WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR WSS BOARD MEMBERS!

2013 Annual Election of Board Members for WSS

WSS as a volunteer organization is steered by the good efforts of those people who are willing to serve either as elected members or appointed members to various committees. Every spring since the Washington Statistical Society was formally organized in 1926, the members of the Society are asked to vote for members who will represent them on the Board of Directors. This is a call for nominations for the 2013 elections. The positions being filled through elections include:

- President-Elect (two nominees)

- Representatives-at-Large (four nominees for two positions)

- Methodology Program Chair (two nominees)

- Secretary (only one nominee is required)

By tradition, the office of President-Elect rotates between federal government (election in even numbered years) and non-federal government (election in odd numbered years). Therefore in 2013 the candidates for president-elect will be non-federal governmental. If you know of any suitable candidates or are interested yourself, please let me know at jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov by Friday, March 22nd.

I would also urge each of you to consider whether you could serve the statistical community in the Washington area by volunteering for some activity with the WSS. If you are willing to serve in any capacity, please email the current President Keith Rust at KeithRust@westat.com and let him know. There are always a host of activities that need volunteers.

Past-President and Chair of the Nomination Committee
Jonaki Bose

SEMINARS

Title: **Estimating Effect Sizes in Machine Learning Predictive Models**

Date/Time: **March 7th, 2013, 6:30pm - 8:30pm**

Speaker: Abhijit Dasgupta, Consultant at NIH and other organizations

Location: GWU, Funger Hall, Room 103, 2201 G St. NW, Washington, DC

Sponsor: Data Science DC

Abstract:

When using classical regression models, it is relatively easy to estimate effect size. But when your predictive model is a black box, such as a random forest or neural network, this valuable information is typically unattainable. This talk will describe practical new methods for estimating effect size when using machine learning predictive models. (more at the website)
Website: Register to attend at http://www.meetup.com/Data-Science-DC/events/105714512/

Title: One Step or Two? Calibration Weighting from a Complete List Frame with Nonresponse

Date/Time: March 28, 12:30pm-2:00 pm

Speaker: Dr. Philip S. Kott, RTI International

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 7
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:

When a random sample drawn from a complete list frame suffers from unit nonresponse, calibration weighting to population totals can be used to remove nonresponse bias under either an assumed response (selection) or an assumed prediction (outcome) model. Calibration weighting in this way can not only provide double protection against nonresponse bias, it can also decrease variance. By employing a simple trick one can estimate the variance under the assumed prediction model and the mean squared error under the combination of an assumed response model and the probability-sampling mechanism simultaneously.

Unfortunately, there is a practical limitation on what response model can be assumed when calibrating in a single step. In particular, the choice for the response function cannot always be logistic. That limitation does not hinder calibration weighting when performed in two steps: one to remove the response bias and one to decrease variance. There are potential efficiency advantages from using the two-step approach as well even when the calibration variables employed in both steps are the same or a subset of the calibration variables in the single step. Simultaneous mean-squared-error estimation using linearization is possible, but more complicated than when calibrating in a single step.

An empirical example demonstrates, 1, that double protection works unless both models fail badly, and, 2, that calibration weighting in two steps can be more efficient that in one, although may not be worth the effort.

Title:	**American Demographic History Chartbook: 1790 to 2010**
Date/Time:	**April 2, 2013 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**
Speaker:	Campbell Gibson, Ph. D. - retired in 2006 Senior Demographer, U.S. Census Bureau
Chair:	Mike Fleming
Location:	

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

Sponsor:	WSS Agriculture and Natural Resources
Abstract:	

Graphics developed from decennial census data are presented to show the
demographic history of the United States and to show how these data can be
used in teaching American history. These data have been underutilized
because of the limited availability of historical time series. The
following topics are included: population growth and distribution, type of
residence (urban- rural and metropolitan-nonmetropolitan), race and Hispanic
origin, age and sex structure, households and home ownership, marital
status, fertility, education (attendance, literacy, and attainment),
internal migration, the foreign-born population and country of birth, labor
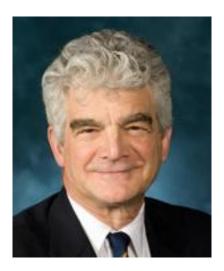force, and occupation. An optional quiz is included for those who would
like to test their knowledge of historical demographic trends and
differentials in the United States.

