



WSS NEWS

November 2010

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

FEATURE STORY

A Day of Wow at the Engineering and Science Festival

By Beth Goodman

Several months ago, Jill Montaquila asked for volunteers to work at the ASA booth for the first US Engineering and Science Festival to be held on the National Mall in Washington, DC. My first reaction was that of course I was going to volunteer. Being a high school teacher I wanted to be a part of something that would share my love of mathematics and statistics with adults and children at large. Additionally, I thought this would be a good opportunity to bring a couple of my children to participate in the Festival. This experience did not disappoint me; in fact, it exceeded my expectations.

The Festival took place on October 23-24, 2010. There were several other related events in Washington that occurred earlier in the week, including an Innovation Summit hosted by Project

Lead the Way. I had also participated in the Innovation Summit, which I recommend for those of you in industry, government, or education if you are interested in developing student leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Washington, DC was abuzz with STEM education and outreach.

When my children and I arrived in DC on the Metro, almost immediately after we left the station there was no doubt in my mind that we had entered Science Central. There were stage areas arranged with science demonstrations. Aisle after aisle were set up with booths, each with their own hands-on activities to engage the youngest and oldest among us in learning about STEM. The most memorable to me were the University of Georgia booth, where they were using bacteria from termite digestive systems to create an alternative fuel source from garbage, and a booth from University of Michigan that was demonstrating activities that they do with youth groups (including making ice cream with liquid nitrogen and creating a substance that had some unique physical properties and allowing

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passersby to walk through a vat of this substance).

Of course, the ASA booth had its own hands-on activities. Children and adults were able to simulate a catch-and-release population estimation experiment using beads. A bag of colored beads represented a population of fish. The “researcher” removed a small portion of the “fish” from the “lake” (a plastic bag) and replaced these with bright orange beads. Then the bag was shaken and a new sample was taken to find a sample proportion. While this activity didn’t have the high profile of the parachute activity (described below), the folks who wandered into the booth and participated in it were highly engaged; and, they happened to learn a little bit about statistics as a bonus.

The big draw for the ASA booth was the ladder in front with statisticians dropping little plastic men attached to parachutes. Throughout the day, as people passed the ASA booth, they stopped and were asked, “Which parachute was best?” This question generated conversation with adults and children about what “best” really means and opened up the floor for a discussion on how we could quantify “best.” Using the power of observation, many people were able to identify that two useful measurements were *accuracy* and the *time* it took to descend. Once participants had the opportunity to touch and examine the parachute material, we ran a test on the parachutes by dropping the chosen skydiver from a height of about 9 feet and measuring the distance the man landed from the target and the length of time from drop to landing. The measurements were marked on a graph that was used as a talking point to discuss predictions, variation, mean and median, and various other statistical concepts.

In addition to the two experiments, there was a computer set up to demonstrate different graphical displays of variables, literature about careers in statistics, and information for teachers.

One of the big benefits of this festival is that people from all walks of life, all age groups, and all education levels were able to learn about so many different areas of STEM education and outreach. I believe that everyone who engaged with the members working the ASA booth left with a little more information and more positive attitude about statistics.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

by Carol House, 2011 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 2011 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award. **Nominations must be submitted no later than March 25, 2011.**



Jeanne Griffith

This year marked the 8th year that the award has been presented and the second time the ASA's Government Statistics Section oversaw the award selection process. **Deborah H. Griffin**, a mathematical statistician at the U.S. Bureau of the Census, and currently special assistant to the Chief, American Community Survey Office, received her award at a ceremony held on June 23, 2010, in Washington, D.C.

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.



Caption for picture: From left: Bob Groves, Beth Kilss, Deborah Griffin, Katherine Wallman, Andy Orlin, Susan Schechter, and Carol House. Photo courtesy of Tim Ware (Ideal Vision, LLC, idealvision@verizon.net).

Nominations for 2011 will be accepted beginning in **January 2011**. The last date for submission of nominations is **March 25, 2011**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 22, 2011**. 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 2011**.

The nomination packages are reviewed by a committee comprising six members who each serve a six-year term. 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 awardee 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; Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008; Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service) and Lillian S. Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 2009.

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:

- National Opinion Research Center (NORC),
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS),
- American Institutes for Research (AIR),
- American Educational Research Association (AERA),
and
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP).

Please contact Stephanie Shipp (sshipp@ida.org), if you would like to contribute to the award.

