



## WSS NEWS

# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

## SEMINARS

**Title:** Adjustment and Stabilization: Identifying and Meeting Goals

**Date/Time:** December 10, 2012, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

**Presenter:** Dr. Thomas A. Louis, Department of Biostatistics,  
Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University

**Discussant:** Dr. Roderick Little, University of Michigan and U.S. Census Bureau

**Chair:** Ruth Ann Killion, Chief,  
Demographic Statistical Methods Division, U.S. Census Bureau

**Location:** Conference Rooms 1&2, U.S. Census Bureau,  
4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland

**Abstract:** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) annually compares hospitals with respect to mortality, readmissions, and other outcomes. Performance metrics are based on information for each hospital as to how well it performs with its patients as compared to a counterfactual hospital treating the same patients, but operating at the national norm. The CMS uses an empirical Bayes, logistic regression with a Gaussian prior to estimate and stabilize the comparisons. The approach has generated several criticisms including that it fails to reveal provider performance variation, masks the performance of small hospitals, does not incorporate hospital-level characteristics in developing shrinkage targets, and does not use them in estimating the risk model to reduce confounding. Other than the last of these, the criticisms are only in play because low-volume hospitals produce high-variance estimates that are moved considerably toward the national norm. The foregoing and related issues apply to many other contexts including small area estimation and genomics.

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Using a report prepared by the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies as background and motivation, I identify inferential goals and outline candidate approaches to address the criticisms. Approaches include using a fixed-effects model with hospital-specific intercepts (with the associated wide confidence intervals and high year to year variation for the low volume hospitals), using hospital-level attributes in the risk model or in determining shrinkage targets, use of a prior distribution other than Gaussian, limiting the shrinkage, replacing the posterior means by ensemble estimates, and modified reporting of results. In closing, I outline other features that require consideration, for example selection effects that can bias assessments.

**Contact:** Cynthia Wellons-Hazer, 301-763-4277, [Cynthia.L.Wellons.Hazer@census.gov](mailto:Cynthia.L.Wellons.Hazer@census.gov)

**Title:**        **Uses of Models in Survey Design and Estimation**

**Date/Time:** **December 11, 11:00am-12:30 pm**

**Speaker:**    Dr. Richard Valliant, University of Michigan and Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland

**Locations:**   This seminar is offered at three locations

**1208 Lefrak Hall, University of Maryland (LIVE)  
College Park, MD 20742**

Use the Green Line to College Park and take the campus bus or walk. The Mowatt Lane parking garage near Lefrak Hall also has visitor parking.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 10**

(We can join the seminar via video conference at this location.)

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](mailto: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.

**National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville MD,**

NCHS Room 1406  
(Only for NCHS staff)

**Sponsors:**    WSS Methodology Program

**Abstract:**     Survey statisticians rely on a list of probability distributions when designing samples and selecting estimators. These can be explicit or implicit and include a randomization distribution for sample selection, structural superpopulation models to describe analysis variables, a random coverage model to describe omissions from the frame, a model for how units respond, and a model for imputing missing data, among others. This talk surveys some of the uses of models to design samples and construct estimators. Topics will include approximation of optimum selection probabilities, creation of strata, relationship of balanced sampling to methods used in practice, using models to evaluate candidate estimators, selecting covariates for estimators, and the use of paradata in constructing models for nonresponse adjustment. A little of the history of the sometimes controversial use of models in surveys will also be discussed.

**Title:** **Inappropriate Use of Statistical Measures in the Name of Balancing Data Quality and Confidentiality of Tabular Format Magnitude Data**

**Date/Time:** **January 15, 12:30pm-2:00 pm**

**Speaker:** Ramesh A. Dandekar, Energy Information Administration

**Organizer:** Dan Liao, WSS Methodology Program Chair

**Chair:** Darryl Creel, RTI International

**Discussant:** Michael L. Cohen, Committee on National Statistics

**Sponsor:** WSS Methodology Program

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 8  
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](mailto: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.

**Abstract:** Statisticians are aware of the fact that measures such as: mean, variance, Pearson correlation coefficient are disproportionately influenced by relatively few extremely large observations and, therefore, are unreliable as statistical measures in comparing overall quality of data with an extremely skewed distribution. Tabular data cells follow an extremely skewed distribution. In this paper we show that linear-programming-based controlled tabular adjustments (CTA), which generates synthetic tabular data (Dandekar 2001), makes use of a least absolute difference linear regression model and is well-suited to control overall data quality on its own without additional steps proposed by quality preserving controlled tabular adjustments (QP-CTA) that has been heavily promoted to the statistical community since 2003.

