



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

February, 2012

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CURRENTLY IN WSS

Calling for the Gertrude M. Cox Award Nominees

Please help celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Gertrude M. Cox Award by nominating eligible colleagues for the 10th winner of this award:

- In memory of Dr. Cox (1900-1978), one of the founders of modern statistics, President of the American Statistical Association (1956)
- In recognition of early- to mid-career statisticians who have made significant contributions to areas of statistics in which Dr. Cox worked
- Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society and RTI International

The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee is seeking nominees for the 2012 Gertrude M Cox Award. The award was established in 2003 through a joint agreement between the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International. The award annually recognizes a statistician in early to mid-career (less than 15 years after his/her terminal degree) who has made significant contributions to one or more of the areas of applied statistics in which Gertrude Cox worked: survey methodology, experimental design, biostatistics, and statistical computing.

The award is in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978). In 1945, Dr. Cox became director of the Institute of Statistics of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. In the 1950's, as Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State College, she played a key role in establishing Mathematical Statistics and Biostatistics Departments at the University of North Carolina. Upon her retirement from North Carolina State University in 1960, Dr. Cox became the first head of Statistical Research Division at the newly founded RTI. She was a founding member of the International Biometric Society (IBS) and in 1949 became the first woman elected into the International Statistical Institute. She served as president of both [The American Statistical Association](#) (1956) and the IBS (1968-69). In 1975 she was elected to the [National Academy of Sciences](#).

The award is presented at the WSS Annual Dinner, usually held in June, with the recipient delivering the keynote address on a topic of general interest to the WSS membership.

This award is made possible by funding from RTI International, and the recipient is chosen by a six-person committee - three each from WSS and RTI. This year's committee consists of Keith Rust, Jonaki Bose, and Michael Brick from WSS; Marcus Berzofsky, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (Chair) from RTI. The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS Annual Dinner, and a commemorative WSS plaque. Past recipients have been Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, and Nilanjan Chatterjee.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki (kkrotki@rti.org) by **March 16, 2012**.

Please submit a supporting statement and cv (or a link) for the candidate being nominated.

Seeking Nominations for the WSS Board of Directors

Later this spring, the WSS will hold its annual elections for several important positions on its Board of Directors.

For the **2012** elections, the open positions include:

- **President-Elect**
 - for July, 2012 to June, 2013
 - to serve as President July, 2013 June, 2014 and Past President July, 2014 to June, 2015
- **Treasurer**
 - for July, 2012 to June, 2014
- **Two Representatives-at-Large**
 - for July, 2012 to June, 2014
- **Methodology Program Chair**
 - for July, 2012 to June, 2013
 - to serve as Methodology Section Chair July, 2013 to June, 2014

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2012 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the government 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 Mike Brick (Mikebrick@westat.com) by **March 1, 2012**.

– **Mike Brick, former WSS President**

Washington Academy of Sciences, with WSS to Host the Capital Science Conference

On Saturday and Sunday, **March 31-April 1, 2012**, The Washington Academy of Sciences and its Affiliates (which includes WSS) will hold the fifth in the series of our biennial Pan-Affiliate Conferences, Capital Science (CapSci) 2012. This will be the first CapSci to be hosted by a consortium of the three universities that line the University Corridor on Glebe Road in Arlington Virginia—Virginia Tech, GWU, and Marymount **(Near the Ballston stop on the Metro)**.

Registration and plenaries will be held at the new Virginia Tech facility at 900 North Glebe Road. Additional classrooms will be next door at GWU and at Marymount, just across Fairfax Drive.

With over 20 of the Academy's Affiliates participating, the Conference will serve as an umbrella for scientific presentations, seminars, tutorials, and talks. These pan-Affiliate Conferences underline the fact that the Washington, DC area is not only the political capital of the country but, in many respects, the nation's intellectual capital—with several major universities and government laboratories that are the homes of an astonishing number of Nobel laureates. The Academy believes that showcasing the intellectual muscle of the area will help provide the support needed to continue to build and keep the United States at the forefront of scientific achievement.

As we get closer to the Conference, additional information – including Conference highlights, a list of participating societies, schedule of presentations, abstracts of talks, and registration information – will be posted as it becomes available.

Check www.washacadsci/capsci12/body.htm or contact the WSS representative to the Academy, Michael P. Cohen, at mpcohen@juno.com.

