace for variance estimation. Calibration estimators will also be considered as an alternative to our approach.

**Title: Dealing with Survey Nonresponse: In Data Collection, in Estimation
20th ANNUAL MORRIS HANSEN LECTURE
On the Occasion of His 100th Birthday**

Speaker: Carl-Erik Särndal, Statistics Sweden

Discussants: J. Michael Brick, Westat

Roger Tourangeau, University of Michigan &

Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Location: Jefferson Auditorium of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's South Building (Independence Avenue, SW, between 12th and 14th Streets). Smithsonian Metro Stop (Blue/Orange Lines). Enter through Wing 5 or Wing 7 from Independence Avenue (The special assistance entrance is at 12th & Independence). A photo ID is required.

Sponsors: The Washington Statistical Society, Westat, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Abstract:

In dealing with survey nonresponse, statisticians need to consider (a) measures to be taken at

the data collection stage, and (b) measures to be taken at the estimation stage. One may practice a form of responsive design: In the later stages of the data collection, one tries to realize an ultimate response set that is "better balanced" or "more representative" than if no special effort is made. When the data collection is terminated, one still faces, at the estimation stage, the question of how to achieve the best possible reduction of nonresponse bias in the estimates. This effort is aided by a bias indicator, constructed as a function of selected powerful auxiliary variables. The concept of "balanced response set" extends the well known idea of "balanced sample." It has a bearing on both aspect (a) and aspect (b). The statistical properties of a proposed measure of "lack of balance" are explored and illustrated.

Reception: 5:30 p.m. in the Patio of the Department of Agriculture Jamie L. Whitten Building

Note: Please pre-register for this event to help facilitate access to the building online at

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/>

Title: Simultaneous Calibration and Nonresponse Adjustment

Speaker: Eric Slud, University of Maryland and U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Adam Safir, BLS, WSS Methodology Program Chair

Organizer: David Judkins, Westat, WSS Methodology Section Chair

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 12:30-2:00 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: Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract:

Single and joint inclusion probabilities are generally known for complex survey designs up to the point where survey weights are modified due to nonresponse and population controls. Best practice by sophisticated survey practitioners generally includes weight modifications, first by calibration, ratio adjustment or raking to correct for nonresponse, next by further steps to impose population survey controls; and often, by final steps involving weight truncation or cell-collapsing to constrain the modified weights, usually so that the largest and smallest weights do not differ by more than a designated multiplicative factor. This talk presents a method for generalized-raking calibration in which all of these adjustments are accomplished in a single stage. Some large-sample superpopulation theory is described, which allows estimated or incorrect control totals, and which leads to linearization-based variance formulas for the resulting estimators. The method and estimators are illustrated in a moderate-sized hypothetical design and in the setting of the (Survey of Income and Program Participation)

SIPP 1996 (Wave 1). This talk is based on joint work with Yves Thibaudeau at the Statistical Research Division, of the Census Bureau.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

Event: Statistics Symposium in celebration of its 75th Anniversary

Host: Department of Statistics at the George Washington University

Date: September 25, 2010

Sponsors: Department of Statistics, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, GW Alumni Association

Speakers: Peter Bickel, Mitchell Gail, Myron Katzoff, William Rosenberger, Fritz Scheuren, Robert Shumway, Michael Sinclair, Robert Smythe, Nancy Spruill, L. J. Wei, Scott Zeger, Gang Zheng.

Information and Registration: <http://www.gwu.edu/~stat/75th> or contact Tapan Nayak (tapan@gwu.edu, 202-994-6549)

Description:

This is the first department of statistics in a college of arts and sciences in USA, which was founded in 1935 with Dr. Frank Weida as Chair. The conference aims to highlight a variety of theoretical and applied statistical research. We also hope the event will bring together the alumni and friends of the department.

Event: 1st ACM International Health Informatics Symposium

Host: International Health Informatics 2010

Date: November 11-12, 2010

Location: Arlington, VA

Hilton Crystal City

Crystal City stop on Yellow and Blue lines of Washington Metro

Close to Reagan National Airport and many Washington D.C. area attractions

Information and Registration:

Online registration is now available at the conference website (<http://ihi2010.sighi.org>). We also encourage you to stay at the conference hotel at the pre-negotiated conference rates. A direct link to the Hilton hotel reservation system is conveniently available at the conference website.

