

# WSS NEWS

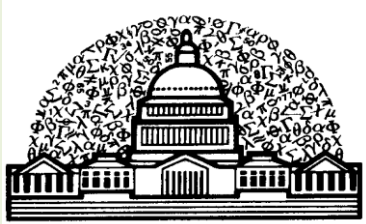
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# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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**JOIN THE FESTIVITIES!**



## **The Washington Statistical Society**

*cordially invites you to our annual*

# **Holiday Party**

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

5:30 – 8:00 PM

### **Agora**

1527 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC

By Metro: Red Line/Dupont Circle

[agoradc.net](http://agoradc.net)

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

### **Cocktail Buffet**

Hitipiti, Hummus, Falafel, Kibbeh, Mini Shish Tavuk

### **Cash bar**

Ticket prices

Pre-paid \$20

Door \$25

Student \$10

### **Online registration for all**

First, go to <http://goo.gl/hQEGfp>

Second, complete registration

Pay online by credit card or at the door by cash or check

## SEMINARS

**Title:** **Julius Shiskin Award Seminar:  
Micro Data Research and Macro Level Understanding-Innovation at  
U.S. Statistical Agencies**

**Date/Time:** **December 16, 2013, 12:30 – 2 p.m.**

**Presenter:** John Haltiwanger, University of Maryland

**Location:** Conference Room 4, U.S. Census Bureau, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland,  
Maryland

To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of the Census, e-mail your name, affiliation, citizenship (if other than U.S. Citizen) and seminar name to **maria.s.cantwell@census.gov** by **noon of December 11th** or call **301-763-2583** and leave a message.

Bring a photo ID (passport, if other than U.S. Citizen) to the seminar. The Census Bureau is located next to the Suitland Green Line Station in Suitland, MD.

**Abstract:** Understanding the U.S. economy and its people at the macro-level requires delving into micro-level data. Micro data research at U.S. statistical agencies has produced innovations that enhance our understanding of U.S. businesses and people. Such research has played a critical role in the development of new data products, discovering innovative methodologies, and assessing the quality and improving existing data products. Successful research programs at the statistical agencies have involved a strong internal research staff as well as active collaboration with external researchers in academia. A critical component of the latter has been programs to facilitate access to the micro data by external researchers. These access programs enable the statistical agencies to harness the creative energy of the U.S. academic community for the benefit of the entire U.S. statistical system. The discussion will focus on critical areas that the statistical agencies should be addressing and the role that micro data research access could play in addressing these challenges.

Professor Haltiwanger joined the faculty at the University of Maryland in 1987 after teaching several years at UCLA and Johns Hopkins University. At Maryland, he was made a Distinguished University Professor in 2010, and was named the first recipient of the Dillard Professorship in Economics in 2013. He began his association with the Census Bureau in 1987 as a Research Associate at the Bureau's Center for Economic Studies (CES), became the Bureau's first Chief Economist in 1996, and headed the CES from 1997 to 1999. He has continued his association with the Bureau as a Research Associate at the CES and as a Senior Research Fellow for the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program. He will be recognized as one of the two recipients of the 2013 Julius Shiskin Award for his initiatives to educate users and producers of key federal economic statistics.

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## CONFERENCES

**Event:** **Data Visualization: Lessons from News Graphics Amanda Cox**

Presented by DC-AAPOR

**Date/Time:** **December 5, 2013/6:00 PM**

**Location:** Pew Research Center  
1615 L St. N.W. Washington, DC 20036

**Description:** Amanda Cox, *New York Times* graphics editor, will talk about how the *New York Times* uses data graphics, discuss sketches that reveal the process behind data graphics development, and touch on the future of data graphics. After the talk, please join us for an informal happy hour at a nearby bar.

Amanda Cox, *New York Times* graphics editor, will talk about how the *New York Times* uses data graphics, discuss sketches that reveal the process behind data graphics development, and touch on the future of data graphics. After the talk, please join us for an informal happy hour at a nearby bar. (Location TBD.)

