HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are sought for the 2010 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

- 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 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.

The recipient of the 2010 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 2010. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

The previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award are Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (NCHS), Constance Citro (CNStat), Roderick Harrison (Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (BLS), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNStat), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (Census Bureau), Robert E. Fay III (Census Bureau), Nathaniel Schenker (NCHS), Nancy Kirkendall (EIA), Elizabeth Martin (Census Bureau), and Lynda Carlson (NSF).

Nominations for the 2010 award will be accepted beginning in February 2010. Nomination packages should contain:

1. A cover letter from the nominator that should include 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.

2. Up to six additional letters in support that demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.

3. A current vita for the nominee, including contact information.

Both individual and group nominations may be submitted. The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Frank Potter, Chair, 2010 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 609-936-2799 or FPotter@Mathematica-MPR.com . Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2010. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged. Please contact the chair if you need to make arrangements to fax or mail a nomination.

JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Beth Kilss, 2010 Chair, Griffith Award Selection Committee

It's time to start thinking about nominating an outstanding supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of a governmental statistical staff who encourages mentoring of junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical system for the 2010 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. Nominations must be submitted no later than March 26, 2010.

This year marked the first time in the award's 7-year history that two winners were chosen, as well as the first time the ASA's Government Statistics Section oversaw the award selection process. Kevin Cecco, Chief of the Corporation Statistics Branch, Statistics of Income Division, IRS, and Lillian Lin, Mathematical Statistician, Division of HIV and AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received their awards at a ceremony held on June 17, 2009, in Washington, D.C.

If you're not familiar with the award or would like more information about the current winners and the history of the award, see the excellent article (including a number of pictures from the ceremony) in the August 2009 issue of Amstat News, pp. 51-54, or go to
 http://www.amstat.org/publications/amsn/2009/august.cfm.

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

Nominations for 2010 will be accepted beginning in January 2010. The last date for submission of nominations is March 26, 2010, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 7, 2010. The award will consist of a $1,000 honorarium (to be split if there is more than one awardee), a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2010.

The nomination packages are reviewed by a committee comprising six members who each serve a six-year term:

    Emerson Elliott, National Center for Education Statistics (Retired)
    Carol House, National Agricultural Statistics Service
    Dan Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research
    Beth Kilss, 2010 Chair, Internal Revenue Service (Retired)
    Stephanie Shipp, 2009 Chair, Science & Technology Policy Institute
    Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Andy Orlin, Jeanne Griffith's husband, serves as emeritus member, thus providing continuity and historical perspective.

The recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award previous to this year's two winners are 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 the time of the award), 2007; and Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008.

The winning mentor(s) will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. 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 junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;

·   Motivating junior staff and building self confidence through feedback on their efforts, 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 across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee:

·   The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers.

·   Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.

·   The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice counsels with long-term goals in mind thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach a teacher.

Photo copies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2010 award, please go to: http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform10.doc or http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform10.pdf.

If you have questions about the award, please contact Monica Clark at monica@amstat.org, (703) 302-1860, and Beth Kilss at bakilss@msn.com, (703) 451-7240.

The nomination package may be mailed or emailed no later than March 26, 2010, to:

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

Sponsors of the Award: The Government Statistics Section (GSS) of the American Statistical Association manages the award. GSS would like to thank our original co-sponsors:
· Washington Statistical Society,
· Social Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association,
· Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP),
· Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics,
and our two new co-sponsors:
· American Educational Research Association (AERA), and
· National Opinion Research Corporation (NORC).
Please contact Stephanie Shipp (sshipp919@gmail.com), if you would like to contribute to the award.

Nominations Sought for the 2011 Waksberg Award

The journal *Survey Methodology* has established an annual invited paper series in honor of Joe Waksberg to recognize his contributions to survey methodology. Each year a prominent survey statistician is chosen to write a paper that reviews the development and current state of an important topic in the field of survey methodology. The paper reflects the mixture of theory and practice that characterized Joe Waksberg's work.

The recipient of the Waksberg Award will receive an honorarium and give the 2011 Waksberg Invited Address at the Statistics Canada Symposium to be held in the autumn of 2011. The paper will be published in a future issue of *Survey Methodology*.

