



# WSS NEWS

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# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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### **Nominees Announced for 2016-2017 WSS Board**

In accordance with the WSS bylaws, we are announcing the slate of nominees for the 2016-2017 Board. The election will be held in May and open for approximately three weeks. Candidates other than those proposed by the Nominating and Election Committee may be nominated by petition of at least 2 percent of the members and received two weeks prior to balloting. Petitioned names should be submitted to the Past-President, Diane Herz, at [dherz@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:dherz@mathematica-mpr.com).

For President-elect (2-nominees):

- Eileen O'Brien, Energy Information Agency (EIA)
- Linda Young, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

For Treasurer (1 nominee)

- Jill Dever, Research Triangle Institute (RTI)

For Methodology Program Chair-elect (2 nominees):

- Wendy Martinez, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Michael Yang, National Opinion Research Center (NORC)

For Communications Officer (2 nominees)

- Barnali Das, Westat
- Asaph Young Chun, Census

For At-Large (4 nominees):

- Ali Arab, Georgetown University
- Jay Clark, Westat
- Elizabeth Ormson, NORC
- Mark Otto, Department of the Interior (DOI)



We are happy to present bios for the strong list of 2016-17 WSS Board candidates! The election will be held in May and will be open for approximately three weeks. Candidates other than those proposed by the Nominating and Election Committee may be nominated by petition of at least 2 percent of the members and received two weeks prior to balloting. Petitioned names should be submitted to the Past-President, Diane Herz, at [dherz@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:dherz@mathematica-mpr.com).

### **For President-elect (2-nominees):**

#### **Eileen O'Brien, Energy Information Agency (EIA)**

Eileen O'Brien leads the Buildings Surveys Statistics Team in the Energy Information Administration (EIA), which conducts studies of energy demand in U.S. residences and commercial buildings. Eileen previously worked as a senior survey methodologist at the Census Bureau (1998-2005) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (1987-1998). She has participated in numerous ASA and WSS activities for more than 20 years, including three terms as a member then chair to the ASA Survey Review Committee and as ASA Council of Chapters Representative for the WSS (2013-2015). Eileen also coordinated joint WSS and DC-AAPOR events as DC-AAPOR's Program Chair (2004), President (2008), ongoing mentor and volunteer. As a senior methodologist, Eileen conducted original research on nonsampling errors associated with interviewer-respondent interactions in household surveys and organizational and employee behaviors in business surveys. Since joining EIA, Eileen has led a large public-private research effort to rapidly move EIA's consumption data program to alternative modes and to incorporate concurrent use of CARI, paradata and new performance metrics for more responsive, cost effective data collections. She received an M.S. from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland, in 1996.

#### **Linda Young, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)**

Linda J. Young is Chief Mathematical Statistician and Director of Research and Development of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Prior to joining NASS in 2013, Linda served on the faculties of three land grant universities: Oklahoma State University, University of Nebraska, and University of Florida. She has three books and more than 100 publications in over 50 different journals, constituting a mixture of statistics and subject-matter journals. She has been the editor of the Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics. Linda has served in a broad range of offices within the ASA, including Vice-President, Chair of

the Council of Sections, Chair of the Council of Chapters, Chair of the Statistical Education Section, Chair of the Statistics and the Environment Section, and Chair of the Joint Committee on Probability and Statistics. She has also served in various offices in the local chapters of ASA, including President of the Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Florida chapters. She has served more broadly in the statistical community in roles such as President of the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society Chair of the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies, member of the National Institute of Statistical Science's Board of Directors, and member of the Governing Board of the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI). Linda is a recipient of ASA's Founder's Award, a fellow of the ASA, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI).

### **For Treasurer (1 nominee)**

#### **Jill Dever, Research Triangle Institute (RTI)**

Jill A. Dever is a senior director in RTI International's Washington DC office. She served as treasurer for the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA) from 2011-2014, and for the Washington Statistical Society since 2014. Her current areas of interest include survey weight calibration, nonprobability sampling, mentoring early-career colleagues, reproducing the cherry pie her favorite brother made a few weeks ago, and getting back into running (see, e.g., cherry pie comment). She is a member of WSS, ASA, ISI, AAPOR, Results Gym, and the Historic Congressional Cemetery, and a strong supporter of JPSM (alma mater), Frager's Hardware, and making people smile, to name a few.

