WSS NEWS
WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."
Benjamin Franklin

Later this spring, the WSS will hold its annual election for several important positions on the Board of Directors. If you want to learn more about the activities of WSS, then you should consider running for office – it's the perfect way to serve the membership, hone your leadership skills, and network and socialize with colleagues!

For the 2015 elections the open positions include:

President-Elect (at least two nominees)

- for July 2015 to June 2016
- to serve as President July 2016 to June 2017 and Past-President July 2017 to June 2018

Secretary (at least one nominee)

- for July 2015 to June 2017

Two Representatives-at-Large (at least four nominees)

- for July 2015 to June 2017

Methodology Program Chair (at least two nominees)

- for July 2015 to June 2016
- to serve as Methodology Section Chair July 2016 to June 2017

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. *For the 2015 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the non-government sector*. For any other position, nominations may come from either the government or non-government sectors.

For all of the positions listed above, we heartily welcome nominations from any member of the Washington Statistical Society (self-nominations encouraged as well).

Please e-mail your nominations to Past-President Nancy Bates (nancy.a.bates@census.gov) by March 1, 2015.

Continuing Board members for 2015-16 will be:

- President: Chris Moriarty, CDC
- Past-President: Diane Herz, Mathematica
- Treasurer: Jill Dever, RTI
- At-large: Kennon Copeland, NORC, and Thomas Krenzke, Westat
- Methodology Section Chair: Donsig Jang, Mathematica
- Council of Chapters Representative (until December 31, 2015), Eileen O'Brien, EIA

Duties of board members can be found in the WSS handbook at:
http://www.washstat.org/documents/WSSHandbookv5.pdf

WHAT'S NEW WITH WSS?

Statistical Poster Competition

The Washington Statistical Society, in collaboration with The American Statistical Association runs a Statistical Poster Competition for school children in grades K-12 in the Washington DC metro area. This is part of the Poster competition run by ASA with the WSS judging and awarding prizes to local children. There are four age groups and children may work singly or in small groups under the supervision of a teacher or guide.

Winning entries of the WSS competition are automatically advanced to the second round of the national competition where they may win addition prizes and recognition. Local area winners and their guides/teachers are invited to attend the WSS annual dinner as guests to receive their prizes.

Our aim is to encourage a new generation of children to explore the exciting world of math and statistics. The deadline for entries is **April 1 2015**. For additional information or questions please contact Barnali Das (barnalidas@westat.com).

See next page for more information about the competition.

ANNUAL POSTER COMPETITION FOR K-12 STUDENTS

Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: April 1, 2015.

Call for Entries

The *American Statistical Association* (ASA) has an annual poster competition for students in Grades K-12, with separate winners in Grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The aim is to increase statistical awareness and understanding via a statistical poster 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 in a coherent manner.

The *Washington Statistical Society* (WSS), a chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA), is awarding prizes for the competition in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Winners of this local competition will then be entered into the national competition.

Objectives

Enhance students' understanding of:

► the use of statistics in the real world
► how statistics are used to analyze information
► the importance of graphical displays
► how to prepare a coherent poster presentation

Entry Rules & Guidelines

This local competition follows the rules and evaluation process for the national competition at:

http://www.amstat.org/education/posterprojects/index.cfm.

The deadline for submission of entries is April 1 of each year. Note: Although the forms and posters are sent to the ASA national office, they will be judged separately from the posters from other regions.

Further questions can be directed to Barnali Das at (301) 279-4593 or barnalidas@westat.com.

Eligibility

► Grades K-12
► Residence in the Washington DC metropolitan area

Evaluation

► **Overall impact** – Eye-catching appeal, visual attractiveness, and ability to draw the viewer to investigate the individual graphs
► **Clarity** – Demonstration of important relationships and patterns in a clear and coherent manner
► **Appropriateness** – Appropriate graphics for the data
► **Creativity!**

Prizes & Awards

WSS Poster Competition winners will be awarded as follows:

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

1st Prize:	$100
2nd Prize & 3rd Prize:	$50

TEAM ENTRIES

1st Prize: $50 for each team member, up to a maximum of $200.

