



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WSS

WSS Webmaster Tim Allen has done a great job since he became webmaster in 2014. He has carried out a major renovation of the WSS website. That said, we recognize that there is more that can be done to expand and enhance the WSS website content. Former Webmaster Dan Jacobs has provided us with some newsletter material from the 1996-2003 period that currently isn't available on the website, and former newsletter editor Mike Feil has sent us some electronic versions of newsletters that currently are not available as PDF files on the website from the 2003-6 period. We will post these materials as resources permit. Several of us (Tom Mule, Mark Otto, and me) recently started helping Tim with the website, but currently Tim is still doing the lion's share of the work. We would welcome having another website helper or two! If you're interested in helping us, please let me know. Previous website maintenance experience such as HTML editing would be helpful.

Please let me know if you have electronic copies of WSS newsletters prior to 2003. We are looking to post electronic copies of WSS newsletters as far back as we can find them, and then we are going to put out a call for paper copies of earlier WSS newsletters to scan into PDF files. If you've got an archive of old WSS paper newsletters, please let me know what you have.

We are developing an online mechanism for WSS Associate member enrollment/renewal. It will be very similar to DC-AAPOR's associate membership enrollment system, see: <http://dc-aapor.org/memberinfo.shtml>.

WSS is an all-volunteer organization, and accomplishes much because of many WSS members who donate their time. As always, WSS has room for new volunteers.

Some examples are:

- Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator.
- Program committee members in the following topic areas:
- Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- Data Collection Methods.
- Economics.
- Public Policy.
- Quality Assurance.
- Statistical Computing.

Please contact me if you have an interest in filling any of these vacancies.

Thanks, ChrisMoriarity

WHAT'S THE LATEST WITH WSS?

ASA Now Has Student Chapters

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) is supportive of ASA's new effort to form student chapters and we encourage high schools and colleges/universities in the Greater DC area to form student chapters. The details given below in quotation marks are copied from the student chapter homepage at <http://www.amstat.org/chapters/studentchapters.cfm>.

Please feel free to ask WSS for any help we can provide, such as speakers and assistance with organizing events, by contacting Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com. WSS would like to request (although it is not a requirement for having a student chapter) that you send the names and emails of the chapter sponsor and/or chapter president to Dr. Blumberg so that we can inform your chapter of future local events of interest to students.

"The ASA Student Chapters program was launched in 2014 to provide opportunities for students to connect with other students interested in statistics and interact with prominent statisticians locally and at national meetings. It also encourages students to continue studying statistics and provides career information in the statistical sciences. There are no scholastic requirements, and students need not be statistics majors. All students are welcomed and encouraged to get involved.

"Benefits of Starting an ASA Student Chapter at Your School

- Access to your own chapter microsite at the ASA: We can give you the tools to create your own, or we'll create it for you
- Free ASA membership for your chapter president
- Free items such as T-shirts, caps, and plastic cups with your chapter logo
- Funding to hold social events for your chapter
- Timely information regarding special activities for students at national and local meetings
- Speakers for your chapter meetings
- Great ideas for local program activities from STATtr@k and other ASA websites

"There is no cost to start a student chapter at your school, but your student chapter president must be an active member of the ASA. Not already a member? No problem! We'll give your president a free annual membership. Other members of your chapter may join the ASA for only \$17.00 per year.

“The ASA encourages, but does not require, other student chapter members to become ASA members. Benefits of ASA student membership include the following:

- Subscriptions to *Amstat News* and *Significance*; online access to *Chance* magazine, the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *The American Statistician*, *Statistics in Biopharmaceutical Research*, the *Journal of Agricultural, Biological and Environmental Statistics*, the *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, the *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics*, *Statistics and Public Policy* and the Current Index to Statistics
- Networking opportunities with access to thousands of your statistical colleagues through the online ASA Community and special-interest sections
- Career opportunities through the ASA JobWeb, the Career Placement Service at the Joint Statistical Meetings and Conference on Statistical Practice, and internship listings
- Access to several award and scholarship opportunities
- Discounted registration fees for the annual Joint Statistical Meetings, Conference on Statistical Practice, and other ASA-sponsored meetings and educational programs

“Learn more at <http://www.amstat.org/membership/index.cfm>.

“To start an ASA Student Chapter at your school, or to affiliate your existing student chapter with the ASA, the chapter faculty advisor or chapter president should complete the ASA Student Chapter Application Form [<http://www.amstat.org/chapters/pdfs/StudentChapterApplicationForm.pdf>] and email it to studentchapters@amstat.org.

“The scope of the student chapter at your school is limited only by the imagination and effort you choose to put into it.”

Important Note for High Schools

The rules for high schools are the same as stated in the part of this announcement in quotation marks except that:

- a. The president will be a high school student
- b. Two or more high schools can form a chapter together if they so desire.
- c. The faculty advisor must be either a regular ASA member or a K-12 teacher member. K-12 teachers, who are not presently ASA members, may join ASA via a free trial membership. See <http://www.amstat.org/membership/k12teachers/index.cfm?fuseaction=main> for details.

**SUMMARY OF WSS STATISTICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE EVENTS
OCTOBER 2015 TO MAY 2016
(as of 9/19/15—subject to change)**

Questions or to be added to a direct email list for statistics education events, please contact Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com.

Mentoring – paying it forward

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2015 (which is World Statistics Day)

Speaker: David Morganstein, Westat and President of American Statistical Association
(details elsewhere in this newsletter)

Introduction to Advanced Placement High School Statistics (seminar for those not familiar with AP Statistics)

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015

Speaker: Paul Buckley, Gonzaga College High School
(details elsewhere in this newsletter)

New Guidelines for Undergraduate Statistics Program Seminar

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 (with January 27 as back-up date if bad weather)

Speaker: Steven H. Cohen, Senior Fellow, NORC (Steve was a member of the ASA committee that developed the new guidelines)

Location/Time: Gonzaga College High School, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Careers in Statistics Panel

February, 2016 (probably Wednesday, February 17 or 24)

Speakers (all employees are within a few years of getting their degrees)

Bachelor's Level Employee: Anthony Roring, Ernst & Young

Master's Level Employee: Kathleen M. Kephart, U.S. Census Bureau

Ph.D. Level Employee: Sherry T. Liu, Food & Drug Administration

Employer: Mary Batchter, retired (formerly of Internal Revenue Service and Ernst & Young)

Location: TBD (probably George Washington University)

3:45-4:15-Arrivals and informal socializing

4:15-5:40-Formal panel

5:45-6:30-Pizza party

Integrating Simulation into High School and College Introductory Statistics Seminar

Friday, April 1, 2016

Speaker, Kari Lock Morgan, Pennsylvania State University

Location/Time: Gonzaga College High School, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

ASA Booth at U.S. Science and Engineering Festival

<http://www.usasciencefestival.org/2016-festival.html>

This is not a WSS event, but approximately 70 volunteers will be needed from WSS

Dates: April 15 to 17, 2016

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, DC

Mock AP Examination

Dates: To be determined - some Saturday(s) in April or early May

Location 1: George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia

Location 2: To be determined. Either in DC or Maryland near a Metrorail station.

