WSS NEWS
WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

2018 WSS ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

In accordance with the WSS bylaws, we are announcing the slate of nominees for the upcoming 2018 election of WSS Board members. The election is scheduled to occur in May and will be open for approximately three weeks. The nominees for each position are listed in alphabetical order. 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 must be submitted at least two weeks prior to when the election begins. Petitioned names should be submitted to the **President-elect, Tom Krenzke at** tomkrenzke@westat.com**.** Special thanks to the following committee members for assisting Tom: Darcy Miller, Tom Mule, and Chris Moriarity (especially for help facilitating website).

For the 2018 election the open positions are:

For President-Elect (two nominees)

Wendy Martinez (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Dr. Wendy Martinez has been serving as the Director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for over six years. Prior to this, she worked in several research positions throughout the Department of Defense. She 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. She received the ASA Founders Award in 2017. Wendy has been supporting the WSS and the ASA in many capacities, including Section Chair-Elect of the ASA Statistical Computing Section (2018), Chair of the ASA History of Statistics Interest Group (2018), and WSS Methodology Chair (2017-2018). She served as Chair of the ASA Government Statistics Section (2015), ASA Statistics in Defense and National Security Section Chair (2009), JSM Program Chair for 2009, and the WSS Defense and National Security Program Chair. She obtained a PhD in Computational Statistics from George Mason University (1995), a Master's Degree in Aerospace Engineering from George Washington University (1991), and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Physics from Cameron University (1989). Wendy needed to learn about survey methodology when she came to work at the BLS, so she went back to school and acquired a certificate in Survey Statistics from the University of Maryland (2015).

Eileen O'Brien (Energy Information Administration)

Eileen O'Brien, currently the Program Lead for energy demand statistics at the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), has worked across unique statistical, economic, and policy missions of the federal government for over 30 years. She seeks to serve the WSS community by reaching more students of statistics, adding events to increase collaboration with emerging disciplines, and developing members' leadership capacities and contributions to our rapidly changing field. During her career, she has volunteered for many ASA, WSS, interagency working groups, and related activities. This has included three terms as member or chair of the ASA Survey Review Committee, as well as ASA Council of Chapters Representative for the WSS (2013-2015). She coordinated joint WSS and DC-AAPOR events as DC-AAPOR's Program Chair (2004) and President (2008). Prior to working at EIA, Eileen was a senior survey methodologist at the Census Bureau (1998-2005) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (1987-1998), where she led research on nonsampling errors associated with interviewer-respondent behaviors in surveys. Though we face many challenges in our work today, she believes the best, most trusted decisions continue to be made when the collective voice of households, businesses, and industry and our efforts are 'in the room'. Eileen has a B.A. in Economics from Michigan State University and an M.S. from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology of the University of Maryland, College Park.

For Treasurer (one nominee)

Dhuly Chowdhury (RTI International)

Dhuly Chowdhury, a research statistician at RTI International, has over 16 years of experience in survey sampling and biostatistical projects. Her current areas of interest include neonatal research and blood transfusion practices in the USA, South Africa, Brazil, and China. She served as the WSS quantitative literacy chair from 2012-2017 and has been the WSS chapter representative since 2016. As the chair of the WSS quantitative literacy group, she organized many events for K-12 students and teachers to promote statistics as a profession and received the WSS President's award for her ongoing efforts. She also served on the mentoring subcommittee of WSS from 2015 - 2016. In addition, she has been serving as a functional consultant for Statistics Without Borders since 2017. Dhuly looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve WSS to promote statistics as a profession.

For Communications Officer (two nominees)

Taylor Lewis (Office of Personnel Management)

Taylor Lewis is a Senior Data Scientist for the Office of Strategy and Innovation within the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. Prior to his current role, Taylor served five years as OPM's lead statistician for the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, and two years before that as a survey statistician for the National Center for Health Statistics. He is also an adjunct professor at the George Mason University Department of Statistics, the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) at the University of Maryland, and the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland. He holds a B.S. in Statistics from Virginia Tech, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Survey Methodology from the University of Maryland. Taylor's primary areas of expertise include sample design and analysis, techniques to compensate for missing data, and survey

methodology. His research on these topics has been featured in numerous peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Official Statistics, Field Methods,* and *Survey Practice,* and *methods, data, analyses.* He also authored a book, *Complex Survey Data Analysis with SAS®,* which was published by CRC Press in 2016.

Leanna Moron (NORC at the University of Chicago)

Leanna P. Moron is a quantitative research analyst at Child Trends. As an early career professional and aspiring statistician, Leanna started her involvement with the American Statistical Association by serving as the founding president of George Mason University's ASA Student Chapter. Leanna seeks to continue being actively involved with WSS to support the ASA's mission of promoting the profession and practice of statistics. She is particularly interested in supporting women and minorities in statistics, students and early career professionals, and pushing the boundaries in promoting statistics in interdisciplinary social science research applications (e.g. child and family science research). Her leadership contributions to the ASA have also been featured in numerous AMSTAT News publications. She also serves as a representative for the ASA's "This is Statistics" campaign, which promotes statistics careers to students.

Leanna has three years of experience working collaboratively with ASA student chapters, WSS and ASA to help provide statistical education and training events, as well as professional development and networking opportunities for statisticians, data scientists, and researchers. She has also been involved with WSS by serving as the Quantitative Literacy Committee Chair (2017-2018), in which she assists with statistical education efforts (e.g. Science Fair) for local students. Leanna is also actively involved with the Caucus for Women in Statistics, by coordinating networking opportunities for women in statistics and data science in the DC area.

Leanna started her career in applied statistical research in 2015 by working as a research assistant for Carnegie Mellon University's Department of Statistics and George Mason University's Human Development and Family Science program. While a student, Leanna also interned as a statistical assistant at the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis through the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) Junior Fellows program. After graduating from George Mason University, Leanna worked as a research assistant at NORC at the University of Chicago's Statistics and Methodology department and Health Care research department. She currently works as a quantitative research analyst at Child Trends, where she conducts statistical analysis and research to improve the prospects of children, youth, and their families' lives. Leanna plans to pursue graduate studies in biostatistics or applied statistics.

