



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

For the 2014 elections the open positions include:

President-Elect (at least two nominees)

- for July 2014 to June 2015
- to serve as President July 2015 to June 2016 and Past-President July 2016 to June 2017

Communications Officer (at least two nominees)

- for July 2014 to June 2016

Treasurer (at least one nominee)

- for July 2014 to June 2016

Two Representatives-at-Large (at least four nominees)

- for July 2014 to June 2016

Methodology Program Chair (at least two nominees)

- for July 2014 to June 2015
- to serve as Methodology Section Chair July 2015 to June 2016

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2014 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the government sector. For any other position, nominations may come from either the government or non-government sectors.

For all of the positions listed above, we heartily welcome nominations from any member of the Washington Statistical Society. ***Please e-mail your nominations to Past-President Keith Rust (KeithRust@westat.com) by March 1, 2014.***

Continuing Board members for 2014-15 will be:

President: Diane Herz, Mathematica

Past-President: Nancy Bates, US Census Bureau

Secretary: Andrew Keller, US Census Bureau

At-large: Jaki McCarthy, NASS, and Steve Paben, BLS

Methodology Section Chair: Mike Fleming, NHTSA (retired).

SEMINARS

2014 WSS PRESIDENT'S INVITED SEMINAR

Title: **On Making Inferences from Non-Probability Samples**

Dates/Time: **March 26, 2014**
***2:00 pm - 4:00pm**

*The talk is from 2:00-3:30 followed by light refreshments.
Note: video conferencing will **not** be available.

Chair: Nancy Bates, WSS President

Speaker: J. Michael Brick, Westat and JPSM

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 3
To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 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.

Abstract: In the last decade with the wide spread use of the Internet, surveys of all kinds have been conducted that try to reduce the ever increasing costs of doing high quality probability sample surveys. In a reaction to this trend, the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) set up a task force to examine the conditions under which survey designs that do not use probability samples might still be useful for making inferences to a larger population. Reg Baker and I co-chaired that task force and its final report is available on the AAPOR website (www.aapor.org). A summary, along with commentary of other researchers, was published in *The Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*.

In this talk, I will begin by reviewing the findings of the task force and some reaction to these findings. I will then suggest potential implications this line of research might have on surveys conducted for government agencies. Hopefully, a lively discussion of the topic will follow.

Biography:

Mike Brick is a Vice President and co-Director of the Survey Methods Unit at Westat, and is a research professor in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. He has a Ph.D. in statistics from American University, is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. Mike was President of the Washington Statistical Society in 2010.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

CONFERENCES

- Event:** **FFC/2014: The 20th Federal Forecasters Conference**
Theme: The Role of Government Forecasts
- Sponsoring Agencies:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs, Economic Research Service, Internal Revenue Service, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor
- Date/Time:** **April 24, 2014**
8:00 am - 9:00 am (check-in)
9:00am - 4:15 pm (schedule)
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212
- Register Deadline:** **April 10, 2014** at <http://ffc2014.eventbrite.com>
- *Abstract Due:** **March 15, 2014**
- *Contest Entry Deadline:** **March 15, 2014**
No charge for participation
- *See page 9 for additional information about the contest and for submitting abstracts.*

Description:

Government forecasts are critical to assessing the future needs of the nation. These forecasts are used by those in the public and private sectors for planning and decision-making in a variety of areas: agriculture, energy, the environment, demographics, geologic hazards, healthcare, job trends, social security, veteran's issues, and more. For example, policy makers use forecasts to create laws, direct resources and establish budgets. Individuals use forecasts of salary and employment trends to make career decisions, and nominal price forecasts and interest rate trends to decide whether to buy a home. Government agencies are also consumers, using forecasts of weather and commodity supply and demand to project crop yield and prices. Labor force projections are also based on government-produced projections of the population.

At FFC/20, presenters from a variety of agencies will share their experience in developing and using forecasts. Add your voice to the conversation! Please join our discussion of the unique role played by federal forecasts, and how forecasts are used by the government, private industry, and the public.

- 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

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 70th birthday.

The conference is jointly sponsored by the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM), 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 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/>).