Description:

IHI 2010 is the inaugural symposium on health informatics promoted by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). IHI is designed to run as an annual showcase for exciting and innovative research on techniques and technologies developed in universities, hospitals, research labs, and companies all over the world.

IHI 2010 will feature about 120 contributions from more than 30 countries, including regular 10-page papers, short 5-page papers, and demonstrations. Selected regular papers will be presented in oral plenary sessions. Other papers and demos will be presented by the authors in an open setting, specifically designed to encourage conversation and discussion. The symposium will cover the breadth of problems faced by the community: health informatics education, telemedicine, systems for decision support, human-centered design, information retrieval techniques for health applications, accessibility to personalized predictive modeling

techniques, and so on. A highlight of the conference is that we will give awards for the best regular paper and the best short paper.

IHI 2010 reflects a collective community effort including reviewers as well as corporate sponsors, who gave generously of their time and who provided funds to specific areas of the symposium. The following companies and institutions generously provided financial support: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, IBM, Indiana University, Google, Hidola, and Siemens.

**Event: Federal Committee On Statistical Methodology Statistical Policy Seminar
Beyond Our Traditions: Innovative Approaches to Longstanding and Emerging
Challenges**

Host: The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)

Speakers: John Thompson, President, National Opinion Research Center

Date: December 14-15, 2010

Location: Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, Washington D.C. 20001

Cost: \$195.00 per person

Sponsors:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality * Bureau of Economic Analysis * Bureau of Justice Statistics * Bureau of Labor Statistics * Economic Research Service * Energy Information Administration * Environmental Protection Agency * National Agricultural Statistics Service * National Center for Education Statistics * National Center for Health Statistics * Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics of the Social Security Administration * Statistics of Income Division of the Internal Revenue Service * Science Resources Statistics/National Science Foundation * U.S. Census Bureau

Information and registration:

COPAFS Office, Phone 703-836-0404, Fax: 703-836-0406, copafs@aol.com www.copafs.org

Description:

This event is the 10th in a Series of Seminars Hosted by COPAFS. Participants will include statisticians, economists, and managers, as well as other professionals in the broader statistical community who share an interest in keeping current on issues related to federal data.

Topics Will Include:

- * Examining the Costs of Federal Surveys
- * External Peer Reviews of Major Statistical Programs
- * Future Directions in Questionnaire Testing
- * Data Quality of Administrative Records
- * Addressing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Surveys
- * Gaining and Tracking Participation in the 2010 Decennial Census
- * Emerging Issues in Disclosure Avoidance
- * Emerging Challenges in Federal Statistics
- * Issues in Online Panel Surveys

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

JPSM Short Courses

www.jpsm.org

Short Courses: 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.

September 16, 2010

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System

Katharine G. Abraham and Brian Harris-Kojetin

Registration Deadline: September 2, 2010 (Wait List)

September 30, 2010

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System

Katharine G. Abraham and Brian Harris-Kojetin

Registration Deadline: September 16, 2010 (Wait List)

October 28-29, 2010

Introduction to Project Management for Surveys

Michael F. Weeks

Registration Deadline: October 14, 2010

November 9-10, 2010

Creating and Updating Price Indexes: Theory and Practice

Dennis J. Fixler and Richard L. Valliant

Registration Deadline: October 26, 2010

November 22, 2010 (1-Day Course)

Practical Tools for Nonresponse Bias Studies

Jill Montaquila and Kristen Olson

Registration Deadline: November 8, 2010

December 15-16, 2010

Introduction to Survey Sampling

Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski

Registration Deadline: December 1, 2010

January 12-13, 2011

Web Survey Design

Mick P. Couper

Registration Deadline: December 29, 2010

February 24-25, 2011

The Use of Paradata and Process Data in Social Surveys

Frauke Kreuter

Registration Deadline: February 10, 2011

March 3-4, 2011

Introduction to Survey Estimation

David Morganstein and Richard L. Valliant

Registration Deadline: February 17, 2011

March 23, 2011 (1-Day course)

Telephone Surveys in the Era of Cell Phones

Scott Keeter and J. Michael Brick

Registration Deadline: March 9, 2011

April 18-19, 2011

Writing Questions for Surveys: A Workshop

Nora Cate Schaeffer

Registration Deadline: April 4, 2011

April 28-29, 2011

The Psychology of Survey Responses

Roger Tourangeau and Frederick Conrad

Registration Deadline: April 14, 2011

May 2011 (Dates to be determined)

Analysis and Presentation of Economic Data

Katharine G. Abraham and Deborah P. Klein

June 13-14, 2011

Methods for Longitudinal Surveys

Peter Lynn

Registration Deadline: May 30, 2011

SIGSTAT Topics for Fall/Winter 2010-2011

<http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>

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 p.m.

