WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Obama Administration Science Integrity Memo includes Good News for ASA Governance and Government Statisticians; More Steps Necessary

By Steve Pierson

Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director John Holdren issued a scientific integrity memo to the heads of administration departments and agencies on December 17. While the scientific community and others will welcome many parts of the memorandum, the following excerpt on promoting professional development of government scientists is especially welcome to ASA because of the integral role government scientists play in ASA governance:

"Allow full participation in professional or scholarly societies, committees, task forces and other specialized bodies of professional societies, including removing barriers for serving as officers or on governing boards of such societies."

With ASA's practice of having a president and vice-president from the government sector every three years (with presidents and vice-presidents from academia and industry completing the cycle), the ASA Nominating Committee has reported difficulty in securing candidates from the government sector. Such restrictions can also apply to service in ASA sections, chapters and committees. The reasons vary from such service not being allowed to requiring the person to use personal leave time for the professional society service. The widely varying policies across agencies are partially influenced by differing interpretations of a criminal statute (18 U.S.C. §208) regarding business with private organizations where financial conflicts of interest might arise.

From ASA's point of view, the restrictions are a hindrance because it is important for the professional needs of federal scientists be directly represented in ASA governance and because ASA would benefit from the perspective of federal scientists.

Joining with AAAS, the Ornithological Council, the Wildlife Society and the Society for Conservation Biology, ASA had meetings at OSTP, the Office of Government Ethics and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) requesting a government-wide set of standards to guide federal employee participation on the boards of scientific professional societies and a legislative or regulatory measure to 18 allowing service on the scientific professional society boards.

To make our case, the groups cited the potential to raise the profile of a federal scientist's department/agency as place for high-quality, cutting-edge research, thereby helping to recruit scientists to federal service. We also noted the converse, that current restrictions could dissuade the best scientists from entering federal service because of the role professional society governance can play in helping one advance professional stature. We also pointed out OPM's Research Grade Evaluation Guide listing "invitations to address or to assume a leadership role in national professional organizations and associated committees" as a highest level factor for its evaluation system grading criteria.

Recognizing the important ethical issues, the groups also cited the current practice of government scientists to excuse themselves from any professional society discussion where a possible conflict of interest could apply.

Holdren's memo, which was a follow up to Obama's [Presidential Memorandum on Scientific Integrity](#) from March 9, 2009, is but a first step. A regulatory or legislative fix to U.S.C §208, on which we understand the Office of Personnel Management and Office of Government Ethics are working, is still an objective. Government agencies must also review and change their respective policies regarding government scientists serving in scientific professional society leadership.

I invite ASA Members to join the [Science Policy Group in the ASA Community](#). I will send members of this group updates on ASA science policy actions, notifications of new blogs, and ask for input on ASA science policy activities.

http://community.amstat.org/AMSTAT/AMSTAT/Blogs/BlogViewer/Default.aspx?BlogKey=dd97cda2-e8b4-4e63-b093-d1aab355b078

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

Notice: **Experiment with new venue for WSS seminars**
Dave Judkins, WSS Methodology Section Chair

In an effort to improve access to WSS seminars and to improve the reliability of virtual attendance, we are going to experiment with a new venue. Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. has graciously granted WSS the use of its main conference room in downtown Washington, DC, for one or two seminars per month, and the broadcast of the seminars as Webinars. This does not mean that we will be ending the use of the BLS conference center and its video-conferencing (VC) facilities. At this point, it is just an experiment, and the future use of the venue will depend on the quality of the experience.

The BLS setting is superior for those with the technology to establish a VC link, but only Westat and NCHS have been making use of that technology, and sometimes technical glitches with the VC link have led to delays of as much as 20 to 30 minutes in the start of the seminar. I hope that the webinar format will be more stable and more widely accessible. The MPR offices are even closer to a metro stop than the BLS offices, so for people able to attend in person, there should be little change in convenience. In fact, it may be more convenient in as much as visitors will not be required to go through a metal-detection screening station, and they won't have to go cross a street between metro exit and MPR entrance.

On **February 15th**, we will have the inaugural use of these facilities. A trio of Westat researchers will present a very topical evaluation of methods for address-based sampling as a possible replacement for RDD sampling for targeted domains. The time will be the same as usual, 12:30 to 2:00. Visitors interested in attending in person or remotely will be asked to register in advance, although spontaneous visitors will also be accommodated in person. Those wishing to attend virtually will receive instructions by email after registering. There will be no cost for either remote or in-person attendees.

