



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** SEMINARS
- 5** CONFERENCES
- 8** CALL FOR PAPERS
- 12** SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS
- 17** SHORT COURSE
- 18** WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT
- 19** STUDENT CORNER
- 22** BE INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED!
- 24** EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 25** WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS
- 30** FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

SEMINARS

2014 WSS PRESIDENT'S INVITED SEMINAR

Title: **On Making Inferences from Non-Probability Samples**

Dates/Time: **March 26, 2014**
***2:00 pm - 4:00pm**

*The talk is from 2:00-3:30 followed by light refreshments.
Note: video conferencing will **not** be available.

Chair: Nancy Bates, WSS President

Speaker: J. Michael Brick, Westat and JPSM

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 3
To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 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.

Abstract: In the last decade with the wide spread use of the Internet, surveys of all kinds have been conducted that try to reduce the ever increasing costs of doing high quality probability sample surveys. In a reaction to this trend, the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) set up a task force to examine the conditions under which survey designs that do not use probability samples might still be useful for making inferences to a larger population. Reg Baker and I co-chaired that task force and its final report is available on the AAPOR website (www.aapor.org). A summary, along with commentary of other researchers, was published in *The Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology*.

In this talk, I will begin by reviewing the findings of the task force and some reaction to these findings. I will then suggest potential implications this line of research might have on surveys conducted for government agencies. Hopefully, a lively discussion of the topic will follow.

Biography:

Mike Brick is a Vice President and co-Director of the Survey Methods Unit at Westat, and is a research professor in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology at the University of Maryland. He has a Ph.D. in statistics from American University, is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. Mike was President of the Washington Statistical Society in 2010.

The NSF-Census Bureau Research Network (NCRN) Virtual Seminar Series

The NCRN Virtual Seminar is held at different locations throughout the network, every first Wednesday of each month. Nodes participate using videoconferencing equipment, from on-campus locations as listed under each event. Active participants can ask questions through the live video feed.

Participation via videoconference is open to interested parties, in particular at other non-NCRN universities and statistical agencies at the federal, state, and local level, as long as equipment requirements can be satisfied. For more information, contact Lars Vilhuber (lars.vilhuber@cornell.edu).

A streaming version of the NCRN Virtual Seminar is available, but it does not allow for interaction with the seminar participants. The recorded version of the Virtual Seminar will generally be available shortly afterwards, and will be available in our Library of NCRN Virtual Seminars.

Additional information is available at <http://ncrn.info/events/virtual-seminar>.

CONFERENCES

- Event:** **FFC/2014: The 20th Federal Forecaster's Conference**
Theme: The Role of Government Forecasts
- Sponsoring Agencies:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs, Economic Research Service, Internal Revenue Service, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor
- Date/Time:** **April 24, 2014**
8:00 am - 9:00 am (check-in)
9:00am - 4:15 pm (schedule)
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212
- Register Deadline:** **April 10, 2014** at <http://ffc2014.eventbrite.com>
- *Abstract Due:** **March 15, 2014**
- *Contest Entry Deadline:** **March 15, 2014**
No charge for participation

**See page 9 for additional information about the contest and for submitting abstracts.*

Description:

Government forecasts are critical to assessing the future needs of the nation. These forecasts are used by those in the public and private sectors for planning and decision-making in a variety of areas: agriculture, energy, the environment, demographics, geologic hazards, healthcare, job trends, social security, veteran's issues, and more. For example, policy makers use forecasts to create laws, direct resources and establish budgets. Individuals use forecasts of salary and employment trends to make career decisions, and nominal price forecasts and interest rate trends to decide whether to buy a home. Government agencies are also consumers, using forecasts of weather and commodity supply and demand to project crop yield and prices. Labor force projections are also based on government-produced projections of the population.

At FFC/20, presenters from a variety of agencies will share their experience in developing and using forecasts. Add your voice to the conversation! Please join our discussion of the unique role played by federal forecasts, and how forecasts are used by the government, private industry, and the public.