The author of the 2011 Waksberg paper will be selected by a four-person committee appointed by *Survey Methodology* and the American Statistical Association. **Nomination of individuals to be considered as authors or suggestions for topics should be sent before February 28, 2010 to the chair of the committee, Dan Kasprzyk (DKasprzyk@Mathematica-MPR.com).**

Previous Waksberg Award honorees and their invited papers are:

2001 Gad Nathan, "Telesurvey Methodologies for Household Surveys-A Review and Some Thoughts for the Future." *Survey Methodology*, vol. 27, no. 1, pp.7-31.

2002 Wayne Fuller, "Regression Estimation for Survey Samples." *Survey Methodology,* vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 5-23.

2003 David Holt, "Methodological Issues in the Development and Use of Statistical Indicators for International Comparisons." *Survey Methodology,* vol. 29, no. 1, pp. 5-17.

2004 Norman Bradburn, "Understanding the Question-Answer Process." *Survey Methodology,* vol. 30, no. 1, pp. 5-15.

2005 J.N.K Rao, "Interplay Between Sample Survey Theory and Practice: An Appraisal." *Survey Methodology,* vol. 31, no. 2, pp. 117-138.

2006 Alastair Scott, "Population-Based Case Control Studies." *Survey Methodology,* vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 123-132.

2007 Carl-Erik Särndal, "The Calibration Approach in Survey Theory and Practice." *Survey Methodology,* vol. 33, no. 2, pp. 99-119.

2008 Mary Thompson, "International surveys: Motives and Methodologies." *Survey Methodology,* vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 131-141.

2009 Graham Kalton, "Methods for Oversampling Rare Subpopulations in Social Surveys." *Survey Methodology* (forthcoming)

WSS and Other Seminars
(All events are open to any interested persons)

February

  3 Wed.   **Novel analytic methods to estimate physical activity from an accelerometer**

  5 Fri.   **Is it Culturally Ethical? Human Rights Challenges in International Survey Research**

  9 Tues.   **The Psychology of Survey Response**

  17 Wed.   **Defining Success in Oncology Drug Development**

  22 Mon.   **Latent Class Model Assessment**

  24 Wed.   **Introduction to Online Mapping Using Google Earth**

Also available on the Web at the following URL: http://www.scs.gmu.edu/~wss/

Announcement

SIGSTAT Topics for Fall/Winter 2009-2010

February 24, 2010: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 4
(**http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html**)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled "**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition"** by Brocklebank and Dickey. Part 4: This month continues **Chapter 3: The General ARIMA Model**. Topics include models for nonstationary data and differencing to remove a linear trend.

March 17, 2010: SAS for Forecasting Time Series: Part 5
(**http://support.sas.com/publishing/bbu/companion_site/57275.html**)

This month continues a series of meetings on the topic using SAS to forecast time series. We follow the book titled "**SAS for Forecasting Time Series 2nd Edition"** by Brocklebank and Dickey. Part 5: This month begins **Chapter 4: The ARIMA Model: Introductory Applications**. Topics include an introduction to seasonal modeling and model identification.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the **CPCUG,** the Capital PC User Group, and **WINFORMS**, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from **12:00 to 1:00**.
Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the **SIGSTAT** website, **http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/**.

Announcement

Announcing the 2010 Student Travel Award Competition

The Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association will repeat its successful Student Travel Award Competition in 2010. This initiative encourages students to gain exposure to opportunities in survey research methods and to become familiar with the section and its work.

Up to two travel awards of $750 each will be awarded to graduate students to attend the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information, see the application located at www.amstat.org/sections/srms/travelapp_2010.pdf.

The application and supporting documents are due no later than April 9, 2010.

Submitted by Dawn E. Haines
Chair, Student Travel Award Committee
SRMS Treasurer, 2009-2010

WSS Seeks Suggestions for Seminar Topics

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Seminar series has long provided a fine selection of early afternoon presentations, for the benefit of the Washington area statistical and related communities, as a free public service. Please note the following link for a list of abstracts: http://science.gmu.edu/~wss/seminar.html.

In order to better serve the WSS membership and friends, the WSS Board of Directors and the program chairs who sponsor these seminars are now soliciting suggestions for topics that you would like to have covered in upcoming seminars. Please consult the list of program chairs at this URL: http://www.scs.gmu.edu/~wss/board.pdf. Topics may fall under the categories of general methodology, agriculture and natural resources, economics, human rights, data collection, public health and biostatistics, national security, public policy, statistical computing, quality assurance, and social and demographic.