2nd Prize & 3rd Prize: $25 for each team member, up to a maximum of $100

Winners and their teachers/academic supervisors will also be invited to attend the annual WSS awards dinner. For team entries, a maximum of four students per entry will be provided with free meals, although additional students may attend the dinner at their own cost.

Prizes & Awards cont'd.

Winners will also have their submissions sent to the national ASA poster competition.

National winners will receive additional prizes as described at:

http://www.amstat.org/education/posterprojects/prizes.cfm

Useful Resources about What Makes a Successful Poster

► Webinar at:

http://www.amstat.org/education/posterprojects/PosterCompetitionWebinar12-3-07.wmv

► Comments from judges of the 2013 competition at:

http://www.amstat.org/education/posterprojects/2013Posters_Observations.pdf

► Winning posters from recent competitions at:

http://www.amstat.org/education/posterprojects/prizes.cfm

The WSS and ASA also have competitions for written papers/projects with significant statistical content/analyses. Details for those competitions are at:

► WSS Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize: http://washstat.org/jacobs.pdf

► ASA: http://www.amstat.org/education/posterprojects/index.cfm

The Washington Statistical Society Mentoring Program

By meeting others in our profession we can quickly learn the ropes, advance our careers, and contribute to the statistical profession. To facilitate engagement and to encourage the transfer of valuable experience between Washington Statistical Society (WSS) members, the WSS is starting a mentoring program in 2015. (The program is also open to nonmembers, but they would eventually become WSS members through this program.) Matching mentors and mentees offers a great opportunity for mentees to develop as statisticians, mentors to "give back" to newer members of our profession, and for everyone to stay connected to the WSS. We are currently looking for mentors and mentees for 2015.

What are the benefits of a mentoring program?

The WSS Mentorship Initiative was inspired by and draws on the mentoring initiative underway throughout ASA that encourages chapters and sections to consider mentoring programs ("President's Corner", AMSTAT News, February, 2015). It also suggests the initiation of a regular acknowledgement, such as the annual selection, of an outstanding mentor. The WSS is a leader in this regard having started the Jeanne Griffith award program more than a decade ago. The potential benefits of participating in the program are described well by the ASA Committee on Applied Statisticians:

For mentors: (1) a connection with skills and perspectives of recently trained professionals, (2) development and enhancement of communication and leadership skills, and (3) satisfaction of passing on skills and knowledge that can enhance the career and personal growth of the mentee and contribute to maturity of the profession. The program may answer important questions including: How do you identify and introduce opportunity to others? How do you describe your own experiences to others to encourage them to take more strategic risks? How do you teach others to network effectively? Mentors usually get more from their relationships by learning something along the way about the new challenges of their mentees.

For mentees: 1) a role model, but more accurately a sounding board, for questions about methods of analysis and communication of results, 2) a source of perspective, encouragement, and motivation leading to greater self-confidence and esteem. Help in establishing professional development plans, career goals and acceleration of their achievement; and 3) a source of professional/social contacts with other applied statisticians in the field—"plugs you into the power network". The mentoring program may answer important questions including: How do you create opportunities for yourself? How do you promote yourself? How do you network with others? How did you get to where you want to be? What are next steps?

How does the WSS Mentoring Program work?

If you are an Interested, first complete a simple application form on the WSS website (below). The information will be used to match a mentor to a mentee, taking into account their stage of career, area of statistical expertise, and goals for mentoring. The WSS Mentoring Program committee will host a kickoff meeting in the Spring of 2015 to get the program off to a great start with guidance and suggestions about productive and fruitful ways to interact. Program materials will be provided to help guide the mentors and mentees through potential conversations, although the topics discussed are up to the mentor and mentees themselves. The program will continue through the correspondence between the mentor and mentee for at least six months into the Fall of 2015. Those in the program will meet either on the phone, on Skype, or face-to-face with their mentees a few times during the time period. Participants will be asked to complete a short evaluation survey at the end of that period to learn and improve on the program. The main purpose of the survey will be to assess our mentor-mentee matching system. The survey responses will be completely de-identified to ensure anonymity. We encourage mentors and mentees to continue to meet after the formal program period if it is mutually productive.

How do I get started?