For Methodology Program Chair-elect (two nominees)

Nick Beyler (2M Research Services)

Nicholas K. Beyler, PhD is Senior Director of Social, Behavioral, & Methodological Sciences for 2M Research, a small minority-owned research firm. He previously served as Director of Statistics for 2M Research and as a Senior Statistician Supervisor of Statistical Analysts for Mathematica Policy Research. Dr. Beyler served as Secretary for the ASA's Council of Sections Governing Board from 2011 – 2014, as Chair and Liaison for several WSS methodology sessions from 2010 – 2013, and actively participates as an Organizer, Chair, and Presenter at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Dr. Beyler's research interests include sample design, analysis of complex survey data, random assignment procedures, measurement error adjustments, model-based analysis and simulation, and systematic evidence reviews. Dr. Beyler has published articles in and served as a peer reviewer for several academic journals, including the Journal of Official Statistics, the American Statistician, the Journal of Applied Statistics, the Journal of School Health, and Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise. He holds a PhD in statistics from Iowa State University and a bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Economics from Lawrence University.

Yan Ma (George Washington University)

Yan Ma, Ph.D., M.A., M.S., is a tenured Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Associate Director of the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Consulting Service (BECS) at George Washington University. As a statistician, he has provided a wide range of traditional and cutting-edge statistical consulting services to biomedical and public health investigators. His research focuses on developing innovative statistical methodology for complex analytic problems arising from this collaborative research. He has authored over 90 peer-reviewed publications in top journals such as *Biometrics, Statistics in Medicine, Psychometrika, JAMA, Anesthesiology, Anesthesia & Analgesia, Circulation Research, Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery, Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine*. Dr. Ma received an R01 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for the development and application of statistical methods for health disparities research. He has mentored one postdoctoral fellow, multiple PhD students, medical residents, and master's level biostatisticians. He is a founding member and chair (2017) of the Junior Statistician Mentoring Program (JSMP) Committee, Section on Statistics in Epidemiology, American Statistical Association. He is appointed to Eastern North American Region (ENAR) Regional Advisory Board (three-year term: 2017~2019), International Biometric Society. In 2010, he was a recipient of Statistics in Epidemiology Young Investigator Award by the American Statistical Association. In 2012, Dr. Ma and his collaborators won the esteemed Team Science Award from the Association for Clinical Research Training, American Federation for Medical Research, Association for Patient Oriented Research, and Society for Clinical and Translational Science. This award recognizes the team's success in translation of research discoveries into clinical practice. In 2017, he was selected to receive research fellowship from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Research Participation Program at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He was the 2017 winner of the Achievement in Academia Award for outstanding contributions to statistics and public health from the Applied Public Health Statistics Section of American Public Health Association.

For Representatives-at-Large (four nominees)

Nick Hart (Bipartisan Policy Center)

Nick Hart is the director of Bipartisan Policy Center's Evidence-Based Policymaking Initiative. Prior to joining BPC, he worked in the federal government for nearly a decade, most recently as the policy and research director for the U.S. Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking. In that capacity, he oversaw the commission's policy and research support team and led the drafting process for "The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking," the commission's final report and recommendations presented to the Congress and the president in September 2017. Hart has worked on a wide range of issues including social security, disability, anti-poverty, environmental, energy, economic development, and criminal justice policies. He worked at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a senior analyst and special assistant, where he encouraged increased capacity for evidence-building practices across government. Hart earned a doctorate from The George Washington University's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, specializing in program evaluation. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and Master of Public Affairs degree from Indiana University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from Truman State University.

Mike Jadoo (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Michael Jadoo works as an economist at Office of Productivity and Technology at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. He is also an adjunct professor at Montgomery College on the subject of data analysis. He has a bachelor's degree in economics and business administration from Florida International University as well as a master's degree in applied economics from The Johns Hopkins University. Previously, Michael has presented at different events on economics, statistical computing, and SAS programming. He also runs a Meetup group that hosts and supports educational events on statistics and statistical computing.

Michael Messner (Environmental Protection Agency)

Mike Messner holds a Ph.D. in operations research from NC State and is a mathematical statistician (of the Bayesian variety) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Serving in EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water for the past 20 years, Mike uses environmental survey and compliance monitoring data to model the occurrence of chemical and microbial contaminants in the nation's drinking water. He also assesses the potency of the contaminants (for example, through microbial dose-response modeling) and combines all of this with information on treatment and ingestion to quantify the expected costs and benefits of regulatory options. For 13 years prior to joining EPA, Mike was a research environmental scientist with the Research Triangle Institute's Center for Environmental Quality Assurance. Mike is active with both ASA and WSS. He recently received the WSS President's award for his long-term service as chief WSS judge at area science fairs. In 2011, WSS and sections of ASA honored Mike with the Roger Herriot Award for innovation in federal statistics. One of his innovations is the Statipedia wiki, which he's managed since its creation in 2010. Mike does most of his statistical programming with R, but he's also a "recreational user" of R! At home, he uses R to write "G-code" to controls a large CNC router (the woodworking type – not the thing that sends signals to your electronic devices) that carves front and back plates of stringed

instruments. To date, he's completed violins for 3 of 4 grandchildren, and is working on a viola (for grandchild #4) and a cello for himself.