U.S. Energy Information Administration • U.S. Geological Survey

~ Partnering Organizations ~

Research Program on Forecasting, The George Washington University FFC/2014: The 20th Federal Forecasters Conference

The FFC Board invites you to present a paper at one of the afternoon concurrent sessions. Please note, papers are not restricted to the official conference theme and may cover any subject relating to forecasting or estimation. Presenters are encouraged to provide written version of their presentation. Individual presentations of the papers will be limited to 15 to 20 minutes in length. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to: woodward.maggie@bls.gov by **March 15, 2014**.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their paper in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or and Adobe Acrobat PDF file by June 1, 2014 to William Hussar (william.hussar@edu.gov) to ensure their paper's inclusion in the conference proceedings. See below for the recommended format. All papers presented in the afternoon concurrent sessions and provided by June 1, 2014 will be published as Proceedings of the 2014 Federal Forecasters Conference. A panel of judges will determine the best paper presented during the concurrent sessions and recognition will be awarded at the following Federal Forecasters Conference.

Title Centered in 12-Point Bold Times New Roman Type

Author and organization centered in normal 10-point Times New Roman

Please compose, format, and spell check your document in Microsoft Word. Format all text in a double-column, normal 10-point Times New Roman font type, and columns should be square. Left and right margins must be 1" and the spacing between the two columns must be 0.2".

Text should be single-spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs. Small tables and figures may be included in the column text, but place all larger tables and figures at the end of the document in single column format.

Refer to the FFC/2012 Proceedings volume for examples of the recommended paper format (available at www.federalforecasters.org).

**FFC/2014--- The Federal Forecaster; Conference Contest
Official Entry Form
Entry; Deadline: March 15, 2014**

Name: _____

Agency/Department: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please write your forecasts in the boxes provided for the following 5 items. Put your forecasts in the same format as the example. The forecasts will be judged by the ranking method (analysis of variance by ranks).

Question	Forecast
1. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month of March 2014 (Example: For September 2013, the national unemployment rate was 7.2%)	
2. Number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, in February 2014 (Example: In August 2013 the number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, was 891,000)	
3. Average temperature at Reagan National Airport for April 1, 2014 (Example: On September 16, 2013, the average was 70 °F)	
4. Closing price of the S&P 500 on April 1, 2014 (Example: The closing price of the S&P on September 16, 2013 was 1,697.60)	
5. Closing price of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. on April 1, 2014 (Ticker: GMCR) (Example: Closing price closed at \$84.51 on September 16, 2013)	

We will announce the winner at the FFC/2014 Conference, Thursday, April 24, 2014. All decisions of the contest judges are final. FFC board members are not eligible to participate in this forecasting contest. Each person may submit only one entry. All contest entries are confidential. For more information, please call Brian Sloboda at (202) 693-5904 or e-mail at sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov. Each individual will receive confirmation of receipt of his/her submission.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their papers in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or Adobe Acrobat PDF by June 1, 2014. Please email the file to William Hussar at william.hussar@ed.gov. Final papers will be published on the Federal Forecasters website as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file.

Your paper may be omitted from the FFC/2014 Proceedings Volume if you fail to conform to these guidelines.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SHORT COURSES

Statistical Analysis with Missing Data

FEBRUARY 5-6, 2014

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Trivellore E. Raghunathan and Roderick Little

Payment and Registration Due by January 22, 2014

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=100313

Introduction to Survey Management

JUNE 10-11, 2014

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Steven G. Heeringa and Nancy Gebler

Payment and Registration Due by May 27, 2014

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061014

HAPPY NEW

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

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

Deadline: February 28, 2014

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) by **February 28, 2014** with a supporting statement and CV (or link).

2014 Julius Shiskin Award

Deadline: March 15, 2014

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 2013 award recipients were John C. Haltiwanger, Distinguished University Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland, and Maurine Haver, President and founder of Haver Analytics Inc. for their initiatives to educate users and producers of key federal economic statistics.

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 2014 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, 2014**.

Roger Herriot Award

Deadline: April 1, 2014

Roger Herriot was the Associate Commissioner of Statistical Standards and Methodology at the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) when he died in 1994. Prior to his service at NCES, he also held several positions at the U.S. Census Bureau, including Chief of the Population Division. Soon after his death, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA) along with the Washington Statistical Society (a chapter of ASA) established the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to recognize individuals or teams who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

Nominations are sought for the **2014 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics**. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

- Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals or teams at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions. As innovation often requires or results from teamwork, team nominations are encouraged. Team innovations often are more lasting, resulting in real paradigm shifts, not just one-off improvements. For an example, see the 1998 Herriot (team) and the 2013 project awards.