Please complete the application form at the WSS website, WashingtonStatisticalSociety.org/mentoring/ by **April 17, 2015**. If you are interested, but have questions about the program, contact one of the committee members: Mark Otto (Mark_Otto@FWS.Gov), Jaki McCarthy (Jaki.mccarthy@nass.usda.gov), Dhuly Chowdhury (DChowdhury@RTI.org), or Tom Krenzke (TomKrenzke@Westat.Com).
--Submitted by the WSS mentoring committee members

2014 WSS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

A Great Time Was Had by All!
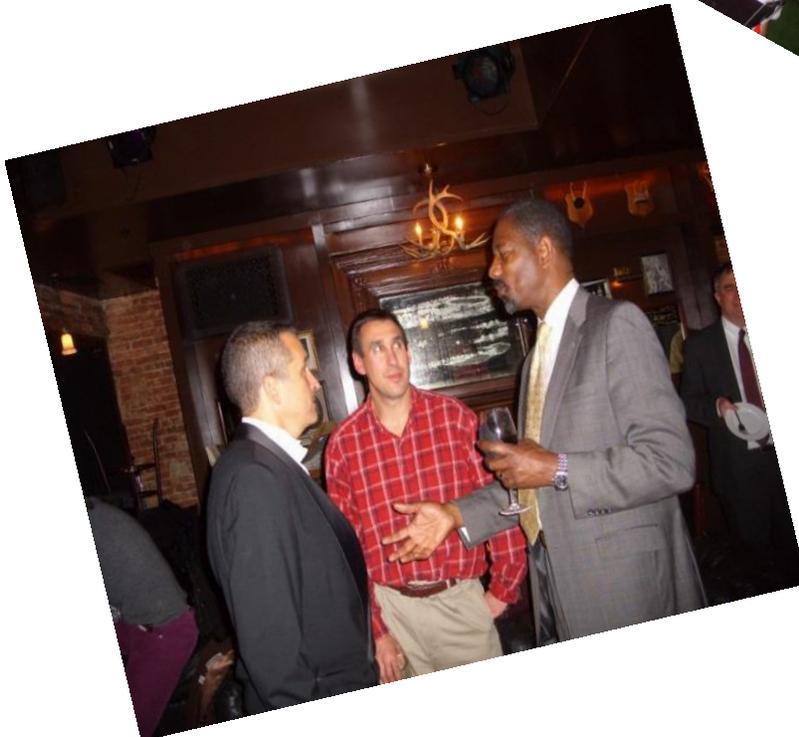
Hope to see all of you at the next WSS shindig!!

SEMINARS

Title: **The Caste Freedom Index**

Dates/Times: **February 10, 2015**
                  12:30— 2:00 pm

Speaker: Don Zimmerman, Ph.D., Vice Chair, International Commission for Dalit
                  Rights (ICDR) and Professor and Director, the Graduate School,
                  University of Maryland , University College, Adelphi MD

Chair: Dr. Dambar K (DK) Gurung, Treasurer and founding Member, ICDR,
                  and Applied Economist

Sponsor: WSS Human Rights Statistics Program, DC-AAPOR, and the Capital
                  Area Social Psychological Association

Location: Offices of Mathematica-MPR

                  1101 1st Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002 (near L Street, north
                  of Union Station)

                  By Metro: take the Red Line to either the New York Ave Station or
                  Union Station.   From the New York Ave Station, follow signs to exit at
                  M Street out of the station and walk 1 block west on M street and 2
                  blocks south on 1st Street (the building will be on your right).   From
                  Union Station, walk north along 1st Street for about 4-5 blocks until you
                  reach L Street (the building will be on your left after crossing L street).

                  By Car: Pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which
                  is located 1 block east of North Capitol on L Street NE. Once in the
                  building, take the elevators to the 12th floor and inform the secretary
                  that you are attending the WSS seminar.

                  Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220) if you
                  have trouble finding the building.

                  A remote viewing option may be available; please wait for updates to
                  this announcement.