Gene Peters (Federal Bureau of Investigation)

Gene Peters is Chief of Counterterrorism and Forensic Science Research at the FBI Laboratory. He leads a staff of ten principal research scientists and 20-25 postdocs and other visiting scientists to develop new or improved methods to analyze forensic evidence and to strengthen the scientific foundations of forensic science. His research portfolio includes projects in anthropology, biology, chemistry, explosives analysis, genetics, geology, microbiology, statistics, and toxicology. Areas of specific emphasis include geographic attribution of trace evidence, decision analysis studies for pattern evidence, and applying whole genome sequencing techniques to forensic and intelligence casework. In addition to his duties as chief of research, he is a member of the FBI's Institutional Review Board for the protection of human subjects in research, the FBI Laboratory Research Review Team, and serves as co-chair for the Department of Defense Combatting Terrorism Technical Support Office Working Group on Investigative and Forensic Sciences. He also serves on review panels for the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency, the National Institute of Justice, the FBI Biometric Center of Excellence, and the Defense Forensic Science Center. Prior to joining the FBI Laboratory, he was a senior manager at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, where he worked to ensure the safe management of nuclear materials and spent nuclear fuel. In particular, he was principally responsible for making the safety determination for spent nuclear fuel repository regulatory compliance. He has also worked as a scientific consultant, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He holds an undergraduate degree with distinction in geology from the University of Rochester, where he was a member of the Meridian Honor Society and awarded a Joseph C. Wilson Fellowship. He completed master's degrees in engineering at Johns Hopkins University and in geology at the George Washington University, where he was a University Research Fellow and adjunct faculty member. At present, he is pursuing a master's degree in statistics from North Carolina State University under a fellowship from the FBI.

2018 WSS PRESIDENT'S INVITED LECTURE

The Critical Role of Statistics in Evaluating Forensic Evidence

**May 3, 2018, 2:30-4:00 pm, Reception to Follow
Karen Kafadar, American Statistical Association's President-Elect**

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Rooms 9 and 10
2 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington DC
Metro Stop: Union Station on the Red Line

Dr. Karen Kafadar is President-Elect of the American Statistical Association and will serve as President in 2019. She is a Commonwealth Professor and the Chair of Statistics at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. She received her BS in mathematics and MS in statistics at Stanford University, and her PhD in statistics from Princeton University. Her research focuses on robust methods; exploratory data analysis; characterization of uncertainty in the physical, chemical, biological and engineering sciences; and methodology for the analysis of screening trials, which includes awards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Statistical Association (ASA), and American Society for Quality. She currently serves on the Forensic Science Standards Board and chairs the ASA's Advisory Committee on Forensic Science.

Abstract

Statisticians have been important contributors to many areas of science, including chemistry (chemometrics), biology (genomics), medicine (clinical trials), and agriculture (crop yield), leading to valuable advances in statistical research that have benefitted multiple fields (e.g., spectral analysis, penalized regression, sequential analysis, experimental design). Yet the involvement of statistics specifically in forensic science has not been nearly as extensive, given the importance of the field (ensuring proper administration of justice) and the value it has demonstrated thus far (e.g., forensic DNA, assessment of bullet lead evidence, significance of findings in the U.S. anthrax investigations, reliability of eyewitness identification). Forensic methods in many areas remain unvalidated, as recent investigations have highlighted (notably, bite marks and hair analysis). In this talk, I will provide three examples where statistics played a vital role in the evaluating forensic evidence. I then will propose ways in which statisticians can enhance its involvement in forensic science with the ultimate goal of strengthening forensic evidence to achieve its mission in achieving low error rates (false positives and false negatives), and thereby helping to raise the level of confidence in the reliability of evidence presented in the criminal justice system.

WELCOME NEW ASA/WSS MEMBERS

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

Cyrus H. Afshar	David M. Higdon
Shane T. Ball	David Iain Holmes
Kurt Bembridge	Chen Hu
Sujatha Bergen	Joseph Patrick Kelly
Thomas Birkner	Mark John Meyer
Christina Bloom	Danna L. Moore
Zachary Blumenfeld	Deborah Nasseri
Miraides F. Brown	Patrick O'Reilly
Kenneth G. Buffin	Sungji (Michelle) Park
Shane Campbell	John R. Pleis
George Cave	Weijia Ren
Chi Cheung	Jordan Rodu
Joseph Edward Conran	Brandon Rozek
Nathaniel Zalman Counts	Laura Sheehan
Raul Cruz-Cano	Jared Smith
Jennifer Cheeseman Day	Jenise Swall
Sandy L. Dietrich	Jane Wall
Scott R. Evans	William Henry White
Turkan K. Gardenier	Xiaoshu Zhu
Hubert Hamer	

Welcome to WSS!
Linda Young, WSS President
Mike Larsen, WSS Past President
Tom Krenzke, WSS President Elect

SHORT COURSES/WORKSHOPS

Recent Advances in Handling Nonignorable Nonresponse

April 16, 2018 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ET)

Speakers: Jun Shao, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Chair: Yang Cheng

Sponsor: WSS Methodology

Abstract: Nonignorable nonresponse presents a great challenge in statistical analysis since the nonresponse mechanism/propensity depends on missing data and it is often not identifiable without any further assumption or information about the population distribution and/or nonresponse propensity. In this presentation we introduce some recent developments in dealing with nonignorable nonresponse, including the use of nonresponse instrument in identifying the unknown population, the semiparametric pseudo likelihood estimation, and the parametric or semiparametric propensity approach. We also show some results on the selection of a parametric model or the determination of nonresponse instrumental variables, which is difficult and previously thought to be impossible because of the nonignorable nonresponse.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Rooms 7 & 8

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 two days in advance of the seminar. 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.

WebEx: WebEx event address:
https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m5ec312949e0f3be630f6fa5fe4860d78

For audio:
Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-745-4894   (US)
Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-8001   (US)
Attendee access code: 312 885 1

Note: Certain computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

The Committee on Applied Statisticians is proud to announce our 7th FREE Webinar within the Collaboration Initiative.

Collaboration Essentials: Asking Great Questions
Eric Vance & Heather Smith
17th April, 1:00-2:00 PM Eastern Time

Abstract:
The questions we ask and the way in which we ask them can make all the difference in how successful we are in meetings, in collaborations, and in our careers. Would you be interested in learning a new framework and effective strategies you can apply to turn good questions into great ones? If so, please join us for this interactive webinar.

During this webinar we will explain our theoretical framework for how questions can lead to more effective collaborations, discuss what makes a question great, and provide examples of our favorite questions to ask domain experts. Participants will have the opportunity to submit their own great questions and solicit thoughts about developing great questions to address challenges in statistical collaborations.