- Event:** **Frontiers of Hierarchical Modeling in Observational Studies, Complex Surveys, and Big Data**
- Location:** Marriott Inn & Conference Center
Hyattsville, Maryland at the University of Maryland College Park Campus
- Date/Time:** **May 29-31, 2014**
- Description:** This conference is held in honor of Professor Malay Ghosh and his profound contribution to diverse areas of statistics. Distinguished plenary speakers and young researchers will showcase Professor Ghosh's many cutting-edge research projects in the field.
- Information about submitting materials for presentation is provided on page 11.
- Website:** <http://www.jointprogram.umd.edu/ghosh/>

CALL FOR PAPERS

U.S. Energy Information Administration • U.S. Geological Survey

~ Partnering Organizations ~

**Research Program on Forecasting, The George Washington University
FFC/2014: The 20th Federal Forecasters Conference**

The FFC Board invites you to present a paper at one of the afternoon concurrent sessions. Please note, papers are not restricted to the official conference theme and may cover any subject relating to forecasting or estimation. Presenters are encouraged to provide written version of their presentation. Individual presentations of the papers will be limited to 15 to 20 minutes in length. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to: woodward.maggie@bls.gov by **March 15, 2014**.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their paper in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or and Adobe Acrobat PDF file by June 1, 2014 to William Hussar (william.hussar@edu.gov) to ensure their paper's inclusion in the conference proceedings. See below for the recommended format. All papers presented in the afternoon concurrent sessions and provided by June 1, 2014 will be published as Proceedings of the 2014 Federal Forecasters Conference. A panel of judges will determine the best paper presented during the concurrent sessions and recognition will be awarded at the following Federal Forecasters Conference.

Title Centered in 12-Point Bold Times New Roman Type

Author and organization centered in normal 10-point Times New Roman

Please compose, format, and spell check your document in Microsoft Word. Format all text in a double-column, normal 10-point Times New Roman font type, and columns should be square. Left and right margins must be 1" and the spacing between the two columns must be 0.2".

Text should be single-spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs. Small tables and figures may be included in the column text, but place all larger tables and figures at the end of the document in single column format.

Refer to the FFC/2012 Proceedings volume for examples of the recommended paper format (available at www.federalforecasters.org).

**FFC/2014--- The Federal Forecaster; Conference Contest
Official Entry Form
Entry; Deadline: March 15, 2014**

Name: _____

Agency/Department: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please write your forecasts in the boxes provided for the following 5 items. Put your forecasts in the same format as the example. The forecasts will be judged by the ranking method (analysis of variance by ranks).

Question	Forecast
1. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month of March 2014 (Example: For September 2013, the national unemployment rate was 7.2%)	
2. Number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, in February 2014 (Example: In August 2013 the number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, was 891,000)	
3. Average temperature at Reagan National Airport for April 1, 2014 (Example: On September 16, 2013, the average was 70 °F)	
4. Closing price of the S&P 500 on April 1, 2014 (Example: The closing price of the S&P on September 16, 2013 was 1,697.60)	
5. Closing price of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. on April 1, 2014 (Ticker: GMCR) (Example: Closing price closed at \$84.51 on September 16, 2013)	

We will announce the winner at the FFC/2014 Conference, Thursday, April 24, 2014. All decisions of the contest judges are final. FFC board members are not eligible to participate in this forecasting contest. Each person may submit only one entry. All contest entries are confidential. For more information, please call Brian Sloboda at (202) 693-5904 or e-mail at sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov. Each individual will receive confirmation of receipt of his/her submission.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their papers in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or Adobe Acrobat PDF by June 1, 2014. Please email the file to William Hussar at william.hussar@ed.gov. Final papers will be published on the Federal Forecasters website as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file.

Your paper may be omitted from the FFC/2014 Proceedings Volume if you fail to conform to these guidelines.