Please send your suggestions to the program chair or program chairs that seem most appropriate. Perhaps you would like to consult your colleagues, and/or the supervisor(s) who may approve your attendance at such a professional meeting. You could note that this is a free local learning experience (or "training").

So, please go to the above link, find a program chair, and send a suggestion, or two, or three, or … .

Thank you,
WSS Board

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the March issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until February 16, 2010. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@ams.usda.gov.

Program Announcement

Title: **Novel analytic methods to estimate physical activity from an accelerometer**

Speaker: John Staudenmayer, PhD
                University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Time/Place: February 3, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m. / Conference Room G, 6130 (EPN) Executive
                Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland

Sponsor: NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program, the Division of Cancer Control and
                Population Science and the Washington Statistical Society Section on Public Health
                and Biostatistics

Abstract: Dr. Staudenmayer's interests are in measurement error and nonparametric estimation
                methods. He will focus on the application of these methods towards obtaining
                estimates of usual level of physical activity from accelerometer measurements. He
                will demonstrate ways in which the new analytic methods provide more accurate
                estimates of physical activity than established methods. An important take home
                message is that the use of the new methods require different data collection
                techniques.

Security Info: An NIH badge is required to freely enter the building unescorted. Visitors with photo
ID only will need to be escorted by an NIH employee. I will be around to help out in this capacity.

Map: http://dceg.cancer.gov/images/localmap.gif

For Additional Information
Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (301) 496-8640

If you are a person with a disability and require any assistive device, services or other reasonable
accommodation to participate in this activity, please contact the Cancer Prevention Fellowship
Program at 301-496-8640 at least one week in advance of the lecture date to discuss your
accommodation needs.

http://www.cancer.gov/prevention/pob

Program Announcement

Title: **Is it Culturally Ethical? Human Rights Challenges in International Survey Research**

Speaker: Safaa Amer, Senior Statistician
                NORC at the University of Chicago

Discussant: Mary Gray, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics
                American University

Chair: Michael P. Cohen, Senior Consultant
                NORC at the University of Chicago

Date/Time: Friday, February 5, 2010 / 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: PLEASE NOTICE CHANGE FROM USUAL LOCATION. Barbara Jordan Conference Center, Kaiser Family Foundation, 1330 G St NW

RSVP Instructions: If you are planning on attending this seminar, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov. It is, however, fine to come to seminar without sending an RSVP.

Sponsors: WSS Data Collection Methods, WSS Human Rights and DC-AAPOR

Abstract: In a global research world the need continues to arise for an umbrella of standards to shield human participants' rights and research ethics. When a team of survey researchers works on an international project where a mix of cultures, languages, or regions is handled, careful eyes should look at ethical and human rights issues. Although the basics of research ethics tend to seem simple, cultural considerations, differences of laws and regulations, level of vulnerability of the population, and many other factors add a twist to the situation. This calls for special handling due to inherent differences in the population of interest and their surrounding environment. This talk presents examples from around the world of challenges faced in social and behavioral projects; use and abuse of cross-cultural ethics; some lessons learned, and future considerations.

Important Note: Videoconferencing will not be available for this seminar.

For further information contact Carol Joyce Blumberg at carol.blumberg@eia.doe.gov or (202) 586-6565.

Program Announcement

ASA Survey Research Methods Section

Our second webinar is going to be February 9, 2010.   Details are on the website:
http://www.amstat.org/sections/srms/webinar.cfm

Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 1 to 3pm EST

The Psychology of Survey Response

Instructor: Roger Tourangeau

Abstract

This two-hour course examines survey questions from a psychological perspective. It covers the basics on how respondents answer survey questions and how problems in this response process can produce reporting errors. The class will focus on behavioral questions. The course is intended as on introduction for researchers who develop survey questionnaires or who use the data from surveys and want to understand some of the potential problems with survey data. It describes the major psychological components of the response process, including comprehension of the questions, retrieval of information from memory, combining and supplementing information from memory through judgment and inference, and the reporting of an answer.   The course has no specific perquisites, though familiarity with survey methodology or questionnaire design would be helpful.

