



## WSS NEWS

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# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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# IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN FOR WSS!

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Later this spring, the WSS will hold its annual election for several positions on the Board of Directors. If you want to learn more about the activities of WSS, please consider running for office - it's a great way to serve the membership, hone your leadership skills, and network and socialize with colleagues.

For the 2017 election the open positions are:

### **President-Elect (at least two nominees)**

- for July 2017 to June 2018
- to serve as President July 2018 to June 2019 and Past-President July 2019 to June 2020

### **Secretary (at least one nominee)**

- for July 2017 to June 2019

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

- for July 2017 to June 2019

### **Methodology Program Chair (at least two nominees)**

- for July 2017 to June 2018
- to serve as Methodology Section Chair July 2018 to June 2019

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2017 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the non-government sector. For any other position, nominations may come from either the government or non-government sectors.

For all of the positions listed above, we heartily welcome nominations from any member of the Washington Statistical Society (self-nominations encouraged as well).

**Please e-mail your nominations to Past-President Chris Moriarity (cdm7@cdc.gov) by March 1, 2017.**

Continuing Board members for 2017-18 will be:

- President: Linda Young, NASS
- Past-President: Mike Larsen, GWU
- Treasurer: Jill Dever, RTI
- Communication Officer: Barnali Das, Lewin Group
- At-large: Mark Otto, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Jay Clark, Westat
- Methodology Section Chair: Wendy Martinez, BLS
- Council of Chapters Representative (until December 31, 2018): Dhuly Chowdhury, RTI

Duties of board members can be found in the WSS handbook, available online at:

**<http://washstat.org/documents/WSSHandbookv3.pdf>**

## SEMINAR

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC**

**Title:** Sports Analytics Discussion

**Date/Time:** February 16, 2017  
4:00–6:00 p.m.

**Speakers:** Kevin Tenenbaum, Baltimore Orioles, Analyst, Baseball Analytics  
Daniel Stern, Baltimore Ravens, Coaching Analytics Assistant

**Chair:** Arnold Saunders,  
George Washington University & WSS Student Representative

**Sponsors:** Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Statistics Education Committee,  
Gonzaga College High School, and WSS Methodology Program

**Abstract:** Michael Lewis' bestseller *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game* (and later the movie adaptation starring Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill) brought the world of sports analytics into the public eye. Kevin Tenenbaum and Daniel Stern of the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens discuss the development of how baseball and football teams use statistics and data science to gain an edge on their competition. Plenty of time will be allotted to questions from the audience. Content will be accessible to audience members of all backgrounds.

**Location:** Theater at Gonzaga College High School - 19 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001. Please call (202) 336-7100 if you have trouble finding the building.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to Union Station. From Union Station, walk north along North Capitol Street for about 4 blocks until you reach Eye (I) Street. Turn left on I Street (just after the football field). The theater will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> building on your right. Enter the Theater from Eye (I) Street and proceed up either staircase to the main Theater hall. A nice map is available at <http://www.gonzaga.org/Document.Doc?id=4538>.

By Car: Free parking is available in the school parking garage, which is accessible after 3 p.m. Information about the parking garage can be found at <http://www.gonzaga.org/parking>. Coming out of the garage,

the building in front of you is Dooley Hall. To the right of Dooley Hall is the Theater. Enter the Theater from Eye (I) Street and proceed up either staircase to the main Theater hall.

**Registration:** To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com) by **February 14, 2016**.

**Note:** No remote access will be available for this seminar

## SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

### The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee is seeking nominees for 2017 Gertrude M Cox Award

- In memory of Dr. Cox (1900-1978), one of the founders of modern statistics, President of the American Statistical Association (1956)
- In recognition of early- to mid-career statisticians who have made significant contributions to areas of statistics in which Dr. Cox worked
- Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society and RTI International

The award was established in 2003 through a joint agreement between the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International. The award annually recognizes a statistician in early to mid-career (less than 15 years after terminal degree) who has made significant contributions to one or more of the areas of applied statistics in which Gertrude Cox worked: survey methodology, experimental design, biostatistics, and statistical computing.

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

The award is presented at the WSS Annual Dinner, usually held in June, with the recipient delivering a talk on a topic of general interest to the WSS membership before the dinner.