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.

October 20, 2010: Bootstrapping in SAS

(<http://support.sas.com/resources/papers/proceedings10/268-2010.pdf>)

The most common way that people use SAS to perform bootstrapping is very inefficient – usually involving a macro loop wrapped around some SAS code.

Making use of the by-processing available in SAS leads to much more efficient methods for any kind of resampling in SAS.

The talk is based on a paper given by David Cassell at the 2010 Global SAS Forum, “BootstrapMania!: Re-Sampling the SAS® Way” (see above link)

November 17, 2010: SAS/IML Studio 3.2: Part 1 - Introduction to SAS/IML Studio

(<http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/imlsstat/63827/PDF/default/imlsstat.pdf>)

The programming language in SAS/IML Studio, which is called IMLPlus, is an enhanced version of the SAS/IML programming language.

The “Plus” part of the name refers to new features that extend the SAS/IML language, including the ability to create and manipulate statistical graphs, to call SAS procedures, and to call functions in the R programming language.

SAS/IML Studio is intended for SAS programmers who want to implement algorithms that are not available in any SAS procedure, but SAS/IML Studio also provides a graphical user interface (GUI) to a number of standard statistical methods.

These notes are based on the document SAS/IML® Studio 3.2 for SAS/STAT® Users - Second Edition by Rick Wicklin , 2010 (see above link)

December 15, 2010: SAS/IML Studio 3.2: Part 2 - Reading and Writing Data

(<http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/imlsstat/63827/PDF/default/imlsstat.pdf>)

SAS/IML Studio runs in a Microsoft Windows operating environment, but it can communicate with SAS software that runs on other computers.

The PC on which SAS/IML Studio runs is called the client. The computer on which the SAS system runs is called the SAS server.

Dynamically linked graphs require an in-memory DataObject that runs on the client PC.

Calling a SAS procedure requires a SAS data set in a library on the server.

Therefore, if you are graphically exploring data and decide to perform an analysis with a procedure, you must write data from a DataObject into a SAS data set in a server library.

After the analysis is finished, you might want to read results from an output data set and add one or more variables to the in-memory DataObject.

These notes are based on the document SAS/IML® Studio 3.2 for SAS/STAT® Users - Second Edition by Rick Wicklin, 2010. (See above link)

American Statistical Association's Survey Research Methods Section (ASA SRMS) and the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Fall 2010 Webinars

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/webinar.cfm>

For each webinar, participants register for a modest fee. Fees may vary from webinar to webinar depending on the length of the presentation and expected audience. Each registration is allowed one web connection and one audio connection. The section encourages multiple persons to view each registered connection.

Abstracts, author biographies, and registration information will be posted in the near future.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 1-3 p.m. Eastern

Small Area Estimation

Partha Lahiri, University of Maryland

Tuesday, November 30, 2010, 1-3p.m. Eastern

Address Based Sampling

Michael Link, The Nielsen Company

Georgetown University MS Program in Mathematics and Statistics

<http://math.georgetown.edu/programs/graduate/>

For details see the program website or contact Prof Ken Shaw, Director of Graduate Studies, jks49@georgetown.edu, 202-687-5260.

The Mathematics and Statistics Department at Georgetown University announces its *tentative* course offerings for spring semester 2011.

Application Deadline is October 1, 2010

The program prerequisite is the equivalent of a minor in mathematics.

Math 502 Deterministic Mathematical Models (Applied Math)
Math 503 Mathematical Statistics
Math 504 Numerical Methods
Math 601 Partial Differential Equations
Math 605 Financial Mathematics
A new course in Bayesian Statistics

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.

Additional employment opportunities are available at: <http://scs.gmu.edu/~wss/employ.html>.

WESTAT

WESTAT is an employee-owned research 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:

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Qualifications include three 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.

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1650 Research Boulevard

Rockville, MD 20850-3195

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GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, BIostatISTICS CENTER

Seeking to hire Clinical Trial Biostatisticians to serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs.

Basic Qualifications: 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.

FROM WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **October 2010** issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until **September 30, 2010**. Email items to Colleen S. Choi at wss.editor@ymail.com.

Please submit all materials in **MS WORD** or **plain text**.



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