Questions related to data graphics will be asked and answered including:

- How important is the annotation layer? *Very.*
- When are distributions more interesting than averages? *Almost always.*
- How is a light grey line like a backup singer? *They both make the main guy look good.*
- What is the difference between data visualization and representation? *This one is easier with pictures; just come.*

Some examples of data graphics can be found at <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/12/30/multimedia/2012-the-year-in-graphics.html>.

*Amanda Cox (@amandacox) is a graphics editor at the New York Times. Before joining the Times in 2005, she earned a masters degree in statistics from the University of Washington. She received the Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award from the American Statistical Association in 2012 and was part of a team that won a National Design Award in 2009. Her first job, a long time ago and briefly, was as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Board.*

**Registration/  
Website:**

Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/event/8532327421> to register for the conference.

The cost is \$10 for members and \$35 for non-members. Space is limited, so we encourage you to register early.



- Event:** **Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys, and Big Data**
- Location:** Marriott Inn & Conference Center  
Hyattsville, Maryland at the University of Maryland College Park Campus
- Date/Time:** **May 29-31, 2014**
- Description:** This conference is held in honor of Professor Malay Ghosh and his profound contribution to diverse areas of statistics. Distinguished plenary speakers and young researchers will showcase Professor Ghosh's many cutting-edge research projects in the field.
- Information about submitting materials for presentation is provided on page 11.
- Website:** <http://www.jointprogram.umd.edu/ghosh/>

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **ISBA-George Box Research Workshop on Frontiers of Statistics**

**Submission Deadline: December 15, 2013**

The ISBA-George Box Research Workshop on Frontiers of Statistics will be held at George Washington University on **May 20-22, 2014**. The workshop is co-organized by the ISBA Section on Economics, Finance and Business, the Section on Industrial Statistics, and the Section on Objective Bayes.

The program will highlight currently topical and challenging research linked to many of the areas Box worked in. In part, this will recognize the contributions of George Box in Bayesian statistics and his legacy in terms of impact and connections with many other scientific research areas.

Focus areas include: Dynamics and Control; Design and Experimentation; Time Series and Forecasting; Industrial, Commercial and Other Applications; Model Assessment and Criticism; Objective Bayes and Bayes/frequentist Interfaces; and others.

The workshop will feature invited and contributed talks as well as contributed poster presentations. Some preliminary information about the workshop can be found at the web site: <http://business.gwu.edu/decisionsciences/i2sds/conferences.cfm>.

Persons interested in presenting a contributed paper or posters are kindly invited to send an abstract by **December 15th, 2013** to [soyer@gwu.edu](mailto:soyer@gwu.edu).

A limited number of papers will be selected by the organizing committee as contributed talks, while all others will be presented at the evening poster session and workshop reception.

The workshop is endorsed by ISBA and co-sponsored by the Institute for Integrating Statistics in Decision Sciences, George Washington University.

## **Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys, and Big Data**

**Submission Deadline: February 14, 2014**

On **May 29-31, 2014** a conference on *Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys and Big Data* will take place at the University of Maryland, College Park campus in honor of Professor Malay Ghosh to celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The conference is jointly sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (IPSM), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), Washington Statistical Society (WSS) of the American Statistical Association, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Abstract submission is now open for the following three types of contributed sessions:

1. Regular contributed session (15-minute oral presentation for each speaker)
2. Poster session plus 3-minute oral presentation of each poster in a special plenary session
3. Posters only

Participants may present a paper or poster on a variety of topics, which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Empirical and hierarchical Bayes
- Hierarchical models
- Small area estimation
- Case-control studies and choice-based sampling
- Nonparametrics
- Bayesian approaches to Statistical Machine Learning and Data Mining
- Empirical likelihood
- Sequential analysis

Please send a word or latex file of the title and abstract (max. 300 words) of your talk indicating your choice for the type of contributed sessions listed above (i.e. regular contributed session, poster session plus 3-minute oral presentation, or posters only) to Yan Li at [yli@survey.umd.edu](mailto:yli@survey.umd.edu) as soon as possible but no later than **February 14, 2014**. Abstracts will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to a favorable review and space constraints.

For a list of invited speakers, registration information, details about the meeting location, travel information and contact information for those involved with organizing the conference please visit the conference website (<http://www.jointprogram.umd.edu/ghosh/>).