This award is made possible by funding from RTI International, and the recipient is chosen by a six-person committee - three each from WSS and RTI. This year's committee consists of WSS President Mike Larsen (co-chair), WSS Past President Chris Moriarity, and WSS President-Elect Linda Young; and Jill Dever, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (co-chair) from RTI. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS Annual Dinner, and a commemorative WSS plaque. Past recipients, in chronological order: Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, Nilanjan Chatterjee, Amy Herring, Frauke Kreuter, Jerome Reiter, Jae Kwang Kim, and Bhramar Mukherjee.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki ([kkrotki@rti.org](mailto:kkrotki@rti.org)) by **February 28, 2017** with a supporting statement and cv (or link).

If you have previously nominated a candidate and you wish that nomination to be reconsidered, please update the supporting materials.

## Roger Herriot Award

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

Nominations are sought for the **2017 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics**. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

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

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

The recipient of the 2017 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with, and strongly supportive of, these organizations during his career. The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2017. The Washington Statistical Society may also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

**Past Award Recipients:**

1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)  
1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)  
1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)  
1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)  
2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)  
2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)  
2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)  
2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)  
2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)  
2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)  
2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)  
2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)  
2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)  
2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)  
2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)  
2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)  
2012 - Paul Biemer (RTI International)  
2013 - Exact Match Team (Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, and Internal Revenue Service)  
2014 - Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics study; Abowd, Haltiwanger, Lane  
2015 - Jennifer Madans (National Center for Health Statistics)  
2016 - Thesia Garner (BLS) and Kathy Short (Census Bureau)

**Nominations for the 2017 award will be accepted beginning in January 2017**

Nominations for the 2016 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2017**. Nomination packages should contain:

**Nomination packages should contain:**

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

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

For more information, contact Dave Banks, Chair of the 2017 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 919-684-3743 or banks@stat.duke.edu. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2017.** Electronic submissions to banks@stat.duke.edu in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

# **WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!**

# Washington Statistical Society

## Member Spotlight

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



### Meet WSS Former WSS President Keith Rust...

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

I am a Vice President in the Statistical Group at Westat, where I have worked for the past 30 years. The majority of my work involves sampling, weighting, and associated activities for national and international surveys of student achievement (NAEP and PISA are the acronyms of the two main ones). Since the results of these assessments tend to have political ramifications, these projects often involve many ‘other duties as assigned’, in addition to the actual work of selecting and weighting samples. About 20 statisticians and a good number of statistical programmers work with me on these projects. Also teach at the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland, which is great because I get to meet and sometimes mentor students, and it helps me keep current with the statistical literature.

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

Well, I needed a job that did not require US citizenship, in a location where my wife could also find a job. But there was a bit more to it than that. My academic advisor, Graham Kalton, suggested that I consider Westat and as soon as I learned what Westat does and how it operates I could sense that this was a place where I would be happy to work. After 30 years it seems unlikely that I am ever going to decide otherwise ....

#### 3. Finish this sentence: “I joined WSS to...”

... develop connections with other statisticians in the area. We have many statisticians at Westat, but we tend to have a common background and work on similar projects. So WSS was a way to connect with a more diverse group of statisticians. For many years the WSS seminars were perhaps the main way in which this occurred, but with the proliferation of seminars and the ability to join these remotely, now I find that social events, and special events such as the Hansen and Cox Lectures and the Summer Conference offer more opportunity to meet with other statisticians.

#### 4. What was your first job?

If you don’t count summer jobs in college, my first ‘real’ job was as a mathematical statistician at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. I worked on a variety of household, business, and agricultural surveys typical of government agencies. But one project that was a bit different was a sampling plan to estimate the number of books in Australian libraries by Australian authors who registered for a program whereby the federal government paid royalties to the authors based on the estimates. I got to meet some famous authors, and the authors got used to having their income subject to sampling variance (think about how you would feel about that).