Point of contact: cgibson47@cox.net

JPSM Distinguished Lecture Series

Public Opinion Polls in the News

Mike Traugott

The mass media play an important role in collecting and dissemination polling data about what the public thinks about a number of important issues of the day. In the United States, there has been a symbiotic relationship between pollsters and news organizations for more than 70 years. After a period of steady expansion in the number of polls reported, the recent downturn in the economics of the news business has impacted the frequency of polls and the quality of some data collections. This talk will review these trends and cite examples of issues in low cost data collection (LCDC) and analysis and how they affect the reporting of public opinion as part of political news.

Michael Traugott is Professor of Communication Studies and Political Science and a Senior Research Scientist in the Center for Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research.

Friday, April 5 at 3:00 p.m.

1218 LeFrak Hall, University of Maryland, College Park

Discussants: Clyde Tucker, AIR & CNN and Mark Blumenthal, Huffington Post

Please join us for a reception afterward

Title: **Sample Size and Power Determination in Joint Models for Longitudinal and Survival Data**

Date/Time: **April 12, 2013, 10-11 a.m., with Q&A time until 11:30 a.m.**

Speaker: Joseph Ibrahim, Ph.D., Alumni Distinguished Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, University of North Caroline Gillings School of Global Public Health

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

Detailed directions for public transportation, car, and parking can be found here: http://dbbb.georgetown.edu/about/Visitors/

Abstract:

Owing to the rapid development of biomarkers in clinical trials, joint modeling of longitudinal and survival data has gained its popularity in the recent years because it reduces bias and provides improvements of efficiency in the assessment of treatment effects and ther prognostic factors. Although much effort has been put into inferential methods in joint modeling, such as estimation and hypothesis testing, design aspects have not been formally considered. Statistical design, such as sample size and power calculations, is a crucial first step n clinical trials. In this talk, we derive a closed-form sample size formula for estimating the effect of the longitudinal process in joint modeling, and extend Schoenfeld's sample size formula to the joint modeling setting for estimating the overall treatment effect. The sample size formula we develop is quite general, allowing for p-degree polynomial trajectories. The robustness of our model is demonstrated in simulation studies with linear and quadratic trajectories. We discuss the impact of the within-subject variability on power and data collection trategies, such as spacing and frequency of repeated measurements, in order to maximize the power. When the within-subject variability is large, different data collection strategies can influence the power of the study in a significant way. Optimal frequency of repeated measurements also depends on the nature of the trajectory with higher polynomial trajectories and larger measurement error requiring more frequent measurements.

CALL FOR PAPERS

**FC
on
SM**
Federal
Committee
Statistical
Methodology

Abstract Submission Deadline: April 8, 2013

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) is planning a research conference to be held at the **Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC** on **November 4-6, 2013**. The conference provides a forum for experts from around the world to discuss and exchange current research and methodological topics relevant to statistical programs.

Papers submitted for the FCSM Research Conference must be original and not previously published or disseminated.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

Survey Design and Data collection

- Questionnaire design issues
- Improving coverage and response rates
- Instrument design and pretesting
- Survey integration and cross-survey planning
- Treatment of missing data / imputation methods

- Uses of innovative methods for data collection, processing, and dissemination
- Adaptive/responsive design
- Advances in frame development
- Innovative methods in sample design
- Multi-mode and web data collection
- Survey redesign
- Field monitoring and management

Estimation and Analysis

- Bayesian statistical methods
- Variance estimation
- Small area estimation
- Exposure analysis and modeling
- Forecasting, time series, and seasonal adjustment
- Methods of statistical / econometric modeling
- Meta-analysis