## **SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS**

### **Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee Seeking Nominees for the 2014 Gertrude M Cox Award**

The Gertrude M Cox 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), American Statistical Association President (1956) and a founder of modern statistics. 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 WSS President Nancy Bates (co-chair), Past President Keith Rust, and President-Elect Diane Herz; and Safaa Amer, 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, in chronological order: Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, Nilanjan Chatterjee, Amy Herring, and Frauke Kreuter.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki ([kkrotki@rti.org](mailto:kkrotki@rti.org)) by **February 28, 2014** with a supporting statement and CV (or link).

## WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Washington Statistical Society

#### Member Spotlight

*Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS membership*



#### Meet WSS Member Kathy Robens...

##### 1. Where do you work and what do you do?

I am a Nationally Board Certified Teacher and currently teach advanced and introductory statistics at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD. Blair has approximately 2,800 students from over 75 countries with roughly 35% eligible for free and reduced lunches. I incorporate professional development experiences into my lessons and encourage change that deepens statistical understanding. Currently I am also a participating teacher in the Baltimore Excellence in STEM Teaching (BEST) Project at Towson University this year with grant funds from NASA.

##### 2. What attracted you to your current position?

I was inspired to teach math by my 7<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher who in her pink chiffon dress, pink hose, and pink shoes read Flatland to us at the end of class. While I love the beauty of pure mathematics, statistics' rich application in

various fields, allows me to explore many topics of current interest with my students.

##### 3. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to..."

...become aware of area presentations, events, and people from our diverse community of practitioners who use statistics. I like to increase my knowledge of how statistics is used in different, real world contexts which is not typically available to me from within the school system.

##### 4. What is the most interesting statistical project you have worked on recently?

I analyzed experimental data at the National Institutes on Drug Addiction (NIDA) in Baltimore this summer. The research determined the effect of nicotine on cognition for different groups of cigarette smokers: patients with schizophrenia, patients dually-diagnosed with schizophrenia and drug abuse or dependency, and healthy controls. I was a

teacher-intern at NIDA as part of the BEST Project.

**5. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?**

I would like to become involved in projects incorporating statistical analysis concerning social or educational concerns, or perhaps work as an educational consultant, or maybe return to teaching at the college level.

**6. Describe yourself in 3 words.**

Perceptive, tenacious, and responsible.

**7. Finish this sentence: "On an ideal Saturday, I would..."**

Rise early, sip freshly made hot coffee then go for a walk while listening to a book on tape. Spend the day researching, reading and/or, analyzing a current interest and find excuses to go outside and arrange to meet friend for lunch. During the evening I would go out to dinner with my husband and perhaps another couple and see, for example, a Mark Morris dance concert.

**8. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?**

My favorite meal at the Shed in Santa Fe, NM is having two, blue corn cheese enchiladas (flat, no egg) smothered with red chile preceded by a margarita and followed by a decadent mocha cake. Sadly, the locally named Santa Fe Café in Rosslyn recently closed so nothing here comes close to the real thing.

**9. Have you had any great career mentors? If so, what made them great?**

Many people have played important roles in helping me at particular junctures during my careers. As an undergraduate math major at the University of New Mexico, Elizabeth Waters at 63 years-old, introduced me to dance and set in motion my first, 20 year career in modern dance: she changed my concept of what was possible. Dan Rudolph, one of the world leaders in ergodic theory was a pretty good dancer for a mathematician, a friend, and an occasional dance partner. He encouraged my transition back to math—I hope I made a pretty good mathematician for a dancer!

Others include David Stein, a veteran statistics teacher at Blair who welcomed my questions when I first started teaching statistics; and Julie Damico who accepted me into the BEST Project so I could experience how statistics is actually used in a real world setting dealing with questions and issues not in a text book.

**10. Is there anything else you'd like to share?**

I am just so happy this group exists! Although my teaching schedule allows me to attend only a few seminars during the year, I enjoy having access to seminar abstracts and share this content with my students. I would love to host a round table discussion of area statisticians at my school so students improve their level of quantitative literacy.