#### 5. What skills are most important to the next generation of statistics professionals?

I think communication skills are increasingly important. Statistics (and data science) is developing ever more specialized subfields. We need to not only be able to communicate with non-statisticians about our work, but increasingly with other statisticians also. On a more technical level, I have a concern that design skills are being neglected in today’s environment. There is a perception that data are just lying around waiting to be analyzed in innovative ways, and that as long as there is enough data it doesn’t really matter how we come by it. Design used to be a critical skill because lack of computing power and the need to expend resources to obtain data meant that efficiency of design was paramount. Now I think that good design is needed in many cases to provide a solid basis for inference. But I am not sure that design is being taught widely and well today.

#### 6. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?

I think my wife would tell you that I show distinct signs of obsessiveness when planning travel, and shopping at the wine store and the hardware store. So it seems that another potential profession should be based on these traits. Travel planner to wine regions perhaps? – not sure where the hardware fits in.

#### 7. What is your favorite vacation spot?

I am tempted to say “Somewhere I haven’t been.” If I think of places I have been back to many times, then most prominent of those would be the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and Italy. If I think of which past vacation was my favorite, that I cannot say. I suppose my most unusual trips have been spending a week on a boat on the Rio Negro in the Amazon basin, and, last year, snorkeling with whale sharks off the Yucatan Peninsula.

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

I enjoy playing tennis, although of course I wish I were a better player. I also enjoy watching professional tennis – live and up close it is much more exciting than on TV. And speaking of watching sport on TV, I do follow the progress of the Michigan Wolverines (I still haven’t figured out how we came to hire some Ohio State grads at Westat). For many years my wife and I were season ticket holders at the Washington National Opera, and I enjoy many kinds of music. We like going to restaurants, but since that can get to be expensive we also like to cook at home. I’ll use the charcoal grill in any weather.

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

I have had several very influential mentors throughout my early and mid-career. Ken Foreman, who was the head statistician at the Australian Bureau of Statistics during my time there, and was himself heavily influenced by Morris Hansen, encouraged me to undertake graduate studies and 'learn the craft' as he would say. In graduate school, my advisor Graham Kalton taught me many things and helped to focus my thinking on many aspects of survey sampling. Leslie Kish was also a very influential member of my thesis committee as well as a great friend during my time at Michigan. At Westat I had the good fortune to work with Morris Hansen for almost four years, and working with him on the National Assessment of Educational Progress became the basis for my career. When presented with a challenge I often ask myself "What would Morris do?" And of course there was also Ed Bryant and Joe Waksberg at Westat – that was the place to be if you were looking for a mentor. David Morganstein has always been a great source of support for me and a great role model.

**10. If you could have dinner with 3 people from history, who would they be?**

In recent years I have become interested in medieval and renaissance history. And I think it would be nice to have two women and two men at dinner. So I will go with Eleanor of Aquitaine, Isabella d'Este, and Federico da Montefeltro. You can look them up on Wikipedia. Not quite sure what language we would converse in – probably I would need to brush up my Latin. Of course I could go with Hansen, Kish, Bryant, and Waksberg, but then there wouldn't be room for me at the table.

## **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.

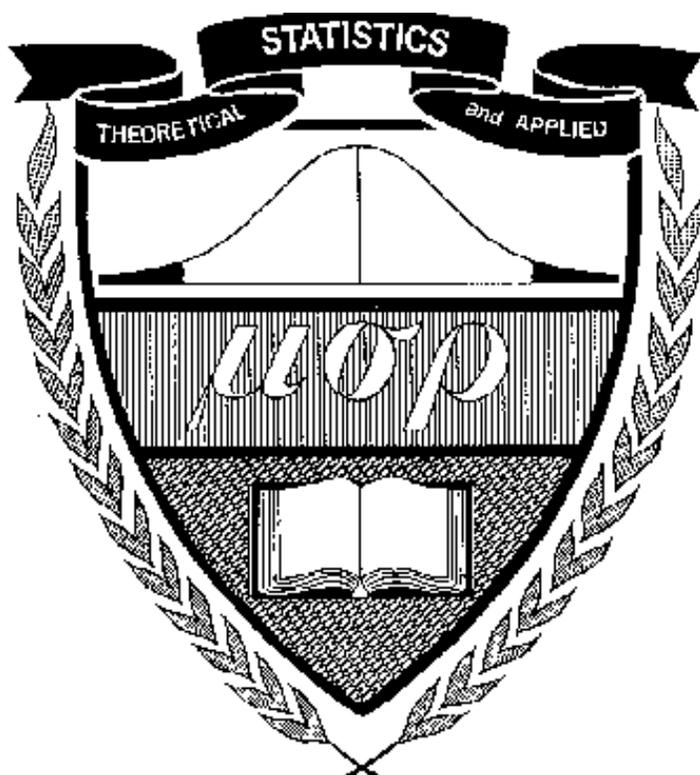
Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.

