



The Washington Statistical Society

SINCE 1926

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IN REMEMBRANCE

The Washington Statistical Society Remembers Carol Joyce Blumberg

Carol Joyce Blumberg passed away on December 16, 2023 the weekend. Carol was very involved in the Washington Statistical Society (WSS), especially the Quantitative Literacy effort, including the poster contest. She organized the American Statistical Association (ASA)/WSS display at the [USA Science and Engineering Festival](#) for years volunteering for the ASA and helping Rebecca Nichols (K-16 Education Coordinator). She organized the WSS statistics education committee and presented some of the most well-attended seminars for K-12 statistics teachers and students.



Carol was deeply involved with statistics education (including the ASA Section on Statistics and Data Science Education and the International Association for Statistical Education) over many years. We had the privilege of working with Carol on several projects and appreciate her extensive contributions to the WSS, statistics education, and the ASA.

Our sincere condolences to all her friends and colleagues. She will be greatly missed. Carol's [obituary](#) can be found here. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the ASA at <https://secure.ggiv.com/for/amestaass>. You can dedicate your donation in honor of her on the form and it will put her name on the [ASA tribute wall](#).

The Washington Statistical Society Remembers Barbara A. Bailar

Barbara Bailar passed away on June 13, 2023, at her home. She called Houston Texas her home since moving there during the pandemic to be near family. Barbara was raised in upstate New York and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the State University of New York at Albany. Barbara earned her graduate degrees in statistics from Virginia Tech University (MS) and American University (PhD).



From 1958 to 1987, Barbara spent nearly 29 years of her career at the US Census Bureau (CB). During her time at CB, Barbara rose through the ranks to become Associate Director for Statistical Standards and Methodology and was instrumental in launching a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing capability—a relatively new mode of data collection at the time. Barbara also established survey methodology as a distinct discipline and organized the financial resources and institutional backing to develop a cognitive-laboratory organizational unit. She defended the 1980 Decennial Census in federal court and led efforts to develop and test novel methods of census taking, aimed towards reducing differential undercounts in future censuses. Barbara founded the CB's annual research conference in the mid-1980s, a forerunner of today's FCSM Research and Policy Conference. She was an executive with NORC at the University of Chicago from 1995 to 2001.

Barbara researched nonsampling errors in social surveys and censuses. She designed and analyzed special studies to measure the correlated component of response variance brought by interviewer effects. Her work on rotation group bias and an error profile for the Current Population Survey is well known.

Barbara was a prominent statistician. She was the 82nd president of the American Statistical Association (ASA) in 1987, president of the International Association of Survey Statistician in 1989-1991, and vice president of the International Statistical Institute in 1993-1995. She served as Executive Director of the ASA for seven years in the late 1980s and early 1990's. She was active in the Washington Statistical Society throughout her career. Barbara was a Fellow of the ASA and an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institute.

Barbara was married to John C. Bailar III (deceased), a prominent biomedical statistician who was founding chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Chicago. She is survived by two daughters, Pamela Monaco (Ocean County College) and Melissa Bailar (Rice University), and one grandchild.

I had the distinct honor and great pleasure of working with Barbara for 20 years.

~ From the Washington Statistical Society Board, sharing on behalf of Kirk Wolter.

The WSS Remembers Katherine Wallman

Katherine Wallman, a long-time member of the Washington Statistical Society (WSS), passed away on January 17, 2024, at age 80. Katherine's impact and contributions to the federal statistical system, the statistics profession, and the Washington statistical community cannot be understated. Katherine was elected a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) in 1983 and was a WSS member who served as President of the ASA. Over the years, she served on several committees for the WSS, won the Julius Shiskin Award for strengthening the independence of U.S. statistical agencies; expanding confidentiality protection; improving the quality and usability of official statistics; increasing collaboration among the statistical agencies; and improving the reliability and comparability of official statistics throughout the world, and was an invited speaker to the WSS for the President's Invited Address as well as the Annual Morris Hansen Lecture, giving talks on the role of communication in improving federal statistics and data privacy and confidentiality. The WSS has had the privilege of working and interacting with Katherine and appreciates her extensive contributions to the WSS.



A celebration of the life of Katherine Wallman was held on Monday March 4th at 11am, at the St. John's Episcopal Church (6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101).

Please note that this is intended to be more a celebration of her life than a funeral. Gifts in Katherine's memory may be made to the Elizabeth Wallman '90 Global Education Fund at Holton-Arms School to benefit global experiences opportunities available to all Upper School students. In her own words, "I hope that every young woman will benefit from the lens that participation will afford."

