WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Nominations Sought for WSS Board Positions

John L. Eltinge, Past President, WSS
Darryl Creel, Secretary, WSS

As we move toward the spring, the WSS will hold its annual elections for several important positions on its Board of Directors.

For the 2011 elections, the open positions include:

- **President-Elect**
  - for July, 2011 to June, 2012
  - to serve as President July, 2012 June, 2013 and Past President July, 2013 to June, 2014
- **Secretary**
  - for July, 2011 to June, 2013
- **Two Representatives-at-Large**
  - for July, 2011 to June, 20113
- **Methodology Program Chair**
  - for July, 2011 to June, 2012
  - to serve as Methodology Section Chair July, 2012 to June, 20013

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2011 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the non-government (academic and private) sector. For any other position, nominations may come from either the government or non-government sectors. For all of the positions listed above, we heartily welcome nominations from any member of the Washington Statistical Society. Please e-mail your nominations to Past President John Eltinge (Eltinge.John@bls.gov<mailto:Eltinge.John@bls.gov>) by **March 15, 2011**.

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Title: **An application of a two-phase address-based approach to sampling for subpopulations**

Organizer: David Judkins, Westat, WSS Methodology Section Chair

Chair: Nick Beyler, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Speakers: Jill M. Montaquila, Douglas Williams, Daifeng Han, Westat

Date/Time: **Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 12:30-2:00pm**

Location:

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Main Conference Room
Virtual attendance is also available by webinar or audio feed by phone

To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please RSVP to Bruno Vizcarra at bvizcarra@mathematica-mpr.com or (202) 484-4231 by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar. Provide your name, affiliation, contact information (email is preferred) and the seminar date. Once on the seminar list, you will be provided with information about webinar and phone viewing for the seminar in case you chose to not attend in person. Mathematica is located at 600 Maryland Ave., SW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20024. If traveling by Metro, take the Orange, Blue, Green, or Yellow Line to the L'Enfant Plaza Station and follow signs to exit at 7th and Maryland. The entrance to the building will be to your right at the top of the escalators. If traveling by car, pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located on 6th Street SW, across from the Holiday Inn. Once in the building, take the elevators by Wachovia to the 5th floor lobby and inform the secretary that you are attending the WSS seminar. Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220) if you have trouble finding the building or the 5th floor lobby.

Sponsor: Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract:

Historically, random digit dial (RDD) sampling with computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) administration has been viewed as an efficient approach for administering subpopulation surveys. However, due to declines in response rates and coverage, alternatives to landline RDD sampling are being considered. One alternative is address-based sampling (ABS), but methods appropriate for subpopulations have not been examined adequately. In the Fall of 2009, we conducted a pilot study to evaluate ABS, with mail as the primary mode of collection, for a subpopulation. The goal was to replace a periodic survey of preschoolers and school-age children that previously had been conducted using RDD. This study included a screening phase to determine a household's eligibility, followed by a topical survey administered in eligible households.

In this three-part presentation, we present results of the pilot study and discuss the implications for an approach that maximizes response in a two-phase survey setting.   We begin with an overview of key findings from the pilot study. Next, we present different versions of the screener package that were tested, and give results of the experimental evaluation of these versions, with particular emphasis on the findings for households with children. The third part of the presentation focuses on how the response rate, demographic characteristics, and key survey estimates change with screener follow-up attempts. We conclude with a summary and discussion of the implications of these findings on future studies.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

Event: **International Spatial Statistics 2011 conference**
Speakers:

Martin Schlather (Universität Göttingen, Germany), Noel Cressie (Ohio State University, USA) and Yong Ge (State Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information System, China

Date: **March 23 – 25, 2011**
Location: Enschede, The Netherlands
Description:

Please see conference website (http://www.spatialstatisticsconference.com/). Abstracts are now invited on these topics

Event: **The 18th Federal Forecasters Conference**
Date/Time: **April 21 2011, 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**
Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington DC, 20212
Take the Red Line to Union Station. Bring a photo ID to the conference.

