



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WSS

WSS is Seeking Volunteers

I thank Fritz Scheuren and Michael Yang who have stepped forward to fill the Program Chair vacancies for Data Collection Methods and Quality Assurance, respectively.

Volunteer positions currently available:

- Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator.
- Employment Column Coordinator.
- Program committee members in the following topic areas:
 - Agriculture and Natural Resources.
 - Economics.
 - Public Policy.
 - Statistical Computing

Please contact me (cdm7@cdc.gov) if you have an interest in filling any of these vacancies.

Thanks.

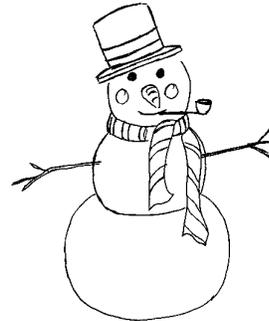
~ Chris Moriarity, WSS President

Welcome New A\$A/W\$\$ Members!

Robert Ashmead
Laura Bechtel
Kevin Bembridge
Xing Chen
Jie Cong
Sharon Gilbert
Justin Grimes
Lauren Harrell
Elizabeth Hohman
Frederick Joutz
Regis Komperda
Michael Krzysko
Hanyun Li
Lauren Lindros
Michael Loehlein
Ravi Makhija
Scott Marchese
Djass Mbangdadji
Norberto Morales
Deborah Murphy
Martha Nason
Genevieve Pham-Kanter
Shiqiu Qiu
Anthony Roring
Richard Schwinn
Hui Shao
Deanne Swan
Anthony Thrall
Xiang Wang
John Watts
Erin Wiley
Biao Yin
Panpan Zhang
Hanzhi Zhou

~ Chris Moriarity, WSS President

TIME TO PARTY!



The Washington Statistical Society

cordially invites you to our annual

Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

5:30 – 8:30 PM

District ChopHouse & Brewery, The Vault

509 7th St NW Washington, DC 20004; www.districtchophouse.com

Metro: Red, Green, or Yellow Line/Gallery Place Chinatown
(use Verizon Center exit and walk less than one block south on 7th St.)

Car parking information: <http://dc.about.com/od/transportation/a/PkgVerizonCtr.htm>

All WSS members, family, friends, and colleagues are welcome

Cocktail Buffet (V: vegetarian)

Grilled Chicken and Vegetable Pasta Salad, Hummus and Crudités Platter (V),
Gourmet Cheese Board (V), Grilled Veggie and Cheese Mini Wraps (V), Mini Beef
Burgers, Potato Wedges (V), Miniature Crab Cakes, Shrimp Cocktail,
Margarita Pizza (V)

Free soft drinks

One free drink of your choice, then cash bar

Ticket prices

Pre-paid \$20

Door \$25

Full-time student (pre-paid only) \$15

Please help us to plan ahead by pre-registering

Online credit card payment:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-holiday-party-tickets-1923194019>

Check payment: mail name(s)/check(s)/phone or email contact information by

November 20 to:

Ranjana Kohli, 1100 First Street NE, Floor 12, Washington, DC 20002

WSS ANNUAL REPORT (2014-2015)

Thanks to exceptional service by Board members, committee chairs, and volunteers, WSS had a strong year 2014-15! In addition to accomplishing a long list of annual activities, we developed a new mentoring program, created a statistics education committee, and began a partnership with [DataCommunityDC](#). A report on our collective accomplishments follows:

Recognizing contributions to the field

WSS continued to recognize contributions to statistics and related fields. Many thanks to award committee chairs and members for the work that goes into each of these decisions!

At the annual WSS dinner held at the National Press Club on June 23, I was honored to bestow the **2015 WSS President's Award**. The purpose of this annual award is to recognize members who have gone an extra mile (or marathon) to serve the interests and membership of the WSS. We recognized Mike Fleming for his leadership of an extraordinary number of well-planned and well-attended seminars. Mark Otto was thanked for spearheading the new mentoring program. We lauded Andy Keller for multiple years of outstanding and reliable service to the society as secretary. And, Yang Cheng was appreciated for organizing several outstanding short courses. Thanks again to all of you.



Thanks to Mike for organizing great seminars -- and taking all the pictures in this report.

Just prior to the dinner, the 2015 **Gertrude M. Cox Award** was awarded to Dr. Jae Jwang Kim of Iowa State University. This award recognizes mid-career statisticians who have made significant contributions to one or more areas of applied statistics. Dr. Kim gave a lecture at RTI International titled "Best prediction using area level models combining several sources of information from survey samples and big data." The Cox award is sponsored by WSS and RTI International.

The **2015 Julius Shishkin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics** was awarded to Brent Moulton, associate director for national economic accounts at the Bureau of Economic Analysis, for leadership in implementing major innovations in the U.S. national accounts, advancing international standards for national accounts, and expanding integration of U.S. statistical programs. This award is cosponsored by the WSS, the National Association for

Business Economics, and the Business and Economic Statistics Section of the ASA. This award recognizes original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or the use of statistics in interpreting the economy.