2023 HOLIDAY PARTY RECAP

A Message from the President

On behalf of the Social Arrangements Committee and the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Board, we'd like to thank all the members and friends of WSS who attended the holiday party held on December 6, 2023, at the District Chophouse. We had over 40 members and friends attend, and it was great to get together to celebrate the holidays, socialize, and network. A huge thank you to the Social Arrangements Committee – Maura Bardos, Leanna Moron, and Jessica Hoehner – for all their efforts in organizing the festive and successful event. Be on the lookout this spring and summer for more in-person events and opportunities to volunteer, socialize, and network with the Washington Metro Area statistical and data science communities! So be on the lookout for more information in the coming months about the President's Invite Talk, Gertrude Cox Lecture, Annual Dinner, and opportunities to judge area Science Fairs and Poster Competitions! Check out some of the pictures from the 2023 Holiday Party below (Photo Credits: Aaron Gilary and Liz Mannshardt)!





A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!



Join us in 2025!

CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNERS!

Dennis Fixler Receives 2023 Shiskin Award

- **Dennis Fixler**, Chief Economist at the Bureau of Economic Analysis, is recognized for his innovative contributions to the conceptual framework and practical methodology for the measurement of financial intermediation services in the national accounts and the producer price index and of insurance services in the national accounts. The award recognizes unusually original and important contributions to the development of economic statistics or to their use in interpreting the economy.
- Dr. Fixler began his career in Federal statistics as a research economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, where he served as chief of the Division of Price and Index Number Research. While at BLS he drew on the theory of the user-cost of money to develop concepts and techniques for measuring the prices and output of financial intermediation services, which enabled BLS to expand the coverage of services in the producer price index.
- Dr. Fixler has occupied the positions of Chief Statistician or Chief Economist at the Bureau of Economic Analysis since 2001. After arriving at BEA, he led the implementation of new measures of financial intermediation services that incorporated insights from his research in the national accounts and developed and led the implementation of an improved approach to measuring the output of property-casualty insurers that can be relied on to produce accurate estimates even at times of major disasters. The methods for estimating the output of property-casualty developed as part of implementing this approach have been adopted internationally.
- Dr. Fixler also led the development of inequality indicators that show how personal income from the national accounts is distributed across households and help to reveal whether the benefits of economic growth are widely shared.
- The award recognizes unusually original and important contributions to the development of economic statistics or to their use in interpreting the economy.
- Dr. Fixler becomes the 53rd recipient of the Award. The award is sponsored by the Business and Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Washington Statistical Society.
- For more information, access the [final press release \(PDF\)](#)



Who was Julius Shiskin?

- Because the program was initiated many years ago, it is little wonder that statisticians and economists often ask, "Who was Julius Shiskin?"
- At the time of his death in 1978, "Julie" was the Commissioner of 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 the 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 the Office of Management and Budget 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.

• **Previous Recipients of the Julius Shiskin Award for Economic**

- **2022 - Robert Feenstra**, Distinguished Professor at the University of California, Davis, for his conduct of fundamental research on price index measurement in the presence of product turnover, his pioneering work in advocating for the use of scanner data for improved economics measurement, and his major contributions to our understanding of the evolution of living standards worldwide through the creation and dissemination of the next generation of the Penn World Tables. and **Charles Hulten**, Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland, College Park, for his insights into the measurement of capital and productivity, including measurement of economic depreciation, development of a methodology for aggregating industry-level productivity, and measurement of investment in intangible capital, as well as his leadership role in chairing the Committee on Research on Income and Wealth (part of the National Bureau of Economic Research -- NBER) for three decades. [Press Release \(PDF\)](#)
- **2021 - Marshall Reinsdorf**, for his conduct of fundamental research on sources of bias in the consumer price index (CPI) that has influenced standards for price index measures internationally and for improving the accuracy and conceptual basis for the measurement of banking services and pensions in the U.S. national accounts, and **Ron Jarmin**, for his leadership role at the U.S. Bureau of the Census in overseeing the 2020 Decennial Census and the central role he has played in building important new data products from administrative data and developing a compelling vision for the future of economic measurement within the Federal statistical system. [Press release \(PDF\)](#)
- **2020 - Ernst R. Berndt, Louis E. Seley Professor in Applied Economics, Emeritus, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, for conducting original and influential economic research on the measurement of multifactor productivity and quality-adjusted price change and for his leadership of key groups both within and with linkages to the U.S. economic statistics community. [Press release \(PDF\)](#)
- **2019 - Award not made**
- **2018 - Dr. Barry Bosworth** for conducting research using key federal government statistical programs to study topics such as capital formation, saving, and productivity

growth, and for advising the statistical agencies to improve these programs, and **Professor Danny Pfeffermann** for collaborating with statistical agencies around the world to improve several major programs such as time series small area estimation, estimation of mean square error of seasonally adjusted and trend estimators, and modeling of complex survey data, accounting for informative sampling and nonresponse. [Press release \(PDF\)](#)