The recipient of the 2014 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with, and strongly supportive of, these organizations during his career. The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2014. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past Award Recipients:

1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)
1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)
1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)
2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)
2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)
2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)
2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)
2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)
2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)
2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)
2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)
2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
2012 - Paul Biemer (RTI International)
2013 - 1973 Exact Match Project

Nominations for the 2014 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2014**. Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that includes references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.
- Up to six additional letters in support that demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee with current contact information. For team nominations, the vitae of all team members should be included.

The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact John Dixon, Chair of the 2014 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202-691-7516 or **dixon.john@bls**.

Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2014. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

Deadline: April 4, 2014

Nominations are sought for the 2014 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award to encourage the mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in the Federal, State, or Local government. It is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of the Federal, State, or Local government statistical staff who is nominated by a supervisor and co-workers for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff.

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.

Nominations for 2014 will be accepted beginning in **January 2014**. 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.

The last date for submission of nominations is **April 4, 2014**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 30, 2014**. The award will consist of a \$1,000, a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in **June 2014**.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2013 award, please go to:
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform14.doc> or
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform14.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact Rick Peterson at rick@amstat.org (703) 684-1221, and Deborah Griffin at Deborah.h.griffin@census.gov (301) 763-2855.

BE INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED!

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.

Latest on International Year of Statistics

Announcing the International Prize in Statistics

As we come to the close of 2013, the Statistics2013 Steering Committee is pleased to announce an on-going venture to greatly increase media and public awareness of the growing importance of statistics to modern life and promote understanding of the myriad and diverse ways that statistical science is impacting the well-being of billions of people.

The five statistical societies that launched the International Year of Statistics have formed an organization called the International Prize in Statistics Foundation. The foundation will provide the framework that will ultimately lead to the annual presentation of a “Nobel-like” prize in statistical science, to be called the International Prize in Statistics. The award will recognize the major achievement of an individual or team in the field of statistics.

The primary objective of this major honor is to call public attention to the important role that statistics, data analysis, probability and understanding of uncertainty have played in the past and are playing today in the advancement of society, science, technology and human welfare with a decided focus on current developments. Another leading objective is to identify extremely penetrating and valuable insights and advancements in statistics that can help achieve the primary objective.

The International Prize in Statistics Foundation is seeking the financial commitment of individuals, businesses and organizations that would significantly advance the establishment of this new award and help to create an aura to match that of other prestigious scientific awards.

The initial members of the Foundation are Susan Ellenberg (appointed by the American Statistical Association), Xuming He (International Statistical Institute), Neils Keiding, (International Biometric Society), Richard Laux (Royal Statistical Society), David Madigan (Institute of Mathematical Statistics), and Ron Wasserstein (interim secretary of the foundation; Wasserstein is executive director of the ASA and a member of the Statistics2013 Steering Committee).

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

Introducing The World of Statistics!

To continue carrying the key messages of statistics to the world's population, the Statistics2013 Steering Committee has selected a new name for the movement.

That new name is: The World of Statistics!

The mission of The World of Statistics will be to further advance the goals of the Statistics2013 campaign. As a reminder, those objectives are:

- Increase public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society
- Nurture statistics as a profession, especially among young people
- Promote creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics

The “The World of Statistics” will come with a new website and related communications mediums.

By late January, the Statistics2013 website will become www.worldofstatistics.org.

All other news are available in the latest International Year of Statistics newsletter, at <http://www.statistics2013.org/files/2013/12/December-16-2013.pdf>.

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

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

Wanted: Short course topics and instructors

It has been some time since the WSS offered a short course to its membership. We want to change that! WSS short courses are typically 1-2 day courses offered at a central location near a metro stop. WSS member price of enrollment is usually lower than similar courses offered by universities or private vendors. Additionally, a number of slots are reserved for students at an even deeper discount.

The WSS Board is seeking instructors willing to teach short courses of interest to our members. You do not have to be a WSS member to teach the course. Additionally, the Society can provide a small honorarium and will handle the logistics.