IN MEMORY OF ALVAN (AL) ZARATE

Alvan Zarate Al

October 13, 1936 - August 27, 2015

Alvan (Al) Zarate died unexpectedly on August 27, 2015 at Washington Hospital Center of complications from treatment for pancreatitis. He was 78. Up until the day before he went in the hospital, Al was enjoying life to the fullest.

Al retired from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in 2009 after 30 years of service. As NCHS Confidentiality Officer, he was dedicated to protecting the confidentiality of NCHS survey respondents. In 2008, Al was elected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association ---one of his proudest moments. In 2009, he received the NCHS Program Mission Support Award, for his leadership in the field of data privacy and confidentiality. The impact of his work was felt across the nations Federal statistical systems.

Al earned a Ph.D. from Brown University in 1967 and taught sociology/demography at the University of Texas, Tulane, and Ohio State before joining NCHS in 1978. He was director of NCHSs Office of International Statistics for many years before becoming Confidentiality Officer.

Al was also a talented musician who loved to play the guitar and sing---which he often did at NCHS. In the last several years, he sang with the Bowie Senior Chorale and was a member its smaller traveling group, the Choraleers, who did special performances throughout the Bowie community. Most recently had been performing with the Senior Singing Sensations (Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission) and the Show Stoppers (Anne Arundel County), entertaining older adults at senior living locations. He loved the performing and he loved the community. Al was always happy when he had a guitar in his hand. The day after he went in the hospital on Aug 13th, he asked Charlotte to bring his guitar to prepare for a 50-year wedding anniversary celebration for friends (and the doctor said it was a great idea!) but his health declined too rapidly to carry through with the plan.

In addition to his music, Al was devoted to his dogs (Molly and Freddy) and cats (Teddy and Annie) and newly acquired rescue cats (Mei-Tu, Yu-Tu, and Sissy). He also spent many happy hours tending his garden and his aquariums and running and walking the dogs.

Al was a member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church for many years and was an active member of another spiritual fellowship. He had many wonderful, lasting friendships from both. He often quoted the portions of Desiderata and the Prayer of Saint Francis and in his final days, said he was at peace with this life and credited these spiritual principles.



Born: October 13, 1936
Place of Birth: New London, CT
Death: August 27, 2015
Place of Death: Washington , DC
Occupation: Health Statistician

Al leaves behind his wife of 35 years, Charlotte, and their two daughters, Liz and Kathryn (Spencer), who miss him dearly. He also will be held in memory by his children from his previous marriages---Steve, Jeff, Jason (Kathy), and their mother (Lee), and Aaron (Heather), and Aviva (Bruno), and their mother (Alicia), and four treasured grandchildren---Sebastian, Braulio, Camila, and Luana. He is also survived by his older brother Albert and his wife, Maria, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Als often said that, when his time came, he wanted there be a joyous celebration with singing and story-telling. We are going to do our best to make that come true. Kathryn and Spencer will be married on Sept 7th and we will celebrate Als life upon their return from their honeymoon. Our family wants to express our deep appreciation for the incredible love and support extended to us during this most difficult time.

For anyone wishing to make a memorial contribution in Als memory, below are few charities that he supported. However, any cause that is meaningful to the giver will honor Als memory just as much.

K-9 Lifesavers <http://k-9lifesavers.org/>

To support the work of an incredible team of compassionate folks who work tirelessly to find forever homes for homeless dogs from across the southeast United States---and who gave us Molly and Freddy.

Neiman-Pick Foundation <http://www.nnpdf.org/>

To support a young friend who is courageously battling this awful childhood disease.

ALS Association

<http://www.alsa.org/>

To remember friends who faced this life-ending disease with amazing spirit and grace.

Bowie Citizens for Local Animal Welfare (CLAW)
<http://www.bowieclaw.org/>

A group dedicated to helping animals in our local community. Al played Santa for them.

SEMINARS



**STATISTICS MAKING A
DIFFERENCE—
A CONFERENCE IN HONOR OF
TOM LOUIS**

**DEPARTMENT OF BIostatISTICS
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE CONTINUED LEGACY
OF OUR DEAR COLLEAGUE, TOM LOUIS.



**Friday
October 2, 2015**

Confirmed Speakers

Brad Carlin
Marie Davidian
Francesca Dominici
Sandy Eckel
Rod Little
Geert Molenberghs
Sally Morton
John Rolph



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
615 N. WOLFE STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21205

FOR QUESTIONS, VISIT
TOMFEST.EVENTBRITE.COM

- Title:** **LGBT Population Measurement Issues**
- Date/Time:** **October 6, 2015**
1:00-4:00 pm
- Moderator:** Carl Ramirez, GAO
- Discussant:** Nancy A. Bates, Census
- Sponsor:** DC-AAPOR and WSS Methodology Section
- Location:** To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or to attend online, you need to pre-register (free) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lgbt-population-measurement-issues-aseminar-tickets-17535613492> by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar.” Please 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.
- WebEX:** WebEx event address for attendees:
<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m039de663e8d7a3d069e14fc1673c80b1>
- 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
Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

Schedule/Abstracts:

Time	Speaker	Affiliation	Point of Contact
1:00	Carl Ramirez	GAO	ramirezc@gao.gov
1:10	Samuel C. "Chris" Haffer	CMS	chris.haffer@cms.hhs.gov
1:35	Benjamin Cerf Harris	Census	benjamin.c.harris@census.gov
2:00	Intermission		
2:15	Paul Guerino	CMS	paul.guerino@cms.hhs.gov
2:40	David Dean Jr.	SAMHSA	chipper.dean@samhsa.hhs.gov
3:05	Nancy A. Bates	Census	nancy.a.bates@census.gov
3:20	Questions and Answers		

Using Health Care Claims Data to Identify the Transgender Population in the Medicare Program

Medicare beneficiaries who are transgender are members of a vulnerable population with well-documented disparities in the health care setting who have been historically invisible in CMS data. Recent research conducted at the Department of Veterans Affairs suggests the potential for using health care administrative data to identify persons who are transgender. Expanding on this work we explore our ability to use Medicare provider billing data to identify and describe Medicare beneficiaries who are transgender. Using a combination of claims information, including diagnosis codes, claims history, billing modifiers, and prescription drug data, we analyze 100% of the CMS Fee-For-Service (FFS) "final action" claims from both institutional and non-institutional providers for CY 2013 (N=1 billion claims) to identify individuals who were seeking transgender-related services. We identified 3,194 persons as transgender Medicare beneficiaries in 2013. These classification methods were highly accurate, with 87.32%, or 2,789 persons, having enough information in their claims history to validate the classification. The majority of transgender Medicare beneficiaries was disabled under age 65, of every race, in each state, and suffers disproportionately from depression, hyperlipidemia and hypertension. Our work demonstrates that administrative data is a valuable resource for identifying the medically transitioning transgender population and that using ICD-9 codes and billing modifiers is a valid and replicable method that is relevant to many data systems. By replicating the methods outlined in this analysis, researchers can estimate the size of the transgender population and use this data to further analyze health disparities and outcomes in the transgender community.