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 2011 award, please go to:

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.doc> or

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform11.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org (703) 684-1221, and **Carol House** at housca@gmail.com 703-989-1334.

The nomination package may be mailed or emailed **no later than March 25, 2011**, to:

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

Nominations Sought for 2011 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 2010 award recipient was Dr. Dale W. Jorgenson for his contributions to the measurement of productivity, innovation, capital, human capital, poverty, and for his leadership in the integration of the U.S. National Accounts.

Because the program was initiated many years ago, statisticians and economists often ask, "Who was Julius Shiskin?" At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and earlier served as the Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Chief Economic Statistician and Assistant Director of the Census Bureau. Throughout his career, he was known as an innovator. At Census he was instrumental in developing an electronic computer method for seasonal adjustment. In 1961, he published *Signals of Recession and Recovery*, which laid the groundwork for the calculation of monthly economic indicators, and he developed the monthly Census report *Business Conditions Digest* to disseminate them to the public. In 1969, he was appointed Chief Statistician at OMB where he developed the policies and procedures that govern the release of key economic indicators (Statistical Policy Directive Number 3), and originated a *Social Indicators* report. In 1973, he was selected to head BLS where he was instrumental in preserving the integrity and independence of the BLS labor force data and directed the most comprehensive revision in the history of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which included a new CPI for all urban consumers.

Nominations for the 2011 award are now being accepted. Individuals and groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated. The award will be presented with an honorarium of \$1000 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.

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.

Completed nominations must be received by March 15, 2011.

BE INVOLVED

Want to Be More Involved with WSS? Can You Spare an Hour or Two? Keep Reading!

Jill Montaquila and Michael Costello

The WSS Quantitative Literacy (QL) program offers many opportunities for WSS members to get more involved in the organization. These range from very short, one-time opportunities to long-term roles. No prior involvement in WSS is needed, and all supplies and materials are provided by WSS. If you would like to get more involved and can spare an hour or two sometime over the next year, please consider signing up as a QL volunteer by contacting Michael Costello (WSS QL Volunteer Coordinator) at MichaelAVCostello@gmail.com or (202) 246-1627. The WSS QL Program includes the following activities:

1. **Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize:** This is an award sponsored by the WSS that is given annually for an outstanding middle school project and an outstanding high school project submitted by a DC-area student or group of students. The award-winning students and their teacher/advisor are invited to the WSS Annual Dinner, where they are recognized and are awarded their prizes. Volunteers are needed to help recruit entries at local science fairs (a one-time 2- to 3-hour commitment) and/or to help judge the entries (a few hours spent reading/reviewing entries).
2. **Poster Competition Award:** The WSS provides judges for the American Statistical Association's poster competition. The local award-winning students are invited to the WSS Annual Dinner, where they are recognized and are awarded their prizes. Volunteers are needed to help judge the entries (a one-time commitment of a few hours).
3. **Science Fair Judging:** The WSS provides judges for the DC-area regional science fairs. Volunteers are needed to serve as judges (a one-time 3- to 4-hour commitment).
4. **Classroom speakers:** Upon the request of the teacher, WSS will send representatives out to local classrooms (kindergarten through 12th grade) to conduct statistical activities with the students and/or speak to students about careers in statistics. Volunteers are needed for classroom speaking engagements (typically, one-time 1- to 4-hour commitments).
5. **Career Day/Career Fair events:** WSS provides representatives for high school and postsecondary career fair events. Volunteers are needed to serve as speakers or staff booths at these events (typically, one-time 2- to 4-hour commitments).

6. **Workshops for special groups (e.g., Girl Scouts):** WSS participates with local organizations (in the past, this has been the Girl Scouts) to provide representatives for special workshops, to conduct statistical activities with the youth and/or speak about careers in statistics. Volunteers are needed to conduct these workshops (typically, one-time 2- to 3-hour commitments).
7. **Curriculum development:** WSS representatives have occasionally assisted school districts with curriculum development for their mathematics and statistics curriculum. While there are no current needs for volunteers for this activity, the needs may change in the future.

Teacher workshops: WSS is currently developing a set of workshops that will be designed to provide teachers with lesson plans and activities that could be used in the classroom. While there are no current needs for volunteers for this activity, the needs may change in the future.

Interested in Connecting with Fellow Statisticians in the Public Sector? Join Statipedia!

You are invited to join a small number of enthusiastic federal statisticians, to launch Statipedia, a brand-new wiki platform for interagency collaboration on statistical issues (<http://community.amstat.org/AMSTAT/AMSTAT/eGroups/DigestViewer/Default.aspx?GroupID=487>).