- **2017 - Katherine Wallman, formerly U.S. Chief Statistician at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)**, for strengthening the independence of U.S. statistical agencies; expanding confidentiality protection; improving the quality and usability of official statistics; increasing collaboration among the statistical agencies; and improving the reliability and comparability of official statistics throughout the world. [Press release \(PDF\)](#)
- **2016 - John M. Abowd, Edmund Ezra Day Professor at Cornell University and currently Associate Director at the U. S. Census Bureau**, for designing and implementing disclosure avoidance techniques that enable federal statistical agencies to greatly expand the availability of their data while preserving respondents' confidentiality and for his leadership at Cornell providing access to these data over the Internet. He is also recognized for developing econometric and statistical techniques to conduct labor market analysis. [Press release \(PDF\)](#)
- **2015 - Brent Moulton, former Associate Director for National Economic Accounts of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)**, for his leadership in implementing major innovations into the U.S. national accounts, international standards for national accounts, and expanded integration of U.S. statistical programs. He is also recognized for his work at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in developing innovations that improved the reliability of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). [Press release \(PDF\)](#)
- **2014 - Julia Ingrid Lane, Senior Managing Economist and Institute Fellow at the American Institutes for Research**, for her contributions to the development of a new Census Bureau program that has significantly advanced research on employment dynamics.

Washington Statistical Society Student Travel Competition 2024 Winner

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) is pleased to announce that **Pratima Thami** is the winner of the 2024 WSS Student Travel Competition. Pratima is an MPH student at the Biostatistics Department, Milken Institute of Public Health, George Washington University (GWU), with outstanding academic, research, internship, and extracurricular experience. **Congratulations, Pratima!**

Every year, the WSS offers travel support to one student attending a statistics or related disciplines program at a school local to the DC-MD-VA-area. As part of the application, students submit an essay describing their interest in statistics, including projects, internships and/or assistantships, and other activities to help improve the field of statistics, such as teaching, mentoring, advising, collaborating, and service, and interest in attending and presenting at an American Statistical Association (ASA) meeting or conference. The support includes \$800 plus early-bird student conference registration to one ASA meeting or conference during the year of the award, a one-year student membership to the ASA, and a one-year student membership to the WSS.



This year, Pratima's application was among several strong applications, and it was a close decision. Her main research interest is in violence prevention and gender equality promotion and was developed because of her personal experience and love for mathematics. As a participant in the Oxford's Map the System Competition, she conducted qualitative research on Intimate Partner Violence in Nepal. In addition, as a Research Assistant in the COVID and Gender Project, she collects and analyzes data to contributing valuable insights into gendered impacts of COVID-19 in the Arctic. As a committee member of the U.S. Little Sisters Fund, Pratima advises and mentors first-generation Nepali female students studying in the U.S. She also supports women and girls pursuing careers in mathematics via tutoring, mentoring, and advising through the GWU Association for Women in Mathematics. Pratima plans to attend the 2024 Joint Statistical Meetings.

The WSS congratulates Pratima Thami on her hard work and dedication to the profession. We look forward to meeting her at future professional events and to reading her essay about her

experience at the meeting/conference supported by the WSS student travel support to be published in an upcoming WSS Newsletter.

Stay tuned for the 2025 WSS student travel competition announcement to be published on the WSS webpage in the fall of 2024!

Congratulations to the 2024 winner, best wishes to all the 2024 applicants, and good luck to the future applicants! You can be next!

~ Andreea L. Erciulescu, PhD

~ Associate Vice President, Statistics and Data Science, Westat

~ Student Travel Competition Committee Chair, ASA Washington Statistical Society

NOMINATE THE NEXT AWARD WINNERS!

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

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

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

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

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

Nominations for the 2024 Award are now being accepted. The nomination form and guidelines are available from the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section websites (see <http://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/home>)

NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY May 15, 2024, and the Award Committee will determine the award winner by end of June. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium, a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors.

The nomination package must be mailed or emailed **no later than May 15, 2024**, to:

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

Email: rick@amstat.org

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org or (703) 684-1221, or the chair of the Award Committee: **Raji Sundaram** at sundaramr2@mail.nih.gov.

Previous recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

- 2004 - Beth A Kilss (Internal Revenue Service)
- 2005 - Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration)
- 2006 - Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2007 - Stephanie Shipp (National Institute for Standards and Technology)
- 2008 - Rosemary Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis)
- 2009 - Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service) and Lillian Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- 2010 - Deborah H. Griffin (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2011 - Jenise L. Swall (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)
- 2012 - William P. Mockovak (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- 2013 - Brian Harris-Kojetin (Office of Management and Budget)
- 2014 - J. Gregory Robinson (U.S. Census Bureau) and Kenneth C. Schoendorf (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 2015 - Aldo "Skip" Vecchia (U.S. Geological Survey)
- 2016 - Diane K. Willimack (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2017 - Cynthia Ogden (National Center for Health Statistics)
- 2018 - Howard Hogan (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2018 - Carol Gotway Crawford (U.S. Government Accountability Office)
- 2019 - Sharon Boivin (National Center for Education Statistics)
- 2020 - Rajeshwari Sundaram (National Institutes of Health)
- 2021 - Carol V Caldwell (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 2022 - Barry Graubard and Monserrat Garcia-Closas (National Cancer Institute)