### **For Methodology Program Chair-elect (2 nominees):**

#### **Wendy Martinez, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**

Dr. Wendy Martinez has been serving as the Director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for over four years. Prior to this, she worked in several research positions throughout the Department of Defense. She also held the position of Science and Technology Program Officer at the Office of Naval Research, where she established a research portfolio comprised of academia and industry performers developing data science products for the future Navy and Marine Corps. Her areas of interest include computational statistics, exploratory data analysis, and text data mining. She is the co-author of three books on MATLAB and statistics. These books cover topics ranging from classical approaches in statistics to computationally intensive methods and exploratory data analysis. Dr. Martinez was elected as a Fellow of the ASA in 2006 and is an elected member of the ISI. Wendy has supported the WSS and the ASA in several capacities, including Chair of the ASA Government Statistics Section, JSM Program Chair for 2009, and the WSS Defense and National Security Program Chair. She obtained a certificate in Survey Statistics from University of Maryland, a PhD in Computational Statistics from George Mason University, a Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from George Washington University, and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics from Cameron University.

### **Michael Yang, National Opinion Research Center (NORC)**

Michael Yang is senior statistician at NORC at the University of Chicago. He has over 20 years of experience in study design, survey sampling, post-survey data adjustments, variance estimation, survey data analysis, and technical reporting. He leads statistical research and provides technical support to management and clients regarding complex survey design and estimation issues. Prior to joining NORC, he served as Chief Statistician at the Survey Research Center at ICF International and senior statistician at The Gallup Organization. His primary research interests include complex sample design and estimation; nonresponse bias analysis; survey quality measures; disclosure limitation techniques; and variance estimation. He has published peer reviewed articles and given numerous presentations at professional conferences. He has referred for the Journal of Official Statistics and the Statistical Journal of the International Association of Official Statistics. He has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Massachusetts. He is member of the American Statistical Association, the Washington Statistical Society, and the American Association for Public Opinion Research. He currently serves as the WSS Quality Assurance program chair.

### **For Communication; Officer (2 nominees)**

#### **Barnali Das, Westat**

Barnali Das is a Senior Statistician at Westat. Barnali previously worked as a Mathematical Statistician in the Statistical Research and Applications Branch, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute (2001-2007). She has an expert in the analysis of cancer registry data and in disease surveillance issues in general. She has a background in statistical modeling of spatial data and is particularly interested in spatial health data. She has also worked extensively with child welfare data and with data from complex surveys. She has been a member of ASA and WSS for many years and has been involved in organizing and conducting the WSS-ASA K-12 Student Poster competition for the last 4 years. She received her Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Washington in 2000.

#### **Asaph Young Chun, Census**

Asaph Young Chun is a Supervisory Mathematical Statistician and Research Chief for Decennial Directorate at the U.S. Census Bureau. Young previously worked at the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research (1989-1991), BLS (1991-1999), the Census Bureau (1999-2000), American Institutes for Research (2000-2009) and NORC at the University of Chicago (2009-2011) before returning to the Census Bureau in 2011. A journalist-turned-sociologist, Young has 27 years of interdisciplinary survey research informing public policy in economy, health and education by conducting applied research devoted to administrative records, nonresponse and adaptive design. He has been active in ASA since 1998 by organizing invited sessions on administrative records, nonresponse and paradata, including invited seminars presented at WSS on nonresponse (1998) and statistical science diplomacy (2013). He serves as Vice Chair (2014 – present) of Statistics Without Borders, an outreach arm of ASA, providing pro bono statistical consulting services across the globe. He currently serves as Guest Editor-in-

Chief of the Journal of Official Statistics Special Issue on Adaptive Design and as Editor-in-Chief and Principal Author of a book, “Administrative Records for Survey Methodology” published by Wiley in 2017. Young earned his A.B. in Communications and M.A. in Communication Studies both with interdisciplinary focus at the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Maryland.

### **For Representative At-Large (4 nominees):**

#### **Ali Arab, Georgetown University**

Ali Arab is an Associate Professor in the Mathematics and Statistics Department of Georgetown University. He received a Ph.D. in Statistics from University of Missouri-Columbia (2007), an M.S. in Applied Mathematics and Statistics at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (2002) and a B.S. in Applied Mathematics at the Iran University of Science and Technology (Tehran, Iran; 1999). He joined Georgetown University in 2007. His methodological research is on spatio-temporal and spatial statistics, and hierarchical Bayesian modeling. He is interested in applications of statistics in the environment and climate change, ecology, epidemiology, science and human rights, and risk and reliability analysis. He’s been a member of WSS since 2007. He is also the ASA representative to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)-Science and Human Rights Coalition.

#### **Mark Otto, Department of the Interior (DOI)**

Mark Otto designs and analyzes wildlife surveys and develops population models as a statistician for the Fish and Wildlife Service, including designing the National Bald Eagle Post-Delisting Survey after the service removed them from the endangered species list. From 1983 to 1997, he did research on seasonal adjustment of economic surveys and small area adjustment of the Income and Poverty Statistics for the Time Series Staff at the U.S. Census Bureau. He has been an active member of WSS, serving on the Quantitative Literacy Committee, helping bring an ASA teachers’ statistics workshop to Washington, and in 2014, spearheading a pilot mentoring program that matched 22 mentor/mentee pairs that worked together for at least six months. He is currently chair of the mentoring program committee and won the WSS President’s award for his work (which he would continue if elected). He is also vice chair of the ASA Committee for Applied Statisticians and would like to bring the collaboration initiative they are working on to the WSS. Mark has also edited entries for the Current Index to Statistics and reviewed continuing education course proposals for the Joint Statistical Meetings. He has an M.S. in Statistics from North Carolina State and a B.S. in biology from University of California at Davis.