Registration (limited to employees of the federal government) can be obtained by following the instructions posted at https://statipedia.org/wiki/index.php?title=Registration_Instructions and <https://max.omb.gov/community/display/OMB/Statipedia>. After registering, users may log in at <https://wiki.epa.gov/statipedia>.

A kickoff event is being planned for mid-January 2011, but registered users can roll up their sleeves and contribute right now!

You can learn more about Statipedia by following the links to a recent presentation and a white paper.

Point of Contact:

Michael J. Messner, Ph.D.

Mathematical Statistician/USEPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water

1200 Pennsylvania AVE, NW (4607M)

Washington, DC 20460

202-564-5268

YOU ARE INVITED



*Washington Statistical Society
Holiday Party*

Monday December 13th, 2010 6:00pm

At the Blackfinn

<http://www.blackfinndc.com/index.php>

1620 I St, NW

Washington D.C., 20006-4005

Tele: (202) 429-4350

Cash Bar

Some dishes to be served (all inclusive):

Veggie, Fruit, and Cheese Platter	Hummus and Flat Bread	Stuffed Mushrooms
Southwest Chick Eggrolls	Meatballs w/ Marinara	Chicken Tenders

Price \$10

At only \$10/person, feel free to bring friends and family!

Please make check payable to:

“Washington Statistical Society”

–Include the full names of all individuals paid for by the check.

Send to: Chris Cummiskey

701 13th Street, NW Suite 750, Washington, DC 20005

OR

Pay at the door: Checks and cash will be accepted at the party.

Note: If you plan to pay at the door, please email Chris Cummiskey to let him know you plan to come and if you plan to bring others. Emailing Chris is not required but is greatly appreciated.

Questions? Please Contact: Chris Cummiskey
ccummiskey@rti.org / (202) 728-2064

Metro Directions ([Map](#)):

(Red Line 3.5 Blocks away) Exit Farragut North (1001 Connecticut Ave.)

- Head South down Connecticut Ave. (toward K street)
- Take a left on I street.
- Event is the right side of the road between 17th and 16th.

(Blue & Orange Line 1.5 Blocks away) Exit Farragut West (902 Connecticut Ave.)

- Head West on I street (toward 17th street)
- Event is the right side of the road between 17th and 16th

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Title: Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology Statistical Policy Seminar
Beyond Our Traditions: Innovative Approaches to Longstanding and Emerging Challenges

Organizer: The Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)

Speakers: John Thompson, President, National Opinion Research Center

Date: December 14-15, 2010

Location: Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, Washington D.C. 20001

Sponsors:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality * Bureau of Economic Analysis * Bureau of Justice Statistics * Bureau of Labor Statistics * Economic Research Service * Energy Information Administration * Environmental Protection Agency * National Agricultural Statistics Service * National Center for Education Statistics * National Center for Health Statistics * Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics of the Social Security Administration * Statistics of Income Division of the Internal Revenue Service * Science Resources Statistics/National Science Foundation * U.S. Census Bureau

Cost: \$195.00 per person

Information/registration:

COPAFS Office, Phone 703-836-0404, Fax: 703-836-0406, copafs@aol.com
www.copafs.org

Description:

This event is the 10th in a Series of Seminars Hosted by COPAFS. Participants will include statisticians, economists, and managers, as well as other professionals in the broader statistical community who share an interest in keeping current on issues related to federal data.

Topics Will Include:

- * Examining the Costs of Federal Surveys
- * External Peer Reviews of Major Statistical Programs
- * Future Directions in Questionnaire Testing
- * Data Quality of Administrative Records
- * Addressing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Surveys
- * Gaining and Tracking Participation in the 2010 Decennial Census
- * Emerging Issues in Disclosure Avoidance
- * Emerging Challenges in Federal Statistics
- * Issues in Online Panel Surveys

Title: **Estimating the Distribution of Usual Daily Energy Expenditure**

Organizer: David Judkins, Westat
WSS Methodology Section Chair

Chair: Brian Meekins, BLS

Speaker: Nick Beyler, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Date/Time: **January 12, 2011, 12:30-2:00pm** (NOTE rescheduled date!)