If you are interested in teaching, can suggest potential teachers, OR simply have class topics you want to suggest, please contact Nancy Bates, WSS President or WSS Short Course Committee Chair, Brian Meekins at: nancy.a.bates@census.gov and meekins.brian@bls.gov. Thanks!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

STUDENT CORNER

UDC Graduate Statistics Program Closing

Normally I like to keep the tone of the Student Corner upbeat and humorous, but this month I have to relay bad news: the University of the District of Columbia, where I am a student, has decided to terminate the Masters of Science in Applied Statistics (MSAS) program. Those of us currently enrolled in the program will be allowed to graduate, but no new students will be admitted.

Prior to the decision being finalized, both the Washington Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association gave their strongest support by providing a letter to the Program Director. The letter encouraged UDC to reconsider its decision, offered the help of WSS and ASA in making any improvements needed to the program, and explained the high demand for Statisticians in the Washington, DC area. Indeed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics website states that the Washington, DC area has the highest concentration of Statisticians in the United States. This, combined with the fact that tuitions at other DC area universities are generally double the cost of the program at UDC, made UDC an excellent option for many future statisticians, particularly lower-income students.

I brought up these points in a public meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, **Dr. April Massey (amassey@udc.edu)**. She explained to me that the decision to cut the UDC MSAS program was based on low internal demand; that is, UDC undergraduates had not signed up for the MS in Applied Statistics program at a high enough level. I gave my view that this was an indicator of a marketing problem on the part of the University, as the reasonably priced option for studying in a high-demand field offered by UDC should have generated high admissions, and revenue, for the University. She told me that for the time being, the program would remain closed, with the possibility of reconsideration in 2019.

While it is encouraging that the program may re-open six years from now, I believe it makes sense to re-open the program immediately, and for UDC to redouble its efforts to recruit and admit students to the program. To do otherwise would be disservice, particularly to disadvantaged future statisticians in the DC area. I hope you and other areas statisticians join me in encouraging UDC to re-open its MS in Applied Statistics program. Thank you.

On a lighter note, congratulations to **Glenn Springer** of the BLS for acing last month's statistics crossword puzzle! If you have not completed it yet, avert your eyes! He correctly answered:

Across: 1. Cox, 2. Fourier, 9. Covariance, 11. Gosset, 13. Venn, 14. Turing, 16. Pearson, 17. Median, 18. Unbiased

Down: 1. Chebyshev, 2. Forgetfulness, 3. Euler, 4. Cauchy, 5. Tukey, 6. Fortytwo, 7. Fisher, 8. Kolmogorov, 10. Nightingale, 12. Uniform, 15. RAND

– Tim Allen, WSS Student Rep (timothychenallen@gmail.com)

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Opportunities as Senior Research Fellow with Bureau of Labor Statistics

Are you interested in expanding your research to new and interesting domains? Are you doing research that could benefit the Bureau of Labor Statistics? If so, consider applying for our Senior Research Fellow Program!

The program's main objective is to facilitate collaboration between academic scholars and government researchers in fields such as statistics, economics, survey methodology, and social science. Research Fellows have unique opportunities to expand their work to address some of the difficult methodological problems and analytic challenges BLS faces. Fellows are funded to conduct research at the BLS headquarters in Washington, DC, use BLS data and facilities, and work closely with BLS staff.

There is more information available on our website at http://www.bls.gov/osmr/asa_nsf_bls_fellowship_info.htm or in our brochure at <http://www.amstat.org/careers/pdfs/ASANSFBLSFellowshipProgram.pdf>. Proposals are due March 2, 2014.

Fellowship applicants should have a recognized research record and considerable expertise in their area of proposed research. Applicants must submit a detailed research proposal, which will be evaluated on the applicability of the research to BLS programs, the value of the proposed research to science, and the quality of the applicant's research record. Applicants do not need to be US Citizens, but they must be affiliated with a US institution (such as a university). US Government employees are not eligible.

We encourage interested researchers to contact us before submitting a proposal, so we can provide assistance in tailoring the proposed topic to best utilize your skills and interests in addressing BLS issues.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) coordinates our Senior Research Fellow Program in cooperation with the American Statistical Association (<http://www.amstat.org/>) (ASA), under a grant from the National Science Foundation (<http://www.nsf.gov/>) (NSF).

Please contact Jean Fox (Fox.jean@bls.gov) if you have any questions.

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **February, 2014** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15th** of **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 will be returned.

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