## BE INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED!



### **WSS and ASA Bring the Meeting Within a Meeting to Washington Mark Otto (USFWS and WSS Quantitative Literacy Committee)**

The [Meeting Within a Meeting](#) (MWM) statistics workshops explore how teachers can inspire growth in statistical literacy and thinking in their students. This year the MWM covered the statistical part of the [Common Core curriculum](#) and [GAISE Pre-K-12 Report](#) that asks students to formulate questions; collect, organize, analyze, and draw conclusions from data; and apply basic concepts of probability. Since its inception in 2007, the MWM statistics workshop for K-12 teachers was part of the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM). The teachers could take advantage of the other talks and vast resources at the rest of the JSM. This year however, because the JSM was held in Montreal with different educational standards and language, the MWM took place in Washington, DC—a meeting not within a meeting.

The American Statistical Association (ASA) education director, Rebecca Nichols, suggested that the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) collaborate to hold the meeting in the Washington Area. The ASA offices in Alexandria would be a convenient, accessible meeting site. Dhuly Chowdhury, the WSS Quantitative Literacy Chair, asked for sponsorships for local teachers. Because she got quick support from the WSS board, Washington became the most likely site for the workshop. The Quantitative Literacy Committee contacted the Prince William, DC, Fairfax, Alexandria, Arlington, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Loudoun school districts, finding school starting dates and helped with outreach for the workshop. The meeting dates were squeezed in between the JSM, the ISI meeting, and the start dates of area schools.

The participants came from as far away as Richmond and Spotsylvania in Virginia, Delaware, and Vermont. The ASA hosted participants representing a mix of math and science teachers, and a few educational policy makers. There were even two math education professors from the Vermont Mathematical Institute, Bob and Judy Laird. They are part of a program that helped design an effective K through 12 Math and Statistics curriculum. The WSS sponsored the 40 local teachers by reimbursing their \$50 registration fees and provided a free one-year membership in the WSS.

The lectures, exercises, and discussions were enthusiastic and lively. Many said that they were glad to have the Core (and Virginia equivalent) Standards laid out so well and to have actual exercises on applying them. The note book along with all the presentations also had a wealth of ASA Quantitative Literacy Resources and referred to other [online materials](#).

Jerry Moreno (John Carroll University), Katherine Halvorsen (MWM Program Chair, Smith College), and Patrick Hopfensperger (ASA/National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Joint Committee Chair, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) presented most of the material. They started with the concepts and how statistical concepts are built on through the grades. Moreno walked through categorical analysis and 2 by 2 tables. He used them to implicitly show marginal and conditional probabilities. In the exercises he would ask, "Now how would a seventh grader say that?" It made us think how our students were processing the material. For some science teachers the concepts were new, so they had to stretch to understand the material themselves as well as figure out how they would present it to their students.

Hopfensperger worked through the high school material. He used examples from his own classroom experience. He talked about students having to be tested for AIDS to play sports. He made up an example of 1 in 1,000 actually having the disease, the test detected all that had the disease but also falsely detected one percent that did not. I'll leave it to you to figure out the chance his student had of getting a positive HIV test. I tried to figure out the inverse probability while Hopfensperger more simply used a 2 by 2 table. The real life result was the student could not play football because he could not afford the secondary test. We got more than a statistics lesson.

Katherine Halvorsen, among other things, explained statistical inference using randomization tests. The tests randomly assigned the independent variable labels to the dependent variables. The results of these simulations become the null distribution. We can then see where the original statistics fall in the null distribution. Having to create a distribution gave a much better grasp for a test than calculating a t-statistic.

On the first day Mark Otto talked during lunch on how statistics related to the scientific method. On both days, Chowdhury talked about what the WSS was doing in quantitative literacy and how the WSS volunteers might help them. The Quantitative Literacy Committee has been asked to work with special year long class concentrating on their science projects at the School without Walls and with both the teachers and students in Wilson High School in Alexandria to help with science fair projects. One teacher from Dunlap High School wants someone to come in as often as once a month to help with statistics and show students the career opportunities available in this field. The WSS still has support materials for volunteers from the "Adopt a School" program, and from the ASA K-12 statistics [education resources](#) and [career resources](#) online. As these teachers get into the school year, the WSS will be getting more calls for help. If you would like to help out in the local schools, please contact Dhuly Chowdhury ([dchowdhury@rti.org](mailto:dchowdhury@rti.org), (301) 770 – 8234).