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 Section, WSS

Abstract:

When making inferences about physical activity, public health researchers are often interested in the distribution of usual (long-term average) daily energy expenditure for individuals in population groups, such as groups defined by gender and age. Because usual daily energy expenditure cannot be directly measured, self-reported activity data are collected from a sample of individuals and converted to energy expenditure. Daily energy expenditure measurements from self-report instruments contain measurement errors that lead to biased estimates of usual daily energy expenditure parameters. Activity monitors give more accurate measures of energy expenditure, but are expensive to administer. If monitors are used on a subsample of respondents, the reference monitor data can be used in a measurement error model framework to adjust estimates for the presence of errors. We propose a method for estimating usual daily energy expenditure parameters for multiple population groups. The research extends an existing method for estimating usual dietary intake distributions using 24-hour recall data (without a reference measure) for a single subpopulation. The new method involves transforming daily energy expenditure values to normality. The distribution of individuals' mean daily energy expenditure in the transformed scale is estimated using measurement error models to characterize sources of bias and random error for population groups. An estimated distribution of usual daily energy expenditure is generated in the original scale for each of the groups and parameters of usual daily energy expenditure are estimated from the estimated distributions. We illustrate our method with preliminary data from the Physical Activity Measurement Survey (PAMS).

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIUMS

Event: **International Spatial Statistics 2011 conference**

Speakers:

Martin Schlather (Universität Göttingen, Germany), Noel Cressie (Ohio State University, USA) and Yong Ge (State Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information System, China)

Date: **March 23 – 25, 2011**

Location: Enschede, The Netherlands

Description:

Please see conference website (<http://www.spatialstatisticsconference.com/>). Abstracts are now invited on [these topics](#)

Event: **The 18th Federal Forecasters Conference**

Date/Time: **April 21 2011, 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.**

Location:

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington DC, 20212
Take the Red Line to Union Station. Bring a photo ID to the conference.

Sponsors:

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration/Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs, Economic Research Service, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Internal Revenue Service, International Trade Administration, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Postal Service, and Center for Economic Research, George Washington University

Theme:

Environmental issues have become an increasing priority for governments, businesses, and consumers. Challenges to forecasters include the implementation of programs and policies addressing efficiency, alternative energy sources, jobs, health, air and water quality, transportation, land use, and recycling programs. The 2011 Federal Forecasters Conference will examine how forecasters face this challenge and how policy-makers and other decision-makers use forecasts to make decisions.

Description:

For further information visit www.federalforecasters.org or contact Pheny Weidman at pheny.weidman@dot.gov; (202) 366-2817.

Event: **GDRR 2011 - Second Symposium on GAMES AND DECISIONS IN RELIABILITY AND RISK**

Host:

CNR IMATI and Institute for Integrating Statistics in Decision Sciences,
George Washington University

(Confirmed) Speakers:

Simon French, Miguel Lejeune, Massimo Marinacci, Jorge Mateu, Robert Nau, Nicholas Polson, David Rios Insua, Renata Rotondi, Marco Scarcini, Nozer Singpurwalla, Jim Q. Smith, Fabio Spizzichino, Fabio Trojani and Robert Wolpert

Date: **May 19-21, 2011**

Location: Hotel Villa Carlotta, Belgirate (VB), Lake Maggiore, Italy

Description:

The symposium follows the one held in Washington at George Washington University in 2009.

The objective of the symposium is to present novel use of game and decision theory in reliability and risk analysis and to bring together researchers from disciplines such as economics, engineering, finance, mathematics, medical sciences, probability and statistics who have a lot to contribute to this theme.

CALL FOR PAPERS

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People interested in presenting a paper at the symposium are kindly invited to send an abstract by DECEMBER 1, 2010, to fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it.

Details on registration fees, lodging, location and travel can be found on the web site (www.mi.imati.cnr.it/conferences/gdr11.html).

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

JPSM Short Courses

JPSM Home Page: www.jpsm.org

Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

Sponsor Affiliate List: projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/info.cfm#sponsors

January 12-13, 2011

Web Survey Design

Mick P. Couper

Registration Deadline: December 29, 2010

February 24-25, 2011

The Use of Paradata and Process Data in Social Surveys

Frauke Kreuter

Registration Deadline: February 10, 2011

March 3-4, 2011

Introduction to Survey Estimation

David Morganstein and Richard L. Valliant

Registration Deadline: February 17, 2011

March 23, 2011

Telephone Surveys in the Era of Cell Phones

Scott Keeter and J. Michael Brick

Registration Deadline: March 9, 2011

April 18-19, 2011

Writing Questions for Surveys: A Workshop

Nora Cate Schaeffer

Registration Deadline: April 4, 2011

April 28-29, 2011

The Psychology of Survey Responses

Roger Tourangeau and Frederick Conrad

Registration Deadline: April 14, 2011

May 2011 Dates to be determined

Analysis and Presentation of Economic Data

Katharine G. Abraham and Deborah P. Klein

June 13-14, 2011

Methods for Longitudinal Surveys

Peter Lynn

Registration Deadline: May 30, 2011

SIGSTAT Topics for Fall/Winter 2010-2011

<http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>

<http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/Schedule.htm>

Description:

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.