Abstract: Caste-based systems are defined by the stratification of individuals based on social status at birth. There are over 260 million people in South Asia that are currently defined at the bottom of the caste-structure. Named "Dalits," these people are excluded from civil, political, and economic opportunities, openly and latently discriminated against, and routinely faced with imminent torture, death, rape, assault, human trafficking, and untouchability.

At present, there is no single instrument to measure and monitor caste-based discrimination or caste and gender-based violence at the local, national, and global level. We believe that creating a standardized measurement and advocacy framework will provide a clear and present benchmark for determining the current status of discrimination and, as importantly, future progress towards a positive social impact.

To assess (and address) issues related to cate-based systems, in late 2013, leaders of the International Commission for Dalit Rights (ICDR) along with experts from Statistics without Borders (SWB) of the American Statistical Association, began work on a Caste Freedom Index (CFI).

The CFI is a unique statistical tool to evaluate the relative exclusion/inclusion of Dalits from civil, economic, and political structures associated with caste-based systems. The preliminary structure of the instrument is based upon a 6x5 matrix designed to represent six human rights domains across five social-political dimensions.   Current domains consist of: (1) Constitutional and Legal Principles, (2) Political and Social Actions, (3) Economic Activity, Community relations, and (4) Individual and Family Experience. Dimensions consist of: (1) Life, health, and Shelter; (2) Family life, privacy and personal dignity; (3) Employment, fair pay, economic opportunity; (4) Freedom of expression, freedom of movement; (5) Political representation; and (6) Access to justice, protection from crime.

Complete development of the CFI is occurring over four stages with an initial feasibility stage recently concluded in Nepal this last Fall.

At present, work continues on several key methodological issues that will further define the CFI's final form. These areas of inquiry include the sampling strategy, data reliability and validity issues, and the integration of the tool into multi-level policy making processes, among others.

Registration: Register at https://eventbrite.com/event/14947409103/ to attend in person or on-line

POC: Michael P. Cohen, mpcohen@juno.com or 202-403-6453.

Title:	**Costs vs Benefits: The 2014 Content Review of the American Community Survey**
Dates/Time:	**February 17, 2015** **12:30– 1:30 pm**
Speaker:	Jim Treat, US Census Bureau
Chair:	Jennifer Park
Sponsor:	Methodology Section and Public Policy
Location:	Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar, or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Abstract: The American Community Survey (ACS) is the largest survey in the Nation, annually collecting demographic, social, and economic statistics for small areas and small populations, and providing 1-, 3-, and 5-year data products for virtually every community across the country. In an effort to ensure the least burden on the public at the greatest benefit, the Census Bureau conducted in 2014 a content review of all 72 household and person-based questions on the survey. This discussion will present the results of that review, including the methodological approach used and decision criteria employed. Lastly, we will present the results of the analysis, including the seven questions identified as candidates for removal, and next steps in the process to finalize any survey changes.

POC email: gary.b.chappell@census.gov

WebEx:

https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m15d211d187a5f08940b7b8bc197ee38b

Audio: Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)

Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139

(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

Particular computer configurations may not be compatible with

WebEx.

Title:	**Disclosure Avoidance Techniques at the U.S. Census Bureau: Current Practices and Research**
Dates/Times:	April 21, 2015 12:30– 1:30 pm
Speaker:	Bei Wang, Census Bureau William Wisniewski, Census Bureau
Chair:	Chris Chapman, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Sponsor:	Methodology Section
Location:	Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center

To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar, or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

Abstracts:

Design a Disclosure Application System: iPrivacyProtection

The Census Bureau has developed an LP based cell suppression software for 2012 Econ census. The new system is the result of a 3 year research effort and is more robust and effective than previous systems. The opportunity exists now, while the internal design is fresh and still being modified, to develop a front end product that is useful for everyone.

The ultimate goal is to design an effective Disclosure Application System, called iPrivacyProtection. The system shall release the burden on programmers, eliminate manual errors, and provide new tools for the user. Here, the user is generally the data producer who provides disclosure avoidance data released to the public.

A Disclosure Application System (iPrivacyProtection) is an interactive application system that helps users, both programmers and analysts, apply cell suppression methodology, generate suppression pattern, and review suppression data, by putting the power of data protection into the hands of a user —the data producer— to select the best protective pattern.