- Model-based survey estimation adjustment
- New edit and imputation methodologies
- Application of microdata techniques to economic data
- Collection and analysis of survey paradata
- Analysis of complex surveys

Evaluation

- Census and survey evaluation methodologies
- Evaluating mode effects
- Identifying and reducing sources of survey error
- Measuring process and data quality

- Nonsampling error: estimation and evaluation
- Innovative approaches to program evaluation
- Nonresponse and measurement error research

Cross-Cutting Topics

- Big data and official statistics
- Impact of the global economy on national statistics
- Special issues related to establishment surveys
- Confidentiality, privacy, and disclosure issues
- Data mining, warehousing, and metadata
- Design and analysis of longitudinal studies
- Measurement issues and bridging changes
- Use of data for policymaking
- Statistical uses and quality of administrative records

- Data sharing and linking
- Usability testing
- Quality standards, best practices, and guidelines
- Geospatial statistics
- Economic measurement concepts and techniques
- Development of economic statistical indicators
- Statistical literacy and communication of results
- Statistical issues in national security, healthcare reform, housing, financial well-being, immigration, and the environment

Submission Instructions: To submit an abstract for a paper, technical demonstration, or organized session for consideration, use the template and instructions found at **www.fcsm.gov/events/** or **www.copafs.org** for your submission.

Submit the abstract via email to **fcsm.conf@gmail.com** as soon as possible but no later than **April 8, 2013**.

Please note that authors/ presenters are responsible for their travel expenses, but the registration fee is waived for one presenter per paper.

Tentative Schedule of Activities

Activity	Date
Abstracts due	April 8, 2013
Papers selected/Authors notified	May 2013
Advance program ready	August 2013
Conference registration open	August 2013
Draft paper due to Organizers/Chairs	September 2013
Final program ready	October 2013
Conference dates	November 4-6, 2013
Final paper due (FCSM on-line proceedings)	January 31, 2014

To obtain conference information or
to be included on the mailing list, contact:

Anna Holaus, Conference Coordinator
Email: fcsm.conf@gmail.com
Phone: 301-763-2308
Fax: 301-763-3682

For questions about abstracts
or the program, contact:

Pam McGovern, Program Chair
Email: pam.mcgovern@nass.usda.gov
Phone: 202-720-8853

SHORT COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Short Courses Sponsored by JPSM

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

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

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

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

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

Workshop Sponsored by the DC-AAPOR
Introduction to Web Survey Usability Design and Testing Workshop

April 4, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Increasingly, companies and organizations employ web surveys to collect public opinions and attitudes about products and services, and researchers use web surveys to conduct social and political experiments. Evaluating web survey usability is critical to eliciting high quality information. This workshop will introduce participants to web survey (mobile and desktop) usability design and testing. Instructors will familiarize participants with web survey design issues, grounding their discussion in empirical research including human-computer interaction theories. The workshop will discuss usability assessment using paradata, usability testing, and cognitive testing. Instructors will also discuss data quality in Web surveys, highlighting mixed-mode data collection environments.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Register here: http://www.eventbrite.com/event/5512163028

Session	Time	Title / Topic
	8:30 – 9:00	**Registration and Continental Breakfast**
	9:00 – 9:15	**Introduction (Workshop Objectives and Overview)**
1	9:15 – 11:45	**Web Survey Design: Desktop and Mobile** • Paging vs. scrolling • Navigation and placement of navigation buttons • Edits/input fields • Placement of help • Graphics • Scrolling lists vs. double-banked response options • Authentication • Progress indicators
	11:45 – 12:45	**Lunch break: Table Topics**
2	12:45 – 2:30	**Assessing Your Survey** • Paradata • Usability testing • Cognitive testing
	2:30 – 2:45	**Afternoon Break**
3	2:45 – 3:30	**Mixed Mode: Data Quality** • Data quality • Strategies for increasing response rates • Strengths and weaknesses
	3:30 – 4:00	**Wrap-up**