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION, POSTERS AND REGISTRATION

ISBA-George Box Research Workshop on Frontiers of Statistics The George Washington University, Washington DC May 20th-22nd, 2014

This is the second call for participation for the ISBA-Box Research Workshop. The Organizing Committee invites participants to register for the meeting as soon as possible, and solicits abstracts for poster presentations. As is the norm at Bayesian meetings, the poster session will be a major highlight and a key part of the Workshop. The poster session will be combined with the formal Workshop reception with all participants expected. We particularly encourage new researchers and students to present a poster, to take the opportunity to discuss their work and interact with other participants.

Please submit poster abstracts by March 1st, 2014, to soyer@gwu.edu. Poster presenters will receive email acknowledgement and should register by March 15th, 2014.

Registration is now open for the Workshop. For our planning, we encourage registration as soon as possible. At the Workshop web site you will find a link to Registration through the ISBA system:

<http://business.gwu.edu/decisionsciences/i2sds/conferences.cfm>

We also note that the all-inclusive registration fees are substantially subsidized (doubly so for student participants).

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the One Washington Circle Hotel for the nights of May 20-22, 2014 at the rate of \$189.00. This rate is available until April 4, 2014. When registering, please contact the hotel directly to reserve your room, and use hotel GROUP ID CODE #1106210.

One Washington Circle Hotel
1 Washington Circle, NW
Washington, DC 20037
<http://www.thecirclehotel.com/>
Tel: 202.872.1680 or 800.424.9671

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee Seeking Nominees for the 2014 Gertrude M Cox Award

Deadline: February 28, 2014

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

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

This award is made possible by funding from RTI International, and the recipient is chosen by a six-person committee - three each from WSS and RTI. This year's committee consists of WSS President Nancy Bates (co-chair), Past President Keith Rust, and President-Elect Diane Herz; and Safaa Amer, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (co-chair) from RTI.

The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS Annual Dinner, and a commemorative WSS plaque. Past recipients, in chronological order: Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, Nilanjan Chatterjee, Amy Herring, and Frauke Kreuter.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki (kkrotki@rti.org) by **February 28, 2014** with a supporting statement and CV (or link).

2014 Julius Shiskin Award

Deadline: March 15, 2014

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 can be in development of new statistical measures, statistical research, use of economic statistics to analyze and interpret economic activity, development of statistical tools, management of statistical programs, or application of data production techniques. 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 2013 award recipients were John C. Haltiwanger, Distinguished University Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland, and Maurine Haver, President and founder of Haver Analytics Inc. for their initiatives to educate users and producers of key federal economic statistics.

The award is in memory of Julius Shiskin, who had a varied and remarkable public service career. 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 2014 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, 2014**.

Roger Herriot Award

Deadline: April 1, 2014

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

Nominations are sought for the **2014 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics**. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

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

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals or teams at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions. As innovation often requires or results from teamwork, team nominations are encouraged. Team innovations often are more lasting, resulting in real paradigm shifts, not just one-off improvements. For an example, see the 1998 Herriot (team) and the 2013 project awards.

The recipient of the 2014 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 2014. The Washington Statistical Society will also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past Award Recipients:

1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)
1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)
1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)
1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)
2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)
2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)
2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)
2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)
2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)
2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)
2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)
2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)
2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)
2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)
2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)
2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
2012 - Paul Biemer (RTI International)
2013 - 1973 Exact Match Project

Nominations for the 2014 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2014**. Nomination packages should contain:

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

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

For more information, contact John Dixon, Chair of the 2014 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202-691-7516 or **dixon.john@bls**.

Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2014. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

Deadline: April 4, 2014

Nominations are sought for the 2014 Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award to encourage the mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in the Federal, State, or Local government. It is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of the Federal, State, or Local government statistical staff who is nominated by a supervisor and co-workers for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff.

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

Nominations for 2014 will be accepted beginning in **January 2014**. 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.

The last date for submission of nominations is **April 4, 2014**, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **April 30, 2014**. The award will consist of a \$1,000, a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in **June 2014**.

For more information about the nominating process for the 2013 award, please go to:
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform14.doc> or
<http://www.amstat.org/sections/sgovt/JEGform14.pdf>.

If you have questions about the award, please contact Rick Peterson at rick@amstat.org (703) 684-1221, and Deborah Griffin at Deborah.h.griffin@census.gov (301) 763-2855.