Speaker(s) bio:
For the past 10 years, Eric Vance, an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, has been the director of LISA (Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Statistical Analysis) where he has trained 256 statisticians to move between theory and practice to collaborate with 9000+ domain experts to apply statistics and data science to answer their research or business questions. He has taught workshops and webinars on collaboration around the world, including several in collaboration with Heather Smith.

Heather Smith has 27 years of experience consulting with academic, industrial, service, and government clients in the United States, Europe, and Asia. She began this work as a statistical consultant at Westat, Inc. For 20 years she has been a faculty member in the Statistics Department at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she consults with academic and private sector researchers and teaches a wide variety of applied statistics courses, including courses in statistical communication and consulting. She has offered over a dozen workshops, short courses, and webinars on these topics, and has trained hundreds of statistical collaborators.

To register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaboration-essentials-asking-great-questions-tickets-44418024507

Registration is also available from the CAS website: http://community.amstat.org/cas/home.

Future seminars in this series include:

- Teamwork (May 15th, 1-2 PM ET)
- Communicating with Non-statisticians (June – date tbc)
- Statistical Collaboration: Putting the Pieces Together (July – date tbc)

Past webinars include:

- Structuring Effective Meetings
- Cultivating Productive Relationships
- Collaborating Across Cultures: Dynamics of Intercultural Communication
- Conflict Resolution
- Influence without Authority
- Negotiations

Recordings of past webinars are available at community.amstat.org/cas/new-item/new-item

Statistical Methods for Handling Missing Data

April 17, 2018
9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Dr. Jun Shao, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Place:
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Conference rooms 1-3, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

Course Content:
Missing data or nonrespondents exist in almost all survey problems. It creates difficulties in analyzing data, such as unbalancedness of data, loss of power or efficiency, and bias in estimation and inference when incomplete data are not suitably handled. This course will attempt to summarize some existing methods of treating incomplete data for correct and efficient statistical analysis. The course will provide an in-depth discussion of the motivation and justification of some commonly used methods with emphasize on how to make use of covariate information. The course will start with the simplest case where data are missing at random and then proceed to the more complicated and challenge problems of nonigorbale nonresponse. The types of data with nonresponse range from simple univariate response to multivariate or longitudinal response with arbitrary nonresponse patterns. The problem of missing data in covariates or in both responses and covariates will also be addressed. Finally, this course covers variance estimation after handling nonrespondents.

About the Instructor:
Dr. Shao received his PhD in statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987. He was a faculty member at Purdue University and University of Ottawa and joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in January 1994. Dr. Shao became a Professor in August 1996 and served as a chair of the Department of Statistics at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2004-2009. He became a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1996 and a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1999. Starting from 1996, Dr. Shao has worked with the U.S. Census Bureau for research problems with missing data and variance estimation. Dr. Shao has published extensively in the areas of analysis of incomplete data, variance estimation in survey data, resampling methods in inference, and clinical trials.

Course Schedule:

8:15 - 9:00	Coffee, breakfast, and check in
9:00 - 9:15	Introduction & Welcome
9:15 – 9:45	Overview and Missing Data Mechanisms
9:45 – 10:30	Methods of Handling Ignorable Missing Data: Analytic Methods and Weighting
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45-12:15	Methods of Handling Ignorable Missing Data: Imputation and Variance Estimation
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch (provided)
1:15 - 2:30	Methods of Handling Nonignorable Missing Data
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 – 3:30	Longitudinal Data
3:30 - 4:00	Missing Data in Covariates
4:00 – 4:30	Course Summary & Open Discussion

Advance registration: In addition to your RSVP here, please go to https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-statistical-methods-for-handling-missing-data-tickets-42691469334 to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on **April 12, 2018**; earlier if the course fills up.

Registration Fee:
  Full-time students (at most 8): $63.49 advance, $80 at the door
  WSS members: $186.49 advance, $200 at the door
  All others: $217.24 advance, $240 at the door

Contact person: Yang Cheng, 301-763-3287, yang.cheng@census.gov

WSS Short Course on the Statistical Leadership

May 7, 2018
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Conference rooms 7-8, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

Instructor: Dr. Gary Sullivan (Global Statistical Sciences)
Leaders/Presenters:

>   Dr. Barry Nussbaum (2017 ASA President and Chief Statistician of the
>   Environmental Protection Agency (retired))
>   Dr. Sally Morton (Dean of the College of Science of the Virginia Polytechnic
>   Institute and State University and 2009 ASA President)

Course Content:
What is leadership? Why is it important for our profession? Moreover, how do you develop as a leader? Much has been written and discussed within the statistics profession in the last few years on these questions. This course will provide an understanding of leadership and its importance, as well as how statisticians can develop their leadership skills with a focus on business/ organizational acumen & influence. It will feature leadership speakers from different sectors of statistics talking about their personal journeys and providing insights into how they developed as leaders. Through personal reflection, group discussion and targeted exercises, you will develop a greater awareness of leadership and chart your path forward on your leadership development journey.

Who Should Attend?
- Statisticians who have a significant desire to become a student of leadership—a process you can start from any position by taking small but continuous steps
- Statisticians with an open mind; an eagerness to learn and improve; and a willingness to share their thoughts, insights and experiences with others
- Statisticians/professionals who have at least three years of work experience outside of their academic training

Note: This is NOT a career Development Course. This course will focus on understanding and developing Leadership Skills in current and future roles of the attendees

About the Instructors:

Dr. Gary Sullivan is a leadership development specialist for Espirer Consulting, LLC, and is the current chair of the Ad Hoc Leadership Training committee for the American Statistical Association. He recently retired from Eli Lilly and Company after over 28 years where he held numerous management and technical roles. While at Eli Lilly, he helped develop a leadership program for their statistics function and led the administration of that program from 2009–2017. He brought aspects of that program to the ASA and led the development and instruction of the first leadership course at JSM in 2014. He has provided leadership training to over 250 people at Eli Lilly and the within the ASA.