Location:

All meetings are in **Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.**

Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk.

Point of Contact:

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name.

STUDENT COLUMN

As science major students, we need to communicate with specialists in other fields when we work on interdisciplinary projects. One of the efficient ways is writing. Also we put comments, write proposals, reports, and papers or just answer the clients in the consular positions. We need to write clearly and effective. I find an advice from Robert Barrass useful. He notes in his book "Scientists Must Write" that explanation, clarity, completeness, impartiality, order, accuracy, objectivity and simplicity are the basic requirements in scientific writing.

Let's practice scientific writing in each stage of our studies and get help from our advisors and mentors. This skill is always necessary and important.

Parisa Meisami

Student Representative

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.

Additional employment opportunities are available at: <http://scs.gmu.edu/~wss/employ.html>.

Institute of Medicine

The Institute of Medicine serves as adviser to the nation to improve health. Established in 1970 as the health arm of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine is an independent, nonprofit organization that works outside of government to provide unbiased and authoritative advice to decision makers and the public.

The Institute of Medicine's Board on Global Health is concerned with advancing the health of populations worldwide. This involves addressing developing country health issues, enhancing the United States role in global health, and addressing health issues that have implications for U.S. health policy. The Board identifies priority issues in these areas and provides evidence-based guidance and recommendations to the U.S. government, international organizations, foundations, and non-governmental organizations.

The Board on Global Health is currently seeking two Program Officers with graduate degree in biostatistics, epidemiology, or related field and three years of relevant experience to support a mixed-methods evaluation of U.S. global HIV/AIDS programs implemented under the Lantos – Hyde Reauthorization Act of 2008.

Positions will require highly-motivated people with excellent technical skills who can work in a team environment on a range of tasks. These positions in Washington, D.C. will begin in **Fall 2010** and last approximately two years. Job responsibilities will include international travel.

Full job descriptions and application instructions can be found at:
<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/careers/>

Job # 100205-5 Program Officer (Data Manager/Statistics)

Job # 100206-5 Program Officer (Statistics)

EOE/M/F/D/V

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation (HJF)

HJF is seeking a Senior Biostatistician to support the Infectious Disease Clinical Research Program (IDCRP) at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in Bethesda, Maryland. HJF provides scientific, technical and programmatic support services to IDCRP.

The IDCRP is a collaborative research effort with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Established at USUHS in 2005, this unique program aims to strengthen infectious disease clinical research in the U.S. It brings together a network of clinical scientists at military treatment facilities who are focused on conducting patient-based research on a wide range of infectious diseases relevant to the military and the broader medical communities.

Responsibilities of the position are to provide biostatistical consulting for clinical and/or laboratory research, to perform statistical analysis on data collected from clinical trials, observational studies and/or laboratory assays, to conduct independent methodological research, to supervise the work of junior biostatisticians, and to take part in the IDCRP's teaching activities.

The requirements of the position are: a Ph.D. in Statistics or Biostatistics, a strong research background, a minimum of 5 years' experience in biostatistical consulting and teaching as well as excellent verbal, written and interpersonal skills

Please apply on-line at www.hjf.org/careers Click "Advanced Search" and enter job number 205719 in the Job Opening ID box.

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Inc. (HJF) is a congressionally authorized, not-for-profit corporation that provides unparalleled scientific and management services to military medical research and education programs worldwide. Our mission is to advance military medical research. AA/EEO

For a comprehensive list of our benefits, please visit: <http://www.hjf.org/careers/benefits.html>



1700 Research Boulevard Rockville, Maryland 20850 301-340-2210

EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANTS

BRANCH CHIEF (SUPERVISORY AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST)

**USDA'S ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE (ERS)
MARKET and TRADE ECONOMICS DIVISION
FIELD CROPS BRANCH**

Client:

The Economic Research Service (ERS) serves as the research and policy arm of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). With 400 employees and a budget of more than \$80 million, ERS conducts research that informs decision-makers on public programs and policies involving agricultural commodities, food, farming, natural resources, and rural development; a spectrum that ranges from biotechnology to food stamps, from farmland protection to meat inspection, and from commodity policy to global inter-sectoral trade. ERS' clients are the executive and legislative branches; environmental, consumer and public interest groups, including farm and industry groups; and the general public. For more information, visit www.usda.ers.gov.