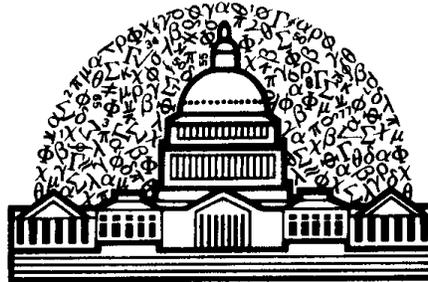
**Jay Clark, Westat**

Jay Clark is a senior statistician at Westat, and has more than 15 years of experience in the statistical aspects of survey research and data quality control. Jay's work activities include leading the daily statistical efforts (sampling and weighting) for the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which is widely recognized as an invaluable source of health information for the U.S. He also co-chairs Westat's Data Linkage resource group, and helped to develop WesVar, which estimates variance using replication methods. Jay's research interests include sample design, variance estimation, record linkage, and data confidentiality. He earned an M.S. in Statistics from The George Washington University and a B.S. in Mathematics from Haverford College. He is also looking forward to judging the WSS K-12 Student Poster competition this year.

**Elizabeth Ormson, NORC**

A. Elizabeth Ormson is a Senior Statistician, Statistics and Methodology, for NORC at the University of Chicago with over 15 years of experience. She has responsibility for creating and implementing imputation and weighting plans on a variety of surveys, in areas such as health-care and education. She also oversees sample design and daily sample management needs for large multistage and multimode projects. Prior to joining NORC in 2009, Elizabeth worked at IMS where she was involved in projects that encompassed sample management, weighting and estimation of prescription dispensation and usage, as well as consulting projects related to the pharmaceutical industry, such as physician targeting for pharmaceutical sales representatives. Elizabeth holds a M.S. in Statistics from Arizona State University, and a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

## **FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT**



### **The Washington Statistical Society**

*cordially invites you to the*

### **Cox Award Presentation**

**Dr. Bhramar Mukherjee**

Professor of Biostatistics, University of Michigan

How Small Data can Leverage Big Data

- and -

### **Annual Dinner**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2016**

*Speaker event commences at 4:00 PM*

RTI International

701 13th St NW Suite 705, Washington, DC

*Dinner commences at 6:00 PM*

Clyde's of Gallery Place

707 7th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

Piedmont Room

The Gertrude M. Cox Award is co-sponsored by RTI International

## **REGISTRATION**

All are encouraged to attend both events regardless of WSS membership status.

Please register for each event you will be attending.

***For the Cox Award Presentation***, registration is free. The registration deadline is midnight on Monday, June 27. Register online at:  
<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/cox-award-presentation-tickets-24412398140>

***For the Annual Dinner***, advance registration is required. The dinner cost is \$60 for WSS Members, \$70 for nonmembers, \$30 for full-time students and children under 18. The online registration deadline is noon on Friday, June 24, earlier if the Piedmont Room seating capacity of 130 is reached. For registration with payment by check, mail name(s)/check(s)/phone and email contact information by June 20 to: Ranjana Kohli, 1100 First Street NE, Floor 12, Washington, DC 20002

1. Online registration at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-annual-dinner-tickets-24411871565>
2. Follow instructions in the online registration form to pay by credit card or PayPal (if you have a PayPal account). Note: it is only necessary to supply a name for each registration, address is not required.
3. After completing registration, and allowing some time for processing, please confirm that you have received your ticket(s) by email from Eventbrite. Please contact Ranjana Kohli (RKholi@mathematica-mpr.com) if you do not receive your ticket(s).

## **BUFFET DINNER MENU**

### **Salads (V)**

Clyde's House Salad, Caesar Salad

### **Entrees**

Seasonal Vegetable Pasta (V), Pan Roasted Salmon,  
Roasted Chicken

### **Sides (V)**

Parmesan Garlic Roast Potatoes, Farro Pilaf

### **Dessert**

Assorted Petit Pastries

### **Beverages**

Sodas, Iced Tea, Coffee, Host Bar

(V) denotes vegetarian food items

## **ASA Award for Outstanding Chapter Service**

I'm pleased to announce that Mike Larsen, Diane Herz, and I have chosen Keith Rust to receive the ASA Award for Outstanding Chapter Service. This award, formerly known as the Chapter Service Award, is an award that WSS is allowed to give on a rotating basis with other ASA Chapters. A link to the current three-year Chapter rotation list is available at the ASA Council of Chapters website:

<http://community.amstat.org/coc/chapterresources/overview>

Keith has served as WSS President, Methodology Section Chair, and in other WSS positions. He has been a Hansen Lecture Committee member for many years.