~ Samuel C. "Chris" Haffer, Ph.D., Director, Data and Policy Analytics Group, Office of Minority Health, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Likely Transgender Individuals in Federal Administrative Records and the 2010 Census

This paper utilizes changes to individuals' first names and sex-coding in files from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to identify people likely to be transgender. I first document trends in these transgender-consistent changes and compare them to trends in other types of changes to personal information. I find that transgender-consistent changes are present as early as 1936 and have grown with non-transgender consistent changes. Of the likely transgender individuals alive during 2010, the majority change their names but not their sex-coding. Of those who changed both their names and their sex-coding, most change both pieces of information concurrently, although over a quarter change their name first and their sex-coding 5-6 years later. Linking individuals to their 2010 Census responses shows my approach identifies more transgender members of racial and ethnic minority groups than other studies using, for example, anonymous online surveys. In addition, likely transgender individuals in the SSA data are more likely than non-transgender individuals to leave the Census question on sex blank or to check both "M" and "F". Finally, states with the highest proportion of likely transgender residents have state-wide laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression. States with the lowest proportion do not.

~ Benjamin Cerf Harris, Ph.D., U.S. Census Bureau

Including Sexual Orientation and Gender Minority Status on the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey

The Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS) is the most comprehensive and complete survey available on the Medicare population and is essential in capturing data not otherwise collected through CMS operations and administration. The MCBS collects information that plays a critical role in the monitoring and evaluation of key provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), such as analyzing and monitoring trends in health disparities. In response to Federal initiatives to enhance the collection and reporting of key demographic data, the MCBS is undergoing several enhancements to more accurately capture demographic information and be consistent with standards set for HHS sponsored population based health surveys. This includes the potential of adding new items on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). This presentation will discuss the process used to determine the proposed MCBS SOGI items, as well as the results of cognitive interviews performed on the MCBS population.

~ Paul Guerino, Social Science Research Analyst, Office of Enterprise Data and Analytics, U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Substance Use and Mental Health of Same-sex Couples Residing Together: Results from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)

In this study, researchers from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) identify same-sex households using household roster data from the 2008-2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) and discuss analysis on the substance use and mental health (i.e. behavioral health) of same-sex couples residing together. First, in order to evaluate the quality of the NSDUH estimates of same-sex households, we benchmarked our findings against the American Community Survey and the General Social Survey. Given the comparability, we then compared same-sex households to different-sex households and found that many key behavioral health estimates appear to be different between same- and different-sex couples. Same-sex couples are more likely to experience severe behavioral health issues than different-sex couples, including serious mental illness (respectively 6.5 vs. 2.9%, $p < .01$) and substance use disorder (14.8 vs. 7.6%, $p < .0001$) in the past year. They are also more likely to experience major depressive episode (11.1 vs 5.4%, $p < .0001$) and serious psychological distress (14.7 vs. 18.2, $p < .0001$) in the past year. Though no different in past month heavy drinking, same-sex couples are more likely than different-sex couples to use cigarettes (29.6 vs. 19.3%, $p < .0001$), marijuana (13.4 vs. 5.8%, $p < .0001$), and illicit drugs (19.2 vs. 7.4%, $p < .0001$) in the past month. We conclude by discussing the public health implications of these findings, given the prior literature on LGBTQ behavioral health disparities, and potential opportunities for research on same-sex couples' behavioral health.

~ David "Chipper" Dean Jr., Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality,
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Title: **Mentoring - paying it forward**

Date/Time: **October 20, 2015**

4:00– 5:30 pm

Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station. Reception will be a celebration of World Statistics Day and further discussion on mentoring

Speaker: David R. Morganstein, Vice President and Statistical Staff Director, Westat and President, American Statistical Association

Discussant: Linda J. Young, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Chair: Mark Otto, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Sponsor: WSS Statistics Education Committee and WSS Mentoring Program

Location: Offices of Mathematica-MPR 1100 1st Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002

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.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to either the NoMa-Gallaudet U (used to be called New York Ave) Station or Union Station. From the NoMa-Gallaudet U Station, follow signs to exit at M Street. Then walk 1 block west on M street and 2 blocks south on 1st Street NE (the building will be on your right). From Union Station, walk north along 1st Street NE 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.

RSVP: To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com by Sunday, October 18 with your name and affiliation.

Abstract: Peter Drucker said: “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” The ASA is expanding mentoring opportunities and instituting an annual award for an outstanding mentor because we are committed to creating a future that includes: a statistically literate society and abundant, appealing statistical careers. In this seminar we’ll discuss good mentoring practices, share resources for new mentors develop by the Committee on Applied Statisticians, describe a number of success stories, and discuss concerns related to becoming a mentor. The format will be interactive and will explore answers to questions such as: Why should I consider becoming a mentor to my student or my employee? What’s the value to me? To them? Is this any different than providing them training in a subject or teaching them a new skill?

WebEx: Meeting Number: 997-278-224. No password is required.
<https://mprwebex.mathematica-mpr.com/orion/joinmeeting.do?MK=997278224>

Audio: For remote access via audio only or if the WebEx connection does not work, call either (609) 945-6996 or (202) 554-7500. Then enter the access code of 997-278-224.

POC email: Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

Title: **Recovering Microdata of the 1950's through the 1980's from the Census Bureau's Last Unisys Mainframe**

Date/Time: **October 22, 2015**
12:30- 3:00 pm

Moderator: Pam McGovern. National Agricultural Statistics Service

Sponsor: WSS 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 two days in advance of the seminar." Please 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.

WebEX: WebEx event address for attendees:
<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m934dd06d6115c4ea842545c3182d29db>
Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

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

Schedule/Abstracts:

Time	Speaker	Affiliation	Point of Contact
1:00	Pam McGovern	NASS	Pam.McGovern@nass.usda.gov
1:10	Mark Mildorf	Census (retired)	mark.f.mildorf@gmail.com
1:40	Randy Becker & Cheryl Grim	Census Census	randy.a.becker@census.gov Cheryl.Ann.Grim@census.gov
2:10	Todd K Gardner	Census	Todd.K.Gardner@census.gov
2:40	Questions and Answers		

Retrieved: A Brief Look Inside the Recovery Mission

In early 2010, the Census Bureau decommissioned its last remaining Unisys mainframe, ending a thread of computer usage that can be traced back to the first commercial digital computer, UNIVAC I, acquired by the Census Bureau in 1951. In the months leading up to decommissioning, a small team in the Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies (CES) led an effort to retrieve hundreds of data files that remained on this computer. These files included data from Economic and Demographic surveys and censuses, several Decennial Censuses and other files of interest from the late 1950s through the 1980s. This retrieval effort was necessary due to the unique characteristics of the Unisys mainframe and the data files stored on it; once this mainframe was decommissioned, the Census Bureau would have no ability to read or access these files.

~ Mark Mildorf, Retired from U.S. Bureau of the Census, Chief Planning Officer in the Research and Methodology Directorate

Public Use Microdata Sample of 1950

In the last few years the Census Bureau has devoted considerable resources to recovering internal historical microdata files for research purposes. One example of this is an enhanced version of the 1950 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). The 1950 PUMS is a one-percent sample of the 1950 decennial census that was produced in the 1980s in a collaboration between the Wisconsin Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE) and the Census Bureau. A newly created internal version of the 1950 PUMS combines three files into one: 1) the original 1950 PUMS that was released to the public, 2) the IPUMS version of this dataset with its harmonized coding, and 3) the original data entry files from the CDE project, which contain detailed geography and the original alpha strings for fields like birthplace and occupation. Using the geographic information in the alpha files, and with the help of a genealogical website run by Steve Morse, we were able to identify all census tracts as they were defined in 1950.