## Celebrate with the Wikimedia-DC Chapter!!

The Wikimedia-DC chapter is holding a **Statistics Edit-a-thon** to celebrate the International Year of Statistics. We'll get together to improve articles broadly related to the field of statistics and the official statistical activities such as historical censuses. This event will include training for anyone new to Wikipedia and brief talks on subjects of interest.

- **When:** Sunday, December 8 from 2 – 5 PM.
- **Where:** Digital Commons Room 5 at [Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library](#) (9<sup>th</sup> & G Streets NW; Gallery Place Metro Station, 9<sup>th</sup> and G exit)

To RSVP, ask questions, or get additional information, please visit [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/DC/Statistics\\_Edit-a-thon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Meetup/DC/Statistics_Edit-a-thon) or email Peter Meyer at [econterms@gmail.com](mailto:econterms@gmail.com).

## Need Volunteer to Serve as WSS Webmaster

Dan Jacobs has been the WSS webmaster since the 90's. Understandably so, Dan has expressed a desire to step down. The Webmaster has long been a key role at WSS. The webmaster maintains the website and posts materials provided by officer and committees. The webmaster also develops, maintains, and runs the scripts that implement our annual and special elections.

The WSS webmaster should have knowledge of current web technologies and pay careful attention to detail. Ideally, he or she will be familiar with WordPress, Drupal, Joomla, or other content management systems so he or she can help decentralize website maintenance. The webmaster should also know php so she or he can implement, maintain, and improve the scripts we use for elections and other special purposes.

If interested, please contact Nancy Bates, WSS President 2013-2014 at [nancy.a.bates@census.gov](mailto:nancy.a.bates@census.gov) or 301 763-5248.

## 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.

## **Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program**

The WSS Board of Directors has established a 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 greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to, John Finamore (jfinamore@nsf.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## **Missed the Unconference? No Worries!**

If you missed the [Unconference on the Future of Statistics](#), don't fret! [You can watch the event on YouTube](#).

The Unconference was a huge success, said co-organizer Jeff Leek: "We think the Unconference went amazingly well. All six speakers gave really insightful talks, we had major participation on YouTube and Twitter (the only time I've ever seen more statisticians on Twitter was when Nate Silver spoke at JSM!), and we had a ton of viewers. So overall, it was everything we had hoped for."

All other news are available in the latest International Year of Statistics newsletter at <http://www.statistics2013.org/files/2013/11/November-18-2013.pdf>.

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

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

## **Latest on International Year of Statistics**

### **"Optimism" is Theme of the Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop**

Optimism about the future of our discipline and profession and a keen awareness of the challenges ahead were on full display at the [Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop](#) in London last week.

The result of this workshop will be a paper aimed at research funders around the world that will summarize the current and near-term future state of the statistical sciences. This paper will be made widely available when it is completed during the first quarter of 2014.

Also available very soon will be video of the workshop's discussions and presentations.