Past WSS awardees are:

2013: Jonaki Bose  
2010: Michael P. Cohen and Jill Montaquila  
2007: John Czajka  
2004: Jeri Mulrow  
2001: Dwight Brock  
1998: Glenn White  
1996: Fritz Scheuren  
1991: Rich Allen

Congratulations,  
Keith!

~ Chris Moriarity, WSS President

## **Welcome to new ASA/WSS members**

The following new ASA/WSS members were identified in the most recent update of the WSS email list in March:

Emre Barut  
Valerie H. Benson  
Jay Clark  
Kevin Dayaratna  
Christopher Dick  
Naihua Duan  
Brian Arthur Dumbacher  
Lisa Faustlin  
Daniela Golinelli  
Kenneth Herrell  
Lydia Rachel Huang  
Anthony Kassekert  
Austin Lasseter  
Huan Lu  
Thomas A. Mazzuchi  
Emily Molfino  
Rachel Perry  
Elizabeth Petraglia  
John Riddles  
Arnold Saunders  
Rachelle Smith  
Davia Spado  
Lenard S. Starks  
Shu Wan  
Talitha M. Washington  
Jamie Wheeler  
Anna Yakovleva  
Mengdi Yue  
Yao Zhang  
Xiaoman Zhao

Welcome to WSS!  
~ Chris Moriarity, WSS President

## SEMINARS

**Title:** **Benefit; and Challenge; in Using Paradata**

**Date/Time:** **April 18, 2016**  
**12:30pm – 3:30pm**

**Moderator:** Mike Fleming

**Location:** Offices of Mathematica-MPR **1100 1st Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002.**

Once in the building, inform the receptionist at the first floor lobby that you are visiting Mathematica for a WSS seminar. Then, take the elevators to the 12th floor and tell the Mathematica receptionist that you are attending the WSS seminar. Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220), if you have trouble finding the building.

**By Metro:** Take the Red Line to either the NoMa-Gallaudet U (used to be called New York Ave) Station or Union Station. From the NoMa-Gallaudet U Station, follow signs to exit at M Street. Then walk 1 block west on M street and 2 blocks south on 1st Street NE (the building will be on your right). From Union Station, walk north along 1st Street NE for about 4-5 blocks until you reach L Street (the building will be on your left after crossing L street).

**By Car:** Pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located 1 block east of North Capitol on L Street NE.

**Guest List:** To be placed on the attendance list (in-person or webex), please RSVP to Alyssa MacCarone at [AMaccarone@mathematica-mpr.com](mailto:AMaccarone@mathematica-mpr.com) or (202) 250-3570 at least 2 days in advance of the conference. Provide your name, affiliation, and contact information (e-mail is preferred). Once on the attendance list with webex preference, you will be provided with information about webinar.

**Lunch option:** Attendees may arrive early to have lunch nearby. Local lunch options may be found through: [http://www.nomabid.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/FINAL\\_NeighborhoodGuide.pdf](http://www.nomabid.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/FINAL_NeighborhoodGuide.pdf). You may also bring your own lunches to the seminar.

**Schedule:**

**Following** the seminar, **snacks and refreshments will be served**, encouraging the **attendees** to continue questions and discussions on the talks.

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Point of Contact</b>
12:30	Mike Fleming		charles.fleming@bhox.com
12:40	Brady West	University of Michigan	bwest@umich.edu
1:05	Emilia Peytcheva	RTI International	epeytcheva@rti.org
1:30	Stephanie Coffey	US Census Bureau	Stephanie.Coffey@census.gov
1:55	Intermission		
2:10	Jason Markesich, Shawn Marsh	Mathematica Policy Research	JMarkesich@mathematica- mpr.com
2:35	James Wagner	University of Michigan	jameswag@umich.edu
3:00	Floor Discussion		

**Title:** **The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) Item Imputation: An Alternative Approach**

**Date/Time:** **April 27, 2016**  
**12:30 – 2:00 pm**

**Speaker:** Mark Crankshaw, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Discussant:** Matthew Dey, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Chair:** Charlotte Oslund, Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Sponsor:** WSS Methodology Section

**Abstract:** The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) measures unmet labor demand through the job openings data, and measures turnover through data on hires and separations. The data show a very dynamic labor market with some establishments growing, some declining, and some steady in employment. JOLTS currently uses a hot deck nearest neighbor imputation methodology to impute missing data items with the measure of ‘nearness’ based on reported employment. The shortcoming of that approach is that reported employment in a single month does not in any way reflect the employment dynamics of the business. Additionally, imputing from a single donor often pairs donors and recipients who may share a common level of employment but have very different economic dynamics. The imputed values derived from such a ‘mismatch’ may contribute to the divergence between JOLTS implied employment change and CES employment change estimates. The narrow imputation cells also lead on occasion to unexpectedly high variation in JOLTS estimation when a donor with an unusually high JOLTS rate is paired through nearest neighbor with a recipient with a large sample weight.