Bio sketch

Roger Tourangeau is a Research Professor at the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center and the Director of the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JSPM) at the University of Maryland. He has been a survey methodologist for nearly 30 years, with extensive experience in a wide range of surveys. Tourangeau is well-known for his methodological research on the impact of different modes of data collection and on the cognitive processes underlying survey responses. He is the lead author of a book on this last topic (*The Psychology of Survey Response*, co-authored with Lance Rips and Kenneth Rasinski and published by Cambridge University Press in 2000); this book received the 2006 Book Award from the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR). He is also one of the co-editors of a collection of papers (*Cognition and Survey Research*, published by Wiley in 1999) from a conference on cognitive aspects of survey response. In addition, he has published a number of papers on mode effects (including a very widely cited paper on audio-CASI with Tom Smith) and on forgetting and telescoping in surveys.

In 2002, Tourangeau received the Helen Dinerman Award for his work on the cognitive aspects of survey methodology. This is the highest honor given by the World Association for Public Opinion Research. In 2005, he received the 2005 AAPOR Innovators Award (along with Tom Jabine, Miron Straf, and Judy Tanur). He was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1999 for his work on survey measurement error and his contributions to federal surveys as a sampling statistician. In 2006, he served as the chair of the Survey Research Methods Section of the American Statistical Association. He has a Ph.D. in Psychology from Yale University.

Program Announcement

Title: **Defining Success in Oncology Drug Development**

Speakers: Richard Pazdur, M.D., Director, Office of Oncology Drug Products,
                Rajeshwari Sridhara, M.D., Acting Director, Division of Biometrics V, OB,
                CDER, Food and Drug Administration

Chair: David Judkins, Westat

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 17, 12:30-2:00pm

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar
                attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name,
                affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by
                noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a
                message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts
                Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Video Link: Westat, Rockville Offices. On a trial basis, Westat is opening up its conference
                center for watching the lecture remotely. Reservation required. Call Fran Winter,
                301-294-4419.

Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS

Program Announcement

Title: **Latent Class Model Assessment**

Chair: Daniel Toth, OSMR, BLS

Speakers: Paul Biemer, RTI International & Brian Meekins, OSMR, BLS

Date/Time: Monday, February 22, 2010/ 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS

Abstract: Two papers are to be presented:

Paul Biemer:
The standard latent class model (LCM) makes three key assumptions: independent classification errors, homogeneity, and univocality. When these assumptions are satisfied, the indicators satisfy the condition of *local independence*; i.e., the joint conditional probability of the model indicators given the latent variable is factorable as the product of conditional marginal probabilities. When one or more of these assumptions do not hold, the indicators are said to be *locally dependent* and the estimates will be biased. This presentation will describe these assumptions in more detail. It provides guidance gleaned from the literature and new research on approaches to dealing with local dependence in latent class analysis as well as the problems of unidentifiability, data sparseness, boundary values, and latent class "flippage." Along the way, key areas that are fruitful for new research will be highlighted.

Brian Meekins and Daniel Toth:
Some recent research uses Markov Latent Class Models to assess measurement error (Tucker, Biemer, Meekins 2008), rotation group bias (Tran & Winters 2004), and other concepts of interest where panel data is available and the concept cannot be directly estimated. The authors examine, specifically, second-order Markov Latent Class models, a simplified version of the model Tucker et al. applied to measurement error on expenditure reports from the BLS Consumer Expenditure Survey. The authors note two assumptions of these models that have the potential to be frequently violated: 1) that measurement error is stationary across all time points in the model and that 2) respondents report no false positive expenditure reports. By using simulations they estimate the effect of violations of these assumptions. It is shown that violations in either assumption can lead to biased estimates, but that violating the assumption that no false positives are reported results in larger biases. This work also calls into question the robustness of estimates attained through use of the EM algorithm, showing that any added "noise" results in a significantly skewed distribution for the estimates in question.

Program Announcement

Title: **Introduction to Online Mapping Using Google Earth**

Speaker: Anders Longthorne
                National Center for Statistics and Analysis
                National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/time: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 / 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Agriculture and Natural Resources and Data Collection Methods

Abstract: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) contains data on a census of fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes within the USA. With the release of the 2008 FARS data, NHTSA added fatal crash maps to its State Traffic Safety Information (STSI) website.