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

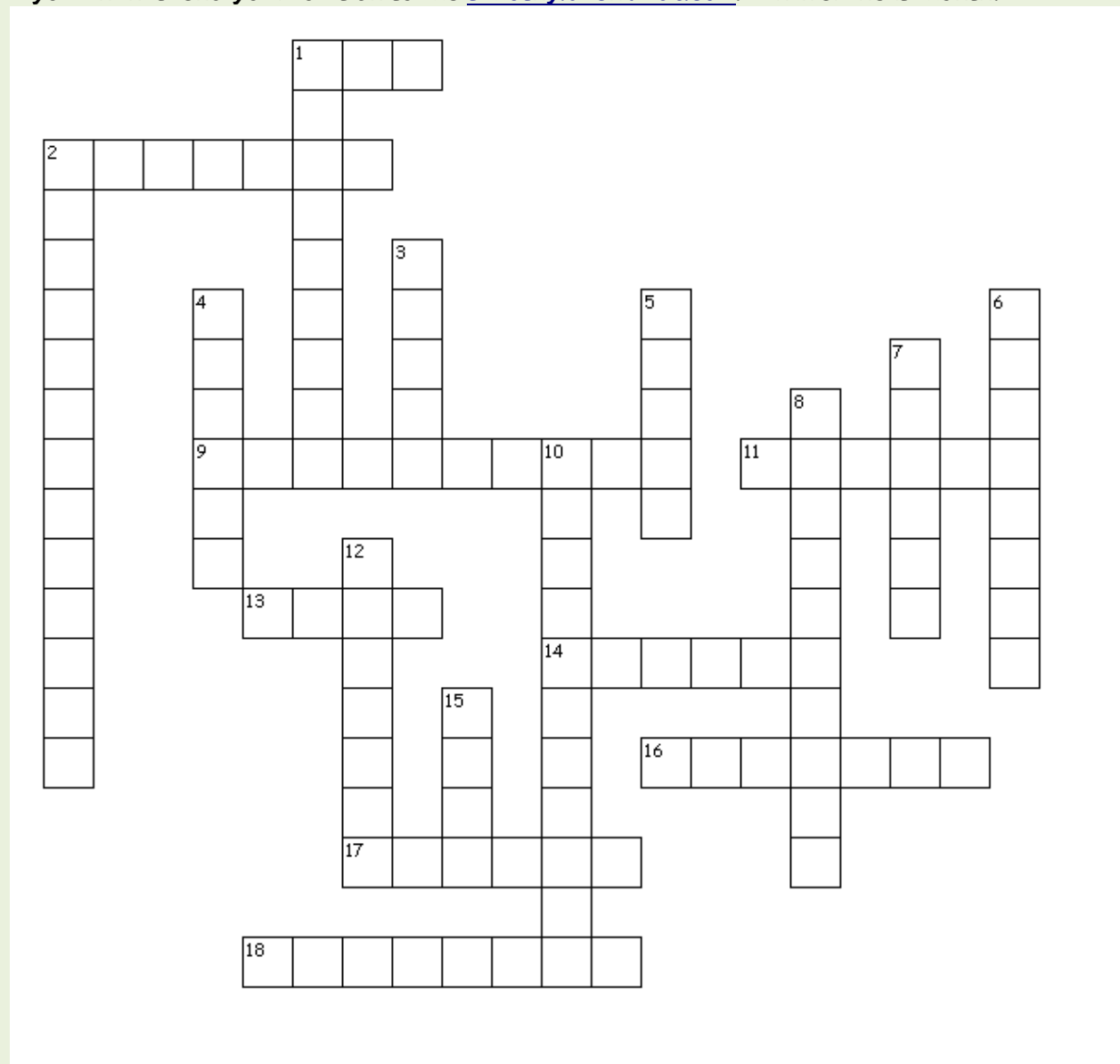
# STUDENT CORNER

## Probs & Stats Brain Teaser #3

Midterms are past us and the December Break is just over the horizon. We all have papers to finish, projects to wrap up, and exams to study for. Break Time! I've dedicated this month's Student Corner entirely to the Probs & Stats Brain Teaser #3. Give your best shot at this crossword puzzle.

Note: **It's not just for students!**

If you finish it send your solution to me [timothy.allen@udc.edu](mailto:timothy.allen@udc.edu). Answers next month!



**Across**

1. Once-president of ASA, Frauke Kreuter got her award this year
2. Egypt's heat transformed him, making MP3 possible
9.  $E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)$
11. This Student brewed up a distribution
13. Leibniz's diagram showing unions, intersections
14. A poisoned apple took this solver of the Enigma
16. First editor of Biometrika
17. Central Tendency: don't be Mean
18. Expectation of estimator = parameter

**Down**

1. An inequality and a crater bear his name
2. Property of Poisson processes: P(future occurrences) are uninfluenced by past events
3. "Königsberg Bridges impossible; normal, Poisson use my number"
4. Baron found this to have mode, median, but no mean or variance
5. "My whiskered boxed, never unhinged"
6. The Answer to Life, the Universe, & Everything
7. "My exact test tested tea taster's testimony"
8. Satisfy my axioms, and you're a probability
10. This lady of the lamp was a passionate statistician
12.  $f(x) = 1/(b-a), a < x < b$
15. 1M Random Digits from this Corporation