A better approach for the JOLTS program may be to classify units based on their employment dynamic—expanding, stable, or contracting—and impute from within those groups. Thus, expanding establishments would donate to expanding establishments, stable to stable, and contracting to contracting. Drawing imputed values from a model-based donor distribution derived from reported donor data within a dynamic

grouping eliminates pairing donors and recipients with different economic dynamics and has been shown to reduce unexpectedly high variation in the estimates while ensuring that imputed data within dynamic group is consistent with reported data, without biasing the means of the data elements or substantially lowering their variances.

**Location:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center, Room 1

To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), email your name, affiliation, and the seminar name to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar. Please bring a photo ID. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave, NE, Washington, DC. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

**WebEx:**

WebEx event address:

<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m5f22d8ce5cf4dbca115cab0f55e23606>

**For 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

Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with

# Public SEMINAR



## ***Combining Information from Survey and Non-Survey Data Sources for Policy Research: Challenges and Opportunities***

**Friday, May 6, 2016, 2:00–4:30 pm**

National Academy of Sciences Main Building  
2101 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC – Lecture Room

- 2:00 pm     ***Light Refreshments for Seminar Guests (East Court)***
- 2:30         *Welcome*  
—**Lawrence Brown**, CNSTAT Chair and the University of Pennsylvania
- 2:35         *Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office*  
—**Katherine Wallman**, Chief Statistician of the U.S.
- 2:45         *Featured Topic:*  
***Combining Information from Survey and Non-Survey Data Sources for Policy Research: Challenges and Opportunities*** (see abstract below)  
—**Sharon Lehr**, Westat, and **Trivellore Raghunathan**, University of Michigan
- 3:45         *Discussants*  
—**Thomas Louis**, outgoing Associate Director for Research and Methodology, U.S. Census Bureau, and Professor of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
—**Linda Young**, Director of Research and Development, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- 4:15         *Floor Discussion*
- 4:30         ***Reception – East Court***

## [Register now!](#)

***Presentations will be available via WebEx—login information will be sent once available***

**For any questions, contact Eileen LeFurgy, CNSTAT Program Coordinator, at [elefurgy@nas.edu](mailto:elefurgy@nas.edu) or (202) 334-1616.**

**Abstract:** Social media, electronic health records, credit card transactional and administrative data, web scraping, and numerous other ways of collecting information have changed the landscape for addressing policy-relevant research questions. At the same time, traditional sources of data for policy-relevant research, such as large-scale surveys, have suffered setbacks due to increasing nonresponse and data collection costs. The non-survey data usually contain detailed information on certain behaviors for a large number of individuals (such as all credit card transactions) but very little background information (such as important covariates to address the policy-relevant question). In contrast, the survey data may contain detailed information on covariates but not on the behaviors. Both data sources are likely imperfect for the target population. Combining information from multiple data sources may allow us to draw inferences that extend beyond the individual components. We outline some proposed statistical methods for combining information from multiple data sources, discuss their limitations and challenges, and identify areas for future research. We provide a case-study of analyzing health care costs by developing an explicit modeling framework to construct inferences for various “building block” parameters and using them to dissect costs as a function of covariates and health conditions.

# **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 Minsun Riddles...

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

I am a senior statistician at Westat. I do everything from sampling to modeling. My recent work involves adaptive design, modeling heaped data, and nonresponse adjustment using machine learning techniques.

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

Westat is one of the largest survey research organizations, and they have a strong statistics division. I knew I would be able to work with very talented statisticians and survey methodologists and would be able to work on important government surveys that would be critical for policy making.

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

When I moved to the DC area from Iowa, I joined WSS to meet other statisticians and learn about local statistical activities in the area. Since then, I've been learning a lot from the webinars and short-courses that WSS organizes.

#### 4. Why did you join the statistics profession?

While working for a telecommunication company for a short period of time after college, I witnessed how statistics can be used to summarize data and facilitate decision-making. This is why I, a French major, went back to school to study statistics.

#### 5. What is the most interesting statistical problem that you have worked on recently?

I was involved in nonresponse adjustment weighting for the 2015 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Reserve Component Members using a generalized boosted model. It has been interesting to see machine learning techniques being applied in surveys.

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

I enjoy hiking, spending time with my husband and one-year old son, and labeling/organizing everything in our house.