Sponsors of the Award

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

- American Educational Research Association
- American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)
- Government Statistics Section, ASA
- Interagency Council on Statistical Policy
- Research Triangle Institute (RTI)
- Social Statistics Section, ASA
- Washington Statistical Society, ASA
- Westat

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

Please contact Anna Nevius (nevius@comcast.net) if your organization would like to co-sponsor the award.

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 co-sponsored by the WSS, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association.

Nominating Procedure

Nominations for the 2024 award are now being accepted. A nomination form and guidelines in PDF format are available to download:

- [Nomination Form](#)
- [Guidelines](#)
- The completed nomination package should be submitted in either Word or PDF formats to the Shiskin Award committee via email to shiskinaward@gmail.com.
- [The 2024 Shiskin Award Committee](#) will select and notify the awardee, after which the awardee will be presented with an honorarium plus additional recognition from the sponsors.
- Nominations must be received by **April 19, 2024**.

WHO'S BEEN SPOTLIGHTED THIS MONTH?

Washington Statistical Society Member Spotlight

Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS

Meet WSS Member Stephen Cohen...

Stephen Cohen has been a Senior Fellow at NORC since 2014 after a 38 career with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the National Science Foundation's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) as Chief Statistician. At BLS Cohen held positions as the Chief of the Compensation Statistical Methods Group where he oversaw designs of BLS' compensation and occupational health surveys and as Director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center (MSRC) in the Office of Survey Methods Research (OSMR). As Director, Cohen coordinated research with the Census Bureau on the Current Population Survey and the Consumer Expenditure Survey. He also chaired the BLS Disclosure Review Board. At NCSES Cohen was confidentiality officer, responsible for oversight of the survey designs of both household and establishment surveys and validated all statistical releases for statistical integrity. At NORC Cohen was project director for several Jewish Community Surveys and worked with others to establish the NORC Disclosure Review Board along with developing numerous de-identification plans. Cohen is a fellow of the American Statistical Association and served as chair of both the Government and Survey Research Methods Sections.



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

I am a senior fellow with NORC, a nonprofit social science research organization. As a statistician I support NORC's program managers in fields such as health, justice, education, with sampling and complex weighting. I also support de-identification efforts across the company to de-identify released data, thereby minimizing the re-identification of individual's data.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

For most of my career I worked in survey methodology for the BLS and the NCSES. Once I retired, I was attracted to NORC to work on social science research and engage with researchers I met through professional societies. Working on a variety of data projects that NORC collects and analyzes was very attractive to me and made me excited to work for NORC. In the Federal sector although the work was varied it involved a fixed set of surveys. I have been with NORC for over nine years.

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

Skills I think the next generation of statistics professionals will need include data science, computing skills on a wide variety of software packages and excellent communication skills. I can't emphasize enough the need for statisticians to be able to communicate with people to understand their problems and to convey critical information so that non-statisticians can understand the issues. Communicating with clients gives you a unique perspective on the project.

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

I joined WSS at the beginning of my Federal Career for several reasons. It was important to me to learn what statisticians in other organizations are pursuing to stay current in a profession that continuously evolves. Keeping current with the latest techniques is critical. For example, de-identification techniques have moved beyond the traditional techniques of cell suppression, collapsing categories with the work done by computer scientists. We now have differential privacy techniques in their infancy as a new tool to minimize re-identifications. A second reason was to engage with other statistical professionals across the Washington DC metro area. There are many interesting and unique people that I have met over the years that exposed me to very stimulating conversations beyond work projects.

5. What was your first job?

My first job after college was Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. After two years I came to Washington DC to work on automotive safety regulations with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). While at NHTSA I met two giants in survey sampling: Morris Hansen and Joe Waksburg who had contracts with NHTSA related to development of a new data collection information system. Their work motivated me to apply for professional opportunities at BLS and the Census Bureau in survey methodology. Ultimately, I accepted a professional appointment at BLS.

6. Why did you join the statistics profession?

My decision to join the statistics profession is complicated. As an undergraduate I was interested in numerical analysis and statistics. I was fascinated by the space program and numerical analysis techniques that were necessary to solve complex problems that have no closed form solution. I decided to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in upstate New York for graduate studies based upon their faculty's interests in applied mathematics. A professor at RPI exposed me to corporate statistical problems that he worked on as a consultant. These problems were very complex but fascinating. His work piqued my interest in statistics.