SEMINAR

Title: Design Effects for Unequal Weighting
Organizer: Charles Day, WSS Methodology Program Chair
Chair: Charles Day, WSS Methodology Program Chair
Speaker: Dr. Kim Henry, Statistics of Income Division, IRS
Discussant: Vince Iannacchione, RTI International
Date & Time: Tuesday, February 7, 12:30pm-2:00 pm
Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 10

To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Program

Abstract: Different approaches have been developed to summarize the impact of differential weighting in survey samples. The most popular measure is Kish's (1965, 1992) design-based design effect. Spencer (2000) proposed a simple model-based approach that depends on a single covariate to estimate the impact on variance of using variable weights. Both measures may not accurately produce design effects for unequal weighting induced by calibration adjustments. When the calibration covariates are correlated with the coverage/response mechanism, calibration weights can improve the MSE of an estimator. However, since calibration involves unit-level adjustments, in many applications it produces weights that are more variable than the base weights or weights from category-based nonresponse or poststratification adjustments. The Kish and Spencer measures may not be appropriate here; an ideal measure of the impact of unequal calibration weights incorporates both the correlation between the survey variable and weights and the correlation between the survey variable and calibration covariates. We propose a model-based extension of the Spencer design-effect for different variables of interest in single-stage and cluster sampling and under calibration weight adjustments. The proposed methods are illustrated using complex sample case studies.

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

Event: Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys

Date: June 11–14, 2012

Hosts: Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions

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 survey
- Measuring nonresponse bias
- Variance estimation
- Advances in disclosure protection
- Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
- New directions in establishment surveys

Information:

(website) www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012,

(email) ices4@amstat.org.

Event: **32nd General Conference of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW)**

Date: **August 5-11, 2012**

Host: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Location: Royal Sonesta Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts

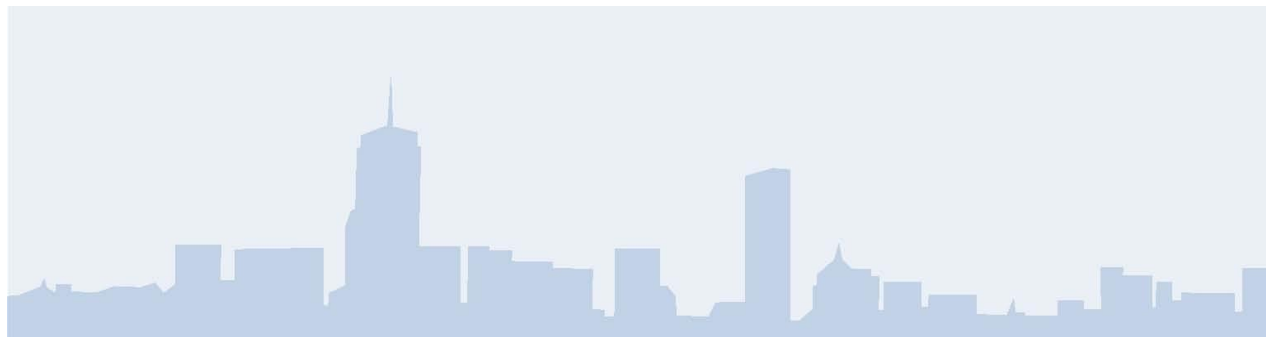
Description: See next page

Registration: Is now open

Information:

(website) www.iariw2012.com,

(email) IARIW2012@bea.gov



SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for the 32nd General Conference of the IARIW

**WHEN
WHERE**

AUG. 5-11, 2012

Royal Sonesta Hotel, Boston, Massachusetts

- Improved measures of economic welfare •
- Lessons learned from the financial crisis •

The conference provides a forum for statistical officials and experts from around the world to share information and ideas on how to develop new economic indicators that will help address some of the most important challenges confronting the global economy.

For more conference information and access to the program please visit www.IARIW2012.com



Event: International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating 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.

<p>Just Announced! Short Courses Social Media Research Methods Respondent-Driven Sampling Designing and Developing Instruments Across Cultures and Languages</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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 Linguistic and cultural minorities</p>

Additional information is available on conference website or by email.

Website: www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012
Email: H2R2012@amstat.org.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Course Offering at the Math/Statistics Graduate Program at Georgetown University

The Georgetown University graduate program in mathematics and statistics announces its course offerings for spring and summer, 2012, and its deadline for applications to the program for fall semester, 2012.

This vibrant program, now in its 6th year, culminates in an MS degree in mathematics and statistics. It is attuned to the math/stat workforce in the DC area and emphasizes practical applications, modeling and computation. There is a heavy focus on data analytics. The prerequisites for the program are the equivalent of a minor in mathematics. There is an active internship program, and graduates of the program do very well in the jobs market.

The course offerings are as follows.

SPRING 2012

410	Applied Combinatorics
425	Optimization Theory
502	Deterministic Mathematical Models
503	Mathematical Statistics
504	Numerical Methods
656	Data Mining

SUMMER 2012

614	Modeling and Analysis of Stochastic Systems
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Application Deadline: April 1, 2012 for Fall 2012

For more information contact the program director, Prof J K Shaw, jks49@georgetown.edu, 202-687-5260, or peruse the website (<http://math.georgetown.edu/programs/graduate/>).