A disclosure application generally includes two parts, a core processer and a graphic user interface (GUI). The first part is to generate disclosure-applied data. Depending on disclosure methodology used, that can be cell suppression, noise, or something else. The second part is to allow user to control the process. Our current disclosure process requires a 3-tier operation, which involves a diverse set of units from separate divisions. The normal disclosure production circle includes several areas' efforts. One group gathers requirements from another group (subject area) and helps to prepare disclosure input data. The programming area applies the disclosure and converts disclosure output data into a user preferred data format. Finally, subject area reviews. This manual circle could be repeated many times due to requirement changes, data changes etc. It often creates errors during transactions and requires a great deal of resource coordination. An automated iPrivacyProtection requires no coordination among different areas, eliminates manual transactions, and maintains data integrity. Most important, the user, the data producer, is in control of the process. Users can change the parameters associated with their requirements, apply disclosure program to generate disclosure-applied data. Finally, the data can be saved and reviewed.

I'll walk you through the iPrivacyProtection in this talk.

-Bei Wang, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Disclosure Avoidance Techniques at the U.S. Census Bureau: Current Practices and Research

The U.S. Census Bureau collects its survey and census data under U.S. Code Title 13, which promises confidentiality to its respondents. The agency also has the responsibility of releasing data for the purpose of statistical analysis. In common with most national statistical institutes, the Census Bureau's goal is to release as much high quality data as possible while maintaining the pledge of confidentiality. We apply disclosure avoidance techniques prior to releasing our data products publicly to protect the confidentiality of our respondents and their data. This talk discusses the various types of data we release, the disclosure review process, restricted access procedures, disclosure avoidance techniques currently being used, and current disclosure avoidance research.

-William Wisniewski, U.S. Bureau of the Census

POC email: chapman.chris@bls.gov

WebEx:

https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m69a620d8696b01c99fd54a831f149d88

Audio: Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048 (US)

                            Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139

                            (US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2

                            Particular computer configurations may not be compatible with WebEx.

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ESTABLISHMENT SURVEYS: CALL FOR INVITED PAPER SESSION PROPOSALS

The Fifth International Conference on Establishment Surveys (ICES-V) will be held June 20-23, 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland (www.ices-v.ch). Continuing in the traditions of past ICES conferences, ICES-V intends to explore new areas of establishment statistics as well as to reflect state-of-the-art at the time of holding the conference.

The Program Committee invites you to submit a proposal for an invited paper session from January 1st, 2015 to March 31st, 2015. The Program Committee will review the proposals and notify session organizers by the beginning of June 2015 to let them know whether their proposal has been accepted.

For more information on invited sessions, including session formats, suggestions for topics, criteria, instructions and a template for submitting proposals, please consult http://www.portal-stat.admin.ch/ices5/invited-sessions/.

There are limited invited sessions, and the program committee is seeking sessions of a consistently high quality for ICES-V, so we request that organizers provide sufficient information to clearly demonstrate the importance of the topic and the quality of its contributions. We encourage proposals addressing one or related topics but from various angles, and incorporating presenters and perspectives from different countries and organizations, e.g., with differences in the statistical infrastructure, as well as proposals from developing countries.

Washington Statistical Society
Member Spotlight
Introducing your fellow members and
showcasing the diversity of the WSS membership

Meet WSS Member Darcy Miller…

1. **Where do you work and what do you do?**
   I work for the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in the Research and Development Division, conducting survey methodology research with an emphasis in editing and imputation.

2. **What attracted you to your first position?**
   I have always been a firm believer in service to my country. I studied Mathematics and Psychology as an undergrad, so continuing to study and working in the field of survey methodology seemed like a nice mix of academic interests. I grew up in rural Oklahoma, where my extended family and grandparents operated farms. So, applying my skillset at NASS seemed to be a natural fit for me.

3. **Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to…"**
   … meet other statisticians in the area and be involved in the available structure to share ideas.

4. **What was your first job?**
   My first job (other than occasional babysitting and mowing lawns) was at a block of businesses owned by a family in my hometown as a teenager. Although there was a hardware store, general store, and clothing store that I worked in, most of my time was spent in the grocery store stocking shelves and food, cutting/grinding meet, or working at a checkout register.