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

Throughout my education and career, I had two important mentors. The first is my Ph.D. advisor at Iowa State, Jae-Kwang Kim. He guided me in my research and led me to Westat. The other is Sharon Lohr at Westat. She has been very patient and encouraging and has inspired me to work hard and be confident. Both of them are passionate researchers, and that inspired me to become a better researcher.

#### 8. What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?

Be confident and share your ideas with others! When you first enter the field, you may feel that your ideas are not good enough, but you should give yourself more credit, and it takes time to improve one's abilities. You don't want good ideas to go unheard because you were too unsure of yourself to present them to others. Even if they are not the best ideas, if you share them with the right people, they can help you foster those ideas. And have fun!

#### 9. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

Buredo in DC. The burrito-sized sushi rolls are so satisfying.

#### 10. What is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest personal accomplishment is giving birth to a 9 lb. 11 oz. boy and doing my best to be a good mother despite a busy career.

## **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, Tom Krenzke ([tomkrenzke@westat.com](mailto:tomkrenzke@westat.com)), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## **CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNER!**

### **2016 Gertrude M. Cox Award Winner**

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International are pleased to announce that Bhramar Mukherjee, John D. Kalbfleisch Collegiate Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Michigan, has been chosen as this year's recipient of the Gertrude M. Cox Award.

Since earning her PhD from Purdue University in 2001, she has collaborated on over 100 refereed publications in areas such as Bayesian analysis of data generated under case-control and outcome dependent sampling mechanisms, and studies of gene-environment interaction. She is an ASA Fellow. She was the 2013 Joint Statistical Meetings Program Committee Chair.

She will give the Cox Award presentation at RTI International on the afternoon of June 28, 2016, on the same date as the WSS Annual Dinner.

The award was established in 2003 through a joint agreement between the Washington Statistical Society and RTI International for the purposes of recognizing statisticians in early to mid-career (roughly no more than 15 years after terminal degree) who have already made significant contributions to statistical practice.

The award is in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978). In 1945, Dr. Cox became director of the Institute of Statistics of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. In the 1950's, as Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State College, she played a key role in establishing Mathematical Statistics and Biostatistics Departments at the University of North Carolina. Upon her retirement from North Carolina State University in 1960, Dr. Cox became the first head of Statistical Research Division at the newly founded RTI. She was a founding member of the International Biometric Society (IBS) and in 1949 became the first woman elected into the International Statistical Institute. She served as president of both The American Statistical Association (1956) and the IBS (1968-69). In 1975 she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

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. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the Cox Award presentation/WSS Annual Dinner, and a commemorative plaque containing the WSS logo. Past recipients have been Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, Nilanjan Chatterjee, Amy Herring, Frauke Kreuter, Jerome Reiter, and Jae Kwang Kim.

## SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

### **The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize For Outstanding Statistics Project**

**==> Deadline is Friday, May 27, 2016 <==**

### OPPORTUNITY

The Curtis Jacobs Award for outstanding statistics project is an opportunity for fun, experience, and recognition – great for college applications and teacher development. It aims to encourage middle school and high school students to gain an understanding of the design of statistical studies and their uses. One of the intents of the award is to bring awareness and reward to school teachers.



### AWARDS



#### **1st Place Award: (Middle School and High School Divisions)**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Students           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cash prize of \$100 per entry;</li> <li>■ Complimentary invitation to Washington Statistical Society's annual dinner usually held in late June.</li> </ul>   |
| Teacher or Advisor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Invitation to American Statistical Association's (ASA) special Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) with registration, commute, and meal expenses paid (up to a pre-set limit). Likely held in August 2016 in Chicago, Illinois;</li> <li>■ Complimentary invitation to the WSS annual dinner usually held in late June;</li> <li>■ A plaque;</li> </ul> |
| School             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ One-year free school membership to the American Statistical Association (ASA).</li> </ul>  |

## HELP AVAILABLE

To assist interested teachers, Washington area statisticians are available to visit interested classes to discuss types of projects and survey sampling. For more information on the Curtis Jacobs Award, teachers may contact Brian W, Sloboda at [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov). An available source of information on surveys is the series of pamphlets: *What is a Survey?* (<http://www.whatisasurvey.info/>) published by the American Statistical Association.

### Submitting a Project

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to students who attend a high school or middle school in the Washington, D.C. area who have not previously won the award. For students enrolled at a school, a school teacher or a school advisor needs to oversee the project. For students enrolled in home based learning, the instructor (parent or tutor) needs to oversee the project.

**Rules:** Students may work individually or in teams of up to four students. Subject matter is the choice of the participants. The students must collect original data and submit an approximately five-page typed report that includes an introduction, research questions or hypotheses, data collection and analysis methods, and conclusions. A copy of the data and questionnaire (or data collection form) must be enclosed with the project report. Individual schools are responsible for implementing informed consent policies involving data collection on persons younger than 18 years old. Entries become the property of the Washington Statistical Society and cannot be returned.