Short Courses Sponsored by JPSM

Course and registration information for all JPSM-sponsored short courses listed below are available at www.jpsm.org/shortcourses.

Introduction to Survey Estimation

FEBRUARY 29 – MARCH 1, 2012 at the Inn and Conference Center, Adelphi, Maryland
Registration and Payment Due by **February 15, 2012**

Writing Questions for Surveys

April 2-3, 2012 at Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington DC
Registration and Payment Due by **March 19, 2012**

Total Survey Error

April 16-17, 2012 at L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington DC
Registration and Payment Due by **April 2, 2012**

COGNITIVE INTERVIEWING: A HANDS-ON APPROACH

June 28-29, 2012 at Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington DC
Registration and Payment Due by **June 14, 2012**

WORKSHOPS Sponsored by American University:

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>

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Herriot Award Nominations Sought

Nominations are sought for the 2012 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

- 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 2012 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 2012. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past recipients of the Roger Herriot Award:

- 1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
- 1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)
- 1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- 1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)
- 2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
- 2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)
- 2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)
- 2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
- 2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)
- 2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)
- 2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
- 2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)

Nominations for the 2012 award are now being accepted.

Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that includes 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 with current 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 Jill A. Dever, Chair of the 2012 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202.974.7846 or jdever@rti.org.

Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2012. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

2012 Julius Shiskin Award Nominations Sought

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 2011 award recipient was **Thomas L. Mesenbourg Jr.**, the Deputy Director of the U.S. Census Bureau, received the 2011 Shiskin Award for his contributions to developing and advancing economic statistics programs that meet the needs of a rapidly changing economy.

The award is in memory of Julius Shiskin, who had a varied and remarkable public service career. 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 2012 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, 2012**.

JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

By Carol House, 2011 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 2012 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. **Nominations must be submitted no later than April 2, 2012.**



Jeanne Griffith

This year marked the 10th year that the award has been presented and the third time the ASA's Government Statistics Section oversaw the award selection process. **Jenise L. Swall**, Statistician, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, Atmospheric Modeling and Analysis Division, National Exposure Research Laboratory located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, received her award at a ceremony held on June 8, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

If you're not familiar with the award or would like more information about the current honoree and the history of the award, see the excellent article (including some pictures from the ceremony) in the August 2010 issue of *Amstat News* or go to

<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2010/08/01/governmentstataug10/>.

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.

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

- National Opinion Research Center (NORC),
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS),
- American Institutes for Research (AIR),
- American Educational Research Association (AERA),
and
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).

Please contact Stephanie Shipp (sshipp@ida.org), if you would like to contribute to the award.

Nominations for 2011 are now being accepted. The last date for submission of nominations is **April 2, 2012**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 30, 2012**. 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 2012**.

The nomination packages are reviewed by a committee comprised of six members who each serve a six-year term. 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 awardee 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; Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008; Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service), Lillian S. Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 2009; Deborah H. Griffin (U.S. Bureau of the Census), 2010; and Jenise L. Swall (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 2011.

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 2012 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 **Clyde Tucker** at nctucker@cox.net 703-989-1334.

The nomination package must be mailed or emailed **no later than April 2, 2012**, 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed at different times between **March and June 2012** -- 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.

Curtis Jacobs Memorial Award

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Award program focuses on gathering information and analyzing data 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.

Regional High School Science Fairs

Since 1986, WSS has provided special awards at the five regional high school 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, provide information and encourage them to submit the project to the Curtis Jacobs Award, 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 Gloria Gridley at gridleyg@aol.com or 301-762-2618.

WSS Statistical Poster Competition

The WSS Statistical 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 Barnali Das at BarnaliDas@westat.com or 301-279-4593.

See ad below.

Call for Entries

The American Statistical Association (ASA) is announcing its annual poster competition for students in grades K-12. The aim is to increase statistical awareness and understanding.

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS), a chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA), is awarding prizes for the competition in the Washington DC Metro Area.

Objectives

Enhance students' understanding of:

- the use of statistics
- how statistics is used to analyze information

Entry Rules & Guidelines

Please visit the competition webpage on the ASA website for rules, regulations, and submission forms:

<http://www.amstat.org/education/posterprojects/index.cfm>

Further questions can be directed to Barnali Das of WESTAT.

Barnali Das (301) 279 4593
barnalidas@westat.com

Eligibility

- Grades K-12
- Enrolled in a DC Metro area school

Evaluation

- Overall impact – Eye-catching appeal, visual attractiveness, and ability to draw the viewer to investigate the individual graphs (more than one graph is required for all except the K-3 category).
- Clarity – Demonstration of important relationships and patterns.
- Appropriateness – Appropriate graphics for data
- Creativity!