5. **What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?**
   I am very happy in my current career and ability to teach and assist with coaching from time to time. However, when I was a child, I did fancy myself to become a FBI agent.

6. **If you could give your 18-year-old self once piece of advice, what would it be?**
   I would tell my 18 year old self to work hard, but listen to life and your body. Sometimes your plans won't work out but if you keep moving forward, you will be greeted with happiness in the end.

7. **If you could have dinner with 3 people from history, who would they be?**
   Benjamin Franklin is definitely my number one. If I could have two others, I'd enjoy lunch with Pat Summitt and Bette Midler, too.

8. **Finish this sentence: "On an ideal Saturday, I would…"**
   … go to brunch with friends and then off to a Nationals game or watch college football or basketball, depending on the season.

9. **What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?**
   I try to get out and try new restaurants regularly and there are a ton of good ones in DC. I do really like the food at Blue Duck Tavern and Arsenal at Bluejacket.

10. **What is the last book you read?**
    Currently reading "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed.

11. **How do you like to spend your free time away from work?**
    I recently "retired" from premiership rugby, which was extremely time consuming. I still fill my time with teaching statistics, playing games (sporting and trivia), and watching sports and network tv, and plenty of socializing with friends during those activities as well as with food.

SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!

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 great 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.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINATIONS

Gertrude M. Cox Award

The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee is seeking nominees for the 2015 Gertrude M Cox Award.

- In memory of Dr. Cox (1900-1978), one of the founders of modern statistics, President of the American Statistical Association (1956)
- In recognition of early- to mid-career statisticians who have made significant contributions to areas of statistics in which Dr. Cox worked
- Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society and RTI International

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

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

The award is presented at the WSS Annual Dinner, usually held in June, with the recipient delivering 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 Diane Herz (co-chair), Past President Nancy Bates, and President-Elect Chris Moriarity; and Jill Dever, 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, Frauke Kreuter, and Jerome Reiter.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki (kkrotki@rti.org) by **February 28, 2015** with a supporting statement and cv (or link).

If you have previously nominated a candidate and you wish that nomination to be reconsidered, please update the supporting materials.

2015 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 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 2014 award recipient was **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.

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 2015 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 Thomas Evans, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, via e-mail at evans.thomas@bls.gov or call (202) 691-6354.

Completed nominations must be received by **March 16, 2015**.

Roger Herriot Award

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 **2015 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) award.

The recipient of the 2013 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 2013. 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 – Exact Match Team (Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, and Internal Revenue Service)
2014 – Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics study; Abowd, Haltiwanger, Lane

Nominations for the 2015 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2015**. 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 Fritz Scheuren, Chair of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202-320-3446 or Scheuren@aol.com. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2015**. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

COURSES & WORKSHOPS

STATISTICAL CHALLENGES IN ASSESSING AND FOSTERING THE REPRODUCIBILITY OF SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

A Workshop
of the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

You are invited to attend a workshop on

Statistical Challenges in Assessing and Fostering the Reproducibility of Scientific Results

Hosted by the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics
of the National Research Council of the National Academies

Thursday, February 26, 2015
8:30 am – 5:45 pm

Friday, February 27, 2015
8:30 am – 1:00 pm

NAS Lecture Room
National Academy of Sciences Building
2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC 20418

What are appropriate metrics and study designs that can be used to quantify reproducibility of scientific results?

How can the choice of statistical methods for study design and analysis affect the reproducibility of a scientific result?

Are there analytical and infrastructural approaches that can enhance reproducibility, within disciplines and overall?

These and other questions will be addressed in a series of presentations and discussions.

