



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2** HOLIDAY PARTY
- 3** FROM THE WSS NEWS PRESIDENT
- 4** SEMINARS
- 15** WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT
- 16** SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!
- 17** SHORT COURSES
- 21** FELLOWSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
- 23** WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS
- 27** FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR



The Washington Statistical Society

cordially invites you to our annual

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

6:00 – 9:00 PM

The Brixton

901 U St NW Washington, DC 20001

By Metro: Green or Yellow Line/U Street

brixtondc.com

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

Cocktail Buffet

Fish and Chips, Beef Sliders, Vegetable Samosas, Eton Mess

Cash bar

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

Online registration for all

First, go to <https://www.123signup.com/register?id=ysqzg>

Second, complete registration

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

FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT

WSS and Data Community DC Collaborate

Some of you have already joined Data Community DC (DC2) and the Meetup groups it includes, and many others will want to after seeing the events that the organization sponsors. DC2 is a non-profit umbrella group for six regional Meetup groups: Data Science DC, Data Science MD, Data Innovation DC (focused on business and societal value), Data Visualization DC, Data Wrangling DC, and Statistical Programming DC. The organization also runs weekend workshops, a blog, newsletter, and social media." At the same time, many DC2 members—who tend to be younger on average, in a broad set of fields, and more concentrated in the private sector and nonprofits than the WSS membership—would learn from experience offered by WSS members and from networking with us.

DC2 approached ASA about partnering, and Steve Pierson approached the WSS board to suggest we explore collaboration. Last week, Phil Kalina and I met with Harlan Harris, Director of Data Science at the Education Advisory Board, who leads DC2. We agreed that there are many potential synergies between the groups. As a few first steps, WSS is now providing a link to DC2 on www.washstat.org and DC2 has synched its calendar with ours, extending our event notices to more than 4,000 Meetup up subscribers. <http://datacommunitydc.org/blog/calendar/>.

In addition, the two organizations will co-introduce a seminar on December 11 on *Problems with the P-value*. Dr. Regina Nuzzo from Gallaudet University will be speaking. <http://www.meetup.com/WashStat/events/218881685/>. Harlan has also agreed to join us at our December 9 holiday party and we hope that others from DC2 will do so as well. Be sure to sign up to see your old friends and colleagues and to meet some new people! <http://www.meetup.com/WashStat/events/218894392/>

~ Diane Herz

SEMINARS

Title: Problems with the P-Value

Dates/Time: December 11, 2014
6:30– 8:30 pm

Speaker: Regina Nuzzo, Gallaudet University

Location: George Washington University Fonger Hall, Room 108
2201 G St. NW, Washington, D.C.

Agenda: 6:30 Networking, Empanadas, and Refreshments
7:00 Introduction, Announcements, Give-aways
7:15 Presentation and Discussion
8:30 Data Drinks (Tonic, 2036 G St NW)

Abstract: The [Washington Statistical Society](#) is pleased to cross-list a [program](#) organized by the [Data Science DC meetup](#).

[Dr. Regina Nuzzo](#) of Gallaudet University will discuss a fundamental, but flawed, tool of statistical inference and statistical communication, the p -value. Expect a very... significant... presentation.

What's the fuss around the p -value? This standard measure has been widely canonized—from entry-level statistics texts all the way to regulatory agencies and the scientific publication system—yet it is often misunderstood, misapplied, and obsessively stalked. In this talk, Dr. Nuzzo will discuss misleading interpretations and puzzling paradoxes which can result from statements of statistical significance, present some of the latest thinking about teasing out certainty and evidence in data, and discuss the most interesting philosophical and practical trends to look for on the horizon.

Speaker Bio: [Dr. Regina Nuzzo](#) is a freelance science journalist and professor at Gallaudet University. She received her Ph.D. in statistics at Stanford University, post-doctoral training at the Music Cognition Lab of McGill University, and graduate science journalism training at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her writings about data, probability, and statistics have been published in Nature, Science News, Biomedical Computation Review, and Scientific American. Her [Nature feature article](#) about the p -value recently won the American Statistical

Association's 2014 Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award. Follow her on Twitter as [@ReginaNuzzo](https://twitter.com/ReginaNuzzo).

RSVP:

Please enter your RSVP for this event at <http://www.meetup.com/WashStat/events/218881685/> or <http://www.meetup.com/Data-Science-DC/events/218805060/> , but not both.