Sponsors:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration/Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs, Economic Research Service, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Internal Revenue Service, International Trade Administration, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Postal Service, and Center for Economic Research, George Washington University

Theme:

Environmental issues have become an increasing priority for governments, businesses, and consumers. Challenges to forecasters include the implementation of programs and policies addressing efficiency, alternative energy sources, jobs, health, air and water quality, transportation, land use, and recycling programs. The 2011 Federal Forecasters Conference will examine how forecasters face this challenge and how policy-makers and other decision-makers use forecasts to make decisions.

Description:

For further information visit www.federalforecasters.org or contact Pheny Weidman at pheny.weidman@dot.gov; (202) 366-2817.

Event: **GDRR 2011 - Second Symposium on GAMES AND DECISIONS IN RELIABILITY AND RISK**

Host: CNR IMATI and Institute for Integrating Statistics in Decision Sciences, George Washington University

(Confirmed) Speakers:

Simon French, Miguel Lejeune, Massimo Marinacci, Jorge Mateu, Robert Nau, Nicholas Polson, David Rios Insua, Renata Rotondi, Marco Scarcini, Nozer Singpurwalla, Jim Q. Smith, Fabio Spizzichino, Fabio Trojani and Robert Wolpert

Date: **May 19-21, 2011**

Location: Hotel Villa Carlotta, Belgirate (VB), Lake Maggiore, Italy

Description:

The symposium follows the one held in Washington at George Washington University in 2009.

The objective of the symposium is to present novel use of game and decision theory in reliability and risk analysis and to bring together researchers from disciplines such as economics, engineering, finance, mathematics, medical sciences, probability and statistics who have a lot to contribute to this theme.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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People interested in presenting a paper at the symposium are kindly invited to send an abstract by DECEMBER 1, 2010, to fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it. Details on registration fees, lodging, location and travel can be found on the web site (www.mi.imati.cnr.it/conferences/gdrr11.html).

Event: **Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys**
Host: Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions
Date: **June 11–14, 2012**
Location: Sheraton Centre Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada
Description:

The ICES series of conferences serves an important role in the world of survey methodology. Few other conferences focus on methods and applications for establishment surveys.

The first three conferences held in 1993, 2000 and 2007 were successful, with more than 400 attendees per conference. The conferences covered a spectrum of survey methods for businesses, farms, and institutions. The fourth conference will continue along this path. Examples of potential topics include the following:
• Updating business registers
• Sample design challenges
• Questionnaire design for establishment surveys
• Collecting data electronically from establishment surveys
• Issues of multi-mode data collection
• Factors that affect establishment survey participation
• Generalized survey processing systems for establishment surveys
• Measuring nonresponse bias
• Variance estimation
• Advances in disclosure protection
• Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
• New directions in establishment surveys

The conference will include short courses, a keynote speaker, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and invited and contributed paper sessions. Online solicitation for invited papers opens **December 1, 2010**, and will continue until **March 1, 2011**. Online solicitation for contributed papers will occur **June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011**. Inquiries may be directed to ices4@amstat.org.

Call for Invited Paper Session Proposals
As the fourth in the series of international conferences on establishment surveys, ICES-IV is designed to look forward at key issues and methods pertaining to establishment surveys. We invite you to submit a proposal for an invited paper session by **March 1, 2011**. The ICES-IV program committee will review the proposals and notify session organizers by the end of **May 2011** to let them know whether their proposal has been accepted.

Invited sessions will have three 25-minute presentations, a 15-minute formal discussion in which a discussant draws out the main themes of the session and asks questions of the authors, and a 5–10-minute floor discussion.