Dr. Barry Nussbaum became 2017 ASA President after he retired as Chief Statistician for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He had been with the EPA since 1975. Dr. Nussbaum was in charge developing statistical policy and overseeing statistical consultation for EPA's many varied offices. He also founded and chaired the EPA Statistics Users Group. Dr. Nussbaum is the recipient of two EPA Silver Medals for Superior Service as well as the EPA Distinguished Career Service Award. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute.

Dr. Nussbaum has a bachelor's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and both a master's and a doctorate from the George Washington University. He has taught graduate statistics courses for George Washington University and Virginia Tech. He has also survived two terms as the treasurer of the Ravensworth Elementary School PTA. He often called upon to discuss the role of statistics and the statistician in helping to make, explain, and defend major decisions, policies, regulations, and enforcement actions.

Dr. Sally C. Morton is dean of the College of Science and professor of statistics at Virginia Tech. She previously served as chair of biostatistics and directed the Comparative Effectiveness Research Center at the University of Pittsburgh. Before joining Pitt, Dr. Morton was vice president for statistics and epidemiology at RTI International. She began her career at the RAND Corporation and was head of RAND's Statistics Group. She also has served on several National Academy of Medicine committees, the Census Scientific Advisory Committee, and the National Academy of Sciences Committee on National Statistics.

Dr. Morton was president of the ASA in 2009 and chair of Statistics Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2013. She is a fellow of both organizations. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematical sciences, a master's degree in operations research, and a doctoral degree in statistics, all from Stanford University, as well as a master's degree in statistics from the London School of Economics.

Course Schedule:
8:00 –   8:30   Coffee, breakfast, and check in
8:30 –   9:15   Welcome & Introduction
9:15 – 10:15   Morning Speaker: Dr. Barry Nussbaum
10:15 – 10:35   Break
10:35 – 11:05   Reflection and Discussion
11:05 – 11:25   Introduction to Influence
11:25 – 12:10   Structured Exercise on Influence
12:10 –   1:00   Lunch (provided)
1:00 –   2:00   Afternoon Speaker: Dr. Sally Morton
2:00 –   2:15   Break
2:45 –   3:05   Introduction to Organizational/Business Acumen
3:05 –   3:35   Structured Exercise on Organizational/Business Acumen:
3:35 –   3:50   Break
3:50 –   4:20   Exercise Debrief
4:20 – 4:30   Summary and Closing Remarks

Advance registration: In addition to your RSVP here, please go to
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-on-the-statistical-leadership-tickets-44934859374 to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on 2 May 2018; earlier if the course fills up.

Registration Fee:
  WSS members: $186.49 advance, $200 at the door
  All others: $217.24 advance, $240 at the door

Organizers: Eileen O'Brien (U.S. Energy Information Agency)
        Dr. Jennifer Parker (National Center for Health Statistics)
        Mark Otto (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Contact person: Mark Otto, 301-497-5872, mark.ot2o@gmail.com

NISS WORKSHOP
R & SPARK: TOOLS FOR DATA SCIENCE WORKFLOWS
May 30-31, 2018, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center, Conference Rooms 1-2, Postal Square Building, 1st Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20212-0001.

CLASS CAPACITY: 40

FEES:

- $760 for employees of NISS Affiliates, or for students
- $990 for non-NISS Affiliates

COURSE OUTLINE: R is a flexible, extensible statistical computing environment, but it is limited to single-core execution. Spark is a distributed computing environment which treats R as a first-class programming language. This course introduces data structures in R and their use in functional programming workflows relevant to data science.

The course covers the initial steps in the data science process:

- Extracting data from source systems
- Transforming data into tidy form
- Loading data into distributed file systems, distributed data warehouses, and NoSQL databases, i.e., ETL.

This workflow is illustrated by using the SparkR and sparklyr package frontends to Spark from R.

SparkR and sparklyr are then used as interfaces for modeling big data using regression and classification supervised learning methods. Unsupervised learning methods, such as clustering and dimension reduction, are also covered. Additional methods, such as gradient boosting and deep learning, are illustrated using the h2o and rsparkling R packages. Finally, methods for analyzing streaming data are presented. The course finishes with an in-depth example. The infrastructure and content is containerized for easy download to your laptop using Docker.

PREREQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE: Differential calculus, basic matrix algebra, a statistics course covering regression, basic R.

OPERATING SYSTEMS: MacOS 10.11 (El Capitan) or higher or Windows 10 Professional. Students must bring their own laptops.

EVENT LOCATION: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center, Conference Rooms 1-2, Postal Square Building, 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20212-0001. Attendees are required to enter through the visitor entrance on First Street NE (between Massachusetts Avenue and G Street, NE) across from Union Station. Do not use the main entrance on 2 Massachusetts Avenue. Please note that food is not allowed in any of the classrooms. Only drinks with caps or lids are allowed into the classroom.

ID REQUIREMENT AND SCREENING: All visitors must present a valid photo ID at the visitor's entrance and pick up a visitor's badge. Visitors and packages will be processed through the x-ray and metal detector screening equipment. Equipment brought into BLS requires property passes. Equipment passes can be picked up from the receptionist. Please arrive 10 minutes early to allow enough time to go through security. Attendees must also check-in with JPSM onsite assistant each day of the course.

INSTRUCTOR: E. JAMES HARNER

E. James Harner is Professor Emeritus of Statistics at West Virginia University (WVU). He was the Chair of the Department of Statistics for 17 years and the Director of the Cancer Center Bioinformatics Core for 15 years at WVU. Currently, he is the Chairman of the Interface Foundation of North America which has partnered with the American Statistical Association to organize the annual Symposium on Data Science and Statistics (SDSS) beginning in May, 2018. The areas of his technical and research expertise include: bioinformatics, high-dimensional modeling, high performance computing, streaming and big data modeling and statistical machine learning. The areas of his technical and research expertise include: bioinformatics, high-dimensional modeling, high- performance computing, streaming and big data modeling and statistical machine learning.

CONTACT US: Please direct questions about this course to the Instructor E. James Harner at eharner@mail.wvu.edu or call him on his cell phone at 304-376-4170.

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R & SPARK: TOOLS FOR DATA SCIENCE WORKFLOWS

Of special interest to statisticians, data analysts and others who work with big data. Please forward to potentially interested persons.