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, Wendy Barboza (Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## STUDENT CORNER



### ***Mu Sigma Rho: The National Statistics Honorary Society***

Mu Sigma Rho is the national honorary society for statistics. Its purpose is the promotion and encouragement of scholarly activity in statistics, and the recognition of outstanding achievement.

Mu Sigma Rho involves graduate students at all levels, undergraduates, faculty and professional statisticians. Activities include outreach and service to the profession.

Students, whether undergraduate or graduate, in the Washington DC area who meet the qualifications outlined below are encouraged to apply for membership in this honorary society. If there is a chapter on your campus (the closest campus chapter is at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County), you should apply to your campus chapter. Otherwise, the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) is an affiliate chapter and you should apply directly to WSS. Contact the WSS Mu Sigma Rho Representative Michael P. Cohen at [mpcohen@juno.com](mailto:mpcohen@juno.com) (preferred) or 202-403-6453. There is no cost to the student (Mu Sigma Rho has a \$5 initiation fee but the WSS has voted to pay that for qualified students).

**Regular Membership Qualifications****Undergraduate Students**

- At least 2 years of college course work
- At least 8 semester hours (12 quarter hours) of statistics courses, of which at least 5 semester hours (7 quarter hours) shall be junior level statistics course work
- At least a 3.40 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) in all undergraduate level statistics courses
- At least a 3.20 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) in all undergraduate level courses

**Graduate Students**

- At least 12 semester hours (18 quarter hours) of graduate level statistics courses
- At least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) in all graduate level statistics courses
- Be a graduate student in good standing

## **WORKSHOPS & SHORT COURSES**

### **JPSM Short Courses**

#### **Issues in Data Science: Unpacking 'Big Data'**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2017 (1-Day Course)**

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

Presented by Cliff Lampe

**Payment and Registration Due January 24, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=020717](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=020717)

#### **Practical Tools for Designing and Weighting Survey Samples**

**FEBRUARY 21-22, 2017**

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

Presented by Richard L. Valliant and Jill A. Dever

**Payment and Registration Due February 7, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=022117](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=022117)

#### **Leveraging New Technologies for Understanding Attitudes and Behavior**

**MARCH 8-9, 2017**

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

Presented by Michael W. Link

**Payment and Registration Due February 22, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=030817](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=030817)

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

**MARCH 29, 2017 (1-Day Course)**

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

Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann

**Payment and Registration Due March 15, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=032917](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=032917)

#### **Nonprobability Survey Samples**

**APRIL 14, 2017 (1-Day Course)**

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

Presented by Courtney Kennedy

**Payment and Registration Due March 31, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=041417](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=041417)

**Introduction to Survey Estimation**

**MAY 1-2, 2017**

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

Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

**Payment and Registration Due April 17, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=050117](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=050117)

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

### 2017 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 (BLS)? If so, consider applying for our 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](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 January 2, 2017 with final decisions anticipated around April 15, 2017.**

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 BLS coordinates our 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](mailto:Gonzalez.Jeffrey@bls.gov)) if you have any questions and please feel free to share this announcement with any colleagues who may have interest in the Fellowship Program.

## GET INVOLVED!

### Data Challenge 2017

Three ASA sections (Computing, Government, and Graphics) are proud to sponsor the Data Challenge 2017 to take place at the JSM 2017 meetings. The contest is open to anyone who is interested in participating, including college students and professionals from the private or public sector. This contest challenges participants to analyze a government dataset using statistical and visualization tools and methods. There will be two award categories – Professional (one level) and Student (three levels). Award amounts will be announced later.

Contestants will present their results in a speed poster session at the JSM and must submit their abstracts to the JSM online system in the usual manner. Presenters are responsible for their own JSM registration and travel costs, and any other costs associated with JSM attendance. Group submissions are acceptable. To enter, contestants must do the following by **February 1, 2017**.