~ Todd K Gardner, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Research Opportunities

We will offer an overview of the research opportunities available through the Federal Statistical Research Data Center program, including the restricted-use Census Bureau microdata currently available. We then discuss the wide variety of business data recovered in recent years and the opportunities and challenges associated with their use. We then highlight some of the progress made with the recovered data, with a particular focus on manufacturing data. We also discuss ongoing efforts to recover data from legacy tapes.

~ Randy Becker and Cheryl Grim, U.S. Bureau of the Census



Public SEMINAR

Reengineering the 2020 Census

Friday, October 23, 2015 • National Academy of Sciences Building

2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC • Lecture Room

1:30 PM - Light Refreshments for Seminar Guests (First Floor East Court)

2:00 PM - Welcome

- **Lawrence Brown**, CNSTAT Chair and the University of Pennsylvania

2:05 PM - Developments at the OMB Statistical and Science Policy Office

- **Katherine Wallman**, Chief Statistician, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

2:15 PM - Tribute to Janet Norwood

- **Constance Citro**, Director, CNSTAT

2:35 PM - Featured Topic: *Reengineering the 2020 Census*

- **John Thompson**, Director, U.S. Census Bureau
- **Lisa Blumerman**, Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs

3:30 PM - Discussion

- **Joseph Salvo**, New York City Department of City Planning
- **Donald Dillman**, CNSTAT Member and Washington State University

4:00 PM - Floor Discussion

4:30 PM - Reception (East Court)

5:30 PM - Adjourn

[Register now!](#)

Presentations will be available via WebEx—login information will be sent once available.

**For any questions, contact Eileen LeFurgy, CNSTAT Program Coordinator,
at elefurgy@nat.edu or (202) 334-1616.**

ABSTRACT: The 2020 Census will be like no decennial census before it. The Census Bureau is reengineering key processes to make the 2020 count the most technologically advanced decennial census ever taken—including innovative techniques and technology as well as new data sources—while still producing quality results. Beginning early in this decade, the Census Bureau’s research and testing has focused on those innovations that showed the most promise of significant cost avoidance, with the goal of using the results to outline the general shape of the 2020 Census by the end of FY 2015. Those decisions have now been made and documented in the 2020 Census Operational Plan for release in early October. The Census Bureau speakers will summarize the design decisions and the associated estimates of cost savings. They also will cover the research and testing the Census Bureau has done in four major innovation areas, with particular focus on results from four major tests conducted in 2015:

- The Human-in-the-Loop simulation test of many aspects of field reengineering;
- The Address Validation Test of using aerial imagery and other external sources to update the Master Address File (MAF);
- The 2015 Optimizing Self-Response Test of ways to use advertising, partnerships, and mail contact strategies to maximize self-responses (particularly via the Internet) and the feasibility and benefits of allowing people to respond without a Census Bureau-supplied identification number; and
- The 2015 Census Test of reengineered roles, responsibilities, and infrastructure for field operations, increased field automation, and use of administrative records and adaptive design to reduce and streamline personal visits in the field.

Discussants Joseph Salvo and Donald Dillman will comment, among other topics, on the Census Bureau’s plans to revise nonresponse follow-up strategies (and their effects at local levels) and to maximize Internet take-up in initial response.

Title: **Weather-Adjusting Employment Data**

Date/Time: **November 4, 2015**
10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Speaker: Jonathan H. Wright, Johns Hopkins University

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

Authors: Michael Boldin, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
Jonathan H. Wright

Discussant: William R. Bell, Census Bureau

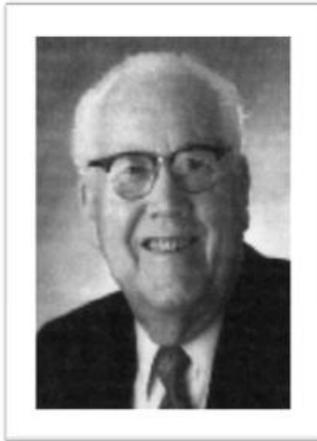
Chair: Richard Tiller, Bureau of Labor Statistics

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.

Abstract: This paper proposes and implements a statistical methodology for adjusting employment data for the effects of deviation in weather from seasonal norms. This is distinct from seasonal adjustment, which only controls for the normal variation in weather across the year. Unusual weather can distort both the data and the seasonal factors. We control for both of these effects by integrating a weather adjustment step in the seasonal adjustment process. We use several indicators of weather, including temperature, snowfall and hurricanes. Weather effects can be very important, shifting the monthly payrolls change number by more than 100,000 in either direction. The effects are largest in the winter and early spring months and in the construction sector.

POC: evans.thomas@bls.gov



25th Annual Morris Hansen Lecture

Adaptive and Network Sampling in Changing Populations

Speaker: Dr. Steve Thompson

*Shrum Chair in Science, Professor of Statistics
Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada*

Discussants:

*Dr. Mark S. Handcock, Professor and Chair, Statistics Department,
University of California, Los Angeles, CA*
*Dr. Andrew Gelman, Professor of Statistics and Political Science and
Director of the Applied Statistics Center, Columbia University*

Abstract: Adaptive sampling typically has the form of selecting new units near sample units with high observed values or far from sample units with low observed values in surveys of rare, clustered, or unevenly distributed populations. In network settings adaptive link-tracing designs may be used in surveys of hidden and hard-to-reach populations, and the probabilities of following different social links may depend on values of variables associated with people or their links. In surveys that are carried out over time in populations that are continually changing, it is useful to think of sampling designs in stochastic process terms, with units coming into the sample and leaving the sample as time goes on.

Sampling designs have traditionally been used for making inferences about population characteristics, but also have a role in setting experiments in populations and distributing interventions to benefit a population. In this talk, I will discuss existing and potential uses of adaptive sampling designs in each of the above settings and for each of these uses. Examples from human health, environmental and natural resource studies, agriculture and other fields will be used for illustration.

STEVE THOMPSON is Professor of Statistics at Simon Fraser University. His research interests center on sampling theory and methods. Particular interests include adaptive sampling, network sampling, and using sampling designs to set experiments in populations and to distribute interventions to best benefit a population. His research studies have included sampling designs for populations that change in time, units that move spatially, and link-tracing designs through social networks. His research has taken motivation from problems in sampling natural populations, including rare, clustered, and hard-to-detect populations of animals and plants, and in sampling of human populations including hidden, hard-to-reach, and marginalized populations. He is author of the book "*Sampling*" and co-author of "*Adaptive Sampling*". He is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association and an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He served as President of the Survey Methods Section of the Statistical Society of Canada and currently serves on the Advisory Committee for Statistical Methods for Statistics Canada. He has served on a number of advisory committees and panels for the National Research Council, the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

3:30 – 5:30 pm

**Jefferson Auditorium, US
Department of Agriculture
Independence Avenue
(between 12th and 14th Streets)
At the Smithsonian Metro
Station
(Blue/Orange/Silver lines)**

A reception will follow at 5:30 pm in the Whitten Building Patio. Please pre-register for this event to help facilitate access to the building on line at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/morrishansen/>



Sponsored By:



Title: **Roger Herriot Innovation Award Session**

Date/Time: **November 18, 2015**

1:30 – 3:00 pm

NOTE SPECIAL TIME!!!