The Field Crops Branch (FCB) integrates agency analysis of the U.S. agricultural sector and provides policy, cross commodity, and aggregate market analysis for all major feed grains, oilseeds, and cotton products produced in the U.S. and internationally, including analysis of the impact of biofuel market development on commodity markets and prices. The Branch is responsible for inputs to the outlook program; inputs to the USDA ten year domestic long-term projections and international baseline; research and analysis involving interactions of multiple crop commodities; development, coordination, and implementation of and support for Agency and Division data bases; and participation and interaction with University researchers on various activities. The staff also provides program planning and coordination for the agency's situation and outlook program.

Duties and Responsibilities:

A. Scope of Assignment

Reporting to the Director, Market and Trade Economics Division (MTED), the Branch Chief is responsible for planning, directing, and managing the FCB program of agricultural economic research, analysis, and information dissemination. This includes responsibility for the coordination and integration of the branch's program of research and analysis with those of other branches within ERS. Specifically, the Branch Chief has overall responsibility for the following functions:

- Analyzing the consequences of public policies that relate to the specialized work of the FCB and providing public and private decision-makers with economic analyses on appropriate subjects.
- Targeting the dissemination of basic statistics and data, research findings, and policy analyses toward key client groups. Dissemination may take place through a wide variety of media, including situation and outlook reports, agricultural outlook articles, departmental and agency bulletins, electronic data products, staff analyses and briefing papers, professional journal articles, speeches, and other means.
- Serving as the agency's reference point to provide economic advice and counsel relating to the FCB area of responsibility. This includes providing technical information and advice to other U.S. government agencies, and serving on various Department-level committees, as well as interagency and interdepartmental task forces.

B. Technical Complexity

The Branch Chief is responsible for providing the overall management of the highly technical components of the FCB program and for providing the expertise needed in decision-making and management of the FCB. He/she is responsible for managing a number of technically complex projects involving selecting or developing the most appropriate and current research methodologies and applying them to extremely complex economic problems. The economic variables employed in these analyses are wide-ranging.

The Branch Chief is responsible for maintaining a high degree of expertise in the subject matter areas of technical concern to the FCB, particularly in the area of commodity market and price analysis, and in the process of adapting and modifying methods of economic research and analysis and/or developing and designing new methods as necessary to provide solutions to technical problems.

C. Technical Responsibility

The Branch Chief is responsible for identifying research activities and resources required to complete the work assigned to the FCB. The Branch Chief has final authority for allocating resources and defining research studies and analyses to be undertaken within the FCB, and is responsible for the validity and integrity of the economic results produced. This responsibility includes the oversight of data collection, economic analysis and research, and publication of results and findings. The incumbent is responsible for selecting appropriate methods for dissemination of the results of research to include working papers, agency publications, professional journals, and specialized magazines.

This individual serves as the focal point for research and analysis on topics appropriate to the FCB, and represents the FCB within the Department. This includes responsibility for oversight or coordination of the preparation of briefing/working papers for the Secretary of Agriculture or the Assistant Secretary for Research, Economics & Education, and of position papers for national and international meetings.

The Branch Chief is personally recognized as an expert in the area of responsibility. The Branch Chief represents the FCB, division, agency, and Department in various high level meetings concerning FCB responsibilities and may represent the Department at domestic and international conferences and workshops. He/she may also represent the Department in working level contacts with foreign diplomatic missions, and on interagency or intergovernmental committees, in his or her area of expertise. The validity of the incumbent's professional judgments can, thus, have significant impact on economic issues.

D. Administrative Responsibility

The Branch Chief is responsible for the development of program and product plans for the FCB. This includes work plans, as well as development and justification of a FCB budget. The incumbent is responsible for identifying promising and pertinent areas of research, providing technical advice to develop and expand research activities, and thus helping to plan the ERS research and analytical program and its related product/publication portfolio.