Title: **Providing Double Protection Against Unit Nonresponse Bias with a Nonlinear Calibration Routine**

Chair: Adam Safir, BLS

Organizer: David Judkins, Westat

Speaker: Phillip S. Kott
                Senior Research Statistician, RTI International

Date/Time: **Wednesday, January 26, 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.

Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS

Abstract:

There are at least two reasons to calibrate survey weights: 1, to force estimators to be unbiased under a prediction model, and, 2, to adjust for the bias caused by unit nonresponse. When there is no nonresponse or coverage errors, many forms of calibration are asymptotically equivalent.

When there is unit nonresponse, Lundströrm and Särndal (JOS 1999) argue that a unit's weight adjustment under linear calibration is an estimate of the inverse of its response probability. A more natural calibration approach for response-probability modeling employs an extension of generalized raking proposed by Folsom and Singh (SRMS PROCEEDINGS 2000). Surprisingly, fitting a logistic model indirectly through calibration usually leads to smaller mean squared errors than fitting it directly through weighted or unweighted maximum likelihood methods. This is because calibration weighting produces estimators that have good properties under a linear prediction model. These properties can hold even when the response model under which the calibration was developed fails. Conversely, properties under the response-probability model do not depend on the prediction model holding.

Title: **Inference on treatment effects from a randomized clinical trial in the presence of premature treatment discontinuation: The SYNERGY trial**

Chair: Adam Safir, BLS

Organizer: David Judkins, Westat

Speaker: Marie Davidian
William Neal Reynolds Professor of Statistics, North Carolina State University

Date/Time: **Wednesday, February 23, 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.

Sponsor: Methodology Program, WSS

Abstract:

The Superior Yield of the New Strategy of Enoxaparin, Revascularization, and GIYcoprotein IIb/IIIa inhibitors (SYNERGY) trial was a randomized, open-label, multi-center clinical trial comparing two anticoagulant drugs (enoxaparin and unfractionated heparin, UFH) on the basis of various time-to-event endpoints. In contrast to those of other studies of these agents, the primary, intent-to-treat analysis did not find sufficient evidence of a difference, leading to speculation that premature discontinuation of the study agents by some subjects might have attenuated the treatment effect. As is of the case in such trials, some subjects discontinued (stopped or switched) their assigned treatment prematurely, either because occurrence of an adverse event or other condition under which discontinuation was mandated by the protocol or due to other reasons, e.g., switching to the other treatment at his/her provider's discretion (with more subjects switching from enoxaparin to UFH than vice versa). In this situation, interest often focuses on "the difference in survival distributions had no subject discontinued his/her assigned treatment," inference on which is often attempted via standard analyses where event/censoring times for subjects discontinuing assigned treatment are artificially censored at the time of discontinuation. However, this and other common ad hoc approaches may not yield reliable information because they are not based on a formal definition of the treatment effect of interest. We use SYNERGY as a context in which to describe how such an effect may be conceptualized properly and to present a statistical framework in which it may be identified, which leads naturally to the use of inverse probability weighted methods.

Title: **An application of a two-phase address-based approach to sampling for subpopulations**

Organizer: David Judkins, Westat, WSS Methodology Section Chair

Chair: Nick Beyler, Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Speakers: Jill M. Montaquila, Douglas Williams, Daifeng Han, Westat

Date/Time: **Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 12:30-2:00pm**

Location:

Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Main Conference Room
Virtual attendance is also available by webinar or audio feed by phone

To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please RSVP to Bruno Vizcarra at bvizcarra@mathematica-mpr.com or (202) 484-4231 by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar. Provide your name, affiliation, contact information (email is preferred) and the seminar date. Once on the seminar list, you will be provided with information about webinar and phone viewing for the seminar in case you chose to not attend in person. Mathematica is located at 600 Maryland Ave., SW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20024. If traveling by Metro, take the Orange, Blue, Green, or Yellow Line to the L'Enfant Plaza Station and follow signs to exit at 7th and Maryland. The entrance to the building will be to your right at the top of the escalators. If traveling by car, pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located on 6th Street SW, across from the Holiday Inn. Once in the building, take the elevators by Wachovia to the 5th floor lobby and inform the secretary that you are attending the WSS seminar. Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220) if you have trouble finding the building or the 5th floor lobby.