Sponsor: WSS Social and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center Room 9

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 two days in advance of the seminar." Please 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: This session in honor of Roger Herriot, to be chaired by Fritz Scheuren, will continue the annual series of Innovation Awards established in Roger's honor. The award is co-sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, plus the Social and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association. This year's award goes to Jennifer Madans at NCHS. She will be receiving the award for the leading role she has played on her many innovative teams at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) over the years.

To illustrate Dr, Madans' many interagency efforts, a recent innovation success will be presented briefly by Elizabeth Arias at the session. This part of the session will be more of a snapshot of work just now underway. Dr. Arias from NCHS will discuss the linkage of death certificates to 2010 Decennial Census records, This project is being undertaken to develop life tables for Indigenous (aka Native) Americans. Dr. Amy O'Hara from the US Census Bureau will discuss the Census Bureau role.

Jennifer Madans will then be given the Herriot award and asked to speak as well. Kathy Wallman may also offer brief comments too. There will be light refreshments available.

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT
BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC**

Title: Introduction to Advanced Placement High School Statistics

Date/Time: Dec 3, 2015
4:00 – 5:30 pm

Informal reception to follow at The Dubliner Restaurant and Pub,
located in the Phoenix Park Hotel at 4 F St NW in DC

Speaker: Paul Buckley, Gonzaga College High School

Chair: John F. Mahoney, Benjamin Banneker Academic High School

Sponsors: WSS Statistics Education Committee and Gonzaga College High School

Location: Gonzaga College High School - 19 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 -
Ruesch Hall, Room 307. Please call (202) 336-7100 if you have trouble
finding the building.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to Union Station. From Union Station, walk north along North Capitol Street for about 4-5 blocks until you reach St Aloysius Church (just after the football field). Go through the pedestrian entrance of the gate to the right of the church. To your right are the two academic buildings, Ruesch and Cantwell Halls. Enter through the center entrance of those buildings and proceed up the stairs to Room 307.

By Car: Free parking is available in the school parking garage, which is accessible after 3 p.m. Information about the parking garage can be found at <http://www.gonzaga.org/parking>. Coming out of the garage, the building in front of you is Dooley Hall. To the right of Dooley Hall is a pass-through to the other part of the campus. Go down those stairs, through the pass-through and then up the stairs after that. As you come up the stairs you will see the two main academic buildings, Ruesch and Cantwell Halls. Enter through the center entrance of those buildings and proceed up the stairs to Room 307.

RSVP: To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com by December 1, 2015.

Abstract:

AP Statistics is one of the fastest growing AP exams. Only entering its 20th year, it is already one of the ten biggest AP exams. Last year over 200,000 students took the AP Statistics exam. This seminar will focus on the content of the course and of the exam. It will also make note of the growing need for a background in statistics, both in college majors and in the business world. It will feature examples of questions and a discussion of how the exam is created and graded. It will also include quotes from AP Statistics students. The presenter is a team leader for the AP Statistics exam and has presented on the subject at numerous conferences across the nation. He has consulted for W.H. Freeman, Barron's and HP. He was the first teacher at Gonzaga College High School to teach AP Statistics, where he is currently in his 18th year of teaching.

POC email:

Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

Remote Access:

If you want to attend the seminar remotely, using video and/or audio, contact cblumberg@gmail.com by December 1, 2015. Instructions will be provided to you around December 1.

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

ICES-V Call for Software Demonstrations

As the fifth in the series of international conferences on establishment surveys, ICES-V is designed to look forward at key issues and methods pertaining to establishment surveys (<http://www.ices-v.ch>). We invite you to submit proposals for demonstrations of software used in establishment surveys and statistics. Demonstrations should target live processing of data with possible customizations for the interest of specific audiences, rather than inflexible slide shows or presentations. Proposed software packages should already be in use for one or more establishment surveys and should be designed to automate establishment survey or statistical processes, including but not limited to:

- Producing statistics in developing countries
- Creating and updating registers
- Questionnaire development
- Selection of samples and sample weighting
- Data collection methodology
- Survey management: adaptive and responsive designs, using paradata and metadata
- Measuring and mitigating nonresponse bias
- Automated data coding and variable transformations
- Estimation & variance estimation (e.g. small area) for standard and complex survey designs
- Calibration to administrative data or other benchmarks
- Data linkage, matching and data unduplication and using big data with surveys
- Descriptive and complex statistical analyses
- Statistical methods of developing consistent data sets (editing, imputation, and outlier treatment)
- Data mining, reduction, blocking or segmentation, harmonization and use of decision trees
- Systems and architecture for statistical production
- Data governance
- Advances in disclosure protection

Schedule and Equipment

The demonstrations will take place in a separate room during the regular conference sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday of the conference. They will be split into different groups, each with a dedicated half-day. Participants will be provided with large monitors, tables, and chairs. The participants will provide their own computers and demonstration software, and will be able to arrange for Internet connections.

Proposal Submission

Submission of software demonstration proposals begins 01 June 2015 and will close on 12 December 2015. Proposal can be submitted at and inquiries can be directed to: ices-v.demos@bfs.admin.ch. Proposals should include a description of the software package, potential applications to other survey organizations, and special equipment required for the demonstration. Participants are required to register for the conference and pay the registration fee.

The ICES-V program committee will review the proposals and notify all applicants by **30 December 2015** whether their proposal has been accepted, with conference registration payment due by **31 January 2016**.

WSS MEMBERS ARE IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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



Meet WSS Member Nell Sedransk...

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

As Associate and now Acting Director of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS), I lead a not-for-profit organization that focuses on statistical research on issues affecting public policy and advances in science. My principal roles are dual: directing statistical research projects and mentoring postdoctoral fellows during the process; and bringing together statisticians from the academic, industrial and government sectors to serve their common interests.

2. What attracted you to your first position?

I was attracted to NISS because I had already worked as both a theoretical and an applied statistician in academia, in government and in consultation with industry; and I had enjoyed the challenges in each of these very different arenas. NISS offered the opportunity to continue to perform and direct interdisciplinary research on problems that might arise in any one of these sectors and have influence on policy decision or scientific directions.

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

I joined WSS to be part of the vigorous Washington scene and statistical community. Statistical activity in the DC area is vibrant; WSS keeps me in touch with everything that is going on from specialized conferences to colloquia to community events.

4. What was your first job?

My very first (paid) job, when I was a high school freshman, was to tutor first grade students who were falling behind in learning to read. One child clearly had a learning disability, although that was not diagnosed at that time. However she could gradually learn to read by playing rhyming games and making words with scrabble letters. Two boys were simply totally disinterested in the text book; it really did not matter to them whether Jane and Sue both wore red dresses. However, they did like challenges; so they learned quite rapidly to read the sports pages – they also learned how to read the baseball box scores. They particularly liked figuring out players' "foreign-sounding" last names- Polish names were "the best" because of all the consonants. Ultimately they were willing to read a book aloud: Dr. Seuss' "If I Ran the Zoo."

5. Why did you join the statistics profession?

I chose to study statistics in graduate school because I loved mathematics but at the same time I could rapidly be fascinated by challenges in other disciplines. The opportunity to study with first-rate minds, like my dissertation mentor and others in the Statistics Department at Iowa State, notably Herbert T. David and Oscar Kempthorne, made statistics the obvious choice for me.