Instructors:

Amy Anderson Riemer has over 13 years of experience at the U.S. Census Bureau implementing pretesting techniques to redesign paper and electronic questionnaires to reduce measurement error on establishment surveys. These techniques include cognitive interviewing, usability testing, methodological expert reviews, respondent debriefings, and record keeping studies. Amy has focused on the development and usability testing of electronic surveys for establishment surveys. She led teams in developing guidelines for two Web data collection systems. Amy has written and co-authored numerous papers on electronic survey design for establishment respondents, presented at numerous national and international conferences, and has a peer-reviewed article published in the *Journal of Official Statistics*.

Jennifer Romano Bergstrom leads the user experience (UX) research efforts at Fors Marsh Group and designs protocols for qualitative and quantitative research efforts. She frequently collects physiological data, such as eye tracking, pupil dilation, and electrodermal activity, when conducting UX studies and is co-editor of *Eye Tracking in User Experience Design* (forthcoming, fall 2013). Many of her studies aim to improve UX testing methods. Jen specializes in usability for older users, striving to make the human-computer interaction pleasant for older adults. She designs and tests surveys, teaches usability courses, presents at conferences, and publishes in peer-reviewed journals.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Rooms 7 & 8

Costs: on or <u>before</u> March 29: **$50 for DC-AAPOR members; $75 for non-members**

                       <u>after</u> March 29: **$75 for DC-AAPOR members; $100 for non-members**

Short Course Sponsored by the NSF-Census Bureau Research Network
Statistics for Spatio-Temporal Data

April 17, 2013/ 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The course will follow the recently published book by Noel Cressie and Chris Wikle, *Statistics for Spatial Data* (Hoboken NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2011). Professor Cressie will present state-of-the-art methods for spatio-temporal processes, bridging classic techniques with modern hierarchical statistical modeling concepts. From understanding environmental processes and climate trends to developing new technologies for mapping public-health data and the spread of invasive species, there is a high demand for statistical analyses of data that take spatial, temporal, and spatio-temporal information into account. The course will consider a systematic approach to key quantitative techniques for the analysis of such data, particularly hierarchical (empirical and Bayesian) statistical modeling with an emphasis on dynamical spatio-temporal models. Illustrative real-world examples will be presented throughout the course. The course is composed of four subsections:

- Overview of Statistical Modeling of Complex Data and Processes (key concepts of hierarchical modeling and overview of requisite background in spatial statistics and time series).
- Descriptive Analysis of Spatio-Temporal Data (exploratory techniques for spatio-temporal data including visualization and empirical dimension reduction).
- Fundamentals of Spatio-Temporal Modeling (spatio-temporal covariance functions, spatio-temporal kriging, relationship between process and covariance, and random-effects perspectives).
- Spatio-Temporal Dynamical Models (hierarchical perspective of data, process, and parameter models for spatio-temporal dynamical systems; parameterization approaches for dealing with the curse of dimensionality; computation).

Instructor: Dr. Noel Cressie, Distinguished Professor at the National Institute for Applied Statistics Research Australia (University of Wollongong, Australia) is the instructor. He has published extensively in the areas of statistical modeling, analysis of spatial and spatio-temporal data, and empirical-Bayesian and Bayesian methods.

Location: Census Bureau Headquarters, Suitland MD, Conference Room 4 (Suitland Metro stop). All visitors should enter through Gate 7 (Metro entrance) that morning. Breakfast and lunch is available at the Census Bureau cafeteria.

Note: Attendees should have at least a Master's level background in probability and statistical inference, and they should have a good understanding of matrix algebra.

Registration: Contact Sandra Heineck <Sandra.L.Heineck@census.gov> to reserve a place (up to 50 students can be accommodated). Any non-citizens desiring to attend should also contact Eugene Vandrovec directly at 301.763.6418 at least a week in advance.