Brent Moulton receiving the Shiskin Award at the annual dinner

The **2015 Roger Herriot Award**, co-sponsored by the WSS and ASA's Government and Social Statistics Sections, was awarded to Jennifer Madans, associate director for science at the National Center for Health Statistics, for leading successful efforts to address difficult measurement issues--including disability--and advance health statistics for program and policy applications. The award recognizes individuals who develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

ASA Fellowship is a broad recognition of an individual's contribution to the field of statistics, the statistical profession, and the ASA. Our ASA Fellows committee works to identify WSS members who are deserving of this honor and coordinate the preparation and submission of nominations. In 2015, six members of the Washington Statistical Society were elected as ASA Fellows! Congratulations to Kennon R. Copeland, (NORC at the University of Chicago), Jill Dever (RTI International), Linda Jacobsen (Population Reference Bureau), Peter V. Miller (US Census Bureau), Frank J. Potter (Mathematica Policy Research), and Diane Willimack (US Census Bureau).

The **Morris Hansen Lecture** occurred on January 20, 2015. Danny Pfefferman of the University of Southampton, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and the Central Bureau of Statistics in Israel gave the Hansen lecture entitled "Methodological Issues and Challenges in the Production of Official Statistics." John Eltinge, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Lawrence Brown, from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and Chair of the Committee on National Statistics at the National Academy of Sciences, served as discussants.

The WSS Board again co-sponsored the **Jeanne Griffith Mentoring Award**. This award recognizes mentoring of younger staff in the Federal Statistical System. The award was given to Aldo (Skip) Vecchia, a research statistician with the U. S. Geological Survey. For a second year in a row, the Board funded a WSS Joint Statistical Meeting (JSM) Student Travel Award. Hui Shao from George Mason University won the award, which pays registration fees and hotel and travel costs (up to \$1,000). Hui attended the JSM meeting in Seattle in August.

Sponsoring seminars and short courses.

Under Mike Fleming's leadership, we sponsored 13 **seminars** that helped to develop our members and keep their knowledge current. More 500 people attended in person or virtually to learn from 42 speakers covering topics including estimation with administrative records, disclosure avoidance techniques, applications of Bayesian methods, classification and regression trees, and assessing and preventing curbstoning. Yang Cheng led the **short course** committee, organizing several well-attended courses on logistic regression, R, and small area estimation. In addition to fostering development of WSS members, short courses bring revenue to the society that makes it possible for us to sponsor events and scholarships.



Presenters and organizers of the curbstoning seminar

In its first year, the **statistics education committee**, led by Carol Blumberg and Elizabeth Johnson, sponsored 3 seminars: statistics education as part of the common core; introductory statistics at the college level: making it more exciting and relevant; and teaching precursors to data science. Informal receptions followed each seminar. The committee also hosted a mock AP exam attended by more than 160 students from eight local high schools. It provided students with valuable practice as they prepared for the actual exam and allowed teachers to meet and discuss issues related to the AP Statistics curriculum and exam scoring. The event was partially sponsored by the WSS, and ASA provided promotional materials.

WSS again partnered with the DC chapter of AAPOR to co-sponsor the **AAPOR/Joint Statistical Meeting review/preview** mini-conference. This year, we included presentations from AAPOR (held in Hollywood, FL), JSM (held in Seattle, WA) and FedCASIC (half of which had been snowed out in DC in March). We shortened the event to one day. The conference was again held at the BLS Conference center, on August 3.

Advancing quantitative literacy (QL).

Thanks to Dhuly Chowdhury's leadership and the help of many different volunteer members, the WSS participated in a large number of local QL activities. Brian Sloboda led the Curtis Jacob Memorial Award for Outstanding Statistics Project process, awarding the prize to students and their advisor from Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD for the project "Religious Association in the Modern Day." Frank Yoon organized 5 regional science fairs, identifying 6-7 judges at each. Mark Otto represented ASA and WSS at the Howard

County STEM Festival. We received books and software from donors to use as prizes. Barnali Das and Richard Sigman organized the ASA and WSS poster competitions, working with 16 judges.

Communications

We made multiple strides in the communication area. Tom Mule coordinated dissemination across the various media that keep membership linked. Colleen Choi continued to faithfully produce the monthly newsletter and Vince Massimini again moderated the listserv. Tim Allen further modernized our web site, improving navigation and adding helpful calendars and engaging photos. Phil Kalina recognized synergies between data science and statistics and worked with me to begin a partnership with Data Community DC. The two organizations cosponsored a seminar this year and hope to deepen this partnership in the future. The society also participated as judges in and spread the word to members and local universities about the first annual DC Datafest that was held for undergraduate students in April 2015.