                These maps were produced by generating Keyhole Markup Language (KML - this is an XML-based language that is used to express geographic information) files from the FARS data and then viewing these files via the Google Earth browser plug-in. This talk will primarily focus on the use of KML files in combination with the Google Earth software, in order to produce cost effective applications to spatially display geocoded databases.

Point of contact e-mail: anders.longthorne@dot.gov

Announcement

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed at different times between March and June 2010 -- to judge entries in the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project; to judge entries in the WSS Statistical Poster Competition; and to judge science fair projects at the regional science fairs in Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia. The WSS needs **you** to volunteer now for any one – or all three!

The WSS has a longstanding and active program of reaching out to elementary and secondary school students to encourage them to gain an understanding and appreciation of Statistics. We do this in part by sponsoring two annual competitions – the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize and the WSS Statistical Poster Competition – and by awarding prizes at the annual regional high school science fairs.

Since 1986, WSS has provided special awards at the five **regional science fairs** to students whose projects demonstrate excellence in data analysis or the application of statistical methods. The fairs are held on Saturdays in March. They need volunteers willing to devote one Saturday morning to interact with students, judge their projects, and give them some guidance and encouragement. Those who have participated in these activities have very much enjoyed meeting the students, talking with them, and seeing the widely diverse projects they have presented. Last March, 32 of your fellow WSS members judged and awarded prizes to projects in Behavioral and Social Sciences, Medicine and Health, Environmental Sciences, Biology, Engineering, Plant Sciences, Chemistry, and Mathematics. If you are interested in being a science fair judge, contact Bob Clickner at Robertclickner@westat.com, or 301-294-2815.

The **Curtis Jacobs Award** program focuses on gathering information and analyzing for making decisions. Entries are typically due in May; judges review and score the entries at their convenience and transmit their evaluations and scores by late May. If you are interested in volunteering to judge the entries, contact Tom Krenzke at TomKrenzke@westat.com or 301-251-4203.

The **poster competition** is open to students in grades K-12 and entries may be in any area of statistics. Judging is typically in May or June. If you are interested in judging, contact Cammy Fine at Cammy.Fine@ey.com or 202-327-7730, or Nicole Miller at nicole.miller@ey.com or 202-327-8309.

Nominations Sought for 2010 Julius Shiskin Award

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The Award is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, application of information technology techniques, use of economic statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues. The Award was established in 1980 by the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and is now cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association (ASA).

The award will be presented with an honorarium of $750 plus additional recognition from the sponsors. A nomination form and a list of all previous recipients are available on the ASA Website at www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html. Completed nominations must be received by March 5, 2010. For questions or more information, please contact Steven Paben, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at paben.steven@bls.gov or call 202-691-6147.

Short Course Announcement

Washington Statistical Society - Short Course Announcement

R and analysis of complex surveys
March 23-24, 2010
Registration Due By March 12, 2010

R is an open-source extension of the S statistical and graphical system. Along with the add-on "survey" package, the software provides a fairly advanced repertoire of survey analysis methods including multistage designs, two-phase designs, calibration and generalized raking, and regression modeling. Advantages of the R survey package include the cost, the visibility of all the code for verification purposes, and the integration with a powerful programming language and graphics system. The course will be taught in the form of a lecture; however, participants may bring their own laptop computers with the software already installed. (The software may be obtained at http://cran.r-project.org/.)

Day 1: An introduction to R.
Reading in data; simple calculations; graphics; merging and reshaping data; simple programming; using objects; using packages..

Day 2: The R survey package.
Specifying design information; computing summary statistics; using and creating replicate weights; domain estimation; graphics; ratio and regression estimators; database-backed designs for large data sets; post-stratification, raking, calibration; two-phase designs; simple simulations.

About the instructor: Thomas Lumley is Associate Professor of Biostatistics at the University of Washington, Seattle. He developed and maintains the R "survey" package and is one of the core developers of R itself.   His book "Complex Surveys: A guide to analysis using R" will be published by John Wiley & Sons in February.

Who Should Attend: The course does not require any prior knowledge of R or S-PLUS, but some experience with statistical analysis and data management and knowledge of survey techniques is assumed.

Schedule for Course: The course will be held over two days March 23rd and 24th. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM and the class will run from 9 AM to 4:30 PM. There will be coffee and Danish in the morning before class both days and at the morning break, with beverages and cookies in the afternoon. Lunch will also be provided both days.