Proposal Submission:

Online submission of invited session proposals will open **December 1, 2010, and close March 1, 2011 at www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012.**

Session organizers will be asked to submit a proposal describing the session topic and why it is important or what has changed since ICES-III in 2007 and include the names of session presenters and abstracts for each presentation. If a session proposal is accepted, session presenters will be asked to upload an abstract to the conference system by **September 30, 2011.**

There are limited invited sessions, and the program committee is seeking sessions of a consistently high quality for ICES-IV, so we request that organizers provide sufficient information to clearly demonstrate the importance of the topic and the quality of its contributions. We encourage proposals that incorporate presenters and perspectives from different countries and agencies/departments. If a proposal is not accepted as an invited session, the organizer will be invited to resubmit the session as a topic-contributed session. The deadline for contributed papers (including topic-contributed sessions) is August 31, 2011. Information about the differences between the invited and contributed sessions and their formats is available at **www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012**.

Event: **International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations**

Host: H2R|2012: Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations

Date: **October 31–November 3, 2012**

Location: Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Description:

The H2R 2012 conference will bring together survey methodologists, sociologists, statisticians, demographers, ethnographers, and other professionals from around the world to present new and innovative techniques for surveying hard-to-reach populations. Addressing both the statistical and survey design aspects of including hard-to-reach groups, researchers will report findings from censuses, surveys, and other research related to the identification, definition, measurement, and methodologies for surveying and enumerating undercounted populations.

Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (H2R)

Defining H2R populations
Measuring undercounts for H2R groups
Improving measurement with administrative records
Sampling H2R populations

Techniques and Methodologies

Recruitment methods
Targeting the H2R
Use of social marketing and outreach campaigns
Overcoming language and literacy barriers
Use of community-based organizations
Dealing with complex living and housing situations
Tracking and tracing H2R populations

H2R Subpopulations

Racial minorities
Immigrant populations
Indigenous populations
Highly mobile and migrant populations
Homeless and refugee populations
Sexual minorities
Populations affected by natural disasters
Populations in zones of armed conflict
Stigmatized populations
Cross-cultural similarities and differences in H2R populations
Linguistic and cultural minorities

Calls for Submissions

       February–March 2011: Invited Call for Submissions

       April–May 2011: Contributed Call for Submissions

Information: (website) www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012

              (email)   H2R2012@amstat.org.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

JPSM Short Course

Main site: www.jpsm.org
Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

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

March 23, 2011
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

Forthcoming Info-Metrics Workshops and Summer Classes:
(Announcements and Call for Papers)

Info-Metrics Institute

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, DC
http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/econometrics.cfm

Registration and additional information about activities, reports, etc., see:

http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/index.cfm

WORKSHOPS:

Spring 2011

Info-Metrics Across the Sciences, May 2, 2011, Washington DC, USA

http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/index.cfm

Fall 2011 (October)

Philosophy of Information, October 3, 2011, Washington DC, USA

http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2011-fall.cfm

Fall 2011 (November)

Information Theory and Shrinkage Estimation, November 12, 2011, Washington DC, USA

http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2011-november.cfm

Spring 2012 (March)

Information and Econometrics of Networks, March 30-31, 2012, Washington DC, USA

http://www.american.edu/cas/economics/info-metrics/workshop/workshop-2012-spring.cfm

SUMMER PROGRAM:

May 9-13, 2011

Info-Metrics: Theory and Practice

Instructor: Amos Golan (American U)

May 23-27, 2011

Spatial Econometrics: Theory and Practice

Instructor: Ingmar Prucha, U. of Maryland College Park

SIGSTAT Topics for Fall/Winter 2010-2011

http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/, http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/Schedule.htm

Description:

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.

Location:

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.

Point of Contact:

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY - SHORT COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data

April 14-15, 2011

Registration Deadline: **April 1, 2011**

In order to extract maximum information at minimum cost, survey designs are typically more complex than simple random samples. Clustered and stratified sample designs are common. This course discusses methods for analyzing and making inferences with complex sample survey data. The course will be lecture-based, but participants may bring their own laptop computers with software for the analysis of survey data installed to follow along with the examples.