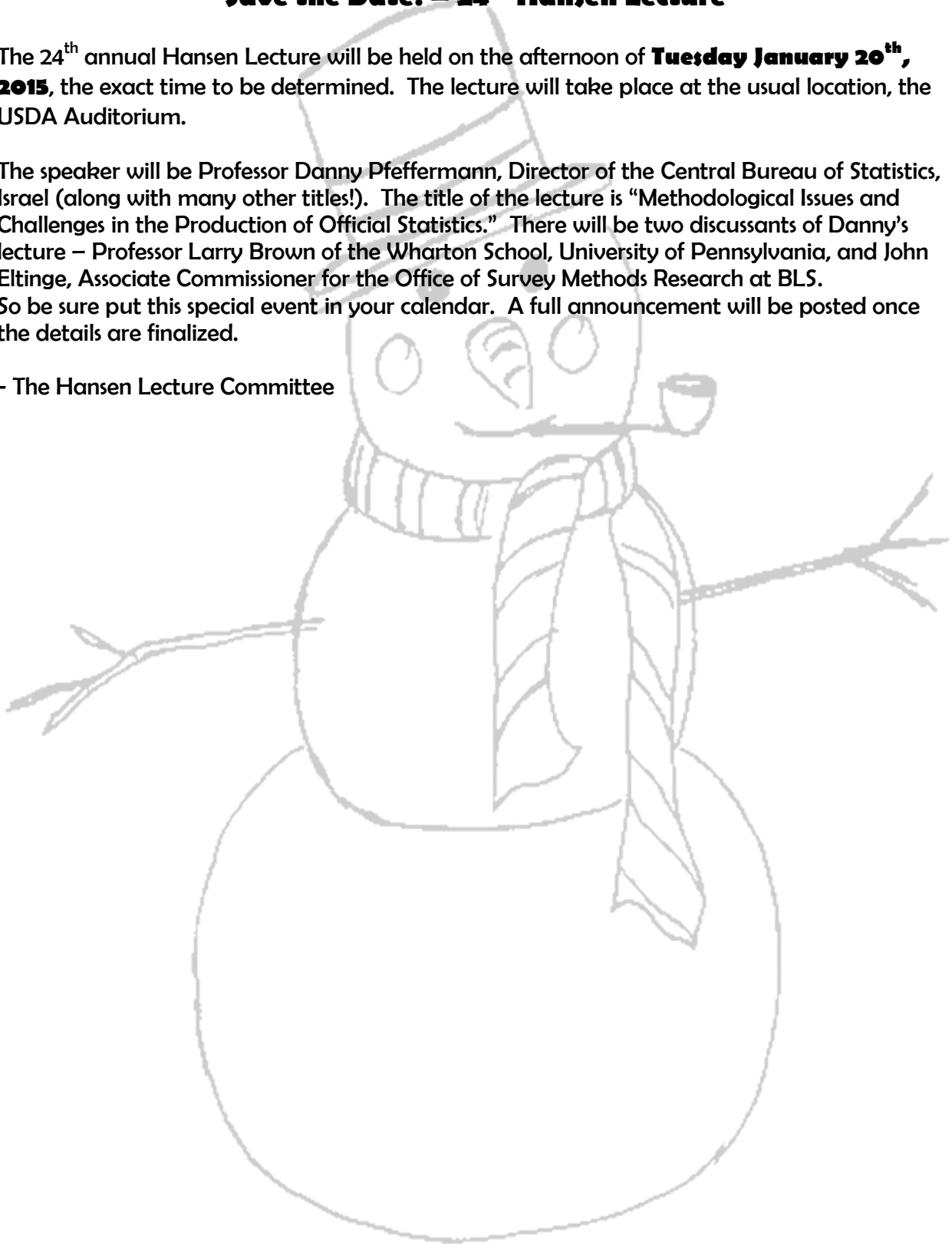


Save the Date! – 24th Hansen Lecture

The 24th annual Hansen Lecture will be held on the afternoon of **Tuesday January 20th, 2015**, the exact time to be determined. The lecture will take place at the usual location, the USDA Auditorium.

The speaker will be Professor Danny Pfeffermann, Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel (along with many other titles!). The title of the lecture is “Methodological Issues and Challenges in the Production of Official Statistics.” There will be two discussants of Danny’s lecture – Professor Larry Brown of the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and John Eltinge, Associate Commissioner for the Office of Survey Methods Research at BLS. So be sure put this special event in your calendar. A full announcement will be posted once the details are finalized.

- The Hansen Lecture Committee



PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC

Title: **Introductory Statistics at the College Level—Making it More Exciting and Relevant**

Dates/Time: **February 2, 2015**
3:15– 4:30 pm
Informal reception to follow at East Street Café at Union Station

Panelists: Elizabeth Johnson, George Mason University;
Stephanie Talbot, Montgomery College, Rockville Campus;
Bonnie Kegan, U.S. Census Bureau, University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Anne Arundel Community College

Chair: Carol Joyce Blumberg, Winona State University and U.S. Energy Information Administration (Retired)

Sponsor: WSS Statistics Education Committee

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

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. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar.

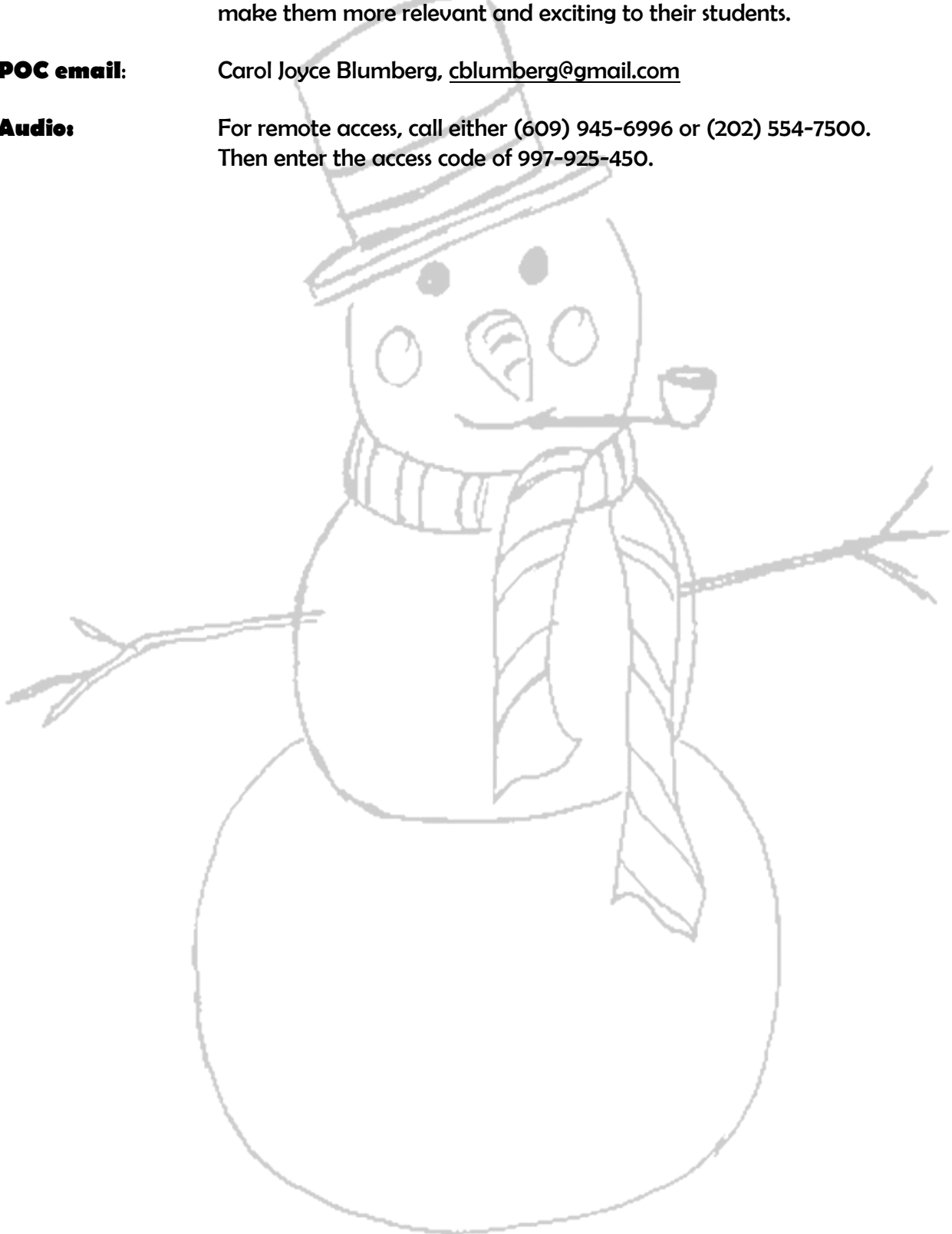
BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE across from Union Station. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Take the elevator or escalator at the north end of the tracks up to the Mezzanine level. Once you go through the exit gates, go past the ticket machines and down the ramp. The entrance to BLS will be directly across the street. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking>. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Abstract: Over the last twenty years there have been numerous changes in the statistical procedures used in the fields of study of the students taking introductory statistics. In addition, the technology has changed considerably, both for data analysis and delivery of the course content. Further, students are coming to the course with more knowledge of statistics from high school. The purpose of this seminar is to have three instructors of introductory statistics discuss how they have changed their

introductory statistics courses to adapt the content and technology to make them more relevant and exciting to their students.