7. What is the most interesting statistical project you have worked on recently?

I have worked on many diverse projects at NORC. An interesting statistical project I worked on was supporting a researcher surveying child labor on cocoa plantations in Africa. There is pressure on the major candy producers to eliminate child labor in farming cocoa, a practice which is currently extensive. NORC conducted the third survey on child labor in cocoa production. There were two challenges. The first challenge was determining how to draw a specification for a valid sample in a developing country with no household

identifiers that could be conducted exactly with multiple researchers. The second challenge was comparing these survey results with past work where there were differences in the survey methodologies as we could not precisely replicate the sampling plan of earlier work. The results of this project were widely published in US newspapers such as the Washington Post.

8. If you could have dinner with 3 people from history, who would they be?

The three historical figures I would like to have dinner with are: James Madison, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton who, along with others, drafted the US Constitution and the federalist papers. I would like to discuss with them how the current Supreme Court follows these principles of centralization of power versus states' rights. Do they believe the constitution is a living document that must be interpreted in the context of the day's world? The founding fathers would be amazed at the technology available today---e.g. automobiles and planes versus horses, AK-47 rifles versus simple bullet flint loading rifles.

9. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

I really like global cuisines and go to restaurants to experience dishes I wouldn't have the expertise to make, for example Peruvian or Ethiopian dishes. To name a single restaurant is hard because there are so many excellent food options in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. If pushed I would choose the Parkway Deli in Silver Spring, MD. I really like New York City delis such as Juniors on 7th Avenue near Times Square. The Parkway Deli is the local deli that comes closest to a NYC deli. They have sandwiches piled high with meats such as roast brisket, turkey pastrami, and a pickle bar with great half-sour pickles in an unpretentious environment like New York City delis.

10. How do you like to spend your free time away from work?

I enjoy spending time in nature and playing with my dog. Outside I relish working in my garden, hiking in the mountains and local parks, bike touring around the local countryside. Seeing the world from a hike in the mountains or a bicycle gives a unique perspective compared to an automobile. Spending time with my dog is a joy---dogs give so much more back to you than you deserve. I also like exploring new areas of the country and the world. My goal is to take one international and one domestic trip each year. Places that I have been to and still stick out in my mind are our western national parks, the Canadian Rockies, Paris, Costa Rica. I especially enjoyed Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain National Parks. I have several destinations on my to do list including Patagonia, New Zealand, and Southeast Asia.

11. What is your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment without question is raising two daughters who have gone on to have wonderful careers. Watching them grow up and mature is without question my greatest accomplishment and legacy.

12. What other information would you like to share?

When I was a graduate student and teaching at Clarkson University, I found interacting with and teaching students to be extremely rewarding. Throughout my professional career, I have treasured mentoring junior professionals and watching them grow professionally.

SPOTLIGHT THE NEXT...!

Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program

The WSS Board of Directors highlights 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, data science, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

We're seeking nominations for Spotlights, 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, Florrie O'Loughlin (tech@florriezo.com).

We look forward to hearing from you.

JOIN THE COMPETITION!



WSS ANNUAL DATA VISUALIZATION POSTER COMPETITION FOR K-12 STUDENTS



Entries **must** be submitted **online** by: **1 April 2024**

- ✓ Are you in grades K-12 in the Washington, D.C. metro area?
- ✓ Are you interested in answering questions about data and explaining your answers visually?
- ✓ Would you like to win a cash award?

Then enter the Washington Statistical Society (WSS)'s
Data Visualization Poster Competition!

What is a data visualization poster? A data visualization poster is a display containing two or more related graphics that summarize a set of data, look at the data from different points of view, and answer specific questions about the data. You tell the story of your data with graphs and tables.

Judging

Posters will be judged on the following criteria:

- ▶ **Overall Impact (Design)** – Poster design aspects, colors/patterns, grammar, spelling, dimensionality, readability, neatness
- ▶ **Technical Aspects (Statistical Correctness)** – Age-appropriate use of statistical methods, calculations, and interpretation
- ▶ **Clarity of the Message (Statistical Process)** – How well is a story told? Formulate and answer statistical questions that account for uncertainty. (Use [GAISE II](#) as a resource.)
- ▶ **Appropriateness** – Appropriate, original graphics for the data
- ▶ **Creativity!** – A unique statistical question, original dataset, or novel approach

The best posters answer an interesting statistical question using appropriate data. Although the explanatory text is important, posters with more than 25% text will be penalized—this is a *data visualization* competition!

Other Useful Information:

- ▶ Winners will be awarded among Grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12.
- ▶ Entry form, evaluation/judging criteria, rules for submission, and information about the national competition: <https://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

IMPORTANT NOTE: All the submission and judging will be online for 2024.

See the link above for important entry information.