- Submit abstract for Speed Poster session to the JSM 2017 website (<http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2017/index.cfm>). Specify the Government Statistics Section (GSS) as the main sponsor. Abstraction submission starts December 1, 2016.
- Forward the JSM abstract to Wendy Martinez ([martinez.wendy@bls.gov](mailto:martinez.wendy@bls.gov)).

The dataset for the GSS Data Challenge 2017 will be the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE). Public Use data files and documentation (file structure, data dictionary, sample code, etc.), are available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/pumd.htm>. Contestants must use some portion of the CE data and can also combine other data sources in the analysis.

Standard tables, showing expenditures and related information for various demographic groups, are available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/tables.htm>. An experimental table showing extremely detailed average annual expenditures and other information for all consumer units (similar to a household or family) in the U.S. is available here: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/2014/research/allcuprepub.pdf>. For more information, see the CE homepage (<http://www.bls.gov/cex/>).

Examples of research using the CE data are also available.

- Monthly Labor Review articles: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxart.htm>
- "Beyond the Numbers" series: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxwebarticles.htm>
- "Spotlight on Statistics" and other series: <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxspotlight.htm>; <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxissus.htm>.



# ANNUAL POSTER COMPETITION FOR K-12 STUDENTS



Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **April 1, 2017.**

## Call for Entries

The **American Statistical Association** (ASA) has an annual poster competition for students in Grades K-12, with separate winners in Grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The aim is to increase statistical awareness and understanding via a statistical poster containing two or more related graphics that summarize a set of data, look at the data from different points of view, and answer specific questions about the data in a coherent manner.

The **Washington Statistical Society** (WSS), a chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA), is awarding prizes for the competition in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Winners of this local competition will then be entered into the national competition.

## Objectives

Enhance students' understanding of:

- ▶ the use of statistics in the real world
- ▶ how statistics are used to analyze information
- ▶ the importance of graphical displays
- ▶ how to prepare a coherent poster presentation

## Entry Rules & Guidelines

This local competition follows the rules and evaluation process for the national competition at:

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

The deadline for submission of entries is **April 1** of each year. Note: Although the forms and posters are sent to the ASA national office, they will be judged separately from the posters from other regions.

Further questions can be directed to Will Cecere at (301) 294-44477 or [williamcecere@westat.com](mailto:williamcecere@westat.com).

## Eligibility

- ▶ Grades K-12
- ▶ Residence in the Washington DC metropolitan area

## Evaluation

- ▶ Overall impact – Eye-catching appeal, visual attractiveness, and ability to draw the viewer to investigate the individual graphs
- ▶ Clarity – Demonstration of important relationships and patterns in a clear and coherent manner
- ▶ Appropriateness – Appropriate graphics for the data
- ▶ Creativity!

## Prizes & Awards

**WSS Poster Competition winners will be awarded as follows:**

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES	
1st Prize:	\$100
2nd Prize & 3rd Prize:	\$50
TEAM ENTRIES	
1st Prize:	\$50 for each team member, up to a maximum of \$200.
2nd Prize & 3rd Prize:	\$25 for each team member, up to a maximum of \$100

Winners and their teachers/academic supervisors will also be invited to attend the annual WSS awards dinner. For team entries, a maximum of four students per entry will be provided with free meals, although additional students may attend the dinner at their own cost.

## Prizes & Awards cont'd.

Winners will also have their submissions sent to the national ASA poster competition.

National winners will receive additional prizes as described at:

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

## Useful Resources about What Makes a Successful Poster

▶ Webinar at:

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

▶ Observations from winners of the 2013 competition at:

[http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/EDU-2013Posters\\_Observations.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/EDU-2013Posters_Observations.pdf)

▶ Winning posters from recent competitions at:

<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2016/08/01/posterwinners-aug16/>

The WSS and ASA also have competitions for written papers/projects with significant statistical content/analyses. Details for those competitions are at:

▶ **WSS Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize:**  
<http://washingtonstatisticalsociety.org/awards/#jacobs>

▶ **ASA:**

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Project-Competition-for-Grades-7-12.aspx>



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## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the **February, 2017** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **25<sup>th</sup>** of **preceding month**.

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