Sponsor: Methodology Section, WSS

Abstract:

Historically, random digit dial (RDD) sampling with computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) administration has been viewed as an efficient approach for administering subpopulation surveys. However, due to declines in response rates and coverage, alternatives to landline RDD sampling are being considered. One alternative is address-based sampling (ABS), but methods appropriate for subpopulations have not been examined adequately. In the Fall of 2009, we conducted a pilot study to evaluate ABS, with mail as the primary mode of collection, for a subpopulation. The goal was to replace a periodic survey of preschoolers and school-age children that previously had been conducted using RDD. This study included a screening phase to determine a household's eligibility, followed by a topical survey administered in eligible households.

In this three-part presentation, we present results of the pilot study and discuss the implications for an approach that maximizes response in a two-phase survey setting.   We begin with an overview of key findings from the pilot study. Next, we present different versions of the screener package that were tested,

and give results of the experimental evaluation of these versions, with particular emphasis on the findings for households with children. The third part of the presentation focuses on how the response rate, demographic characteristics, and key survey estimates change with screener follow-up attempts. We conclude with a summary and discussion of the implications of these findings on future studies.

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/gdrr11.html).

Event: **Fourth International Conference on Establishment Surveys**

Host: Survey Methods for Businesses, Farms, and Institutions

Date: **June 11–14, 2012**

Location: Sheraton Centre Montréal, Montréal, Québec, Canada

Description:

The ICES series of conferences serves an important role in the world of survey methodology. Few other conferences focus on methods and applications for establishment surveys.

The first three conferences held in 1993, 2000 and 2007 were successful, with more than 400 attendees per conference. The conferences covered a spectrum of survey methods for businesses, farms, and institutions. The fourth conference will continue along this path. Examples of potential topics include the following:
• Updating business registers
• Sample design challenges
• Questionnaire design for establishment surveys
• Collecting data electronically from establishment surveys
• Issues of multi-mode data collection
• Factors that affect establishment survey participation
• Generalized survey processing systems for establishment surveys
• Measuring nonresponse bias
• Variance estimation
• Advances in disclosure protection
• Efficient use of administrative data in establishment surveys
• New directions in establishment surveys

The conference will include short courses, a keynote speaker, poster sessions, software demonstrations, and invited and contributed paper sessions. Online solicitation for invited papers opens **December 1, 2010**, and will continue until **March 1, 2011**. Online solicitation for contributed papers will occur **June 1, 2011 through August 31, 2011**. Inquiries may be directed to ices4@amstat.org.

Call for Invited Paper Session Proposals
As the fourth in the series of international conferences on establishment surveys, ICES-IV is designed to look forward at key issues and methods pertaining to establishment surveys. We invite you to submit a proposal for an invited paper session by **March 1, 2011**. The ICES-IV program committee will review the proposals and notify session organizers by the end of **May 2011** to let them know whether their proposal has been accepted.

Invited sessions will have three 25-minute presentations, a 15-minute formal discussion in which a discussant draws out the main themes of the session and asks questions of the authors, and a 5–10-minute floor discussion.

Proposal Submission:

Online submission of invited session proposals will open **December 1, 2010, and close March 1, 2011 at www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012.**

Session organizers will be asked to submit a proposal describing the session topic and why it is important or what has changed since ICES-III in 2007 and include the names of session presenters and abstracts for each presentation. If a session proposal is accepted, session presenters will be asked to upload an abstract to the conference system by **September 30, 2011.**

There are limited invited sessions, and the program committee is seeking sessions of a consistently high quality for ICES-IV, so we request that organizers provide sufficient information to clearly demonstrate the importance of the topic and the quality of its contributions. We encourage proposals that incorporate presenters and perspectives from different countries and agencies/departments. If a proposal is not accepted as an invited session, the organizer will be invited to resubmit the session as a topic-contributed session. The deadline for contributed papers (including topic-contributed sessions) is August 31, 2011. Information about the differences between the invited and contributed sessions and their formats is available at **www.amstat.org/meetings/ices/2012**.