SHORT COURSE

Introduction to Survey Management

JUNE 10-11, 2014

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Steven G. Heeringa and Nancy Gebler

Payment and Registration Due by May 27, 2014

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061014

WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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



Meet WSS Member Nick Beyler...

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

I am a Statistician at Mathematica Policy Research.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

After grad school, I knew that I wanted to work in public policy, specifically on research projects focused on nutrition, physical activity, and obesity. I also knew that I wanted to work in the Washington, DC area. Mathematica Policy Research was the perfect fit (and still is)!

3. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to..."

...network with other DC statisticians and get involved with more professional activities.

4. What skills are most important for the next generation of statistics professionals?

Statisticians in training would benefit from having strong networking skills and strong oral and written communication skills. In my experience, statistics graduates with strong networking and communication skills tended to get the most (and best) job offers even if they aren't always as strong with statistical theory and methods as their peers. Good communication and building networks within the statistics community can go a long way towards getting job offers and being a successful statistician.

5. What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?

Get active in the statistical community early and often. Go to JSM if you have the opportunity. Become a member of an ASA charter or section and volunteer to serve on their committees. Doing so will help build your resume and your networks.

6. What is your favorite daily ritual?

I like vegging out with my wife and dog after a long day of work.

7. Finish this sentence: "On an ideal Saturday, I would..."

... play 18 holes of golf, watch a great movie, and spend some down time with my family.

8. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

I have always been a seafood aficionado which was hard growing up in the Midwest. When I moved to the DC I was in heaven—way too many great seafood restaurants. I highly recommend Johnny's Half Shell on North Capitol right by Union Station. It's a bit pricy but worth it if you're looking for some great seafood at a nice sit down restaurant.

9. What is your favorite vacation spot?

Anywhere tropical during the winter months. I grew up in the Midwest and then moved to Washington and every year around late January or early February I get the urge to migrate south for a couple days.

10. Have you had any great mentors? If so, what made them great?

My statistics professor from undergrad was a great mentor of mine and was the first person to get me really excited about becoming a professional statistician. Before taking her class I wanted to be an economist (I know I know, what was I thinking!). She was always so enthusiastic about statistics and preached about how statisticians were in such high demand and so important for solving the world's problems. I've come to realize that it wasn't just empty rhetoric—statisticians really do add value to problems that exist in all walks of life.

STUDENT CORNER

Getting a Federal Job

I've mentioned before that I'm a mid-career student, but I haven't talked much about what my career has been. I've worked in a lot of different roles and for a lot of different companies, but somehow a little more than half of my work life has been spent working for the Federal Government. In my most recent position, I got to hire people. Here are some tips and tricks I learned about getting a Federal Government job.

1. **Update and lengthen your resume:** you will probably hear guidance that your resume should only be one or two pages long. This is not true for Federal resumes. I have seen Federal resumes run to 15-20 pages. Because so many people apply for work with the government, often the first person to see your resume will not even be a person: it will be scanned by a computer program for particular key words. If your resume is short, those key words may not appear, and you will not be considered qualified for the job. So describe every position you have had and any tasks that you believe may be even remotely related to the position that interests you.
2. **Gather duration, supervisor and salary information for every position:** You will need to put exact start and finish dates of each job you have had, as well as the name of your supervisor, their phone and email, and how much you were paid. Do not skip this; I had a position held up for several months because I didn't bother to put my salary from when I was a Marine.
3. **Create a login at USAJobs:** USAJobs (<http://www.usajobs.gov>) is like Monster.com for the Federal government. Although it is possible to pass your resume to a friend in the government, they're just going to refer you back to USAJobs anyway.
4. **Create a resume on USAJobs:** There is an option to upload a Word version of your resume, but don't do that. Go ahead and copy and paste your resume information into the USAJobs form. It will make your life easier, and it is what hirers expect to see. When I had a pile of resumes to look at, the non-standard resumes usually just confused me; use the USAJobs format to avoid that.
5. **Answer USAJobs questions truthfully and ensure your resume matches your answers:** When you apply on USAJobs, many positions will include a series of multiple-choice questions about your level of experience. There will be an obvious ranking of best to worst answers, but be careful! They will not always be in order from best to worst. You want to choose the "best" answer if at all possible, but your answer must be true, and your resume must reflect the same information as your answer. If it doesn't, you'll probably just be disqualified.