He/she has overall responsibility for developing and monitoring contracts, and for assuring that money, personnel, and materials are properly allocated. He/she coordinates and maintains relationships with state research programs, with land grant universities, and with other federal agencies to ensure cooperation and to encourage utilization and application of research and related implications of economic information.

E. Policy Responsibility

The Branch Chief provides authoritative technical advice and guidance on departmental actions and policy decisions related to FCB activities, providing necessary expertise in this area at all levels in the Department; also provides input regarding legislation or the actions of other federal agencies, advice regarding policy implications, and input into the formulation of U.S. policies that may impact agricultural commodity markets.

Requirements:

A minimum of 10 years sophisticated economic and/or financial research. A Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, Economics, or Finance is highly preferred.

Location:

Washington, DC

Compensation:

to \$155,500 and eligible for performance-based bonus

EEO:

All candidates will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Deadline:

To be considered, applications must be received no later than midnight, December 6, 2010.

Citizenship:

U.S. Citizenship required. You may be required to obtain a security clearance.

Contact:

Jennifer Moss
JDG Associates, Ltd.
1700 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850
301-340-2210
moss@jdgsearch.com

JDG Associates, established in 1973, is a leading provider of executive recruiting services to the federal government, non profit organizations, associations, Fortune 1000 corporations, and a variety of government contractors.



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EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANTS

DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

**RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION (RITA)
Within the DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Washington, DC

Client:

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), which is part of USDOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA), is charged with advancing rigorous analysis and the deployment of cross-cutting technologies to improve our nation's transportation system. BTS was created in 1992, and became part of RITA in 2005. It has approximately 52 highly professional, and motivated staff members (plus approximately 43 contractors), and a budget of \$30+ million. For more information, please see www.bts.gov.

Opportunity:

Under the executive direction of the RITA Administrator, the Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics is responsible for managing a team of transportation statistics experts and support staff toward the development of enhanced data collection, analysis, and reporting and to ensure the most cost effective use of the resources used to measure the performance of our nation's transportation system. The Director shall lead the BTS program by demonstrating a vision for the future where the Bureau plays an integral part in the Department of Transportation which bases its significant investment and policy decisions on sound science and rigorous analysis, and by providing and implementing a roadmap for achieving this vision. The Director shall be appointed from among individuals who are qualified to serve as the Director by virtue of their training and experience in the collection, analysis, and use of transportation statistics.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Serves as the Secretary of Transportation's senior advisor on data and statistics
- Provides data, statistics, and analyses to transportation decision makers that enable the Department as well as other federal, state, local and private sector stakeholders to base their decisions on sound science and rigorous analysis
- Communicates with internal and external customers to identify their needs and meet expectations for high quality products and results
- Develops mechanisms that lead to collaboration across RITA program offices and other mechanisms that encourage and lead to collaboration with other DOT modal administrations (e.g., Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration)
- Collects, compiles, analyzes, and publishes a comprehensive set of transportation statistics on the performance and impacts of the national transportation system
- Makes statistics accessible to the public

Professional and Technical Qualifications (PTQs):

Each response should be one page in length.

- Experience that reflects the ability to provide national executive leadership for planning, developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive, relevant program for the collection and analysis of statistical data relating to the performance of the national transportation system.
- Demonstrated ability to work in cooperation with internal and external partners and stakeholders to ensure that accurate, reliable, relevant and accessible data are available for statistical and economic analysis for use in policy, program and regulatory decisions.
- Leadership experience that reflects an ability to promote cross-office collaboration and lead, manage, and inspire a diverse workforce towards goal achievement.

Education: Bachelors degree required; Masters or PhD in an analytical discipline highly preferred.

Compensation: Up to \$179,700 plus eligibility for performance bonus

Relocation: Relocation assistance will be provided.

EEO: All candidates will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

Deadline: To be considered, applications must be received no later than midnight, November 15, 2010.

Citizenship: U.S. Citizenship required.

Contact:

Jennifer Moss
JDG Associates, Ltd.
1700 Research Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 340-2210
moss@jdgsearch.com

JDG Associates, established in 1973, is a leading provider of executive recruiting services to the Federal government, associations/non-profits, Fortune 1000 corporations, and a variety of government contractors.

Ernst & Young LLP

The Quantitative Economics & Statistics Group (QUEST) at Ernst & Young LLP is seeking a Ph.D. or Masters in Statistics to join our team of statisticians and economists in Washington, D.C. QUEST provides quantitative advisory services to private sector clients that analyze proposed policy issues, support regulatory compliance, enhance business processes, and provide litigation support. Our services include applied economic and business research, statistical analysis and sampling, and econometric modeling.