**Types of Projects:** The project should involve the design of a statistical study (preferably a survey) as a way of gathering information for making decisions, as a way to make comparisons among groups, or as a way of analyzing trends over time. **Note that science fair projects involving data collection and statistical analysis are often eligible for this competition; students are strongly encouraged to simply submit the associated report for a science fair project as an entry.** Two examples of data that students might collect are expenses associated with automobiles and money earned in part-time jobs held by classmates.

**Steps:** The steps involved in a typical project will include those found in many surveys or other statistical studies: define the objectives and the population of interest; determine an appropriate method of random sample selection and/or data collection approach; develop a questionnaire or data collection instrument; select a random sample and collect data; process completed questionnaires or data collection forms; analyze data and interpret results; and finally write a report.

**Judging:** Each entry will be judged according to the following criteria: creativity in the choice of topic and objectives; understanding of the steps needed to conduct a statistical analysis and how well those steps are executed; definition of the population; utilization of an appropriate sample selection methodology; thoughtfulness of the data collection (i.e., survey questions); analysis of the data and interpretation of study results; and the overall quality of the written report. Entries will be judged by members of the Washington Statistical Society.

**Submitting a Project: The deadline for entry is Friday, May 27, 2016.** To compete for the award, submit a pdf copy of the entry form (see next page) and an approximately five-page typed report (with the questionnaire, if applicable, and the data attached) to: [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov).

Alternatively, submit a hard copy to:

Brian W Sloboda  
Curtis Jacobs Entry  
8710 Cameron Street, 409  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

After the submission deadline, an email will be sent confirming your receipt of your submission.

### **Background on the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize**

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize was established in 1991 to honor the memory of a former statistician of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mr. Jacobs served as the chief statistician on many major Federal economic statistics programs, including the Consumer Price Index, which measures the rate of inflation in the American economy. The innovations he introduced are good examples of the practical uses of statistics and mathematics in improving the collection of data needed to inform public policy.



**Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project  
2015-2016**

Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society  
and the American Statistical Association

**Entry Form**

Please print clearly or type

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student name(s) on team: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student/Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Teacher's name overseeing project: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email completed form to [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov) or mail to the address shown below.

Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **Friday, May 27, 2016.**

Brian W Sloboda  
Curtis Jacobs Entry  
8710 Cameron Street, 409  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**GET INVOLVED!**

Dear Colleague,

The American Association for the Advancement of Science needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) teachers in the Washington D.C. metro area during the 2016-17 school year.

Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting with lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at [www.seniorscientist.org](http://www.seniorscientist.org).

If you care about K-12 STEM education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, please contact [bcalinge@aaas.org](mailto:bcalinge@aaas.org).



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## **Second Annual Practice Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics Exam**

Last year over 160 high school students in Northern Virginia took a practice AP Statistics exam, sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, at George Mason University (GMU) to prepare them for the national exam. Assistant Professor Elizabeth Johnson, Department of Statistics, George Mason University brought the “mock” AP Exam to the DC area having previously conducted similar events in SC, NJ and PA. Students who take the “mock” exam receive feedback on their performance one or two weeks prior to the national exam so they have time to review needed content and potentially improve their scores. If a student scores highly on the national exam, they may receive college credit.

Due to the success of last year’s exam, students from 13 high schools in Northern Virginia have already registered for the April 23<sup>rd</sup> “mock” exam at GMU. A second site has also been added for **April 30<sup>th</sup>** at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD.

The Washington Statistical Society is providing funds to both sites to help defray the costs of printing the exams and snacks for the students. George Mason University and Montgomery Blair High School provide use of the facilities and recruit exam proctors and graders. To have students participate in these “mock” exams or to volunteer to help (both students and adults can volunteer), please contact Kathy Robens at [Kathleen\\_c\\_robens@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kathleen_c_robens@mcpsmd.org) for the Silver Spring venue or Elizabeth Johnson at [ejohns40@gmu.edu](mailto:ejohns40@gmu.edu) for the George Mason University venue.

## Call for Volunteers

The coordinators for the WSS K-12 Student Poster competition are looking for volunteers for judging the poster competition this year.

The Washington Statistical Society, in collaboration with The American Statistical Association runs a Statistical Poster Competition for school children in grades K-12 in the Washington DC metro area. This is part of the Poster competition run by ASA with the WSS judging and awarding prizes to local children. There are four age groups and children may work singly or in small groups under the supervision of a teacher or guide. Winning entries of the WSS competition are automatically advanced to the second round of the national competition where they may win additional prizes and recognition. Local area winners and their guides/teachers are invited to attend the WSS annual dinner as guests to receive their prizes. Our aim is to encourage a new generation of children to explore the exciting world of math and statistics.