Workshop/Conference Sponsored by the National Security Agency
7th Annual Probability and Statistics Day

April 26-27, 2013
Registration Deadline: April 12, 2013

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at UMBC will hold the **7th Annual Probability and Statistics Day at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)**.

This event is comprised of a half-day workshop on Friday afternoon and a full day conference on Saturday.

Probability and Statistics Day 2013 is open to statisticians from all local universities, government agencies, and private industries.

Friday Workshop: Multiple Imputation Theory and Applications
Presenter: Jerry Reiter, Duke University

Saturday Keynote Speakers:
- Dennis Cook, University of Minnesota -- Envelope Models and Methods
- Nat Schenker, NCHS/ORM -- Multiple Uses of (Mostly Multiple) Imputation at the National Center for Health Statistics
- Sharon Lohr, Westat --Recent Developments in Multiple Frame Surveys

Costs: Friday workshop - Free (but registration is required)
                  Saturday conference --$30

For more information, visit http://www.umbc.edu/circ/hosting/ProbStatDay2013/index.php .

Contact Bimal Sinha at sinha@umbc.edu (phone 443-528-3012) or Navneet (navy@umbc.edu).

SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

Nominations Sought 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.

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, 2013.**

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

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.

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.

The previous recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award 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; Jenise L. Swall (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 2011, and William Mockovac (Bureau of Labor Statistics) 2012.

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.

Nominations for 2013 will be accepted beginning in **January 2013.** The last date for submission of nominations is **April 5, 2013** and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 30, 2013**. 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 2013.**

The nomination package must be mailed or emailed **no later than April 5, 2013**, 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

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),
- STATA,
- Social Statistics Section, American Statistical Association,
- Washington Statistical Society,
- Westat, and
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).

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

Information about the nomination process and nomination form for the 2013 award are available at http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform13.doc and http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform13.pdf.

Contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org (703-684-1221) or **Kevin Cecco** at kevin.cecco@irs.gov (202-874-0464) for questions about the award.

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. If you have any questions please contact Mel.

We look forward to hearing from you.

KEEPING UP WITH WSS

Join the WSS Meetup

The Washington Statistical Society has begun to use Meetup to help spread the word about WSS events. Members are invited to join at http://meetup.com/WashStat/ for benefits such as:

- Notices and reminders of WSS events
- Ability to indicate whether you will attend
- Opportunity to offer suggestions and other feedback.

Users can specify their preferences for email and other features.

Be Informed about the International Year of Statistics

The latest International Year of Statistics newsletter is available at
http://www.statistics2013.org/files/2013/01/January-28-2013.pdf

Past newsletters can be reviewed at http://www.statistics2013.org/participant-newsletter-archive/.

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

HIGHWAY LOSS DATA INSTITUTE

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) is a world leader in determining what prevents motor vehicle crashes and reduces injuries in crashes. The Institute's research focuses on countermeasures aimed at the human, vehicular, and environmental factors in motor vehicle crashes and on interventions that can occur before, during, and after crashes. The Institute operates a state-of-the-art crash test facility. The Institute's affiliate organization, the **Highway Loss Data Institute** (HLDI), gathers, processes, and publishes data on the ways in which insurance losses vary among different kinds of vehicles.

HLDI needs two skilled individuals. We use SQL Server as our data environment and operate a server farm with more than 175 terabytes of storage space. The following are required for all candidates:

- Team player who can multitask and adapt to changes in requirements and priorities
- Self-starter who is highly motivated
- Minimum of a Bachelors degree in related field
- Good oral and written communication skills
- An interest in highway safety and automobiles

These two positions are currently vacant.

Research Analyst

- Ability to identify and formulate research projects in highway and vehicle safety. These projects will quantify the benefits of lifesaving and cost reducing technologies, explain variation in loss patterns between vehicles, and determine the impact of changes in vehicle laws and driver demographics.
- Use advanced statistical tools to analyze large vehicle/insurance loss databases. Provide statistical and analytical support to projects.
- Produce published reports and present their results.
- Advanced degree with experience in SAS and database tools (SQL) preferred.
- 3+ yrs experience required.