**Title:** **Getting A Seat at the Table: Tips to Biostatisticians**

**Date/Time:** **January 25, 2013, 10-11 am**  
Q&A time until 11:30 am

**Location:** Warwick Evans Conference Room, Building D,  
Georgetown University Medical Campus  
4000 Reservoir Road NW, Washington, DC 20057

Map: <http://bit.ly/X8OKBN>

Detailed directions for public transportation, car, and parking are available at <http://dbbb.georgetown.edu/about/Visitors/>

**Speaker:** Janet Wittes, Ph.D., President and Founder of Statistics Collaborative, Inc.

**Abstract:** As statisticians we have much to offer study teams in ways not strictly related to statistical method and theory. Our experience is often very broad, so we can bring to discussions insights from a variety of fields. We have a solid grounding in the scientific method and often with science itself. In the context of drug development, we understand how studies relate to each other and how the FDA interprets data. Nonetheless, we are often not invited to participate in discussions of strategy and of interpretation. This talk presents some examples – some based on personal experiences, some based on hearsay – of cases where the statistician was excluded from discussions where statistical insight could have been important. I ask how often this exclusion is due to failure of physicians to appreciate our contribution and how often it is based on our failure to demonstrate our value. The talk will address some ways in which statisticians act in ways that show a lack of intellectual and emotional involvement with studies. Finally, I shall suggest strategies to help us insinuate ourselves into discussions where the unique perspective of the statistician can contribute positively to decisions.

# CONFERENCE

## **Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Statistical Policy Seminar**



***Collaborating to Achieve Innovation and Efficiency;  
Advances and Opportunities***

**December 4-5, 2012**

**Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC**

The Eleventh in a Series of Seminars Hosted by COPAFS  
(The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics)

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.

### **Support Provided by:**

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

**Keynote Address:** Dr. Robert M. Groves, Georgetown University

### **Topics Will Include:**

- New Perspectives on the Quality of Administrative Data
- Developing Statistical Policy to Facilitate Improved Access to Administrative Data for Statistical Programs
- Program and Policy Issues Associated with Integrating Adaptive Design in Federal Surveys
- New Ideas in Dissemination
- Changing Organizational Structures to Achieve Innovation and Efficiencies
- Dueling Official Statistics: What Would it Take to Call a Truce?
- Development and Policy-Relevant Applications of Small Domain Estimates
- Does Cloud Computing Offer a Viable Option of the Control of Statistical Data: How Safe Are Clouds?

- Protecting Confidential Statistical Data: The Impact of Government Wide Cybersecurity Initiatives
- How Do Stakeholders React to Revisions and What Can Agencies do to Help to Clarify Their Use
- Enhancements in Federal Data Resources to Inform the Affordable Care Act
- New Directions in Measuring Race and Ethnicity: Implications from the 2010 Census Alternative Questionnaire Experiment

**Program and Registration Information:** Available on the COPAFS website at:

<http://www.copafs.org/>

**Cost:** \$195 per person

## **SHORT COURSES**

### **Short Course Sponsored by JPSM**

Course and registration information for all JPSM-sponsored short courses listed below are available at [www.jpsm.org/shortcourses](http://www.jpsm.org/shortcourses).

#### **Introduction to Item Response Theory (IRT) Modeling and Applications December 11, 2012**

Washington Marriott at Metro Center, Washington, DC  
Presented by Bryce B. Reeve

**Payment and Registration Due by November 27, 2012**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=121112](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=121112)

#### **Introduction to Survey Sampling December 18-19, 2012**

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington, DC  
Presented by Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski

**Payment and Registration Due by December 4, 2012**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=121812](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=121812)

#### **Leveraging Mobile & Social Technologies for Data Collection January 30-31, 2013**

Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA  
Presented by Michael W. Link

**Payment and Registration Due by January 16, 2013**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=013013](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=013013)

#### **Introduction to Survey Estimation February 26-27, 2013**

Marriott Inn and Conference Center, Adelphi, MD  
Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

**Payment and Registration Due by February 12, 2013**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=022613](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=022613)

#### **Writing Questions for Surveys March 25-26, 2013**

Key Bridge Marriott, Arlington, VA  
Presented by Nora Cate Schaeffer

**Payment and Registration Due by March 11, 2013**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=032513](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=032513)

**Pictures at an Exhibition: The Visual Display of Quantitative Phenomena  
April 8, 2013**

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC

Presented by Howard Wainer

**Payment and Registration Due by March 25, 2013**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=040813](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=040813)

Statistical Methods for Evaluating Survey Questions

**April 22-23, 2013**

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC

Presented by Paul P. Biemer

**Payment and Registration Due by April 8, 2013**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=042213](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=042213)

***Primary Funding for JP\$M is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy***

## Training Courses for R Programming

RStudio is offering two R training courses in the DC area this December:

**Advanced R programming (<http://bit.ly/RvZDsd>)**

**Dec 10. Washington, DC**

**Package development (<http://bit.ly/UhTIWz>)**

**Dec 11. Washington, DC**

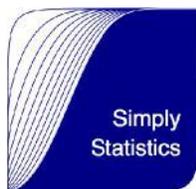
ADVANCED R PROGRAMMING (<http://bit.ly/RvZDsd>) will help you write better code, by focussing on the mantra of "do not repeat yourself". You will learn powerful new tools of abstraction, allowing you to solve a wider range of problems with fewer lines of code.

PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT (<http://bit.ly/UhTIWz>) will teach you how to make packages, the fundamental unit of code distribution in R, allowing others to save time by allowing them to use your code. We focus on tools (devtools, roxygen2, testthat) designed to make package development as easy as possible.

Our courses incorporate a mix of lectures and hands-on learning. Expect to learn about a topic and then immediately put it into practice with a small example. Plenty of help will be available if you get stuck. You can read more about our training philosophy at <http://www.rstudio.com/training/philosophy.html>

Information about prices, location, and registration are available at <http://rstudio-dc.eventbrite.com>.

Discounts may be available for students (66% off) and academics (33% off). Contact Hadley Wickham ([h.wickham@gmail.com](mailto:h.wickham@gmail.com)) for further details.



**Simply Statistics Education**  
**Computing for Data Analysis Micro-Course**

**Date:** March 21-22, 2013

**Location:** Washington D.C. Location T.B.D.

**Cost:** \$2,000  
Includes:

- 1 1/2 day short course
- Personalized skills evaluation
- Breakfast, lunch, refreshments throughout the day

**Contact:** Jeff Leek ([jtleek@gmail.com](mailto:jtleek@gmail.com))  
Data science panel discussion with Course Instructors

**Description:** The purpose of this micro-course is to introduce people to the R language and environment for statistical computing. The course is designed for people who have an interest in statistical analysis and may be familiar with other statistical packages but are new or novice R users. In this course we will cover the basic language aspects and how to write functions for data processing, merging, aggregation, and filtering. We will also cover topics such as generating reproducible reports and creating informative data graphics. Our expectation is that individuals who successfully complete this course will have an understanding of R necessary for producing basic reproducible reports using R and the background for implementing more sophisticated statistical and data analysis tools. This course is a lead-in course for the Data Analysis and Statistical Software Development micro-courses that we also offer. At the end of the micro-course, we will offer an on-site evaluation where each student can assess their competency in the skills covered. This course offers an introduction to the R language in a small setting (low student-instructor ratio) with hands-on examples using real datasets. The instructors have years of experience developing and applying statistical methods to big data problems in the health sciences.

**Instructors:** Roger D. Peng, PhD. is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Co-Editor of the Simply Statistics blog.

Jeff Leek, PhD. is an Assistant Professor of Biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and co-editor of the Simply Statistics Blog.

## **NOMINATE YOUR FELLOW WSS MEMBER**

### **Requesting Nominations for the Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program**

The WSS Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.

1. *Your* name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be great be greatly appreciated

Please send this information to Mel Kollander, member of the WSS Board. His email address is [mellk@erols.com](mailto:mellk@erols.com). If you have any questions please contact Mel.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

### Nominations for 2013 Gertrude M Cox 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 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 a talk on a topic of general interest to the WSS membership before the dinner.

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 (co-chair), Jonaki Bose, and Nancy Bates from WSS; Marcus Berzofsky, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (co-chair) from RTI. The award includes 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, Nilanjan Chatterjee, and Amy Herring.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki ([kkrotki@rti.org](mailto:kkrotki@rti.org)) by **February 28, 2013** with a supporting statement and cv (or link).

### **Nominations for 2013 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 can be in development of new statistical measures, statistical research, use of economic statistics to analyze and interpret economic activity, development of statistical tools, management of statistical programs, or application of data production techniques. 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 2012 award recipient was **William D. Nordhaus**, Sterling Professor of Economics at Yale University, for his contributions to the measurement of environmental-economic accounts and economic welfare and his active participation with the U.S. statistical system.

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 2013 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](http://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](mailto:paben.steven@bls.gov) or call 202-691-6147.

Completed nominations must be received by **March 15, 2013**.

## **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF STATISTICS NEWS**

### **The Université de Moncton will celebrate the International Year of Statistics in style**

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the Université de Moncton in Canada will use Statistics2013 to showcase the strong relations between Statistics and other disciplines of study. An inter-faculty committee, chaired by Dr. Thu Pham-Gia, professor of the department of Math-Stat, began its work last summer, with Prof. Paul Deguire, chair of the department, and Donald Violette as advisors.