**Answer to Prob; & Stat; Brain Teaser #2:**

There were a couple of ways to solve last time's brain teaser. Congratulation to **Michael P. Cohen** ([mpcohen@juno.com](mailto:mpcohen@juno.com)), our WSS Human Rights Chair, for solving it this way:

*Problem:* Bowl I contains 6 red chips and 4 blue chips. Five of these 10 chips are selected at random and without replacement and put in bowl II, which was originally empty. One chip is then drawn at random from bowl II. Given that this chip is blue, find the conditional probability that 2 red chips and 3 blue chips are transferred from bowl I to bowl II.

*Solution:*

More generally, let  $f(k)$  denote the probability that  $k$  blue chips and  $5-k$  red chips are transferred to bowl II and then a blue chip is drawn from bowl II. Then

$$f(k) = \frac{\binom{4}{k} \binom{6}{5-k}}{\binom{10}{5}} \times \frac{k}{5}.$$

So  $f(3) = \frac{1}{7}$ . The total probability that a blue chip is finally drawn from bowl II is

$$\sum_{k=1}^4 f(k) = \frac{2}{5}.$$

The required conditional probability is then

$$\frac{f(3)}{\sum_{k=1}^4 f(k)} = \frac{\frac{1}{7}}{\frac{2}{5}} = \frac{5}{14}.$$

*Solution 2:* There is also a solution that uses Bayes' Theorem:

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(B|A)P(A)}{P(B)}$$

A: {2Red, 3Blue Bowl1 → Bowl2}, B: {1B drawn from Bowl2}. So

$$P(B|A) = \frac{3}{5}; P(A) = \frac{\binom{6}{2} \binom{4}{3}}{\binom{10}{5}}; P(B) = \frac{4}{10}; P(A|B) = \frac{\frac{3}{5} \times \frac{5}{21}}{\frac{4}{10}} = \frac{5}{14}$$

~ Tim Allen, WSS Student Representative, [timothy.allen@udc.edu](mailto:timothy.allen@udc.edu)

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS

Opportunities for substantial leadership responsibilities in studies of international public health import.

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in the statistical coordination of major nation-wide clinical trials funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. Our NIH research funding exceeds \$65 million per year. The center has a staff of over 115 with 35 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 14 faculty.

Please visit our web site at [www.bsc.gwu.edu](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu) to learn more about our research.

We are recruiting Ph.D. level research faculty positions to participate in these and future studies.

These **Assistant to Associate Research Professors** will principally be supported by sponsored research funds at the Biostatistics Center with additional responsibilities in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the School of Public Health and Health Services (SPHHS). Each will serve as a Co-Investigator for studies in diabetes mellitus providing direction in the design, conduct, and analysis of multi-center collaborative studies; developing or implementing new methodologies to meet project needs; participate in preparing manuscripts and presentations based on the study results; and engaging in academic commitments such as advising students and teaching. The successful candidates will join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists, contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, interact with medical investigators, participate in the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and make an impact on issues important to the public health. Faculty in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics are expected to participate in Department and SPHHS faculty activities as well as in educational activities at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration with Center faculty and graduate students.

### **Basic Qualifications:**

Doctorate in Statistics or Biostatistics, or a Doctorate in Epidemiology with a MS in Statistics or Biostatistics.

**Application Procedures:** To be considered please complete an online faculty application at <http://www.gwu.jobs/postings/18396> and upload a Curriculum Vitae, a letter to include a synopsis of your role in collaborative medical research that has led to medical scientific presentation or publication and a statement of career purpose indicating your career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals. Please send three letters of reference to [researchjobs@bsc.gwu.edu](mailto:researchjobs@bsc.gwu.edu) or by U.S. Post to Manager of Human Resources, The Biostatistics

Center, The George Washington University, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852.

Only complete applications will be considered. Review of applications start on **November 6, 2013** and is ongoing until the position is filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children.