Programmer / Analyst

- Performs software programming and data analysis in support of internal functions and external web applications.
- Develops programs, databases and reports using the following technologies/languages: SQL, .Net (VB.net, C#), ASP.net, XML, HTML.
- 3+ years programming experience in support of business functions.

We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits including an employer-paid 403(b) plan. Qualified applicants send resumes and salary requirements to: jobs@hldi.org or Highway Loss Data Institute, 1005 N. Glebe Road, Suite 800, Arlington VA 22201. For more information on IIHS and HLDI see www.iihs.org.

Washington Statistical Society Board of Directors, Programs, and Committees

President
Keith Rust   (301) 251-8278   rustk1@westat.com
Past President
Jonaki Bose   (240) 276-1257   jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov
President-Elect
Nancy Bates   (301) 763-5248   nancy.a.bates@census.gov
Secretary
Darryl Creel   (301) 770-8229   dcreel@rti.org
Treasurer
Jane Li   (240) 314-2566   janeli@westat.com
Representatives-at-Large
John Finamore   (703) 292-2258   jfinamor@nsf.gov   Mel Kollander   (703) 642-8079   mellk@erols.com
Donsig Jang   (202) 484-4246   DJang@Mathematica-Mpr.com Van Parsons   (301) 458-4421   vparsons@cdc.gov
Alexander C. Cambon   (502) 852-4111   alex.cambon@louisville.edu
Council of Chapters Representative
Nancy Clusen   (202) 484-5263   nclusen@mathematica-mpr.com
Methodology Section Chair
Charles Day   (240) 276-2306   charles.day@samhsa.hhs.gov

WSS Program Chairs

Methodology
Dan Liao   301-816-4605   dliao@rti.org
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Mel Kollander   (703) 642-8079   mellk@erols.com   Barry Nussbaum   (202) 566-1493   nussbaum.barry@epa.gov
Mike Fleming   (202) 366-0183   cfleming0@cox.net   Eduardo Rodela   (202) 564-7586   rodela.eduardo@epa.gov
Data Collection Methods
Grace O'Neill   (202) 586-6485   Grace.O'Neill@eia.gov   Chris Blakely   (301) 763-1722   clisztian@gmail.com
Defense and National Security
Wendy Martinez   (540) 284-1032   martinezw@verizon.net
Economics
Linette Lanclos   (202) 720-2641   Linette399@yahoo.com
Human Rights
Michael P. Cohen   (202) 232-4651   mpcohen@juno.com
Public Health and Biostatistics
Grant Izmirlian   (301) 496-7519   izmirlian@nih.gov   Carolyn Carroll (202) 320-8709   carolyn@stattech.com
Public Policy
Michael L. Cohen   (202) 334-3765   mcohen@nas.edu   Jennifer Park   (202) 395-9046   Jennifer_E_Park@omb.eop.gov
Quality Assurance
Amrut Champaneri   (202) 366-5998   amrut.champaneri@dot.gov Alan Jeeves   (202) 366-4194   alan.jeeves@dot.gov
Social and Demographic Statistics
Judy Droitcour   (202) 512-9145   droitcourj@gao.gov   Promod Chandhok (202) 366-2158   promod.chandhok@dot.gov
Statistical Computing
Charlie Hallahan   (202) 694-5051   hallahan@ers.usda.gov
Student Representative
Ari Houser   (202) 434-3861   ahouser@aarp.org

Other Board Members

Quantitative Literacy
Dhuly Chowdhury   (301) 770-8234   dchowdhury@rti.org
Short Courses
Brian Meekins   (202) 691-7594   meekins.brian@bls.gov
WSS News Editor
Colleen Choi   wss.editor@gmail.com
Electronic Mail Committee
S.V. (Vince) Massimini   (703) 983-5893   svm@mitre.org
Employment Column Coordinator