- ▶ Go to <https://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2023/08/01/2023posterproject/> for the 2023 national winners. WSS winners will also have their submissions sent to the national ASA poster competition. National winners will receive up to another \$300 for first place!
- ▶ Questions? Contact Sabrina Zhang (SabrinaZhang@westat.com)

	Total Entries	Team Entries
1st Prize	\$125	Each teach member can divide the \$125 among themselves
2nd Prize	\$75	Each teach member can divide the \$75 among themselves
3rd Prize	\$50	Each teach member can divide the \$50 among themselves

All are encouraged to attend the WSS annual dinner to present their poster to a group of statisticians.

Tickets may be purchased later in spring.

YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF TO BE INVOLVED!

Open Volunteer Positions in the Washington Statistical Society

The WSS is the oldest and one of the largest chapters of the ASA and continues to be an extremely active and vibrant community of statisticians, data scientists, and social science researchers from the government, academia, and the private sector representing a spectrum of fields of study.

The WSS offers opportunities to learn through technical seminars and workshops, to continue statistical education, to socialize through networking events, and to engage in service of the profession by motivating, developing, and mentoring the next generation of statisticians. The WSS would not be able to accomplish its purposes of fostering statistical science and statistical research, promoting unity among the statistics profession, and representing the interests of the statistics profession without the many volunteers who serve on its Board and other Committees.

The Committees of the WSS support a variety of functions ranging from communications, social activities, mentoring, quantitative literacy, and rewarding outstanding statistical work and contributions to the profession. The WSS has several ways you can support this vibrant community of statistical professionals – helping with web design, communications, and social media, arranging social events, mentoring the next generation of statisticians, representing the WSS at local statistical events in the Washington DC area, and so many more! So, consider volunteering today! For more information contact Jeffrey Gonzalez at (Gonzalez.Jeffrey@bls.gov) or check out the opportunities below.

Elected Positions

Elections for open board positions in WSS will occur this spring. Past President Erin Tanenbaum (Erin.Tanenbaum@ed.gov) is gathering names of candidates now. The positions for which nominations are needed are President-Elect, Treasurer, Communications Officer, Representative-at-Large (2), and Methodology Program Chair. For the 2024 election, nominees for the President-Elect position will be accepted from the government sector. Please don't be shy about nominating yourself if you are interested!

Program Chairs

The WSS Methodology Program and Section Chairs work together to organize seminars, panels, and courses. Consider helping organize or host a statistical event today! For more information contact Katherine Irimata (oui4@cdc.gov) or Qing Pan (qpan@gwu.edu).

Historian

The WSS is seeking an individual (or individuals) to update its history! The WSS Historian is responsible for maintaining and updating the Society's historical files including, but not restricted to, copies of the programs from the Morris Hansen lecture and annual dinner, newsletters, list of WSS members elected as ASA fellows, lists of all elected officers and of appointees to all Board positions, lists of WSS volunteers at various events (e.g., Science Fairs,

poster and project competitions), lists of representatives to other organizations, and lists of winners of awards. Check out the most recent WSS historical update [here](#).

Diversity Committee

The WSS is seeking an individual to lead its Diversity Committee! The WSS Diversity Committee, formed in 2018, is responsible for ensuring the WSS is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive environment that embraces all members of the WSS Community.

Call for Volunteers: DMV Science and Engineering Fairs

WSS is seeking enthusiastic Science Fair Judges for the 2024 DMV area Science and Engineering fairs for Saturday, March 2nd and 16th, and Saturday, April 6th. Judges play a critical role in the success of these events by providing constructive feedback and awarding student pursuit in statistical literacy and scientific thinking. We hope you consider volunteering this season.

Details:

- Fairs will be held in-person around the DMV at:
 - o Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair, March 16th (Robinson Secondary School)
 - o Montgomery County Science Fair, April 6th (FDA White Oak Campus)
 - o Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair, March 2nd (Wakefield High School)
 - o Prince George's Area Science Fair, March 16th (Charles Herbert Flowers High School)
- Volunteer Judges commit between 2-4 hours on the day of the event (generally morning hours) to evaluate and score student projects across multiple disciplines (math, physics, biomedical engineering, computer science, etc.)
- Volunteer Judges may choose to participate in multiple fairs (that do not coincide)

If you can serve as a Science Fair Judge or need more information, contact Denisse Olarte at olarte.denisse@gmail.com by February 28th. Please indicate the event(s) you are interested in.

CALL FOR PAPERS



Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

Call for Abstracts
Deadline: April 8, 2024

2024 FCSM Research and Policy Conference

October 22 – 24, 2024
College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
3501 University Blvd E, Hyattsville, MD 20783

The 2024 FCSM Research and Policy Conference provides a forum for experts and practitioners from around the world to discuss and exchange current methodological knowledge and policy insights about topics of current and critical importance to federal agencies.