Location:
BLS Conference Center (near Union Station Metro stop)
Postal Square Building
2 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20212-0001

Registration Fee:

Full-time students (Provide copy of student ID with registration–only 5 student slots available)	$ 65
WSS members	$ 275
All other registrants	$ 325

Class size will be limited. Please register early.

To register for the course, please go to: https://www.123signup.com/register?id=jkxdx
For more information on this course, please contact the WSS short-course chair:
Daifeng Han – DaifengHan@westat.com

Announcement

JPSM Short Courses

www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

February 23-24, 2010
Balancing Data Confidentiality and Data Quality
Lawrence Cox
Registration Deadline: February 9, 2010

March 3-4, 2010
Introduction to Survey Estimation
David Morganstein and Richard L. Valliant
Registration Deadline: February 17, 2010

March 29-30, 2010
Writing Questions for Surveys: A Workshop
Nora Cate Schaeffer
Registration Deadline: March 15, 2010

April 22-23, 2010
Cognitive Interviewing Methods: A Hands-On Approach
Gordon B. Willis
Registration Deadline: April 8, 2010

May 4-5, 2010
Sampling and Estimation for Establishment Surveys
Richard Valliant and Phillip Kott
Registration Deadline: April 20, 2010

May 26, 2010 (1-Day course)
Introduction to Item Response Theory (IRT) Modeling and Applications
Bryce B. Reeve
Registration Deadline: May 12, 2010

JPSM SHORT COURSES: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses; SPONSOR AFFILIATE LIST: projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors; JPSM HOME PAGE: www.jpsm.org

Primary Funding for JPSM is from the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy.

Employment

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 373-6645.

WESTAT
AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED RESEARCH CORPORATION

WESTAT is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,900 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities.

We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/90001)
A total of 3 or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Applicant must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design is highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume, by one of the following methods to:

Job Code is REQUIRED to apply.
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CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS

The Biostatistics Center
The George Washington University

To serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and to provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs. Basic Qualifications: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science with a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience. All interested applicants at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may apply for the Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award. For a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research, professional activities and travel. Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. For complete information and application procedures, please isit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu. Only complete applications will be considered.

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Biostatistician

The Georgetown University Medical Center seeks a well-qualified Biostatistician for the Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Biomathematics. The successful candidate will be knowledgeable in biostatistical methodology, proficient with statistical programming packages, and possess good communication and writing skills. Under general direction of a faculty biostatistician, this individual will provide biostatistical consultation and collaboration on the design, conduct, analysis, and interpretation of research projects. These projects involve basic science, clinical medicine, and population science. The individual will prepare reports and analyses of research projects both for scientific papers and grant proposals. Requirements are a Master's degree in biostatistics/statistics, programming skills in SAS and S-Plus, at least two years' experience with biostatistical aspects of medical research projects, and some experience in a consulting environment.

All qualified candidates should send resume, a list of three references, and cover letter to:
        Françoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Ph.D., Chair
        Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, and Biomathematics
        Georgetown University Medical Center
        4000 Reservoir Road, NW
        Washington, DC 20057
        E-mail: lrs8@georgetown.edu

AA/EOE

Mathematical Statistician

Founded in 1989, Sabre Systems, Inc. is a privately-held company headquartered in Warminster, PA with offices nationwide. Sabre is a quality-driven, professional services company that provides worldwide technology, scientific, management, and administrative services to government and commercial clients. Sabre Systems, Inc. is currently recruiting for a Mathematical Statistician to work in Alexandria, VA.

Seeking an experienced Statistician to design statistical and analytical solutions and assist in the development and implementation of those solutions. Candidate will maintain, move and manipulate

data between applications and conduct data analysis for a various projects. Will utilize advanced math, data mining, statistical, and actuarial techniques as part of that analysis.

Job Requirements:

a. Minimum of a Master's Degree required with a concentration in Statistics, Applied Mathematics or related field
b. Must have experience in testing data for sampling errors and analyzing significant differences between samples
c. Advanced knowledge of various forms of statistical & analytical techniques; and understanding of data intricacies and ability to interpret data and express implications of analysis to clients
d. Proficient in analyzing and presenting complex data using statistical computer software
e. Excellent interpersonal skills and communication skills (verbal and written); ability to communicate with individuals at various levels within the organization and with external clients

Candidate must be able to obtain a Confidential Clearance; and be a US citizen/Perm Resident.