POC email: Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

Audio: For remote access, call either (609) 945-6996 or (202) 554-7500. Then enter the access code of 997-925-450.



Title: Selected ICES-IV Presentations from the Newly Released Journal of Official Statistics Special Issue on Establishment Surveys

Dates/Time: February 4, 2015
1:00– 4:30 pm

Chair: Darcy Miller, NASS

Sponsor: Methodology Section

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

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. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking>. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Schedule:

- 1:00 Polly Phipps, BLS, Phipps.Polly@bls.gov
- 1:10 Richard Sigman, Westat, Richard.sigman@westat.com
- 1:40 Morgan Earp, BLS, Earp.Morgan@bls.gov
- 2:10 Mary Mulry, Census, mary.h.mulry@census.gov
- 2:40 Intermission
- 3:00 MoonJung Cho, BLS, Cho.Moon@bls.gov
- 3:30 Vanessa Torres, Utrecht University
Van Grinsven, Statistics Netherlands, V.TorresvanGrisven@cbs.nl
- 4:00 Daniell Toth, BLS, Toth.Daniell@bls.gov

WebEx: <https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m94030e09869538075cfe95f5d8a2b7fb>

Audio: Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)
Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139
(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2
Particular computer configurations may not be compatible with WebEx.

Abstracts:**Does the Length of Fielding Period Matter? Examining Response Scores of Early Versus Late Responders**

This paper discusses the potential effects of a shortened fielding period on a large, Federal employee survey's item and index scores and sample demographics. Using data from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's 2011 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, we investigate whether early responding employees differ from later responding employees on their key policy-relevant survey item scores. Specifically, we examine differences in scores on items and indices relating to conditions conducive to employee engagement and global satisfaction. We define early responders as those who responded in the first two weeks of the fielding period. We also examine the extent to which early versus late responders differ on certain demographic characteristics such as grade level, supervisory status, gender, tenure with agency, and intent to leave or retire. Our analysis focuses on large and independent Federal agencies so as to eliminate agencies with smaller sample sizes. Our findings provide insight about how a shorter fielding period and thus lower response rates (i.e. by including only early responders) affects sample characteristics and resulting estimates of Federal employee surveys.

-Richard Sigman¹, Taylor Lewis², Naomi Dye Yountr¹, Kimya Lee²

¹Westat, 1600 Research Blvd Rockville, MD 20850

²U.S. Office of Personnel Management, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20415

Modeling Nonresponse in Establishment Surveys: Using an Ensemble Tree Model to Create Nonresponse Propensity Scores and Detect Potential Bias in an Agricultural Survey

Increasing nonresponse rates in federal surveys and potentially biased survey estimates are a growing concern, especially with regard to establishment surveys. Unlike household surveys, not all establishments contribute equally to survey estimates. With regard to agricultural surveys, if an extremely large farm fails to complete a survey, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) could potentially underestimate average acres operated among other things. In order to identify likely nonrespondents prior to data collection, the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) began modeling nonresponse using Census of Agriculture data and prior Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) response history. Using an ensemble of classification trees, NASS has estimated nonresponse propensities for ARMS that can be used to predict nonresponse and are correlated with key ARMS estimates.

-Morgan Earp¹, Melissa Mitchell², Jaki McCarthy², & Frauke Kreuter³

¹Bureau of Labor Statistics

²National Agricultural Statistics Service

³Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland

Detecting and Treating Verified Influential Values in a Monthly Retail Trade Survey

In survey data, an observation is considered influential if it is reported correctly and its weighted contribution has an excessive effect on a key estimate, such as an estimate of total or change. In previous research with data from the U.S. Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS), two methods, Clark Winsorization and weighted M-estimation, have shown potential to detect and adjust influential observations. This paper discusses results of the application of a simulation methodology that generates realistic population time-series data. The new strategy enables evaluating Clark Winsorization and weighted M-estimation over repeated samples and producing conditional and unconditional performance measures. The analyses consider several scenarios for the occurrence of influential observations in the MRTS and assess the performance of the two methods for estimates of total retail sales and month-to-month change.

-Mary H. Mulry, Broderick E. Oliver, Stephen J. Kaputa, U.S. Census Bureau

Analytic Tools for Evaluating Variability of Standard Errors in Large-Scale Establishment Surveys

Large-scale establishment surveys often exhibit substantial temporal or cross-sectional variability in their published standard errors. This article uses a framework defined by survey generalized variance functions to develop three sets of analytic tools for evaluation of these patterns of variability. These tools are for (1) identification of predictor variables that explain some of the observed temporal and cross-sectional variability in published standard errors; (2) evaluation of the proportion of variability attributable to the predictors, equation error and estimation error, respectively; and (3) comparison of equation error variances across groups defined by observable predictor variables. The primary ideas are motivated and illustrated by an application to the U.S. Current Employment Statistics program.

-MoonJung Cho, John Eltinge, Julie Gershunskaya, Larry Huff, Bureau of Labor Statistics

In Search of Motivation for the Business Survey Response Task

Increasing reluctance of businesses to participate in surveys often leads to declining or low response rates, poor data quality and burden complaints, and suggests that a driving force, that is, the motivation for participation and accurate and timely response, is insufficient or lacking. Inspiration for ways to remedy this situation has already been sought in the psychological theory of self-determination; previous research has favored enhancement of intrinsic motivation compared to extrinsic motivation. Traditionally however, enhancing extrinsic motivation has been pervasive in business surveys. We therefore review this theory in the context of business surveys using empirical data from the Netherlands and Slovenia, and suggest that extrinsic motivation calls for at least as much attention as intrinsic motivation, that other sources of motivation may be relevant besides those stemming from the three fundamental psychological needs (competence, autonomy and relatedness), and that other approaches may have the potential to better explain some aspects of motivation in business

surveys (e.g., implicit motives). We conclude with suggestions that survey organizations can consider when attempting to improve business survey response behavior.