We seek abstracts that address advances in credible and accurate survey and statistical methodologies from both research and policy perspectives. Submissions may address but are not limited to the following topics of importance to the Federal Statistical System:

- Applied statistics
- Bayesian methods
- Data collection
- Data dissemination
- Data linkage
- Data processing
- Data quality
- Data science
- Establishment surveys
- Estimation and inference
- Privacy and disclosure control
- Questionnaire design
- Statistical computing
- Survey sampling and weighting

Policy Submissions: Abstracts should discuss a statistical policy topic and discuss the implications or impacts observed thus far and may raise questions or issues without having a definitive answer.

Research Submissions: Abstracts should present research studies and findings related to the topics listed above. Submissions should not simply describe a data collection program or have limited application to topics relevant to the Federal Statistical System.

Organized Session Submissions: An organized session submission must include at least four (4) papers and a named chair. A discussant may also be listed. Priority will be given to sessions representing speakers from multiple agencies or that highlight both research and policy issues.

Instructions: Submission instructions can be found at <https://fcsconf.org/>

Questions:

- For conference information, or to be included on the mailing list, contact Paul Schroeder at fcsm@copafs.org
- For questions on abstract submissions or the program, contact the Program Chair, Jeffrey Gonzalez at gonzalez.jeffrey@bls.gov

WHY NOT TAKE A COURSE?

Upcoming Virtual Short Course: Deep Learning Models with Applications

Instructor: Fang Jin, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, George Washington University

Dates: April 29 - May 1st, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 1PM - 3PM

Abstract: This course will introduce deep learning models with applications to a broad range of topics in computer vision, specially focus on image classification, natural language processing, and sequence data prediction. We will introduce the architecture of deep neural networks and algorithms. Besides the theoretical foundation of neural networks, students also get hands-on experience building deep neural network models with Python. We will demo how to use PyTorch to develop neural networks from scratch. Students will learn how to build some classic deep neural networks, such as convolutional neural network (CNN), recurrent neural network (RNN), and Natural Language Processing.

To register for the course click the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/introduction-to-deep-learning-tickets-856119014017>

For more information please contact Katherine Irimata (oui4@cdc.gov) or Qing Pan (qpan@gwu.edu).

WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, COMMITTEES

Last updated on 3/2024.

WSS Board of Directors / Officers¹

Office	Name	Term	E-mail
President	Jeff Gonzalez	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Gonzalez.Jeffrey (bls.gov)
President-Elect	Jonathan Auerbach	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Jauerba (gmu.edu)
Secretary	Dan Liao	7/1/23- 6/30/25	DLiao (rti.org)
Treasurer	Amy Lin	7/1/20- 6/30/24	AmyLin (westat.com)
Communications Chair (interim)	Cha-Chi Fan	2/1/23- 6/30/24	Chachi.fan (dot.gov)
Methodology Section Chair	Qing Pan	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Qpan (gwu.edu)
Representative-at-Large	Bev Pratt	7/1/22- 6/30/24	Beverly.M.Pratt2 (omb.eop.gov)
Representative-at-Large	Sabrina Zhang	7/1/22- 6/30/24	sabrinazhang (westat.com)
Representative-at-Large	Maura Bardos	7/1/23- 6/30/25	Maura.bardos (gmail.com)
Representative-at-Large	Aaron Gilary	7/1/23- 6/30/25	aaron.j.gilary (census.gov)

Additional Voting Members

Office	Name	Term	E-mail
Past President	Erin Tanenbaum	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Erin.Tanenbaum (ed.gov)
Council of Chapters Representative	Taylor Lewis	1/1/22- 12/31/24	thlewis (rti.org)

¹ Note: all WSS Board of Directors/Officers are also voting members

Programs (non-voting members)

Program	Chair		E-mail
Methodology Program, Chair ²	Katherine Irimata	7/1/23-6/30/24	Oui4 (cdc.gov)
Program Coordinators			
Short Courses	Danny Yang	7/1/23-6/30/24	Yang.Daniel (bls.gov)
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Open		
Data Collection Methods	Open		
Defense and National Security	Wendy Martinez	7/1/23-6/30/24	martinezw (verizon.net)
Economics	Michael Jadoo	7/1/23-6/30/24	Jadoo.Michael (bls.gov)
Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen	7/1/23-6/30/24	mpcohen (juno.com)
Public Health and Biostatistics (Co-Chairs)	Grant Izmirlian	7/1/23-6/30/24	izmirlian (nih.gov)
	Carolyn Carroll	7/1/23-6/30/24	carolyn (stattech.com)
Public Policy	Walter Hill	7/1/23-6/30/24	WWHill (smcm.edu)
Data Science	Chris Marokov	7/1/23-6/30/24	Chris.Marokov (uspto.gov)
Quality Assurance	Open		
Social and Demographic Statistics	Open		

² Methodology Section Chair-Elect

Committees (non-voting members)