Sabre provides an excellent benefits package which includes healthcare, paid days off, tuition reimbursement, and a 401K plan. To learn more about positions at Sabre please visit us on the web at http://www.sabresystems.com.

EOE. Apply to: https://sabresystems.ats.hrsmart.com/cgi-bin/a/highlightjob.cgi?jobid=1473

MATHEMATICAL STATISTICIAN, GS-1529-14
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC)
DIRECTORATE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY
DIVISION OF HAZARD ANALYSIS

Join the talented group of Mathematical Statisticians at the CPSC as a GS-1529-14 Mathematical Statistician. CPSC is an independent Federal regulatory agency that is responsible for protecting the American public from unreasonable risks of injury and death from consumer products. Your statistical training and experience will play a major role in helping us characterize the prevalence and hazard patterns associated with consumer products. These statistics are integral to identifying emerging trends, supporting development of safety features and standards and informing consumer product related enforcement and regulatory decisions.

Successful candidates for the position will join a team of statisticians in the Division of Hazard Analysis. The position requires experience with generation of parametric and non-parametric point and interval estimates, statistical modeling, design of experiments, sample size determination, and analysis of data from complex surveys is necessary. The ability to process, integrate, analyze and interpret results from multiple sources of national incident data and to formulate solutions that produce quantitatively defensible products is required.

The position is located in Bethesda, Maryland and is open to qualified U.S. citizens with either no prior Federal status or prior Federal Status. The Civil Service Salary for GS-14 is $105, 211 to $136,771.

The CPSC is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Selection for these positions shall be determined on the basis of merit and without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, political preferences, marital status, sexual orientation, labor affiliation or non- affiliation or other non-merit factors.

For more information and to submit an application, please click on the Vacancy Announcements link at http://www.cpsc.gov/about/hr.html for 4320EPHA-2010-0004.

AED seeks a Health/Nutrition Survey Specialist

The Health/Nutrition Survey Specialist works with the Research Advisor and the FANTA-2 Global Leadership Team to provide programmatic and technical support for USAID-supported nutrition, food security, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities. In addition, the Health/Nutrition Survey Specialist manages several FANTA-2 activities related to sampling and data collection, and has technical responsibility for producing manuals and technical briefs to provide guidance on how to operationalize FANTA-2 recommended sampling and data collection approaches. Lead the scientific development and refinement of sampling instruments and protocols used by FANTA-2 target audiences for their M&E needs, including those for program monitoring, baseline assessments, and mid-term and final evaluations.

Qualified candidates will pocess:
 - Master's degree required and at least 7 years of relevant work experience or a PhD degree and at least 1-2 years of relevant work experience.
 - Training in sampling, survey methods and/or statistics required.
 - Experience and expertise inprobability sampling methods, quantitative program evaluation research and field experience collecting data in a resource-constrained environment, required.
 - Experience designing health, nutrition and/or food security surveys, required.
 - Experience with LQAS analysis methods, highly desirable.
 - Experience in the provision of technical assistance to programs at the national and local levels, highly desirable.
 - Experience with USAID and PVO programs, including USAID's Title II Food Security programs, highly desirable.
 - Ability to work in a multi-cultural team consisting of people with different technical backgrounds and with people with varying levels of technical training.
 - Ability to undertake problem analyses and organize diverse information in a systematic way while thinking creatively to propose approaches to improve program design, implementation and results reporting.
 - Ability to work with others to translate technical materials into practical tools and approaches and be able to communicate these options using print, electronic and presentation services.
 - Facility with computing environments, including statistical software programs such as Epi-Info, Stata and/or SPSS.
 - English fluency is essential and French, Portuguese, or Spanish ability preferred.
 - Ability to travel up to 30% of the time.

Interested applicants should apply online or send resume with cover letter referencing position #CB9430 to: AED/HR, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; or fax: (202) 884-8413. For additional information, visit our website at http://www.aed.org.

We thank all individuals for their interest in AED, however only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

Individuals responding to job postings are considered applicants if you meet the following criteria: (1) have expressed interest through the Internet, email or other related technologies, (2) are considered by the AED for a particular position, (3) possess the basic qualifications for the position and (4) do not at any point remove yourself from consideration.

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