Day 1: An Overview of Complex Sample Designs and Methods for Inference

- Complex Samples and Design Effects in Survey Estimation and Inference
- Weighting and Complex Sample Inference
- Sampling Error Calculation: Taylor Series Linearization Method and Replication Techniques
- Software for Sampling Error Estimation
- Inference for Descriptive Statistics

Day 2: Analytic Methods and Software for Analysis of Survey Data

- Subpopulation Analysis, Percentiles, Functions of Descriptive Statistics
- Analysis of Categorical Data
- Linear Regression Analysis and Logistic Regression Analysis of Complex Sample Survey Data

About the Instructors:

Dr. Steven G. Heeringa is the Director of the Statistical Design Group at the University of Michigan (UM) Institute for Social Research and a faculty member of the UM Program in Survey Methods (MPSM) and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. **Mr. Brady T. West** is a Ph.D. candidate at MSPM and a Lead Statistician at the UM Center for Statistical Consultation and Research. Dr. Heeringa and Mr. West, along with Pat Berglund, authored Applied Survey Data Analysis (Chapman and Hall, 2010) and both have extensive experiences with teaching survey sampling and analysis methods.

Who Should Attend:

Participants should have a working knowledge of applied statistical analysis. Background in applied survey sampling is recommended but not required. No knowledge of specific software is required.

Schedule for Course:

The course will be held 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM during April 14th and 15th. There will be coffee and light breakfast items in the morning before class both days. Lunch will also be provided both days.

Location:

BLS Conference Center (Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212-0001)

Registration Fee:

The book "Applied Survey Data Analysis" (Chapman and Hall, 2010) is not required for the course, but highly recommended by the instructors.

Fees

Full-time Students (only 5 slots available)
        $65 without book, $125 with book
WSS Member
        $275 without book, $335 with book
Other Registrants
        $325 without book $385 with book

Registration

Register at https://www.123signup.com/register?id=vbkcm
Class size is limited. Please register early.

Additional Information

Please contact DaifengHan@westat.com or WendyVandeKerckhove@Westat.com.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

2011 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 2010 award recipient was Dr. Dale W. Jorgenson for for his contributions to the measurement of productivity, innovation, capital, human capital, poverty, and for his leadership in the integration of the U.S. National Accounts.

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

Nominations for the 2011 award are now being accepted. Individuals and groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. The award will be presented with an honorarium of $1000 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.

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.

Completed nominations must be received **by March 15, 2011**.

Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

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 2011 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. **Nominations must be submitted no later than March 25, 2011.**

Nominations for 2011 will be accepted beginning in **January 2011.** The last date for submission of nominations is **March 25, 2011**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 22, 2011**. 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 2011.**

For more information about the nominating process for the 2011 award, please go to: http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.doc or http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.pdf.

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org (703) 684-1221, and **Carol House** at housca@gmail.com 703-989-1334.

 The nomination package may be mailed or emailed **no later than March 25, 2011**, to:

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

Herriot Award

Nominations are sought for the 2011 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 2011 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 2011. 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), Lynda Carlson (NSF), and Katharine G. Abraham (JPSM, University of Maryland).

Nominations for the 2011 award will be accepted beginning in **February 2011**. 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 demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- 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 Robert Fay, Chair, 2011 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 240-314-2318 or BobFay@Westat.com. Completed packages must be received **by April 1, 2011**. 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.

STUDENT COLUMN

Here three students from University of the District of Colombia tell us about the Masters of Science in Applied Statistics program which they are enrolled in.