-Vanessa Torres van Grinsven,¹ Irena Bolko,² and Mojca Bavdaž²

¹Utrecht University and Statistics Netherlands

²University of Ljubljana

Data Smearing: An Approach to Disclosure Limitation for Tabular Data

Statistical agencies often collect sensitive data for release to the public at aggregated levels in the form of tables. To protect confidential data, some cells are suppressed in the publicly released data. One problem with this method is that many cells of interest must be suppressed in order to protect a much smaller number of sensitive cells. Another problem is that the covariates used to aggregate and level of aggregation must be suppressed before the data is released. Both of these restrictions can severely limit the utility of the data. We propose a new disclosure limitation method that replaces the full set of micro-data with synthetic data for use in producing released data in tabular form. This synthetic data set is obtained by replacing each unit's values with a weighted-average of sampled values from the surrounding area. The synthetic data is produced in a way to give asymptotically unbiased estimates for aggregate cells as the number of units in the cell increases. The method is applied to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data, which is released to the public quarterly, in tabular form, aggregated across varying scales of time, area, and economic sector.

-Daniell Toth, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Title: **Costs vs Benefits: The 2014 Content Review of the American Community Survey**

Dates/Time: **February 17, 2015
12:30– 1:30 pm**

Speaker: Jim Treat, US Census Bureau

Chair: Jennifer Park

Sponsor: Methodology Section and Public Policy

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

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. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking>. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Abstract: The American Community Survey (ACS) is the largest survey in the Nation, annually collecting demographic, social, and economic statistics for small areas and small populations, and providing 1-, 3-, and 5-year data products for virtually every community across the country. In an effort to ensure the least burden on the public at the greatest benefit, the Census Bureau conducted in 2014 a content review of all 72 household and person-based questions on the survey. This discussion will present the results of that review, including the methodological approach used and decision criteria employed. Lastly, we will present the results of the analysis, including the seven questions identified as candidates for removal, and next steps in the process to finalize any survey changes.

POC email: gary.b.chappell@census.gov

WebEx:

<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m15d211d187a5f08940b7b8bc197ee38b>

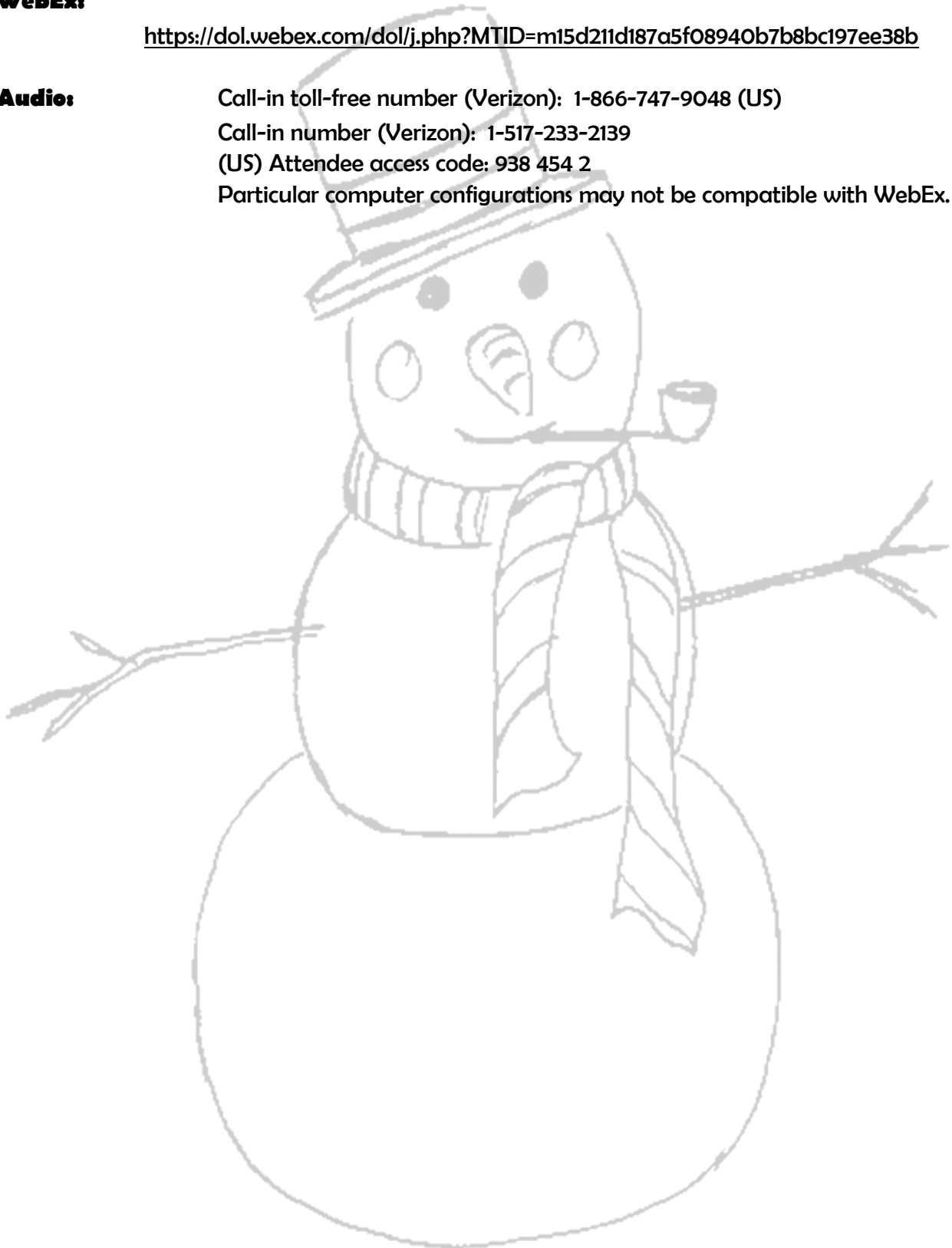
Audio:

Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)

Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139

(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

Particular computer configurations may not be compatible with WebEx.



Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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



Meet WSS Short Course Committee Chair Yang Cheng...