[Register](#) **by Tuesday, February 24 to attend in person or online.**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Thursday, February 26th

SESSION I – Overview and Case Studies

8:30-8:45   **Introductions from the Workshop Co-Chairs**
- *Constantine Gatsonis, Brown University*
- *Giovanni Parmigiani, Dana Farber Cancer Institute*

8:45-9:45   **Perspectives from Stakeholders**
- *Lawrence Tabak, National Institutes of Health*
- *Irene Qualters, National Science Foundation*
- *Justin Esarey, Rice University and The Political Methodologist*
- *Gianluca Setti, University of Ferrara, Italy and IEEE*
- *Joelle Lomax, Science Exchange*

9:45-10:15   **Overview of the workshop**
- *Victoria Stodden, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-12:10   **Case Studies**
- *Yoav Benjamini, Tel Aviv University*
- *Justin Wolfers, University of Michigan*

12:10-1:30   Lunch

SESSION II – Conceptualizing, Measuring, and Studying Reproducibility

1:30-2:30   **Definitions and Measures of Reproducibility**
             Speaker: Steve Goodman, Stanford University
             Discussant: Yoav Benjamini, Tel Aviv University

2:30-3:30   **Reproducibility and "Statistical Significance"**
             Speaker: Dennis Boos, North Carolina State University
             Discussants:
- *Andreas Buja, Wharton, University of Pennsylvania*
- *Val Johnson, Texas A&M*

3:30-3:45   Break

3:45-4:45   Assessment of Factors Affecting Reproducibility

> *Speaker: Marc Suchard, UCLA*
> *Discussants:*
> o   *Courtney Soderberg, Center for Open Science*
> o   *John Ioannidis, Stanford University*

4:45-5:45   Reproducibility from the Informatics Perspective

> *Speaker: Mark Liberman, University of Pennsylvania*
> *Discussant: Micah Altman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

<u>**Friday, February 27th**</u>

SESSION III – The Way Forward: Using Statistics to Achieve Reproducibility

8:30-9:45   Panel Discussion: Open Problems, Needs, and Opportunities for Methodologic Research

> *Moderator: Giovanni Parmigiani, Dana Farber Cancer Institute*
> o   *Lida Anestidou, National Research Council*
> o   *Tim Errington, Center for Open Science*
> o   *Xiaoming Huo, National Science Foundation*
> o   *Roger Peng, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health*

9:45-10:00 Break

10:00-11:45 Panel Discussion: Reporting Scientific Results and Sharing Scientific Study Data

> *Moderator: Victoria Stodden, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
> o   *Keith Baggerly, MD Anderson Cancer Center*
> o   *Ron Boisvert, Association for Computing Machinery and National Institute of Standards and Technology*
> o   *Porter Coggeshall, National Research Council*
> o   *Randy LeVeque, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and University of Washington*
> o   *Marcia McNutt, Science*

11:45-1:00   Panel Discussion: The Way Forward from the Data Sciences Perspective: Research

> *Moderator: Constantine Gatsonis, Brown University*
> o   *Chaitan Baru, National Science Foundation*
> o   *Phil Bourne, National Institutes of Health*
> o   *Rafael Irizarry, Harvard University*
> o   *Jeff Leek, Johns Hopkins University*

For an updated agenda, [click here](#).

Organizing Committee: Constantine Gatsonis (co-chair), Giovanni Parmigiani (co-chair), Stephen Fienberg, Steven N. Goodman, John H. Holmes, Alan F. Karr, Jelena Kovačević, Xihong Lin, Roger Peng, and Victoria Stodden

WSS Short Course: Applied Logistic Regression

Date: Monday, March 2, 2015
Time: 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Place: Conference Center in the Bureau of Labor Statistics
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212-0001

Course Content:

This intermediate level course aims to provide theoretical and practical training for statistical modeling with particular emphasis on logistic regression. Topics include the logistic regression model, estimation and interpretation of its coefficients, goodness-of-fit, multivariable modeling and statistical adjustment, interaction and confounding, stratified analysis via logistic regression.

Reference textbook:

Applied Logistic Regression, 3rd edition by Hosmer, Lemeshow and Sturdivant.