Niraj Sapkota:

"University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is the only public University in DC offering higher education including Bachelors, Masters, and PhD programs in several fields of study. UDC recently added the Masters of Science in Applied Statistics to the Program. This Program is rapidly growing, catering the needs and wants of students from the Tri state area and more. I joined UDC for the Masters of Science in Applied Statistics in the spring of 2010. In the beginning, when I had ample concerns regarding the program, the faculty members were always available to help me out. I was relieved to find out that The Department of Mathematics faculty members have a remarkable working experience and an outstanding helping personality. With many other financial aids, The Department of Mathematics also offers graduate assistantship and teaching assistantship to any qualified student. This award helps student not only financially but also to gain professional experience that adds value to a student's education. I've been enjoying my education experience at UDC, and look forward to enriching myself in such a wonderful environment."

Sophia Parker:

"I am a current graduate student in the Applied Statistics Master's program at the University of the District of Columbia. I would love to tell you a little bit about the program and my experience thus far.

The Applied Statistics Master's program at the University of DC is a rigorous two-year curriculum by which students can follow one of two paths toward attaining a graduate degree. Both tracks provide an intimate in-class learning experience with exceptional students from all around the world. The Professional Science Master's degree program is an interdisciplinary track which provides the opportunity to attain work experience through an internship in any related field of interest to the student. The standard Master of Science degree program offers the guidance and resources for ongoing thesis research. While each student's work is ultimately a product of independent research, students meet periodically to receive feedback from their peers and thesis advisers who, together, cover a wide range of expertise which fosters many interesting discussions.

Classes are small, which provides a fantastic atmosphere for enhancing the students' learning of core concepts, such as probability theory, bayesian methods, regression analysis, data mining practices, experiment design, survey and sampling theory, and statistical software computing. The program remains flexible enough that students also flourish in their selected areas of interest, preparing them for unique post-graduate careers.

In my personal experience in the program I have had many opportunities to collaborate on projects with my classmates as well as with graduate students from the Linguistics, English, and Water Resource Management departments. I have made so many wonderful, intelligent friends at UDC who continue to challenge and support me in my academic pursuits. Every day I grow more interested in the topics I'm learning and in the research that I am conducting here. I am continuously grateful for the many opportunities that this program and the University provide."

Fredric D. Ratliff:

"The MSAS (Master's of Science of Applied Statistics) is a brand new, two-year program headed by Dr. Valbona Bejleri. This program, though focused on applied statistical analysis, allows students of any discipline to explore and learn and grow along with the knowledge of statistics. The classes are small allowing for many points of views to be heard and utilized. The professors, though disciplined, allow flexibility and remain aware of students' needs and concerns. Many students with little to no knowledge of statistics can graduate from the program with great confidence in the field. The best part however is students that join the program not only become part of a group with very bright people, they become part of a family.

My experience at UDC has been quite memorable. I have met many influential people and have made many friends. I can still remember when UDC wasn't much to talk about when it came to schools to attend. Not very many people even fathom going to UDC to continue their higher education. Schools like Howard, American U, Georgetown and George Washington University were the schools of choice in DC. However during my time at UDC working on my bachelor's in mathematics, I have witnessed the school's growth. UDC is now building a reputation of having top notch professors and producing career-ready students. The school certainly has taken a positive direction in contributing thought-provoking and well-educated students to the world. Because of this, UDC will become a school that everyone knows. Not just in the city but in the nation as well.

Now that I am in the MSAS program, I have been watching it grow as well. Here I am, learning through the program's first four semesters and already has expanded quite significantly. I am one of the first students of the program. This program has certainly pushed further my interest in research as well as analysis. Being a graduate of the Math department, I was eager to show and apply my knowledge. The MSAS has allowed me to do just that. I am currently working with professors on two research projects. One project is for my thesis for

graduation. That is the nature of this school and the program. It truly allows you to showcase your skills on a real-world platform."

Parisa Meisami

Student Representative

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed at different times between March and June 2011 -- 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 year 30 of your fellow WSS members judged and awarded prizes to projects in Mathematical Sciences, Behavioral & Social Science, Environmental Management, Animal Sciences, Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering, Earth and Planetary Science, Microbiology, Physics, and Astronomy. 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 Amelia Vogel at Vogel.Amelia@bls.gov or 202-691-6138.