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

I am the lead scientist for the Current Population Survey (CPS), American Time Use Survey (ATUS), and Housing Vacancy Survey (HVS) in the Demographic Statistical Methods Division of the U.S. Census Bureau. I am responsible for statistical quality in the CPS, ATUS, and HVS, and managing a group of talented mathematical statisticians who are monitoring and adjusting the sample sizes, reviewing weights, providing estimates, and computing variance estimators. We also conduct many innovative research projects in the development of new methodologies to meet the evolving requirements and needs of our customers.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

CPS is the oldest survey in the United States. It started in 1940. An important output from CPS is the U.S. Unemployment Rate, which is a key economic indicator. It is very gratifying when your work affects people's outlook on the American economy.

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

I joined WSS to meet fellow statisticians in the Washington DC area, embracing opportunities to discuss new ideas, while I try to keep abreast of new methodologies in my chosen field of endeavor.

4. What was your first job?

My first job was a mathematical lecturer in the Shanghai Institute of Railway Technology (which has merged into the Tongji University) when I was 20 years old. Some of my students were older than I was at the time. I had taught Advanced Mathematics I and II, Linear Algebra, Integral Transformation, Probability and Statistics, and Function of Complex Variable for four and a half years.

5. Why did you join the statistics profession?

When I arrived in the U.S. and studied at the American University, I did not know much about America or about what I wanted to study. The Department has two Ph.D. programs: Mathematical Statistics and Mathematical Education. I took Dr. Robert Jernigan's advice to study mathematical statistics since I had a strong math background.

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

The Census Bureau has a great mentor program. When I joined the Census Bureau in 2007, Dr. Dan Weinberg was assigned as my mentor. Dan spent a lot of time providing guidance and outlined a plan to help achieve my career goals. He provided the opportunity for me to shadow a branch chief. When Dan was occupied with the 2010 Census, he recommended another mentor, Dr. Howard Hogan. Besides Dan and Howard, I have at least two unofficial mentors: Mr. Dave Whitford and Dr. Tommy Wright. They all gave me lots of great advice. I am fortunate enough to have many great mentors to guide my career in the Census Bureau.

7. How do you like to spend your free time away from work?

Up until the time they entered college, I spent almost all of my free time on my two daughters. They play soccer, swim, study violin, piano, and had many other of extra-curricular activities. I also have contributed free time to the Chinese-American community. At the Howard County Chinese School, I served a number of years as Vice Chair on the Board of Directors. It is the largest Chinese school in Maryland. Since both of my daughters are now studying at Duke University, I have started to teach at the George Washington University. I am teaching The Modern Theory of Sample Surveys this semester, and will teach Data Analysis next semester. It is important to continue lifelong learning. I like to keep myself busy, and hate to waste time. Parents should be a role model for their children. When children see you work hard, they will too.

8. Describe yourself in 3 words.

Generous, sincere, and devoted - at least that is how my wife describes me.

9. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

Near the Census, I like to go to the Chinese Seafood buffet with friends. There are many varieties of food. Close to my home, I like to dine at Hunan Manor Restaurant in Columbia, MD. I normally order from their Chinese menu.

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

On an ideal Saturday, I would help my wife clean the house, do yard work, and prepare a nice meal during the day. In the evening, I will play 2-3 hours of volleyball at the Maryland Junior Volleyball Club. Some of the members and I have played together for more than 15 years, since we were studying in the University of Maryland at College Park.

SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!

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.

SHORT COURSES

Issues in Data Science: Unpacking “Big Data”

JANUARY 22-23, 2015

College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, Hyattsville, MD 20783

Presented by Cliff Lampe

Registration and Payment Due by January 8, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=012215

Leveraging Mobile & Social Technologies for Data Collection

FEBRUARY 10-11, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Michael W. Link

Registration and Payment Due by January 27, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=021015

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System

FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann

Registration and Payment Due by February 11, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=022515

Writing Questions for Surveys

MARCH 12-13, 2015

Presented by Nora Cate Schaeffer

Registration and Payment Due by February 26, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=031215

Practical Tools for Sampling and Weighting Survey Samples

MARCH 30-31, 2015

Presented by Richard L. Valliant and Jill A. Dever

Registration and Payment Due by March 16, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=033015

Introduction to Survey Management

APRIL 16-17, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Steven G. Heeringa and Nancy Gebler

Registration and Payment Due by April 2, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=041615

Total Survey Error

MAY 4-5, 2015

Presented by Paul P. Biemer and Lars Lyberg

Registration and Payment Due by April 20, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=050415

Introduction to Survey Estimation

MAY 28-29, 2015

Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

Registration and Payment Due by May 14, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=052815

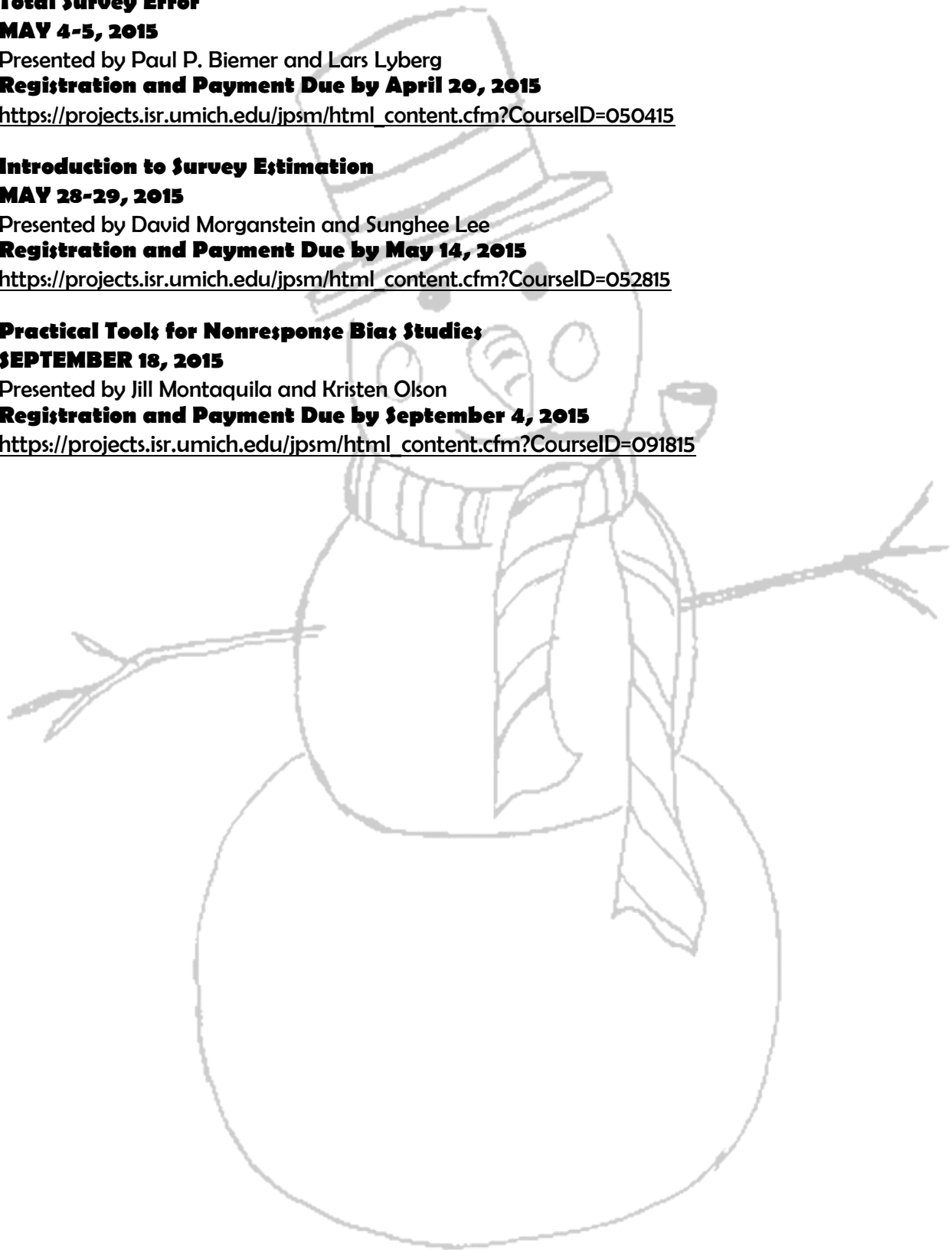
Practical Tools for Nonresponse Bias Studies