Please let me know if you are interested in serving as a judge. The judging will be held at the Westat conference center in Rockville. It usually involves a 3-4 hour commitment in the afternoon. Last year, the judging was held from 1-5pm on a Saturday afternoon for example. **This year, the judging will be held on either 4/25 or 4/26 (Saturday or Sunday).** If you are interested, email Barnali Das at [barnalidas@westat.com](mailto:barnalidas@westat.com) and please indicate which of those dates will work for you. For questions or more information please contact Barnali Das at [barnalidas@westat.com](mailto:barnalidas@westat.com).

## **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTED TALKS/POSTERS**

### **Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk May 16-20, 2016 SAMS I, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA**

We invite, especially Ph.D. students and young researchers, to register and submit a contributed talk/poster by March, 28th, 2016. Please note that only 60 participants will be allowed and SAMS I (Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute) might offer limited financial support to U.S. based students and young researchers. Abstracts for contributed talks/posters can be uploaded when registering online at <http://www.samsi.info/games>.

#### **Workshop Organizers**

Fabrizio Ruggeri, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy  
Refik Soyer, George Washington University, USA

Sujit Ghosh (SAMS I Liason), North Carolina State University, USA

The objective of the workshop is to present novel use of Game and Decision Theory in Reliability and Risk Analysis and to bring together researchers from diverse disciplines such as Economics, Engineering, Finance, Mathematics, Medical Sciences, Probability and Statistics who find themselves working with, and contributing to, this theme.

#### **The first two days will be devoted to courses:**

- Introduction to Decision Analysis  
Rene van Dorp, George Washington University, USA
- Reliability  
Fabrizio Ruggeri, CNR-IMATI, Italy
- Introduction to Game Theory  
David Rios Insua, ICMAT-CSIC, Spain
- Decision Analysis in Reliability  
Refik Soyer, George Washington University, USA
- Adversarial Risk Analysis  
David Banks, Duke University, USA
- Risk in Engineering, Finance, Health, and Environmental Sciences  
Thomas A. Mazzuchi, George Washington University, USA  
Jason Merrick, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

The following 3 days will be devoted to invited and contributed talks, posters and discussions aimed to foster cooperation among participants.

Confirmed speakers include: Melike Baykal-Gursoy, Philippe Delquie, Kathy Ensor, Seth Guikema, Joseph Halpern, Aparna Huzurbazar, Lurdes Inoue, Suleyman Ozekici, Tao Pang, Nicholas Polson, Nalini Ravishanker, Kimberley Sellers, Ehsan Soofi, Canan Ulu, Mike West, Simon Wilson, Emmanuel Yashchin.

## **Become a Member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)!**

DC-AAPOR,

Have you never been a national AAPOR member before? Do you want to help DC-AAPOR make money?

Join AAPOR **until May 11, 2016** using the chapter-specific link below. Two great things will happen:

1. If you have never been an AAPOR member before, you will get \$50 refunded to you after your eligibility has been confirmed.
2. Half of the dues you pay to National AAPOR will come back to the chapter.

This will help us have more money for chapter events and support programming and other needs at the chapter, and you will be able to take advantage of all the great benefits of being a full AAPOR member!

Sign up today! To do so, use the chapter-specific link here:

<https://www.aapor.org/Special-pages/Store-Login.aspx?RETURNURL=https://register.aapor.org/dues.aspx?PROMO=DCAAPOR>

Sincerely,

Ashley Amaya  
DC-AAPOR Membership Chair

## SHORT COURSES

### **Introduction to the Federal Statistical System**

**MARCH 24, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC**

Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann

**Registration and Payment Due by March 10, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=032416](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=032416)

### **Using Paradata in a Responsive Design**

**APRIL 6-7, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC**

Presented by James Wagner and Brady T. West

**Registration and Payment Due by March 23, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=040616](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=040616)

### **Introduction to Survey Estimation**

**MAY 2-3, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

**Registration and Payment Due by April 18, 2016**

<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/htmlcontent.cfm?CourseID=0506>

### **Creating and Updating Prices Indexes: Theory and Practice**

**May 23-24, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by Dennis Fixler and Richard Valliant

**Registration and Payment Due by May 9, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=052316](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=052316)

### **Synthetic Data: Balancing Confidentiality and Quality in Public Use Files**

**JUNE 13-14, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by Joerg Drechsler and Jerry Reiter

**Registration and Payment Due by May 30, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=061316](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061316)

**Introduction to Survey Management**

**JUNE 23-24, 2016**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington D.C.**

Presented by Brad Edwards and Nicole Kirgis

**Payment and Registration Due by June 9, 2016**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=062316](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=062316)

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## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the **May, 2016** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20<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. Announcements with track changes will not be accepted.

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.**