EMPLOYMENT

Mathematical Statistician

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/National Center of Environmental Assessment (NCEA)
Washington, D.C.

>To be considered for this position, applicants should go to USAJOBS web site (http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/) to review the job announcement RTP-ORD-DE-2011-0076 for qualification/knowledge required and procedure for submitting your application.

>The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is an equal opportunity employer.

Position (one)

>Mathematical statistician GS-1529-12 ($74,872.00 to $97,333.00), or GS-1529-13 ($89,033.00 to $115,742.00) with knowledge of the principles, theories, and practices of statistical and quantitative analysis of biological/epidemiological data.

Open Date

>February 17, 2011

Closing Date

>March 17, 2011

Statistician
Mathematica

Mathematica is seeking statisticians to support its survey sampling and statistical analysis activities. Currently we have openings in our Washington, D.C. office and our headquarters in Princeton, NJ. We are seeking statisticians with experience or interest in survey sample design and selection (including weighting, imputation, and variance estimation). Successful candidates should also have strong oral and written communication skills, the ability to work in an interdisciplinary team, statistical analysis skills, and familiarity with statistical software such as SAS, R, or Stata.

Qualifications

· Ph.D. in statistics, biostatistics, survey methodology or   an equivalent combination of education and experience
· Background or interest in sample design, survey research methodology, and/or complex survey data analysis
· Strong oral and written communication skills
· Knowledge and experience with statistical programming is desirable
· Knowledge and/or experience in one or more of the following areas is desirable: Address-based or random digit dialing sampling techniques, propensity modeling, total survey error, administrative data and paradata, small area estimation, Bayesian analysis, data disclosure avoidance, data mining or multiple imputation.

Applying

Please submit a cover letter, resume, salary requirements and contact information for **three** references to our employment website at:

https://careers.mathematica-mpr.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=51474.

Data Analytics positions

Deloitte Financial Advisory

Arlington, VA

Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP advises clients on managing business controversy and conflict, executing deals, and maintaining regulatory compliance. We provide services to companies throughout their lifecycle from purchasing a company to investigating potential fraud.

Position Descriptions

Seeking various levels to join the Analytic & Forensic Technology - Data Analytics practice. This is not a "back-office programmer" position; this is front-line client interaction with tremendous opportunity for growth and advancement .

Commercial investigations and litigations increasingly rely on collecting, preserving and analyzing vast amounts of data to help tell the whole story. The key to managing such huge volumes is turning the array of data into meaningful information. To this end, our Analytic and Forensic Technology (AFT) professionals combine forensic accounting and investigative skills with advanced technology to assist clients and their legal counsel.

The Analytic and Forensic Technology - Data Analytics job responsibilities include:
*Gather, standardize, and analyze transactional electronic data (e.g., banking records, general ledgers, broker-dealer records, sales and inventory data, etc.).
* Create, manage, and utilize high performance relational databases (SAS,SQL Server, Microsoft Access, OLAP and other proprietary software).
* Query and mine large data sets to discover transaction patterns, examine financial data and filter for targeted information.
* Design data entry screens, perform data quality control, develop database reports and user interfaces, and normalize relational data.
* AFT team members collaborate with attorneys, forensic accountants, clients, and other investigators to produce analyses in support of an investigation.

Required Skills

Bachelors degree, mining and analyzing transactional electronic data, and SAS/SQL
Not required but a plus: Microsoft Access, Visual Basic .Net, ASP .Net ,OLAP tools

Applying

Interested applicants, please email resume to aclem@deloitte.com, and reference the job title in the subject header.

FROM WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **March 2011** issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15**[th] of the preceding month.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format (e.g., in an email) will be returned.

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Washington, DC 20013
Washington
Statistical
Society

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