About the Instructor:

Dr. Stanley Lemeshow joined The Ohio State University in 1999 as a biostatistics professor in the School of Public Health and the Department of Statistics, director of the biostatistics core of the Comprehensive Cancer Center and director of the University's Center for Biostatistics. He was appointed the Founding Dean of the Ohio State University School of Public Health in 2003 and he served in that capacity for 10 years. Dr. Lemeshow is internationally known for his expertise in biostatistics and epidemiology, with research focused on statistical modeling of medical data, sampling, health disparities, and cancer prevention. He has published extensively in the applied and methodological literature, and has co-authored three textbooks for John Wiley & Sons, a leading publisher for the scientific, technical, and medical communities worldwide. His textbooks are *Applied Logistic Regression* (now in its 3rd Edition), *Applied Survival Analysis* (now in its 2nd edition) and *Sampling of Populations; Methods and Applications* (now in its 4th edition). In 1995, Dr. Lemeshow was elected Fellow of the American Statistical Association and was awarded the Statistics Section Award of the American Public Health Association. In 2003, Dr. Lemeshow was awarded the Wiley Lifetime Award, was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and was selected Distinguished Graduate Alumnus (Biostatistics) by the University of North Carolina Graduate School Centennial. In 2006 he was elected to the UCLA School of Public Health Alumni Hall of Fame.

Course Schedule:

8:15 - 9:00	Coffee, Breakfast, Check in
9:00 - 10:30	The Logistic Regression Model Estimating the Coefficients in the Logistic Model Interpretation of Coefficients
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:15	The Multivariate Case: Statistical Adjustment Interaction and Confounding
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch (provided)
1:15 - 2:45	Stratified Analysis via Logistic Regression Summary Measures of Goodness-of-Fit Area under the ROC Curve
2:45 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 4:30	Numerical Problems
	Example: Estimating the Probability of Mortality of ICU Patients

Advance registration: In addition to your RSVP here, please go to https://www.123signup.com/register?id=yyjgg to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on Thursday, February 26, 2015; earlier if the course fills up.

Registration Fee:

  Full-time students (at most 8): $40 advance, $60 at the door
  WSS members: $150 advance, $175 at the door
  All others: $200 advance, $225 at the door

Contact person: Yang Cheng, 301-763-3287, yang.cheng@census.gov

New Masters Program in Analytics/Data Science
Georgetown University

Georgetown University will start a new Masters program in Analytics with a concentration in Data Science in the fall of 2015. This is a 30 credit, 10 course residential program for professional preparation which is offered jointly by the Departments of Computer Science and of Mathematics and Statistics. The program is suitable for full-time as well as for part-time study.

There are five required courses including Intro to Data Analytics, Massive Data Fundamentals, Statistical Learning Theory, Visualization, Probability with Statistical Computing.

Five additional elective courses may be chosen from a broad array of Masters level courses at these two departments, such as Optimization, Information Retrieval, Bayesian Statistics, or Text Mining. Applicants should have completed multivariable calculus, linear algebra, an additional proof based mathematics or statistics course, and a course in calculus-based statistics. They should also have coding experience in a high level programming or scripting language (e.g. C++, R or Python).

The deadline for applications is **April 1, 2015**. More information may be found at the program website,
http://gradanalytics.georgetown.edu, or by contacting the program director at the coordinates below:

Hans Engler
Director of Graduate Studies, Analytics
gradanalytics@georgetown.edu
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.
3520 Prospect Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20057

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System
FEBRUARY 25, 2015
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212
Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann
Registration and Payment Due by February 11, 2015
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=022515

Writing Questions for Surveys
MARCH 12-13, 2015
Presented by Nora Cate Schaeffer
Registration and Payment Due by February 26, 2015
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=031215

Practical Tools for Sampling and Weighting Survey Samples
MARCH 30-31, 2015
Presented by Richard L. Valliant and Jill A. Dever
Registration and Payment Due by March 16, 2015
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=033015

Introduction to Survey Management
APRIL 16-17, 2015
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212
Presented by Steven G. Heeringa and Nancy Gebler
Registration and Payment Due by April 2, 2015
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=041615

Total Survey Error
MAY 4-5, 2015
Presented by Paul P. Biemer and Lars Lyberg
Registration and Payment Due by April 20, 2015
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=050415

Introduction to Survey Estimation
MAY 28-29, 2015
Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee
Registration and Payment Due by May 14, 2015
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=052815

Practical Tools for Nonresponse Bias Studies
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015
Presented by Jill Montaquila and Kristen Olson
Registration and Payment Due by September 4, 2015
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=091815

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **March, 2015** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20**th 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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