The National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) is again offering its popular R & Spark 2-day course! R & SPARK: TOOLS FOR DATA SCIENCE WORKFLOWS will be held May 30-31, 2018 (Wed-Thurs) at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center
Postal Square Building, Conference Rooms 1-2
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212-0001
The visitor's entrance to BLS is on the west side of 1st Street,
NE: https://www.bls.gov/bls/directions.htm

Details & Registration are located at:

https://www.niss.org/events/r-spark-tools-data-science-workflows-0

James L. Rosenberger, Director
National Institute of Statistical Sciences
www.niss.org

SEMINAR

Title: **Why Writing about Statistics is Hard (And Here's How to Do It Anyway)**

Date/Time: **April 20, 2018/4:00– 5:30 pm**
Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.

Speaker: Regina Nuzzo, Professor, Department of Science, Mathematics, and Technology, Gallaudet University

Chair: Fanghan Wu, Georgetown University and WSS Student Representative

Sponsors: Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Statistics Education Committee, WSS Methodology Program and Mathematica-MPR

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

Once in the building, take the elevators to the 12th floor and inform the secretary 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.

RSVP: To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com by Tuesday, April 17 with your name and affiliation.

Sign Language Interpretation Requests:

Requests for Sign Language Interpretation must be received by cblumberg@gmail.com by Thursday, April 12. Please note that if you then decide not to come and do not email cblumberg@gmail.com by Thursday, April 12 then the Washington Statistical Society will be charged anyway by Gallaudet University for the services.

Abstract:

The art of "science communication" has rightfully received a great deal of attention and respect in the past decade, but what's often overlooked is an endeavor that's even harder: the art of "statistics communication." This talk will draw on the speaker's experience as both a statistician and a science journalist writing about statistics. Real-life examples from the media will illustrate a few principles for clearly writing about statistics (or effectively working with those who do). The talk is non-technical and relevant to a wide audience.

POC email:

Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

No remote access will be available for this seminar

SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award recognizes and encourages the mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in federal, state, or local government. It is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other statistical staff member who is nominated by a supervisor and co-workers for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was established to honor Dr. Griffith, who died in August 2001, after working for more than 25 years in the federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her latter senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

The award recipient will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. Preference will be given to individuals with a track record of mentoring government statisticians. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation, and organizational skills and knowledge;
- Encouraging the growth and career development of junior staff through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staff of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self-confidence by providing feedback, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone regardless of rank, race, ethnicity, or seniority.

Nominations for the 2018 Award will be accepted beginning in February 2018. The nomination form and guidelines are available from the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section websites (see
http://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/home).

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 16, 2018, and the Award Committee will determine the award winner in May. The award will consist of a $1,000 honorarium, a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors.

The nomination package must be mailed or emailed **no later than April 16, 2018**, to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee
c/o The American Statistical Association
732 N. Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943

Email: rick@amstat.org

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org or (703) 684-1221, or the chair of the Award Committee: **Bill Mockovak** at Mockovak.William@bls.gov.

Previous recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

Rich Allen (National Agriculture Statistical Service), 2003
Beth Kilss (Internal Revenue Service), 2004
Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration), 2005
Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau), 2006
Stephanie Shipp (National Institute of Standards and Technology at time of the award), 2007
Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008
Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service) and Lillian S. Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 2009
Deborah H. Griffin (U.S. Census Bureau), 2010
Jenise L. Swall (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 2011
Bill Mockovak (Bureau of Labor Statistics), 2012
Brian Harris-Kojetin (Office of Management and Budget), 2013
J. Gregory Robinson (U.S. Census Bureau) and Kenneth Schoendorf (National Center for Health Statistics), 2014
Aldo "Skip" Vecchia (United States Geological Survey), 2015
Diane L. Willimack (U.S. Census Bureau), 2016
Cynthia Ogden (National Center for Health Statistics), 2017

Sponsors of the Award

The Government Statistics Section (GSS) of the American Statistical Association manages the award. GSS would like to thank our co-sponsors:

- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)
- National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
- Social Statistics Section, American Statistical Association
- Washington Statistical Society
- Westat

GSS also thanks the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy for its support and championing of this award.

Please contact Kevin Cecco at kxcecc00@gmail.com, if your organization would like to co-sponsor the award.

GET INVOLVED!

Call for Volunteers

The coordinators for the WSS K-12 Student Data Visualization Poster competition are looking for volunteers for judging the poster competition this year! (For those of you that have judged in the past, the ASA has updated the name of the competition to include "data visualization," and has revised the rubric somewhat to encourage the use of more graphics.)

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, MD. It usually involves a 3-4 hour commitment in the afternoon, where you'll work with a small team to judge posters in a given age group. **This year, the judging will be held starting at 1 pm on either 4/28 or 4/29 (Saturday or Sunday).** We generally get an excellent group of submissions—last year, about half of the national poster competition winners came through WSS judging (http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2017/08/01/2017-poster-and-project-winners/)!

If you are interested, or if you have additional questions, please contact Elizabeth Petraglia at elizabethpetraglia@westat.com . Please let me know which date works best for you, and if you have any other constraints (e.g., can't be there until 1:30 pm, or need to leave by 4 pm, for example).

More information about the Data Visualization Poster Competition:

The Washington Statistical Society, in collaboration with The American Statistical Association, runs a Statistical Data Visualization Poster Competition for children in grades K-12 in the Washington DC metro area. This is part of the Data Visualization 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. In addition to local submissions, WSS judges also judge submissions from areas without a separate regional competition.

Winning entries of the WSS competition are automatically advanced to the second round of the national competition where they may win addition 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.

Full information about the competition, including the judging rubric (see menu on right hand side), is available here: http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx

![ASA logo]

ASA Links Lecture Award

In the fall of 2017, the ASA Board of Directors approved the creation of a continuing series of ASA lectures- The Links Lecture Award – to bring more visibility to issues surrounding the advance of official statistics such as:

- The statistical use of administrative records and alternative data sources
- Record linkage
- Statistical methods for creating blended estimates
- Privacy, confidentiality, researcher access, and reproducibility of results

Using non-traditional sources of data to make estimates is a quickly growing area in the statistics field, and this lecture series will bring much visibility and broader understanding to this area.
This lecture series serves as a sign of the importance the ASA attaches to support of innovation in the development of official statistics.