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

Presented by Jill Montaquila and Kristen Olson

Registration and Payment Due by September 4, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=091815



**WEBINAR:
PRODUCING GOVERNMENT DATA WITH STATISTICAL
CONFIDENTIALITY CONTROLS**

**December 17, 2014,
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (Eastern time)**

Registration Deadline: December 15, 2014 at 12:00 pm (Eastern time)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

or go to

<http://community.amstat.org/CPC/trainingmodules/webinars>

Presenters:

Tom Krenzke, Westat Statistical Group and Ed Christopher, Federal Highway Administration

Sponsor:

ASA Privacy and Confidentiality Committee

Description:

Plans to disseminate data to the public include statistical and confidentiality controls. Learn about statistical disclosure control (SDC) methods that have been used effectively in government data production processes. From data collection to data delivery and post-delivery trainings on data usage, this webinar will review statistical methods that are used in government data production processes to ensure the integrity of the released data while maintaining data subjects' confidentiality. Participants will gain insights on various SDC approaches that also achieve feasible implementation. The discussion will conclude with an example from a special tabulation generated from the American Community Survey for the transportation community of over 400 transportation planning agencies across the US. The discussion illustrates a confidentiality protection perturbation technique that satisfied the Census Bureau's Disclosure Review Board and data production staff, while at the same time provided the transportation planners with data they could use. In this webinar, statistical disclosure methods will be discussed along with the views of the user community.

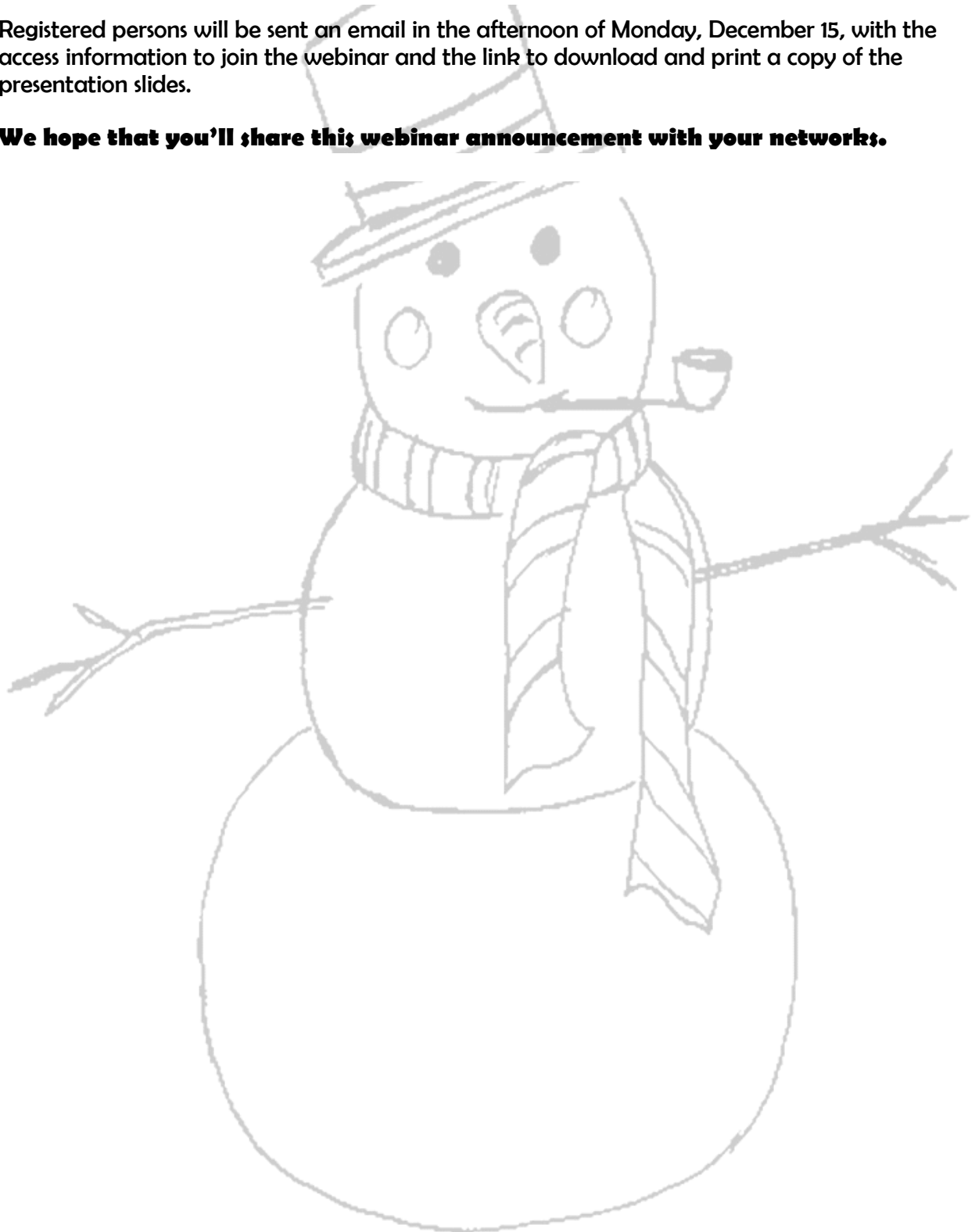
Fees:

There is no fee to attend this event. Registration is required. Access is limited and is handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Each registration is allowed one web connection and one audio connection. Multiple persons are encouraged to view each registered connection (for example, by projecting the webinar in a conference room).