Committee	Member		E-mail
Communications Committee, Chair	see Board of Directors		
Web Master	Chris Moriarity	7/1/23- 6/30/24	cdm7 (cdc.gov)
WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi	7/1/23- 6/30/24	wss.editor (gmail.com)
Spotlight	Florrie O'Loughlin	7/1/23- 6/30/24	tech@florriezo.com
Employment Column Coordinator	Open		
Electronic Mail Committee	Vince Massimini	7/1/23- 6/30/24	vince (massimini.us)
Social Media Manager	Phil Kalina	7/1/23- 6/30/24	phil (philkalina.com)
Meetup Communications	Mike Jadoo	7/1/23- 6/30/24	datamike8 (gmail.com)
Social Arrangements Committee	Leanna Moron	7/1/23- 6/30/24	leannaxmoron (gmail.com)
	Maura Bardos	7/1/23- 6/30/24	maura.bardos (gmail.com)
	Jessica Hoehner	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Jessmhoehner (gmail.com)
Student Representative Chair	Open		
Student Representative	Open		
Quantitative Literacy Committee, Chair	Sabrina Zhang	7/1/23- 6/30/24	SabrinaZhang (westat.com)
QL Poster Competition	Open		
QL Volunteer Coordinator	Dan Sherman	7/1/23- 6/30/24	ratitekeeper (yahoo.com)
QL Science Fair Coordinator	Jiashen You	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Jiashen.You (gmail.com)
Statistics Education Committee (inactive), Chair	Open		
Mentoring Committee, Chair	Amy Lin	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Amylin (westat.com)
Committee Members	Benmei Liu	7/1/23- 6/30/24	liub2 (mail.nih.gov)
	Mark Otto	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Mark.Ot2o (gmail.com)
	Jaki McCarthy	7/1/23- 6/30/24	Jaki.don (gmail.com)
	Michael Messner	7/1/23- 6/30/24	mjaymessner (gmail.com)

	Amanda Koepke	7/1/23-6/30/24	amanda.koepke (nist.gov)
Diversity Committee, Chair	open		
Committee Member	Darryl Creel	7/1/23-6/30/24	dcreel (rti.org)
Membership Committee, Chair	John Czajka	7/1/23-6/30/24	JohnLCzajka (gmail.com)
WSS/SRMS Committee on ASA Fellows, Chair	Tom Krenzke	7/1/23-6/30/24	tomkrenzke (westat.com)
Committee Members	Jill Dever	7/1/23-6/30/24	jdever (rti.org)
	Jennifer Parker	7/1/23-6/30/24	jdp3 (cdc.gov)
	Stephanie Shipp	7/1/23-6/30/24	sss5sc (virginia.edu)
Committee Member (President-Elect)	See Board of Directors	See Board of Directors	
Financial Audit Committee	Chris Moriarity	7/1/23-6/30/24	cdm7 (cdc.gov)
	Michael P. Cohen	7/1/23-6/30/24	mpcohen (juno.com)
Historical Committee, Chair	Open		

Award Committees (non-voting members)

Award Committee	Member		E-mail
Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee	Raji Sundaram	7/1/23-6/30/24	sundaramr2 (mail.nih.gov)
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	7/1/23-6/30/24	Sloboda.brian.w (dol.gov)
WSS' Gertrude Cox Award Committee, Chair (RTI)	Marcus Berzofsky	7/1/23-6/30/24	berzofsky (rti.org)
RTI Committee Members	Darryl Creel	7/1/23-6/30/24	dcreel (rti.org)
	Phillip Kott	7/1/23-6/30/24	pkott (rti.org)
Committee Members	President		See Board of Directors
	Past President		See Board of Directors
	President-Elect		See Board of Directors
Hansen Lecture Committee, Chair	Carolina Franco	2024	Franco-Carolina (norc.org)
Past Chair	Jenny Thompson	2024	katherine.j.thompson (census.gov)
Committee Member, Chair Elect	William Bell	2024	William.r.bell (census.gov)
Committee Member, Chair Elect On-Deck	Jonathan Auerbach	2024	Jauerba (gmu.edu)
NASS Committee Member	Linda Young	2024	Linda.Young (nass.usda.gov)
Westat Committee Member	Jeri Mulrow	2024	JeriMulrow (westat.com)
Herriot Award Committee (GSS)	a committee comprising representatives of the ASA Social Statistics and Government Statistics sections and the Washington Statistical Society		
WSS Representative	Devi Chelluri	1/1/23-12/31/25	Chelluri-Devi (norc.org)
Shiskin Award Committee	See the ASA website for a full list of committee members and terms		
Committee Members	President	2023	See Board of Directors
	Past-President	2023	See Board of Directors
Student Travel Award	Andreea Erciulescu	7/1/23-6/30/24	AndreeaErciulescu (westat.com)

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com or mark.ot2o@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. Announcements with track changes will not be accepted.

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

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS IN PDF OR IN THE BODY OF AN EMAIL.