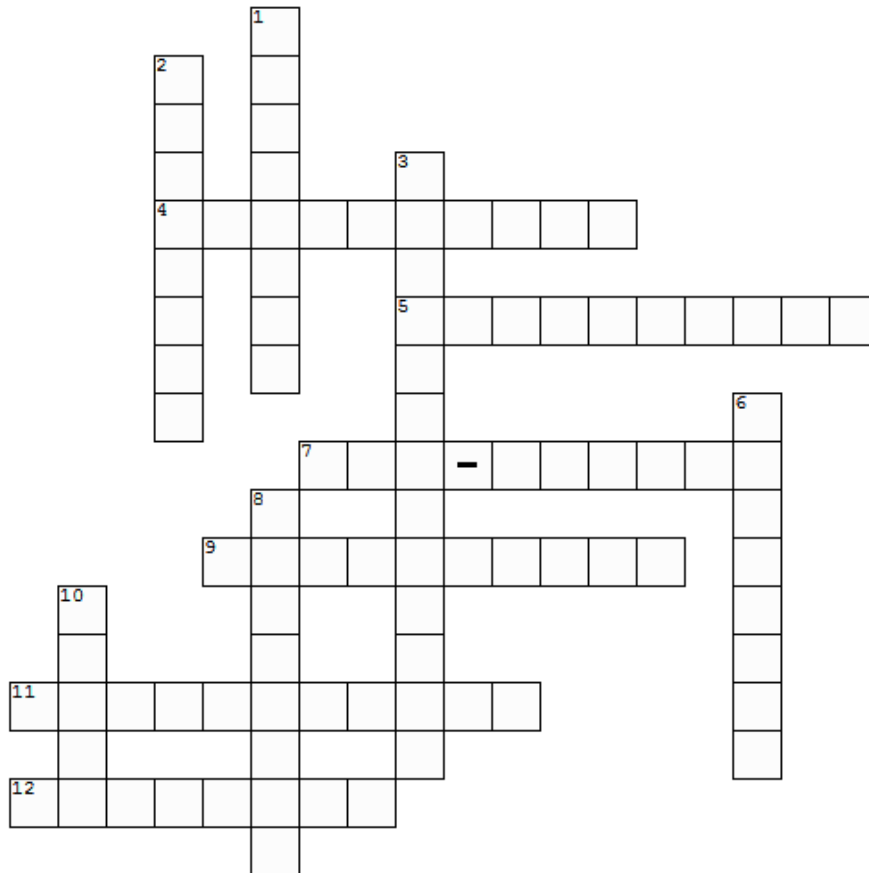
6. **Pay attention to citizenship requirements:** Not every Federal government job requires citizenship. My wife worked for the State Department without being a citizen.
7. **Look out for “Inner Hire Only” listings:** Many agencies only hire from within for certain positions.
8. **Look out for temporary positions:** Positions can be advertised as Permanent Full Time (PFT) positions or as temporary contract positions. Temporary contract positions can be just fine, but they generally do not allow you to later apply for Merit Promotion positions. This becomes a real problem for many temporary contract employees.
9. **Apply for every hiring authority you can:** A Hiring Authority determines how a person can be hired. Many times the same position will be advertised twice; once for “All Citizens” and once for “Merit Promotion” (that is, for existing permanent government employees). Some non-permanent government people can apply for both; for example, Veterans and Peace Corps/Vista Volunteers get preferential consideration in hiring. If you can apply on both advertisements, do so. It really increases your chances of getting an interview.
10. **If you’ve never had a job, be creative:** If you are applying for an entry-level position, you are competing with other students. While good grades are good, other activities will make you stand out from your peers. Many activities you may consider as trivial (tutoring, graduate assistantships, volunteering, student government) can make the difference. Make sure that you explain what activities you actually did; these can help support USAJobs answers as well as giving your interviewer a way of gauging your abilities.
11. **Some pointers on degrees and experience:** Positions have a set “rank” that determines salary and promotion potential. They will show this as the GS rating; for example, a position may be advertise as a fixed position (GS-9) or as having promotion potential (GS-9/11/13). For pay purposes, you want to get hired as high up as possible; life is easier if you get hired at a higher position than it is to work your way up through ranks. Every agency is different, and every applicant is different. At my agency, the rule of thumb for a BS with no experience is GS-7, for an MS with no experience is GS-9. Experience changes the requirements; I got hired with just a BS at a much higher rank because I had a lot of experience in industry.