As a member of EY's QUEST practice, you will have the combination of deep quantitative knowledge and a sophisticated understanding of business drivers to serve clients to the best of your ability. Our people work on key client issues with a focus on enhancing client strategies that align with the client's business objectives through quantitative analysis.

Responsibilities

- Perform statistical sampling, estimation, and modeling.
- Analyze client data to develop efficient sample designs using design based and model based methods.
- Work directly with internal project teams and the client to devise the best quantitative approach.
- Oversee sample design and estimation work and provide technical guidance to project staff.
- Assist in expanding statistical work through networking.

Qualifications

- a graduate degree in Statistics or related field including course work in sampling
- a minimum of 3 years of related work experience.
- excellent analytical skills
- excellent written and verbal communication skills
- ability to spot issues and solve problems
- ability to work with internal as well as external clients and build relationships
- ability to prioritize multiple tasks in a team environment and effectively meet deadlines or on specific projects ability to work independently
- computer skills, including familiarity with SAS and database management.

Please email resumes to judy.mcmahon@ey.com and put attention **E&Y QUEST** in the subject line of the email.

NORC**Senior Survey Statistician Bethesda, MD**

NORC is seeking a Senior Survey Statistician in Bethesda, Maryland who will be responsible for taking a leadership role for statistical tasks of assigned projects. The Senior Survey Statistician will provide methodological and statistical leadership on survey and evaluation projects. Project responsibilities include sample design and selection; sample monitoring, analysis and estimation, methodology, and quality initiatives. The Senior Survey Statistician will assume responsibility for writing the statistical, sampling, analysis, and/or methodology sections of technical proposals and project deliverables. Administrative responsibilities include participation in selection and development of professional staff, and developing business opportunities.

Requirements

- A PhD in statistics and a minimum of 10 years experience working as a statistician.
- Expertise in the field of rigorous impact evaluations—design of samples and surveys for experimental and quasi-experimental designs that use randomized control trials and matching techniques.
- Strong econometric skills.
- Experience with design and implementation of both descriptive and analytic surveys.
- International work experience.
- Fluency in French or Spanish is highly desirable.

NORC offers a comprehensive compensation and benefits package including medical, dental and vision care, as well as life insurance, 403 (b) retirement fund, and tuition assistance.

NORC is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer (M/F/D/V) that values and actively seeks diversity in the workforce.

Please apply to www.norc.org

Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration

The Office of Quality and Data (OQD) in HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care provides national leadership, information and resources to improve access to and quality of health care for underserved and vulnerable populations. One of four OQD branches, the Data Branch focuses on the analysis of data, including administrative data and patient surveys, data dissemination and utilizing the data to conduct research to drive healthcare quality improvement and to guide health policy initiatives in Community Health Centers (CHCs) on a national level.

A candidate for **Public Health Analyst** should have experience in public health theory and practice, with a focus on biostatistics or epidemiology or quantitative health services research, be knowledgeable about community health centers (preferred but not required), and the provision of health care services to the underserved/vulnerable populations.

Qualifications

- Have proven analytical skills
- Demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrate the ability to prioritize and follow through on a diverse range of responsibilities.
- Be results-oriented, organized, and able to work effectively in small interdisciplinary teams (consisting of physicians, health administrators, IT professionals, public health specialists, economists and others)

Job Responsibilities

- Program Monitoring and Evaluation: Involvement with strategy and implementation of national public health initiatives for CHCs
- Data Analysis: Analysis of data from a variety of large databases on CHC housed by the Bureau of Primary Health Care
- Research Reports and Papers: Drafting reports and papers for internal and external audiences (including peer-reviewed publications)

Position Requirements/Qualifications

- Master's in public health/biostatistics/epidemiology/health service research required, PhD preferred
- Analytical/research experience in health policy.
- Commitment to stay abreast of current relevant literature and legislative trends
- Enthusiasm for the mission to improve the health of vulnerable populations

If you would like to be considered, please email your cover letter and resume to Candace Smith, Administrative Assistant, HRSA/OQD/Data Branch at CSmith1@hrsa.gov.

FROM WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **December 2010** issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until the last day of the preceding month.

Email items to Colleen S. Choi at wss.editor@gmail.com.

Please submit all materials in **MS WORD** or **plain text**.



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