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

The two most important skills for statistics professionals are the same as they have always been: get the problem right and make sure the solution is worthy of the problem. In other words, first formulate the task at hand well. This means approaching any scientific problem with respect for its intrinsic complexity and a willingness to work to understand that complexity in order to faithfully represent it in the application of statistics. Secondly think clearly and carefully, without prejudice about method or result and then use the disciplined thinking of a mathematician coupled with the meticulous attention to detail of a computer scientist.

7. If you could give your 18-year-old self once piece of advice, what would it be?

Statistics can be the bridge that connects a mathematical formulation with a scientific inquiry. Do not underestimate the importance of the excellence of both parts to a good solution to the problem. Do not underestimate what the statistician brings to the solution; and always respect the depth of knowledge of the scientist, social scientist or engineer who poses the problem. In collaboration there are wonderful mutual opportunities for learning.

8. If you could have dinner with 5 people from history, who would they be?

Aristotle, Eleanor of Aquitaine, William Shakespeare, Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt.

9. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

In addition to being a wonderful academic mentor, my dissertation director, Masashi Okamoto, also introduced me to a number of aspects of Japanese culture, from art to literature to food. Japanese, whether home cooking or restaurant preparation, continues to be my favorite cuisine; and I prefer classical Japanese preparations to the nouveau versions.

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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



Meet WSS Member Gina Walejko...

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

I am a survey statistician for the U.S. Census Bureau. I work in the Center for Adaptive Design in a group responsible for both the research aspects of adaptive survey design, as well as its real-world implementation in surveys. In my day-to-day I design, implement, and analyze experiments aimed at decreasing data collections costs or increasing the quality of key survey estimates.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

After getting my Ph.D. in Mass Communication from Northwestern University, I moved to Washington, DC. When a research job opened in the Census Bureau's Research and Methodology Directorate, I jumped at the chance to do methodological research using some of the best survey datasets in the world and serve my country while doing so.

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

... keep up-to-date with educational events such as WSS seminars and network with statisticians in the area.

4. What was your first job?

Growing up in rural Wisconsin, my first job at the age of 12 was raising sweet corn and then selling it to cars passing on the side of the road. It taught me how to manage money while making me realize I was not born to be a saleswoman.

5. Why did you join the statistics profession?

I see myself as more of a survey methodologist than a statistician, and, while running a survey for a professor in graduate school, I came to love the melding of mathematics and statistics with principles of psychology and design that surveys necessitate. It was then I realized I wanted to write my dissertation on methodological rather than substantive issues.

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

I am currently excited about an upcoming project that will explore in-person interviewer workload dynamics across Census Bureau surveys. This exploratory research will provide analytical evidence of how interviewers manage workloads across surveys.

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

Consider becoming an expert in a field outside of statistics. Having a deep understanding of the field you apply statistics to can be extremely valuable.

8. If you could give your 18-year-old self one piece of advice, what would it be?

Don't worry if you struggle through a class or encounter a painful life situation. Difficult things are worth learning and experiencing.

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

... wake up early, go birding, and then play several games of pick-up volleyball at the Lincoln Sand Volleyball courts. Afterwards I would invite friends to my house for an impromptu grill out.

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

My graduate advisor has been a very important career mentor. He supported my early training by helping me secure funding to take classes at the University of Michigan and the SAS Institute. He edited my dissertation and other papers, which helped me become a better writer. He introduced me to scholars in my field during conferences, and he has supported and given me critical advice on my research. I think what has made him and others great career mentors is altruism – in this case the willingness to provide time and advice without the expectation of personal benefit.

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 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.

CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNERS!

Thoughts from the WSS Student Travel Award Winner

JSM had been the hottest topic at lunchtime since this July at FDA where I was doing my internship this summer. Everyone was excited about the coming JSM, but I probably was the most enthusiastic one. Because this would be my first time attending the JSM, where I would learn some of the most advanced topics in statistics, present my dissertation study in a poster session, and attend many job interviews.

You never know what connections you would make at JSM! At the first-time attendee orientation, I overheard a senior scholar speaking about randomizations in clinical trials. I was interested because randomization is my dissertation topic. So I introduced myself to him and joined the conversation. Soon I found out the senior scholar is Dr. Taves, who was the first person to propose minimization, which is a nonrandom method of treatment allocation for clinical trials. We discussed his new method and Dr. Berger's book about selection bias and covariate imbalance. It was a joyful conversation for both of us and Dr. Taves decided to come to my poster presentation on Tuesday morning.

My poster was on my dissertation topic, 'Randomness and Variability of Restricted Randomization'. In this study, I provided properties of some commonly used randomizations that are useful in selecting the most appropriate procedure. During the poster presentation, I had many great discussions with other researchers. Some of the feedback from them were very valuable. My dissertation advisor Dr. Rosenberger and Dr. Taves both came. They obviously knew of each other before but had never personally met before. I was a little pleased that my presentation made this happen.

The JSM offers numerous great talks from exceptional statisticians. I attended several sessions related to my research, including topics in clinical trials, advanced randomization techniques, adaptive designs, history of clinical trials, methods in clinical trials and other topics sponsored by the biopharmaceutical section. I also attended some sessions which interested me, such as structure equation modeling and machine learning. In some sessions, I had a chance to meet some well-known professors, who I had known about for a long time from textbooks and famous publications.

Another wonderful experience I had from the JSM is the mentoring program. I was super fortunate to meet Dr. Mehrotra, the executive director of Merck Research Laboratories. Through the conversation, I learned a lot about the past, present, and future of the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Mehrotra's own career story was a great inspiration too. He also gave me many valuable suggestions on how to write an impressive resume. I strongly recommend this program to future JSM student attendees.

The last thing I have to mention is the tour of Bainbridge Island arranged by Dr. Taves and his wife Helen. We took the ferry boat to Bainbridge Island and the scenery was gorgeous. We visited downtown Winslow and had a pleasant dinner in a restaurant in the harbor. The weather was perfect that day and we had a wonderful time. Dr. Taves was such a nice person as he gave me a ride to the airport and this ended my great trip in Seattle.

I was recognized as this year's Washington Statistical Society Student Travel Award winner by Dr. Moriarity in the Survey Research Methods Business Meeting on August 12th. I appreciate Washington Statistical Society providing me this travel award. I really enjoyed my first JSM and look forward to JSM 2016.

~ Hui Shao

Hui Shao, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Statistics at George Mason University has been selected as the 2015 Washington Statistical Society Joint Statistical Meeting Student Travel Awardee. Ms. Shao's dissertation topic is on randomization in clinical trials. She presented a poster "Randomness and Variability in Restricted Randomization" at the 2015 JSM. Ms. Shao is spending this summer as a fellow at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Announcing the 2015 Roger Herriot Awardee!

The 2015 Roger Herriot award will be given at a WSS technical session this fall to Dr. Jennifer Madans for her innovative work in Health Statistics. Jennifer has played major leadership roles for our community in one of the most innovative agencies in the Federal Statistical System, the National Center for Health Statistics. Exact details of the fall session will be in an upcoming WSS Newsletter.