Celebrations will begin this month and will consist of two parts:

- 1) Local Celebrations: Ten conferences/presentations are planned for 2013 in Moncton, with speakers coming from Biology, Computer Science, Statistics, Civil Engineering, Environment, Pedagogy and Linguistics.
- 2) International Celebration: A conference, titled "Statistics and Its Interactions with Other Disciplines", will be held in collaboration with four Vietnamese universities in Ho Chi Minh City, VietNam, on June 5 to 7. Nine professors from the Université de Moncton will be on different scientific committees, which include more than 25 world experts. The conference has received the support of several organizations, including ISBIS, ISBA, Minitab, Pfizer, Sanofi-Pasteur et TD Bank, and speakers of international reputation will be at the conference.

Registration is now open [here](#).

### ***Amstat News, Significance Magazine to have Features & Posters***

The International Year of Statistics will be featured in upcoming issues of the American Statistical Association's (ASA) *Amstat News* and *Significance* magazine, a joint publication of the ASA and the Royal Statistical Society in Great Britain.

The January issue of *Amstat News* will feature a Statistics2013 kick-off article by ASA Executive Director Ron Wasserstein as well as a special pull-out promotional poster. Additionally, Editor Megan Murphy will be promoting Statistics2013 throughout next year with special articles each month. In February, *Significance* magazine will spotlight the International Year of Statistics with a special the cover. Inside the commemorative issue readers will find a poster of the cover that they can pull out and post in a public area.

We encourage you to check out each magazine, pass the issues around your offices, and use the pull-out posters to promote the International Year of Statistics.

### **Help Make Statistics2013 Website Global**

The International Year of Statistics Steering Committee is seeking content contributions in several subject areas from participating organizations for the Statistics2013 public website. Those areas and a brief explanation of each are:

1. *Statistic of the Day*—A series of four or five brief, informative statistical facts about your country, for example, its population, economy and education system; the health of its citizens; and similar social, economic, government and other relevant topics.
2. *Around the World in Statistics*—A short 150 to 200 word article about how statistics makes life better for the people of your country.
3. *Statistician Job of the Week*—A short 150 to 250 word article written by one of your organization's members talking about his/her job as a statistician and how he/she is contributing to improving our global society.
4. *Statistics in Action*—A photo with a brief caption that shows how statistics improves the quality of life of your country's people.
5. *Careers Information*—The hyperlink to the statistics career information that is posted on your organization's website.
6. *Educational Resources*—The hyperlink to the primary and secondary school statistics education resources that are posted on your organization's website.

Your contributions will help make the International Year of Statistics website a worldwide representation of the reach and impact of statistics. The Statistics2013 public website will be launched soon, so send us your content or links as soon as possible.

To contribute, email the items to [Jeffrey@amstat.org](mailto:Jeffrey@amstat.org).

### **U.S. Government Agencies Promoting Statistics2013**

Numerous U.S. government statistical agencies are promoting Statistics2013 on their websites. Here's a sampling:

- [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#)
- [National Center for Education Statistics](#)
- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)
- [National Center for Health Statistics](#)

### **ASA Launches *Significance* Gift Subscription Program**

In observance of the International Year of Statistics, the American Statistical Association (ASA) has created a new *Significance* magazine high school gift subscription program for its members. Through this special program, ASA members can give a tax-deductible gift subscription to *Significance* magazine to the high school of their choice—either a local school or their alma mater.

The ASA will promote this unique gifting program throughout 2013 and beyond to its members as an excellent way to introduce high school students—and possibly the next generation of statisticians—to the in-demand and rewarding careers in the statistical sciences field.

### **Participation continues to increase**

As of Nov. 8, 2012, there are 1,123 organizations participating in the International Year of Statistics. Thank you all for your participation!

- Donsig Jang, WSS Liaison for the International Year of Statistics

## JOIN THE FESTIVITIES!



**The Washington Statistical Society**

*cordially invites you to our annual*

### **Holiday Party**

Wednesday, December 12, 2012  
5:30 – 8:00 PM

Clyde's of Chevy Chase  
5441 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD  
By Metro: Red Line/Friendship Heights  
[www.clydes.com](http://www.clydes.com)

*All WSS members, family, friends, and colleagues  
are encouraged to attend regardless of membership status*

#### ***Sample menu***

Farmhouse cheese and crackers, hummus and crudités, spanakopita,  
mini reubens, crab and artichoke dip, fresh fruit

#### ***Cash bar***

Ticket prices  
Pre-paid \$20  
Door \$25  
Student \$10

#### Payment options:

1. **Online:** follow the link <https://www.123signup.com/event?id=bfsrh>.  
Note: You will not be able to pay online after Monday, December 10.
2. **By mail/check:** make check payable to Washington Statistical Society and include the full names of all individuals paid for by the check.  
Mail to: Frank Yoon, 1100 1st St NE, 12th Fl, Washington, DC 20002
3. **At the door:** checks and cash will be accepted at the party.  
Please email Frank Yoon <[fyoon@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:fyoon@mathematica-mpr.com)> with your RSVP.

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