Event: **International Conference on Methods for Surveying and Enumerating Hard-to-Reach Populations**

Host: H2R|2012: Survey Methods for Hard-to-Reach Populations

Date: **October 31—November 3, 2012**

Location: Marriott New Orleans at the Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Description:

The H2R 2012 conference will bring together survey methodologists, sociologists, statisticians, demographers, ethnographers, and other professionals from around the world to present new and innovative techniques for surveying hard-to-reach populations. Addressing both the statistical and survey design aspects of including hard-to-reach groups, researchers will report findings from censuses, surveys, and other research related to the identification, definition, measurement, and methodologies for surveying and enumerating undercounted populations.

Identifying, Defining, and Measuring the Hard-to-Reach (H2R)

Defining H2R populations
Measuring undercounts for H2R groups
Improving measurement with administrative records
Sampling H2R populations

Techniques and Methodologies

Recruitment methods
Targeting the H2R
Use of social marketing and outreach campaigns
Overcoming language and literacy barriers
Use of community-based organizations
Dealing with complex living and housing situations
Tracking and tracing H2R populations

H2R Subpopulations

Racial minorities
Immigrant populations
Indigenous populations
Highly mobile and migrant populations
Homeless and refugee populations
Sexual minorities
Populations affected by natural disasters
Populations in zones of armed conflict
Stigmatized populations
Cross-cultural similarities and differences in H2R populations
Linguistic and cultural minorities

Calls for Submissions

> **February–March 2011**: Invited Call for Submissions
>
> **April–May 2011:** Contributed Call for Submissions

Information: (website) www.amstat.org/meetings/h2r/2012
         (email) H2R2012@amstat.org.

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

JPSM Short Course

Main site: www.jpsm.org
Short Courses: www.jpsm.org/shortcourses

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

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

Webinar: Introduction to Sampling for Non-Statisticians

The next webinar in the web-based training program of the Survey Research Methods Section of American Statistical Association and AAPOR will be given by Safaa Amer, Senior Statistician at NORC, on the topic "Introduction to Sampling for Non-Statisticians". The webinar will occur on **Tuesday, February 8, 2011, 1-3pm Eastern**. Full abstract, presenter information, and registration can be found at http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/webinar.cfm. For each webinar, participants register for a modest fee. Each registration is allowed one web connection and one audio connection. The section encourages multiple persons to view each registered connection. For example, an entire classroom can watch for the price of one registration. Registration is now open.

Many researchers, journalists, policy makers, and educators encounter sample surveys in their research, work, reading, or everyday experience. This course will uncover the logic behind sampling. It will give an explanation of the different types of samples and the terminology used by statistician and survey researchers. It will outline and illustrate the steps needed before, during, and after selecting a sample. It will describe the types of errors faced when conducting a survey and whether they are sampling related or not. The goal of the course is to expose non-statisticians to sampling so that they are able to read and understand articles or documents describing sampling designs and communicate with statisticians about their research needs. The course may even motivate participants to design and select simple samples to illustrate concepts and procedures. The presenter Dr. Safaa Amer is a multi-lingual Senior Statistician and Project Director at NORC with wide-ranging experience in data analysis, survey sampling, missing data, and data mining. In addition, Dr. Amer held several academic positions with the most recent being on the faculty list for the Survey Design & Data Analysis Graduate Certificate program at George Washington University.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rick Peterson at the American Statistical Association. Rick is their Education Programs Associate: rick@amstat.org; (703) 684-1221 ext. 1864.

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.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

2011 Gertrude M. Cox Award

The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee is seeking nominees for the 2011 Gertrude M Cox Award. The award was established in 2003 through a joint agreement between the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International. The award annually recognizes a statistician in early to mid-career (less than 15 years after his/her terminal degree) who has made significant contributions to one or more of the areas of applied statistics in which Gertrude Cox worked: survey methodology, experimental design, biostatistics, and statistical computing.

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

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

This award is made possible by funding from RTI International, and the recipient is chosen by a six-person committee - three each from WSS and RTI. This year's committee consists of Jonaki Bose, Michael Brick, and John Eltinge from WSS; Marcus Berzofsky, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (Chair) from RTI. The award consists of a $1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS Annual Dinner, and a commemorative WSS plaque. Past recipients have been Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, and Michael Elliott.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki (kkrotki@rti.org) by **28 February, 2011**. A bio or cv is suffcent – there is no formal application form.