COURSES & GRADUATE PROGRAM

Statistical Analysis with Missing Data

NOVEMBER 5-6, 2015

College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, East Hyattsville, MD

Presented by Roderick Little and Trivellore E. Raghunathan

Registration and Payment Due by October 22, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=110515

Introduction to Survey Sampling

DECEMBER 7-8, 2015

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Colm O'Muircheartaigh and James M. Lepkowski

Registration and Payment Due by November 23, 2015

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=120715

Experimental Design for Surveys

JANUARY 21-22, 2016

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212

Presented by Roger Tourangeau

Registration and Payment Due by January 7, 2016

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=012116

Issues in Data Science: Unpacking "Big Data"

FEBRUARY 12, 2016

College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, East Hyattsville, MD

Presented by Cliff Lampe

Registration and Payment Due by January 29, 2016

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=021216

Writing Questions for Writing Questions for Surveys

MARCH 10-11, 2016

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC

Presented by Nora Cate Schaeffer

Registration and Payment Due by February 25, 2016

https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=031016

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System**MARCH 24, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC**

Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann

Registration and Payment Due by March 10, 2016https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=032416**Using Paradata in a Responsive Design****APRIL 6-7, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC**

Presented by James Wagner and Brady T. West

Registration and Payment Due by March 23, 2016https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=040616**Introduction to Survey Estimation****MAY 2-3, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

Registration and Payment Due by April 18, 2016<https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/htmlcontent.cfm?CourseID=0506>**Creating and Updating Prices Indexes: Theory and Practice****May 23-24, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by Dennis Fixler and Richard Valliant

Registration and Payment Due by May 9, 2016https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=052316**Synthetic Data: Balancing Confidentiality and Quality in Public Use Files****JUNE 13-14, 2016****Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC**

Presented by Joerg Drechsler and Jerry Reiter

Registration and Payment Due by May 30, 2016https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061316

University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology

The University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology (MPSM), established in 2001, seeks to train future generations of survey methodologists. The program offers doctorate and master of science degrees and a certificate through the [University of Michigan](#). The program's home is the [Institute for Social Research](#), the world's largest academically-based social science research institute.

MPSM is a program where students learn the science of surveys. Our students study with some of the world's leading survey methodologists while pursuing their Master's or PhD degree. The Program provides a rich intellectual environment for study and work at one of the premier public universities in the world.

MPSM brings together faculty and scientists from the social and behavioral sciences in the [College of Literature, Science, and the Arts](#); the [School of Public Health](#); and the [Institute for Social Research](#). Moreover, the quantitative strengths of disciplines such as communication studies, economics, education, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics are integral to the empirical underpinnings of the program. With its depth and breadth of curriculum; faculty who are outstanding researchers, teachers, and mentors; exceptional research opportunities at the Institute of Social Research; and the extraordinary range of course offerings at the University of Michigan, the program offers qualified students superb educational opportunities.

Students in the program receive theoretical grounding in all aspects of survey methodology, from sample design and measurement, to modes of data collection, statistical estimation, and probability and distribution theory. Students have the opportunity to explore novel ways to develop applications of survey methodology in a wide variety of fields. Survey methodology principles can be applied to professions such as market research, nursing, public health, natural resources, information sciences, and operations engineering, through courses taken in cognate areas within the rich, diverse academic environment of the University.

Application Deadlines

Admissions applications and supporting credentials must be received at the University's Rackham School of Graduate Studies by specific deadlines. These deadlines vary by program.

Program

MS & PhD

Change of Program, Dual
Degree, & Readmission

Certificate

Non-Candidate for Degree

Application Deadline

January 1 for study beginning the following fall term

January 1 for study beginning the following fall term

April 1 for study beginning the following summer term

July 1 for study beginning the following fall term

One month prior to the first day of classes for study
beginning that fall, winter, or spring term

For more information please visit our website at, <http://psm.isr.umich.edu/> or email us at, michpsm.isr@umich.edu.

EMPLOYMENT/INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Position Vacancy Announcement

Biostatistician

Staff Fellowship

Become a part of the Department that touches the lives of every American! At the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) you can give back to your community, state, and country by making a difference in the lives of Americans everywhere. It is the principal agency for protecting the health of all citizens. Join HHS and help to make our world healthier, safer, and better for all Americans.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), Office of Research, National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) Team is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Biostatistician. The National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System – Enteric Bacteria (NARMS) is a national public health surveillance system in the United States which tracks changes in the susceptibility of certain enteric bacteria to antimicrobial agents of human and veterinary medical importance. NARMS monitors antimicrobial susceptibility among enteric bacteria from humans, retail meats, and food animals. This position will be filled through the Staff Fellowship program and may be subject to Peer Review. Appointment is for two years with opportunities for renewal.

As a Biostatistician, you will collaborate with microbiologists, epidemiologists, and a bioinformatician within the Office of Research to formulate specific experimental designs and identify the appropriate statistical tools for use in research studies focused on antimicrobial use and resistance. You will use various statistical approaches such as longitudinal analysis, mixed effect modeling, logistic regression analysis, and model building techniques and manipulate and analyze data using statistical packages such as SAS to draw conclusions and/or make predictions based on data summaries or statistical analyses. You will provide your statistical expertise to evaluate research protocols from a statistical perspective and recommend appropriate statistical analyses. You will help to maintain the NARMS database and ensure the validity of the reported results and their statistical interpretation.

Applicants must have demonstrated ability to effectively guide the statistical aspects of research protocol design, data interpretation, review and reporting of results for multiple studies and have experience with application of advanced statistical methodologies to research design/analysis. You must also be proficient in statistical software tools such as SAS and be able to communicate statistical concepts in a clear and concise manner.

This position is located in Laurel, Maryland and is available immediately. The salary range is from \$90,823 to \$139,523 based on experience and education. Further information regarding qualification requirements can be found at the following link: <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/classification-qualifications/general-schedule-qualification-standards/1500/mathematical-statistics-series-1529/>

Applications will be accepted through October 12, 2015.

****Applications will be reviewed and interviews will be scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.****

Please submit your letter of interest, resume, and transcripts to:
CVMOpportunities@fda.hhs.gov with the subject line of **"Biostatistician-NARM\$"**.

Questions may also be directed to the CVM Opportunities mailbox.



FDA is an equal opportunity employer and is a smoke-free environment.



Healthcare Statistical Analyst/ Statistician

Department: Clinical
Status: Exempt
Hours: Full Time
Reports to: President & CEO

Position Summary:

The Lakhanpal Vein Foundation seeks a healthcare statistician to lead its new research program. This is a hard money, research-focused position with an emphasis on scholarship and publication. This position will allow the healthcare statistician to use his or her statistical knowledge to investigate numerous questions related to treatment and outcomes in venous disease. The healthcare statistician will lead efforts to design research studies using electronic health data, develop analysis protocols, analyze quantitative data, perform multivariate analyses, and author reports summarizing this work for peer-reviewed journals.