The process for getting hired by the government can be confusing and can take longer than in the real world. But it is a very rewarding career; you can honestly feel that you are doing a service to many people. If you decide to stick with it, government benefits are generally better than in the real world. And in DC, government is pretty much the biggest game in town. Good luck!

~ Tim Allen, WSS Student Representative
timothychenallen@gmail.com

Probs & Stats Brain Teaser

Complete the crossword below and send your results to timothychenallen@gmail.com



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

- 4. Samples have statistics, populations have _____
- 5. These can be for points or for intervals
- 7. F Statistic is a ratio of two _____ distributions
- 9. Gamma is a _____ distribution
- 11. R is Pearson's coefficient of _____
- 12. A measure of how far the data is spread out

Down

- 1. Poisson is a _____ distribution
- 2. A dependent variable is also known as a _____ variable
- 3. If a process is not probabilistic, it is _____
- 6. Mean and median are measures of Central _____
- 8. Statisticians and pretty people do this
- 10. Fisher's tabular test

BE INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED!

Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program

The WSS Board of Directors has established a program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

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

1. Your name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to, John Finamore (jfinamore@nsf.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Washington Statistical Society - DC/AAPOR Joint Happy Hour at FedCASIC!

Join your colleagues for happy hour during FedCASIC. The Washington Statistical Society and DC-AAPOR invite you to **201 Bar** from 4:45 – 6:30 on Wednesday March 18th. The **201 Bar** is located at 201 Massachusetts Ave N.E., within walking distance of the FedCASIC conference being held at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Happy hour will be held in the “State Room”: <http://www.201bar.com/gallery.html>). Participants of FedCASIC, students, and members (and non-members) of WSS and DC-AAPOR are all welcome to attend. Stop by to socialize with friends and while you’re at it, find out more about the activities and opportunities within WSS and DC-AAPOR!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Ernst and Young

Ernst and Young's Quantitative Economics and Statistics practice (QUEST) invites new and recent undergraduates to join our Washington, DC team. QUEST provides quantitative advisory services based on applied economics and statistics. These services include tax policy analysis, economic and fiscal impact modeling, statistical sampling, and survey methodology and analysis. Successful candidates will have a bachelor's degree in economics, mathematics, statistics, and/or other quantitative disciplines. Other qualifications include excellent analytical and communication skills, course work in economics, statistics, or related areas, a high level of academic performance, computer skills (including experience with statistical programming software and database management), ability to balance multiple tasks in a team environment, and relevant work experience. To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and unofficial transcript to Meaghan Maher at meaghan.maher@ey.com.

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Mike Fleming	(703) 631-5869	cfleming0@cox.net
Barry Nussbaum	(202) 566-1493	nussbaum.barry@epa.gov
Eduardo Rodela	(301) 564-7586	rodela.eduardo@epa.gov

Data Collection Methods

Jonathon Mendelson	(571) 858-3753	jmendelson@forsmarshgroup.com
Chris Blakely	(301) 763-1722	clisztian@gmail.com

Defense and National Security

Wendy Martinez	(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
----------------	----------------	-----------------------

Economic

Linette Lanclos	(202) 720-2641	Linette399@yahoo.com
-----------------	----------------	----------------------