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 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**.

Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

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.**

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.**

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

Herriot Award

Nominations are sought for the 2011 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

- o   Dedication to the issues of measurement;

- o   Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and

- o   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 2011 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 2011. 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), Lynda Carlson (NSF), and Katharine G. Abraham (JPSM, University of Maryland).

Nominations for the 2011 award will be accepted beginning in **February 2011**. 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 Robert Fay, Chair, 2011 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 240-314-2318 or BobFay@Westat.com. Completed packages must be received **by April 1, 2011**. 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.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed at different times between **March and June 2011** -- 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 year 30 of your fellow WSS members judged and awarded prizes to projects in Mathematical Sciences, Behavioral & Social Science, Environmental Management, Animal Sciences, Engineering: Materials and Bioengineering,
Earth and Planetary Science, Microbiology, Physics, and Astronomy. 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 Amelia Vogel at Vogel.Amelia@bls.gov or 202-691-6138.

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Service Fellowship
Division of Health Interview Statistics

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), located in Hyattsville, Maryland, is seeking an Associate Service Fellow to work with the Data Analysis and Quality Assurance Branch. NCHS is the principal health statistics agency in the United States. One of the 10 centers and institutes that comprise CDC, NCHS's mission is to compile accurate, relevant, and timely statistical information to guide actions and policies that improve the health of the American people. Within NCHS, the Division of Health Interview Statistics conducts the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). NHIS is a nationally representative survey of approximately 35,000 households that has been fielded annually since 1957. The survey collects health and demographic data including health conditions, health behaviors, health care utilization, health insurance coverage, and socioeconomic topics. For more information, visit "About NHIS" (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about.htm) and the NHIS homepage (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm).

As a member of the Data Analysis and Quality Assurance Branch, the Associate Service Fellow will contribute to all aspects of preparing, analyzing, and disseminating the annual NHIS microdata.

Responsibilities: reviewing data quality; developing data edit and programming specifications; planning and conducting data analysis; providing technical consultation and advice to data users and colleagues; developing tables and graphics for data presentation; preparing standard and specialized studies for NCHS reports and scientific journals.

Qualifications: must be a citizen of the United States or legal permanent resident with a green card; Master's degree or higher in demography, survey methodology, epidemiology, public health, or a related field (e.g., sociology, medicine, biological or health sciences, etc); at least 15 semester hours in statistics (or mathematics and statistics, provided at least 6 semester hours were in statistics); nine additional semester hours in one or more of the following: physical or biological sciences, medicine, education, or engineering; or in the social sciences including demography, history, economics, social welfare, geography, international relations, social or cultural anthropology, health sociology, political science, public administration, or psychology; experience or applied coursework in (a) sampling; (b) collecting, computing, and analyzing statistical data; and (c) applying statistical techniques such as simple and multiple correlation, regression modeling, analysis of variance, and significance testing, is highly desirable; skill in using SAS, STATA, SPSS, SUDAAN, or other statistical software for complex survey data is expected; strong speaking, writing, and interpersonal skills are required.

Terms of Service: The Associate Service Fellow will be offered an initial 15-month appointment, with potential for extension up to 2 years. A starting date will be determined by mutual agreement. An initial salary of $62,467 to $97,333 will be offered based on education and experience. Salary increases will be commensurate with performance. Associate Service Fellows are eligible for annual and sick leave, Thrift Savings 401(k)-equivalent, health and life insurance, and a flexible work schedule. The Fellow will have the option of free onsite parking or a public transportation subsidy. The local subway station is within walking distance.

To Apply: Applications will be accepted through **February 1, 2011**. Interested applicants should submit their curriculum vitae, cover letter describing experience in health-related research and data management, copy of transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate credits (official transcripts will be required, if selected), and three reference letters to Ms. Monique Bailey at the mailing address below. Inquiries or questions regarding this fellowship can be directed to Ms. Bailey at Mbailey1@cdc.gov.

Ms. Monique Bailey, Administrative Officer
Division of Health Interview Statistics
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Room 2105
Hyattsville, MD 20782

FROM WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **February 2011** issue of the WSS NEWS will be accepted until the last day of the preceding month.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format (e.g., in an email) will be returned.

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