Minimum Requirements:

- Master's degree in statistics, biostatistics, public health, epidemiology, economics/econometrics or bachelor's degree in statistics with a demonstrated publications record; PhD a plus
- Minimum of 3 years of work using advanced analytic and or statistical methodology
- Minimum of 2 years of healthcare experience or work in the healthcare field preferred
- Experience using SAS, STATA, R, or similar statistical software
- Comprehensive knowledge of statistics including inferential statistics, multivariate regression, advanced modeling, predictive analytics, graphical display, and missing data analysis
- English proficiency, both verbally and in writing, for the purposes of research publication and presentation, is required
- Preference will be given to candidates with experience in cardiovascular disease and those with demonstrated experience with scholarly publishing

Qualifications:

- Self-motivated and able to work with minimal direct supervision and drive results with disciplined follow through
- An inquisitive and innovative nature, excellent critical and analytical thinking, integrity, willingness to step into new roles, strong communication and facilitation skills, team focused mentality, and a commitment to continuously learning and improving
- Work collaboratively with colleagues to identify optimal data sources and statistical analyses to meet project objectives

Duties and Responsibilities:***Statistical***

- Work with surgeons and consultants to conceptualize manuscripts and articulate testable hypotheses
- Identify statistical methods that can be applied to address specific project questions/problems
- Analyze and interpret statistical data to identify statistically significant and clinically relevant differences in relationships related to venous disease
- Assist in designing research projects that apply valid statistical techniques
- Conduct sample size determinations and power analyses as needed for specific projects
- Plan multivariate and multi-variable statistical analyses including developing regression models
- Process large datasets for statistical modeling and graphic analysis
- Prepare data for analysis by organizing information and performing quality control checks such as outlier analyses
- Advise team members in determining necessary data and optimal analytic techniques
- Identify and recommend alternative data/methods to meet project needs in most efficient way
- Attend and actively participate in staff, data/operations, and meetings for multiple projects
- Follow all applicable privacy and confidentiality procedures in daily work

Reporting, Writing, and Communication

- Report results of statistical analyses, including information in the form of graphs, charts, and tables
- Independently document project tasks and specifications
- Take the lead in writing the “methods” and “results” sections of scholarly manuscripts in a manner consistent with accepted practice
- Prepare data briefs, web content and other written products using results from statistical analyses
- Work with colleagues to write and edit “introduction” and “conclusions” sections of scholarly manuscripts, including PubMed literature searches
- Manage the manuscript submission process
- Write and manage research-related content for the Lakhanpal Vein Foundation’s website
- Interact with, and build relationships with internal and external Foundation stakeholders

Center for Vein Restoration is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

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**Office of Biostatistics, Office of Translational Sciences
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug
Administration**

**Do you seek a challenging and career enhancing position?
This is your chance to make a difference!**

The Office of Biostatistics in the Office of Translational Sciences, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA, invites applications from Mathematical Statisticians with a background in biomedical, biological, or pharmacological sciences and strong skills in statistical methodology and communication.

You will work with multidisciplinary teams of review scientists in a dynamic, highly challenging, and innovative atmosphere of drug and therapeutic biological development, evaluation, and research. You will have the opportunity to employ a broad variety of statistical procedures relevant to the approval and regulation of new and generic drugs, new and biosimilar biologics, as well as the emerging field of quantitative risk assessment.

As a mathematical statistician in the Office of Biostatistics, you will apply your skills to address unique and precedent setting problems while refining your consulting, communication, and presentation skills. You will evaluate and advise on protocols for clinical, non-clinical, and post-marketing studies and assess the evidence for safety and efficacy from studies submitted in drug and biologic applications. Our active regulatory research program will allow you to improve your skills and provide for professional development. In addition, you will have the opportunity to interact with national, international, public, and private organizations on statistical issues, and will help develop guidance for the pharmaceutical industry and clinical investigators.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must possess a degree that included 24 semester hours of mathematics and statistics, of which at least 12 semester hours were in mathematics and 6 semester hours were in statistics, OR a combination of education and experience - at least 24 semester hours of mathematics and statistics, including at least 12 hours in mathematics and 6 hours in statistics, plus appropriate experience or additional education. Candidates with a Doctorate or Master's degree and associated experience are highly desirable. In addition to a background in statistics and analysis, applicants should have an interest in clinical trials, epidemiology, genomics, risk assessment, or experimental design. Candidates should also possess excellent communication skills, both oral and written. Since work is conducted in

interdisciplinary groups, the ability to communicate statistical issues to non-statisticians is important. Candidates for Civil Service or USPHS Commissioned Corps must be U.S. citizens. Permanent U.S. residents may apply for staff fellowship appointments. Applications will be accepted from other Non-Citizens as allowed by appropriations and statute.

SALARY/BENEFITS: Civil Service Salary for GS-11 is \$68,739 to \$89,362; for GS-12 is \$76,378 to \$99,296; for GS-13 is \$90,823 to \$118,069. The FDA is a family friendly workplace offering excellent benefits with flexible work hours and location. CDER's Office of Biostatistics is located in Silver Spring, Maryland, just outside the Washington, D.C. beltway. For more information regarding salary/benefits, please visit the US Office of Personnel Management website at www.opm.gov.

The FDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and has a smoke-free environment. We particularly welcome applications from women and minority candidates.

HOW TO APPLY: If you are interested in considering employment with CDER's Office of Biostatistics, please submit your resume to by **July 31st, 2015:**

OB Search Committee:
e-mail: CDER-OTS-OB-Recruitment@fda.hhs.gov

For more information, please visit the Office of Biostatistics website:
<http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/OfficeofMedicalProductsandTobacco/CDER/ucm166250.htm>

Adjunct Faculty Position in Statistics Department of Statistics, George Mason University

Duties and Responsibilities: The Department of Statistics invites qualified individuals to apply for an adjunct faculty position. The primary responsibility will be to teach one or two Introductory Statistics courses per semester at our Loudoun Campus on a per course contract (stipend but no benefits) beginning Spring 2016. Other opportunities at the Fairfax campus may arise. The position entails preparing and delivering lectures, actively communicating with students via office hours and email, working with graduate teaching assistants who grade student assignments and exams. Generally these classes are held after 4:30 PM one night per week. Since the Introductory Statistics course is coordinated across all campuses the instructor is required to have close contact with the course coordinator and collaborate with the Fairfax teaching faculty through weekly meetings.

Position Qualifications: Applicants must have a master's degree or above in statistics, mathematics education, or another relevant discipline. Other qualifications include some experience with PC-based statistical software. Individuals with previous teaching experience will be strongly considered.

Website: <https://www.gmu.edu/>; <http://statistics.gmu.edu/>; <http://loudoun.gmu.edu/>

Application Information: Brief letter of intent, CV, brief statement of teaching and statistical software experience, transcripts to:

Chair, Adjunct Search Committee
Department of Statistics
George Mason University
4400 University Dr MS 4A7
Fairfax, VA 22030

Contact Email: statistics@gmu.edu

Application Deadline: September 15, 2015

Free Statistics Internship Listing Opportunity in *Amstat News* and on ASA Website

The American Statistical Association is inviting organizations to submit a 2016 internship listing to be included in the December 2015 issue of *Amstat News* and posted on the ASA website (at no charge). You are welcome to submit statistics related internship information all year for the ASA website, but only submissions received by October 20, 2015 will be included the December 2015 issue of *Amstat News*.

If interested, please visit <http://www.amstat.org/education/internships.cfm> where you will find instructions and the internship listing form under the Internship Opportunities Listing Form for Organizations link.

We offer this complimentary service for the organizations who offer statistics related internships for students and to assist statistics students to find internship opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Nichols at rebecca@amstat.org.

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FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

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

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