Prizes & Awards

WSS Poster Competition winners will be awarded checks in the following denominations:

Individual Entries

1st Prize: \$100
2nd & 3rd Prize: \$50

Team Entries* (Prize for each team member)

1st Prize: \$50
2nd & 3rd Prize: \$25

Local Metropolitan DC winners and their academic supervisors will also be invited to attend the annual WSS party and will have their submissions sent to the national ASA poster competition.

National winners will receive additional prizes as described on the ASA website:

<http://www.Amstat.org>

**For local judging, a maximum of 4 students per winning poster will be awarded individual prizes and invitations to the annual WSS party. Total awards for local teams having more than 4 students will be awarded a lump sum of \$200 for 1st place or \$100 for 2nd and 3rd place with limited invitations to the annual party.*

2011 National Winners

Grades 4-6 First Prize:
"The NBA Draft"

Grades 7-9 First Prize:
"Algae the Carbon Sponge : Optimum temperature for *Chlorella* Photosynthesis"

Grades 10-12 First Prize:
"Coca-Cola's Secret Formula – Internationally Variable?"



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Position Vacancy: Biostatistics, Assistant Professor (Tenure Track)

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park (<http://www.sph.umd.edu/EPIB>) invites applications for an Assistant Professor tenure-track position in biostatistics.

The Department's mission is to improve health and reduce health disparities in local communities, the state of Maryland, and the nation. This is accomplished by using established epidemiological and quantitative methods, as well as developing new scientifically grounded approaches, that are applied predominately to identifying determinants of health and discovering and evaluating primary and secondary prevention strategies for chronic diseases. The Department offers an MPH degree in biostatistics, an MPH degree in epidemiology, and a PhD degree in epidemiology.

A wide range of collaborative opportunities exist at the University with nearby federal, state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, and other academic institutions. The University of Maryland Statistics Consortium brings together statisticians from across the campus and our Department participates in the new Applied Statistics concentration of the Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Scientific Computation (AMSC) Program. Our faculty members also interact with faculty in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, the Maryland Population Research Center, and The Maryland Institute of Applied Environmental Health as well as with researchers in other applied fields. The position represents a unique opportunity to join a growing department and contribute to an exciting research agenda and graduate student training program.

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualified candidates should possess a doctoral degree in biostatistics or statistics and submit a record of scholarly achievement in biostatistics or statistics that supports a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor rank. Candidates should demonstrate the potential to develop and conduct an independent research program using statistical methods to address public health issues. The ability to work collaboratively with colleagues in the department, the school, and the University is highly desirable. We are particularly interested in candidates with expertise such as multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling, spatial-temporal analysis, and Bayesian methods that can be applied to the study of chronic and infectious diseases, population and epidemiologic research, environmental studies, or related areas. Qualified

candidates will have the ability to teach graduate level biostatistics courses, mentor graduate students, and collaborate in research projects.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Successful candidates for the positions are expected to develop a nationally recognized research program (or show the potential to do so), engage in extramurally-funded multidisciplinary research, teach intermediate or advanced graduate level biostatistics courses, mentor graduate students, and engage in university and professional service. Effective interpersonal, communication, and collaborative skills are essential.

SALARY and APPOINTMENT DATE

This is a 12-month tenure-track appointment with up to 75% state funding. Salary is competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience. Appointments may begin August 2012 or a mutually agreed-upon date.

APPLICATION

Applicants must apply electronically to <https://jobs.umd.edu> specifying 112966, listed under the faculty section. Review of applications will begin immediately and applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For best consideration, candidates are expected to submit materials by **February 6, 2012**. Applications should include the following: 1) cover letter describing qualifications for the position, 2) a current curriculum vitae, 3) a statement of research focus including current and planned research, 4) a statement of teaching experience and interest, 5) names and contact information of three individuals who can provide references (to be contacted only with candidate's approval), and 6) copies of the three most significant publications. Inquiries about the position should be directed to: Dr. Sandra Hofferth, Search Committee Chair (hofferth@umd.edu). For questions concerning application submission, please contact Ms. Karen Mackey (klmackey@umd.edu).

The University of Maryland is a Research Intensive University. College Park is the flagship campus of the University of Maryland System with over 2,500 faculty and 25,000 undergraduate and 10,000 graduate students. The University is located 8 miles from Washington D.C. For further information on the University of Maryland, please visit the University Web Site: <http://www.umd.edu>.

The University of Maryland is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer dedicated to increasing the diversity of its faculty and administrators. We encourage applications from qualified individuals with varied experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds. Applications from minority and women candidates are strongly encouraged.

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **March, 2012** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15th** of the preceding month.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

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