Access Information

Registered persons will be sent an email in the afternoon of Monday, December 15, with the access information to join the webinar and the link to download and print a copy of the presentation slides.

We hope that you'll share this webinar announcement with your network.



FELLOWSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

2015 ASA/NSF/BLS Fellowship Program

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, mathematics, economics, survey methodology, behavioral science, and other related fields. 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 February 16, 2015.

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 U.S. Citizens, but they must be employed by a U.S. institution of higher learning or a non-profit institution (IRS code 501(c)(3) entity) and are expected to retain their position for the duration of the fellowship. U.S. 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 Jeffrey Gonzalez (Gonzalez.Jeffrey@bls.gov) if you have any questions.

**Business Operations Analyst position with Navy Federal Credit Union
Vienna, VA
Job Opening ID: 24173**

Position Description

Navy Federal Credit Union's Consumer Loan/Credit Card Lending Analytics team has 2 openings for business operations analysts in Vienna, VA. The team works closely with our business unit partners in Credit Cards, Consumer Loans, Collections, and Business Services to support their reporting and analytical needs. The positions require understanding the business needs of our internal clients, translating them into the appropriate reports, data analysis and predictive models, and providing recommendations that facilitate decision making. The position frequently interacts with senior management and is in a fast paced and collaborative environment.

Required

- Bachelor's or advanced degree in Statistics, Mathematics, Economics or other quantitative field
- 2+ years' experience with SPSS, JMP, STATA or similar software packages
- Proficiency in MS Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Word)
- Knowledge of statistical methods, including hypothesis testing, regression, and time series analysis
- Solid written and verbal communication skills

Desired

- Experience working with large datasets with SQL knowledge
- Knowledge of SAS/R, or similar programming language

Navy Federal Credit Union

Navy Federal Credit Union is the world's largest credit union with over \$60 billion in assets and more than 5 million members. Navy Federal offers a career, not just a job. Our employee total rewards package includes competitive salaries, incentive programs, comprehensive medical/dental/vision benefits, retirement plans with employer match, award-winning training programs, professional development programs, tuition assistance, paid leave, and work/life programs. Navy Federal is a FORTUNE Magazine "100 Best Companies To Work For" in 2014, 2013, 2012.

To Apply: Visit <https://www.navyfederal.org/about/careers.php> for more information on Navy Federal Credit Union. Interested candidates may contact Vivienne Thairu at vivienne_thairu@navyfederal.org by December 19, 2014.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

VOTING MEMBERS

President

Diane Herz (202)-250-3529 dherz@mathematica-mpr.com

Past President

Nancy Bates (301) 763-5248 nancy.a.bates@census.gov

President-Elect

Chris Moriarity (301) 270-3416 cdm7@cdc.gov

Secretary

Andrew Keller (301) 763-9308 andrew.d.keller@census.gov

Treasurer

Jill Dever (202) 974-7846 jdever@rti.org

Representative-at-Large

Jaki McCarthy (703) 877-8000 Jaki.mccarthy@nass.usda.gov

Steven Paben (202) 691-7007 Paben.steven@bls.gov

Kennon Copeland (301) 634-9432

copeland-kennon@norc.org

Thomas Krenzke (301) 251-4203

tomkrenzke@westat.com

Council of Chapters Representative

Eileen O'Brien (202) 586-1122 Eileen.O'Brien@eia.gov

Methodology Section Chair

Mike Fleming (703) 631-5869 cflamingO@cox.net

Communication Officer

Tom Mule (301) 763-8322 vincent.t.mule.jr@census.gov

NON-VOTING MEMBERS – PROGRAMS**Methodology Program Chair**

Donsig Jang (202) 484-4246 Djang@Mathematica-Mpr.com

Methodology Program

Yulei He (301) 458-4533 Wdq7@cdc.gov

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mel Kollander (703) 642-8079 mellk@starpower.net Eduardo Rodela (301) 564-7586 rodela.eduardo@epa.gov

Mike Fleming (703) 631-5869 cflaming@cox.net Adam Rettig (443) 465-9660 adam_rettig@yahoo.com

Barry Nussbaum (202) 566-1493 nussbaum.barry@epa.gov

Data Collection Methods

Jonathon Mendelson (571) 858-3753 jmendelson@forsmarshgroup.com 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

Public Policy

Jennifer Park (202) 395-9046 Jennifer_E_Park@omb.eop.gov

Quality Assurance

VACANT

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

Tim Allen (202) 465-1434 tim.allen@fema.dhs.gov

NON-VOTING MEMBERS – COMMITTEES AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**Quantitative Literacy**Dhuly Chowdury (301) 770-8234 dchowdhury@rti.org**Short Courses**Yang Cheng (301) 763-3287 yang.cheng@census.gov**WSS Newsletter Editor**Colleen Choi wss.editor@gmail.com**Electronic Mail Committee**S.V. (Vince) Massimini (703) 983-5893 sum@mitre.org**Employment Column Coordinator**Anne Peterson (703) 504-9483 apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com**Financial Advisor and Audit Committee**Jonaki Bose (240) 276-1257 jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov J. Michael Brick (301) 294-2004 mikebrick@westat.com**Historian**Dwight Brock (301) 517-4026 dwrightbrock@westat.com**Social Arrangements Committee**Shelly Craig (202) 552-6433 SCraig@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**Tim Allen (202) 465-1434 tim.allen@fema.dhs.gov**Curtis Jacob Memorial Committee**Brian Sloboda (202) 693-5904 Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov**Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition**Barnali Das (301) 279-4593 barnalidas@westat.com**Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator**John Tillinghast (301) 763-3738 John.tillinghast@census.gov**Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coordinator**Mark Otto (301) 497-5872 mark_otto@fws.gov

Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coordinator

Frank Yoon (609) 945-6616 FYoon@Mathematica-Mpr.com

Membership Committee

John Czajka (202) 484-4685 jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com