Connie Citro   *Robert Groves*   *Fritz Schueren*

The lecture series was organized to celebrate a group of statisticians who have been important links in the advancement of official statistics. Initially, the "links" will include three statisticians (pictured left) with the possibility to expand over time.

The Links Lecture Award will be given annually at a location in the Washington DC area to a person exemplifying outstanding work in the advancement of official statistics. Special recognition will be given at the lecture to each of the "links" during the introduction and citation accompanying the award.

Bring more visibility and advance official statistics!

Help us reach our **$62,500** goal to endow this award.

An endowment of this size will allow for $2,500 to be given annually to cover an honorarium, travel and other expenses for the award winner.

$25,000 has already been raised by three lead donors. ***Please consider donating today and spreading the word so we can begin this important lecture series!*** For gifts of $1,000 and above, you will be recognized as a member of the Helen Walker Society and receive a unique set of recognition and benefits.

<div align="center">

Thank you!

</div>

Amanda Malloy	Ron Wasserstein	Arthur Kennickell
ASA, Director of Development	ASA, Executive Director	ASA member and Links Lecture Award
Amanda@amstat.org	ron@amstat.org	Founder
		Arthur.kennickell@gmail.com

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 Diane K. Willimack…

Where do you work and what do you do?
I work in the Economic Programs Directorate at the U.S. Census Bureau. I am the Methodology Director for Measurement and Response Improvement in the Economic Statistical Methods Division. Since we're all about acronyms in the government, this makes me the MD for MRI! (Lame joke that my co-workers are tired of hearing!) I lead a small group of methodologists and statisticians responsible for supporting questionnaire/instrument design, development, testing and evaluation for the Census Bureau's economic programs. My group's primary activities include conducting cognitive and usability testing for economic surveys, investigating sources of measurement error, developing and evaluating response metrics, and assessing the effectiveness of nonresponse reduction techniques.

What attracted you to your current position?
In 1998, I was recruited to the Census Bureau by one of my mentors, Dr. Cynthia Clark, then the Census Bureau's Associate Director for Methodology & Standards, to work with Professor Seymour Sudman from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prof. Sudman was interested in doing a sabbatical year at the Census Bureau, working on establishment surveys, and Dr. Clark had arranged for him to work in the Economic Programs Directorate. She also arranged for two mid-level research staff to collaborate with him – myself and Elizabeth Nichols of the Center for Survey Methods Research. The chance to work with and learn from survey research pioneer Seymour Sudman was a professional opportunity without compare, and was, without a doubt, a major turning point in my career.

Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to…"
I joined WSS in order to stay current in the field of survey research and to remain connected with the statistical research community in Washington D.C., particularly colleagues from other Federal statistical agencies. I am especially proud to be a public servant and help to ensure the quality of the Official Statistics of the United States.

What was your first job?
My first *paying* job was as a waitress and short order cook at a lunch counter in a small department store named Kresge's. Kresge's, for all you youngsters, was the forerunner of K-Mart. An interesting coincidence about this job/location was that my parents, on their wedding day and wearing their wedding clothes, had their lunch at this very same lunch counter in this very same store. Back in those days, the photographer didn't come to you; you went to the photographer. So, my parents had to drive 50 miles from their farming community to the "big city" to have their wedding photos taken. And I guess they got hungry! Of course, I wasn't there to wait on them. But *maybe* they thought that they would have a daughter who, one day, would earn her first paycheck working behind this lunch counter!

Why did you join the statistics profession?
It happened in a roundabout way. I was a math major undergrad, and I didn't know what else to do with math except to go to graduate school in math. Well, that didn't work out – euphemism for failure. But I'd had an economics professor undergrad who had told me that people good in math are usually good in economics. The two came together for me when I took an econometrics course while I was flunking out of the hardcore math courses in grad school. So, I went to grad school at Iowa State University, and earned a Masters degree in economics with a minor in statistics. My first job post-grad-school was as an economist at the USDA's Economic Research Service. I was on the verge of specializing in a particular commodity – oilseeds – when I realized that I didn't want to be a commodity expert. So I fell back on my education in mathematics and statistics, and became a mathematical statistician at USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). There I found that I was less interested in "doing numbers" than I was in investigating where the numbers actually came from. So then I took advantage of NASS's support of full-time training, attended the University of Michigan, and earned a second Masters degree in Survey Research Methods. I finally found my calling as a survey data collection methodologist.

What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?
My advice has to do with becoming a survey researcher: You don't have to work in or build your career in the field that you majored in. Survey research is the accumulation of a number of different disciplines – sociology, psychology, economics, political science, cultural anthropology, mathematics, statistics, computer

science, software development, and, now, data science. It's this hodgepodge that makes survey research ever interesting and challenging. So look around…, and stretch, because you may find your true calling outside your comfort zone.

If you could give your 18-year-old self one piece of advice, what would it be?
It's okay to fail and to make mistakes. Make lots of mistakes. Because you learn more from making mistakes than you do from being right. But, as a former Econ Associate Director said, fail quickly, so that you can get on with learning from the failures and move forward.

What is your favorite daily ritual?
COMMUTING!! Really! Driving to work in my sweet little Thunderbird convertible, with the top down. Weather permitting of course.

What is your favorite vacation spot?
Hawaii – need I say more!

What is your greatest accomplishment?
I would be remiss not to take this opportunity to highlight the book I co-authored with Ger Snijkers (Statistics Netherlands), Gustav Haraldsen (Statistics Norway), and Jacqui Jones (currently at the Australian Bureau of Statistics). The book is entitled *Designing and Conducting Business Surveys* (Wiley, 2013), and is the first and only book since 1995's *Business Survey Methods* (Cox et al., ed.) to focus exclusively on **establishment** survey methodology. A large part of why it's so meaningful to me is that it grew out of having built professional relationships with fellow survey methodologists internationally.