Anne Peterson   (703) 504-9483   apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com

Financial Advisor and Audit Committee
Stuart Scott   (202) 691-7383   scott.stuart@bls.gov   R. Clifton Bailey   (703) 893-8719   clifton.bailey@wap.org
Historian
Dwight Brock   (301) 517-4026   DwightBrock@westat.com
Social Arrangements Committee
Frank Yoon   (202) 554-7518   FYoon@mathematica-mpr.com
Video Conferencing
Dan Gillman   (202) 691-7523   gillman.daniel@bls.gov
Video Librarian
Phil Kalina   (703) 725-6600   phil@philkalina.com
Web Master
Dan Jacobs   (301) 405-6383   jacobs@mdsg.umd.edu
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee
Tom Krenzke   (301) 251-4203   tomkrenzke@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition
Barnali Das   (301) 279-4593   barnalidas@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator
Joseph Conklin   (202) 586-6664   Joseph.conklin@eia.gov
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coordinator
Mark Otto   (301) 497-5872   mark_otto@fws.gov
Membership Committee
John Czajka   (202) 484-4685   jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com   Adam Safir   (202) 691-5175   safir.adam@bls.gov
John Dixon   (202) 691-7516   dixon_j@bls.gov   Fritz Scheuren   (202) 320-3446   scheuren@aol.com
Timothy Kennel   (301) 763-6795   timothy.l.kennel@census.gov
Herriot Award Committee
Jill Montaquila   (301) 517-4046   montaqj1@westat.com   John Dixon   (202) 691-7516   dixon.john@bls.gov
Fritz Scheuren   (202) 320-3446   scheuren@aol.com
WSS Committee on ASA Fellows
Marilyn Seastrom   (202) 502-7303   marilyn.seastrom@ed.gov   Fritz Scheuren   (202) 320-3446   scheuren@aol.com
Cynthia Clark   (202) 720-2707   Cynthia_Clark@nass.usda.gov   Jeri Mulrow   (703) 292-4784   JMulrow@nsf.gov
Shiskin Award Committee
Robert Parker   (301) 467-7677   parkerrobertp@aol.com   John Greenlees   greeenless.john@bls.gov
Steven Paben   (202) 691-6147   paben.steven@bls.gov   Maurine Haver   maurine@haver.com
Paul Bugg   paul_bugg@omb.eop.gov   Charles Hulten   hulten@econ.bsos.umd.edu
Connie Citro   ccitro@nas.edu   Thomas Mesenbourg
David Findley   david.findley@ieee.org   Karen Pence   karen.pence@frb.gov
Dennis Fixler   dennis.fixler@bea.gov
Hansen Lecture Committee
Connie Citro   (202) 334-3009   ccitro@nas.edu   Don Malec   (301) 458-4031   DMalec@cdc.gov
John Czajka   (202) 484-4685   jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com   Eric Slud   eric.v.slud@census.gov
Mark Harris   (703) 877-8000 (ex 100) mark_harris@nass.usda.gov   Keith Rust   (301) 251-8278   keithrust@westat.com
Gertrude Cox Award Committee
Keith Rust   (301) 251-8278   keithrust@westat.com   Karol Krotki   (202) 728-2485   kkrotki@rti.org
Nancy Bates   (301) 763-5248   Nancy.a.bates@census.gov   Marcus Berzofsky (919) 316-3752   berzofsky@rti.org
Jonaki Bose   (240) 276-1257   jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov   Phillip Kott   (301) 468-8281   pkott@rti.org

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **April, 2013** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15**[th] of the preceding month.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

The authors are responsible for verifying the contents of their submissions. Submissions requiring extensive revisions on length and/or contents will be returned.

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.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS IN PDF OR INCLUDE THEM IN THE BODY OF AN EMAIL.

P.O. Box 2033
Washington, DC 20013

Washington
Statistical
Society