John Dixon (202) 691-7516 dixon_j@bls.gov

Timothy Kennel (301) 763-6795 timothy.l.kennel@census.gov

Herriot Award Committee

Jill Montaquila (301) 517-4046 jillmontaquila@westat.com

John Dixon (202) 691-7516 dixon.john@bls.gov

W\$\$ Committee on ASA Fellow

Polly Phipps (202) 691-7513 Phipps.polly@bls.gov

Cynthia Clark (703) 556-8825 czfclark@cox.net

Shiskin Award Committee

Robert Parker (301) 467-7677 parkerrobertp@aol.com

Thomas Evans (202) 691-6354 Evans.thomas@bls.gov

Paul Bugg paul_bugg@omb.eop.gov

Connie Citro ccitro@nas.edu

David Findley david.findley@ieee.org

Dennis Fixler dennis.fixler@bea.gov

Hansen Lecture Committee

Barry Graubard (202) 276-7316 graubarb@mail.nih.gov

Don Malec (301) 458-4031 dmalec@cdc.gov

John Czajka (202) 484-4685 jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com

Gertrude Cox Award Committee

*Chris Moriarity (301) 270-3416 cdm7@cdc.gov

*Nancy Bates (301) 763-5248 nancy.a.bates@census.gov

*Diane Herz (202) 250-3529 dherz@mathematica-mpr.com

**WSS Rep.*

Statistics Education Committee

Carol Blumberg (301) 273-3093 cblumberg@gmail.com

Adam Safir (202) 691-5175 safir.adam@bls.gov

Fritz Scheuren (202) 320-3446 scheuren@aol.com

Fritz Scheuren (202) 974-7846 scheuren@aol.com

Debbie Griffin Deb_Griffin3@verizon.net

Michael Horrigan horrigan.michael@bls.gov

Charles Hulten hulten@econ.bsos.umd.edu

William Bostic William.g.bostic.jr@census.gov

John Ruser ruser.john@bls.gov

Brian Bucks brian.bucks@cfpb.gov

Steven Paben paben.steven@bls.gov

Eric Slud eric.v.slud@census.gov

Mark Harris (703) 877-8000 ext. 100 mark_harris@nass.usda.gov

Keith Rust (301) 251-8278 keithrust@westat.com

**Karol Krotki (202) 728-2485 kkrotki@rti.org

**Marcus Berzofsky (919) 316-3752 berzofsky@rti.org

**Phillip Kott (301) 468-8281 pkott@rti.org

***RTI Rep.*

Elizabeth Johnson ejohns40@gmu.edu

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

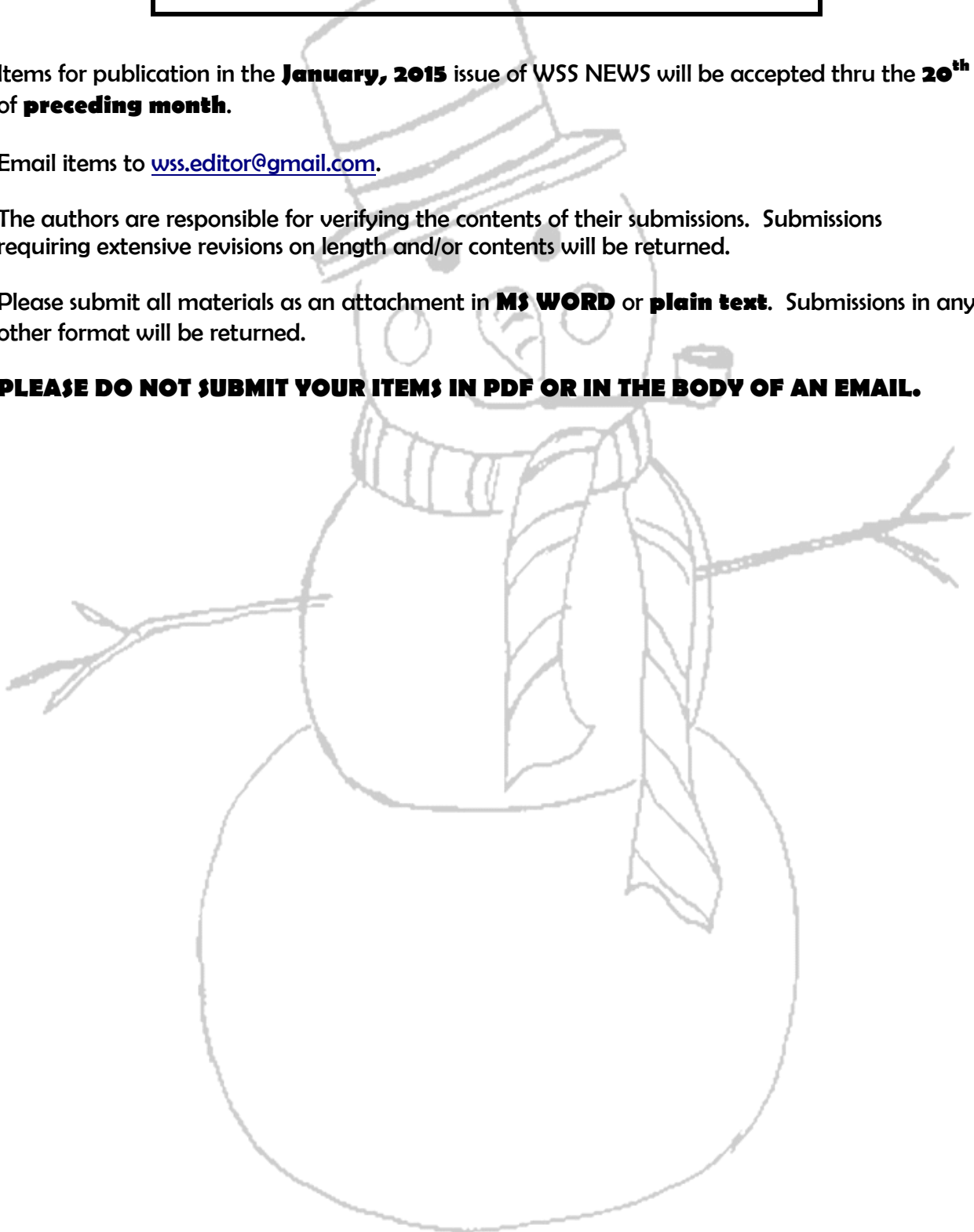
Items for publication in the **January, 2015** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20th** of **preceding month**.

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.

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





P.O. Box 2033
Washington, DC 20013
Washington
Statistical
Society

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FALLS CHURCH, VA
PERMIT NO. 186