However, the accomplishment I still feel most proud of dates back to 1997 when I worked at USDA/NASS, and the Census of Agriculture was transferred from the Census Bureau to NASS. NASS decided to add a pre-production screening phase to identify non-farms and

duplicates and remove them from the mail list, and I became the survey administrator for this project. Under my direction, we conducted a multi-mode survey of 50,000 cases nationwide, developing the instrument from scratch, piecing together data collection procedures across multiple NASS field offices, collecting and processing the data, all in a matter of a few months, from start to finish, figuring out how to put procedures in place before various systems were ready to support full production. The project exemplified how teamwork – relying on one another's different skills and strengths – successfully achieves a common goal. The experience was extremely gratifying, because I felt that I used every aspect of my survey research education, and I did a job that I didn't think I was capable of.

Have you had any great career mentors? If so, what made them great?
I have been fortunate to have two outstanding mentors. One is Dr. Cynthia Clark, whom I mentioned earlier as having recruited me to the Census Bureau for the amazing opportunity to work with survey research pioneer Seymour Sudman. The nature of Cynthia's mentoring was to open doors and help keep them ajar, but it was still up to me to walk through them and demonstrate that I was worthy. My other great mentor is Rich Allen, retired Associate Administrator at USDA/NASS. Rich's role in my career was to tell me to leave NASS when the Census Bureau opportunity came about. To this day, I remain impressed that he was more concerned about me being able to achieve professional fulfillment contributing my own skill set, at the expense of losing an employee from his own organization. Rich received the inaugural WSS/GSS Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award, and I was thrilled and humbled to "follow in his footsteps" when I was selected to receive this honor in 2016.

I would like to add that those who influence your professional behavior need not always be mentors. There are also role models, people that you hope/try to emulate. For me, a key role model was Jack Nealon, my second-level supervisor at NASS. I remember an episode when Jack advised me about something I'd done incorrectly. When I walked out of his office, it dawned on me much later that Jack had, in fact, scolded me for "behaving badly." Now that's the way to deliver "constructive criticism," such that you don't even realize you're being criticized. Another piece of Jack's advice: Don't despair when someone higher up adopts your ideas as their own. The point is that you succeeded at getting your idea(s) implemented *for the betterment of your organization*, regardless of who received credit. I have to admit that I don't always succeed at emulating Jack Nealon's managerial style, but I always try.

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 great be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to Wendy Barboza (Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov) or Natalia Weil (NataliaWeil@westat.org).

We look forward to hearing from you.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

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	Lisa Mirel	7/2017-6/2019	301-458-4087	zav8@cdc.gov
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Program	**Chair**		**Telephone**	**E-mail**
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Methodology Program	Yulei He	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 458-4533	wdq7@cdc.gov
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Data Collection Methods	Vincent T. "Tom" Mule	7/2017-6/2018		Vincent.T.Mule.Jr@census.gov
Defense and National Security	Wendy Martinez	7/2017-6/2018	(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
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Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 232-4651	mpcohen@juno.com
Public Health and Biostatistics	Grant Izmirlian	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 496-7519	izmirlian@nih.gov
	Carolyn Carroll	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 320-8709	carolyn@stattech.com
Public Policy	Bob Sivinski	7/2017-6/2018		Robert_G_Sivinski@omb.eop.gov
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Statistical Computing	Xin He	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 405-2551	xinhe@umd.edu
Student Representative	Fanghan Wu	7/2017-6/2018		fw183@georgetown.edu

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Committee	**Member**	**Term**	**Telephone**	**E-mail**
Short Courses	Yang Cheng	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 763-3287	yang.cheng@census.gov
WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi	7/2017-6/2018		wss.editor@gmail.com
Electronic Mail Committee	S.V. (Vince) Massimini	7/2017-6/2018	(703) 983-5893	svm@mitre.org
Employment Column Coordinator	Lisa Faustlin	7/2017-6/2018	303-396-5164	faustlin@yahoo.com
Financial Advisor and Audit Committee	Jonaki Bose		(240) 276-1257	jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov
	Keith Rust			RUSTK1@westat.com
Historian	Dwight Brock	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 517-4026	dwightbrock@westat.com
Social Arrangements Committee	Ranjana Kohli	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 552-6456	RKohli@mathematica-mpr.com
Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 691-7523	gillman.daniel@bls.gov
Communications	Phil Kalina	7/2017-6/2018	(703) 725-6600	phil@philkalina.com
Web Master	Chris Moriarity	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 270-3416	cdm7@cdc.gov
Quantitative Literacy Chair	Leanna Moron	7/2017-6/2018		leannaxmoron@gmail.com
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 693-5904	Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov
Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition	Elizabeth Petraglia	7/2017-6/2018	(614) 361-4982	elizabethpetraglia@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coord.	Maura Bardos	7/2017-6/2018		Maura.bardos@gmail.com
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coord.	Mark Otto	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 497-5872	Mark.ot2o@gmail.com
Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coord.	Frank Yoon	7/2017-6/2018	(609) 945-6616	FRANK.YOON@TRUVENHEALTH.COM
Student Travel Award	Erin Tanenbaum			Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org
Membership Committee	John Czajka	Chair, 7/2017-6/2018	(202) 484-4685	jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com
	John Dixon	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 691-7516	dixon_j@bls.gov
	Timothy Kennel	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 763-6795	timothy.l.kennel@census.gov
	Fritz Scheuren	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 320-3446	scheuren@aol.com
Herriot Award Committee	Thesia Garner	Soc. Sec. Rep.		
	Al Gottschalk	Govt. Sec. Rep.		

	Mary Batcher	WSS Rep., 7/2015-6/2018		marybat1@verizon.net

Non-voting Members — Committees and Other Board Members				
Committee	**Member**	**Term**	**Telephone**	**E-mail**
WSS Committee on ASA Fellows	Jill DeMatteis	Chair, 7/2017-6/2018	(301) 517-4046	jilldematteis@westat.com
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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **May 2018** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20th of the preceding month**.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

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