Human Rights

Michael P. Cohen	(202) 232-4651	mpcohen@juno.com
------------------	----------------	------------------

Methodology Program Chair

Mike Fleming	(703) 631-5869	cfleming0@cox.net
--------------	----------------	-------------------

Public Health and Biostatistics

Grant Izmirlian	(301) 496-7519	izmirlian@nih.gov
Carolyn Carroll	(202) 320-8709	carolyn@stattech.com

Public Policy

Michael L. Cohen	(202) 334-3765	mcohen@nas.edu
Jennifer Park	(202) 395-9046	Jennifer_E_Park@omb.eop.gov

Quality Assurance

Amrut Champaneri	(202) 366-5998	amrut.champaneri@dot.gov
Alan Jeeves	(202) 366-4194	alan.jeeves@dot.gov

Social and Demographic Statistics

Judy Droitcour	(202) 512-9145	droitcourj@gao.gov
Promod Chandhok	(202) 366-2158	promod.chandhok@dot.gov

Statistical Computing

Charlie Hallahan	(202) 694-5051	hallahan@ers.usda.gov
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Student Representative

Tim Allen		Timothy.allen@udc.edu
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WSS Member Spotlight

John Finamore		jfinamor@nsf.gov
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sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov

Electronic Mail Committee

S.V. (Vince) Massimini (703) 983-5893

svm@mitre.org

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John Eltinge (202) 691-7404

Eltinge.John@bls.gov

J. Michael Brick (301) 294-2004

MikeBrick@westat.com

Jonaki Bose (240) 276-1257

Jonaki.Bose@samhsa.hhs.gov

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Keith Rust (301) 251-8278

keithrust@westat.com

Nancy Bates (301) 763-5248

nancy.a.bates@census.gov

Diane Herz (202) 250-3529

dherz@mathematica-mpr.com

Karol Krotki (202) 728-2485

kkrotki@rti.org

Marcus Berzofsky (919) 316-3752

berzofsky@rti.org

Phillip Kott (301) 468-8281

pkott@rti.org

Hansen Lecture Committee

Garry Graubard

graubard@exchange.nih.gov

Don Malec (301) 458-4031

dmalec@cdc.gov

John Czajka (202) 484-4685

jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com

Eric Slud

eric.v.slud@census.gov

Mark Harris (703) 877-8000 (ext. 100)

mark_harris@nass.usda.gov

Keith Rust (301) 251-8278

keithrust@westat.com

Herriot Award Committee

Jill Montaquila (301) 517-4046

jillmontaquila@westat.com

John Dixon (202) 691-7516

dixon.john@bls.gov

Fritz Scheuren (202) 974-7846

scheuren@aol.com

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John Czajka (202) 484-4685

jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com

John Dixon (202) 691-7516

dixon_j@bls.gov

Timothy Kennel (301) 763-6795

timothy.l.kennel@census.gov

Adam Safir (202) 691-5175

safir.adam@bls.gov

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scheuren@aol.com

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Steven Paben	(202) 691-6147	paben.steven@bls.gov
Paul Bugg		paul_bugg@omb.eop.gov
Connie Citro		ccitro@nas.edu
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Dennis Fixler		dennis.fixler@bea.gov
Michael Horrigan		horrigan.michael@bls.gov
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Thomas Mesenbourg		thomas.l.mesenbourg.jr@census.gov
John Ruser		ruser.john@bls.gov
Brian Bucks		brian.bucks@cfpb.gov

Social Arrangements Committee

Frank Yoon	(202) 554-7518	FYoon@mathematica-mpr.com
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WSS Committee on ASA Fellows

Polly Phipps	(202) 691-7513	Phipps.polly@bls.gov
Cynthia Clark	(202) 720-2707	cynthia_clark@nass.usda.gov
Debbie Griffin	(301) 763-2855	Deborah.h.griffin@census.gov

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **March, 2014** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **15th** of **preceding month**.

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

The authors are responsible for verifying the contents of their submissions. Submissions requiring extensive revisions on length and/or contents will be returned.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format will be returned.

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