Applications from women, people of color and people with disabilities are especially encouraged.

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



## **Assistant / Associate Professor Biostatistics**

### **George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services**

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the George Washington University (GWU) School of Public Health and Health Services is recruiting a full-time tenure-track faculty member in biostatistics at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor.

The Department has expertise in biostatistical methods, design and conduct of clinical trials, survival analysis, HIV/AIDS, cancer, behavioral, reproductive health and health disparities epidemiology, geographical health information systems and spatial analysis, and public health laboratory science. Faculty in the Department teach and mentor masters and doctoral students, conduct innovative and multidisciplinary research, and engage in biostatistical consulting. The Department places high value on enthusiastic and innovative teaching, applied and methodological research, and collaborative science.

#### **Assistant Professor Basic Qualifications:**

Applicants must have a doctoral degree in biostatistics, statistics, or in epidemiology with substantial quantitative academic training. ABD applicants will be considered, but must complete all degree requirements for the doctoral degree by 8/15/14. Excellent written communication skills are required. Applicants must have experience publishing in peer-reviewed journals, teaching graduate level courses in biostatistics and/or mentoring graduate students, and proposing and/or implementing funded research.

#### **Associate Professor Basic Qualifications:**

Applicants must have a doctoral degree in biostatistics, statistics, or in epidemiology with substantial quantitative academic training. Excellent written communication skills are required. Applicants must have a strong record of peer-reviewed publications, demonstrated success at obtaining and implementing externally-sponsored research, and have a history of commitment to teaching and academic citizenry.

#### **Responsibilities:**

The successful applicant will be involved with collaborative applied and methodological research, consulting, teaching and developing courses at the masters and doctoral level, and mentoring graduate students. The successful applicant will also develop and maintain an active research program in biostatistics or epidemiology. Opportunities for involvement in consultation activities in biostatistics and epidemiology may be available. Additional opportunities to collaborate with faculty from The Biostatistics Center may also be available.

Rank and salary will be commensurate with experience. Applications from women and people of color are strongly encouraged. Review of applications will begin on **12/10/2013** and will continue until the position is filled.

**Application Procedure:**

To be considered for the Assistant Professor Position, interested applicants should go to <http://www.gwu.jobs/postings/18532> and click on 'Apply to this Job'.

To be considered for the Associate Professor Position, interested applicants should go to <http://www.gwu.jobs/postings/18780> and click on 'Apply to this Job'.

Applicants are required to submit the following documents electronically: 1) a curriculum vitae; 2) a statement of research interests, accomplishments, and plans; and 3) a statement of teaching and mentoring experience. Only complete applications will be considered.

Additional information about the SPHHS can be found at <http://sphhs.gwu.edu/>

***The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.***

## **Biostatistician**

The Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Foundation, a highly regarded voluntary health services agency, is seeking a Biostatistician in the National Headquarters office in Bethesda, Maryland. The Biostatistician will report to the Director of Epidemiology and will provide analytic support to the intramural research program utilizing the CF Foundation Patient Registry.

The CF Foundation Patient Registry is an encounter-based, longitudinal registry of over 40,000 patients with cystic fibrosis that were treated at any time from 1986 to the present within the CF Foundation's Care Center Network. Using the registry data, the CF Foundation is developing an intramural research program to address key comparative effectiveness research (CER) questions for the CF committee. The Biostatistician will provide a key role in designing and implementing the analyses for identified CER priorities.

### **Essential Duties and Responsibilities**

- Support the development of analytic plans for addressing selected research question
- Conduct analyses outlined in the analytic plans
- Collaborate on the writing of manuscripts
- Conduct ad hoc analyses as requested

### **Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities**

- Masters in Statistics or Biostatistics with two or more years of experience or a Masters of Public Health with a concentration in Biostatistics with five or more years of experience
- Experienced SAS programmer
- Experience conducting comparative effectiveness research study using observational, registry data
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience working with health insurance claims data an asset

## Washington Statistical Society Board of Directors, Programs, and Committees

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## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the **January, 2014** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15<sup>th</sup>** of **preceding month**.

Email items to [wss.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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 will be returned.

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