Tim Allen and Tom Mule at the annual dinner

Mentoring

In synch with ASA's focus on mentoring, Mark Otto worked closely with David Morganstein from ASA and with WSS at-large members Jaki McCarthy, Tom Krenzke, and QL chair Dhuly Chowdury to pilot a mentoring program. They defined the program, advertised it in Amstat and elsewhere, and diligently matched more than 20 mentor-mentee pairs who are now working together.



Mark Otto and Dhuly Chowdury

Social activities

Under Shelly Rose's leadership, we hosted several enjoyable social events including a night out at the Nats, a lovely holiday party (at The Brixton), the Hansen lecture reception (at NASS/USDA), and an elegant annual awards dinner at the National Press Club. Tim Allen (student representative) started a monthly Scholars and Statisticians happy hour at KramerBooks, which is often well attended.

Student Activities

In his second year as the Student Representative, Tim Allen (UDC) instituted the "Scholars & Statisticians Happy Hour," a regular monthly social function that allowed local university Statistics students to meet working statisticians, learn about industry practices, and explore mentoring possibilities. Tim also made membership presentations at local universities to educate students about the benefits of WSS and ASA membership and wrote the Student Corner column of the WSS newsletter.

Membership

Membership numbers remain healthy. As of June 2015, the membership of WSS/ASA was just over 900. Of these, about 70 were associate members. Membership numbers are dynamic and we did some purging of old addresses this year; we know that membership at least remained steady and may have increased. Chris Moriarity and Tim Allen put most of the pieces in place to move the associate member sign up process to the web, which will make it easier to join and to track membership.

Finances

Thanks largely to membership fees and short course tuition, we had strong revenue this year and WSS remains in good financial health. Our expenditures over the year included costs to support quantitative literacy, Hansen catering, sponsorship of awards, the holiday party, and providing complementary meals for award winners at the annual dinner. Jill Dever, our treasurer, substantially improved our ability to track our finances, better aligning our accounting of revenues and expenditures.

It was truly an exceptional opportunity to lead this organization—which was largely about facilitating and trying to keep up with all of this good work. I really like our tradition of ending the year with a dinner and awards. By June, there is much to recognize and celebrate! Chris Moriarity is leading us well now. As past-President, I will be determining the 2016-17 slate of WSS Board officer nominations. If you are interested in running, or wish to learn more about a particular office, please contact me at dherz@mathematica-mpr.com.



Transition of the President role to Chris Moriarity at the June board meeting

~ Diane Herz (2014-2015)

SEMINARS

WSS Mini-Conference Presentations Available On-Line

A WSS mini-conference on non-probability samples was held on September 9, 2015 at Mathematica Policy Research's DC office. It drew one of the largest audience, more than 100 people attending the conference either in person or by webex.

We thank all speakers for stimulating presentations and attendees to participate in discussions during and after the conference. For those who would like to hear all or parts of presentations, video recording of all presentations is now available at:

<https://vimeo.com/album/3609098>. You can also access this link through WSS website:
<http://washstat.org/presentations/>.

~ Donsig Jang, WSS Methodology Section Chair



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: December 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.

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

Title: **An Overview of the Recently Updated ASA Undergraduate Curriculum Guidelines for Statistics**

Date/Time: **January 20, 2016
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.

Speaker: Steve Cohen, Senior Fellow, NORC at the University of Chicago

Chair: Nathaniel Schenker, Deputy Director, National Center for Health Statistics and Former President, ASA

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 **January 18, 2016**.

Abstract: The American Statistical Association (ASA) recognizes the importance of undergraduate programs in statistics. In 2000 ASA endorsed undergraduate curriculum guidelines for statistics. In 2013 ASA formed an undergraduate curriculum workgroup to revise if necessary the 2000 guidelines as much has changed over the intervening 12 years since they were last reviewed. While many aspects of our 2014 recommendations remain the same as the previous guidelines, much has changed and needs to be made more specific and detailed. The proposed new guidelines reflect the increased importance of data-related skills in practice, with more emphasis on teamwork, communications, and related experiences (e.g., internships, REUs, and capstones). In this talk, I provide the context of how the workgroup attempted to gain community input on what should be included, discuss the details of the new curriculum guidelines as they reflect changes already implemented in many current curricula, and discuss the supporting material that supplements the guidelines with addition detail that is on the ASA website.

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 **January 18, 2016**. Instructions will be provided to you around **January 18**.

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 MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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



Meet WSS Member Dwight Brock...

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

I work in the Statistical Group at Westat, doing primarily survey sampling, weighting, and variance estimation for a variety of projects. I have been a member of the sampling and weighting team for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, since I joined Westat in 2002. I have also worked on sampling and weighting for the Administration on Aging National Survey of Older Americans Act service clients, now in its 10th cycle. In a related AoA project I used survival analysis techniques to study risk factors for nursing home placement for AoA service clients who were receiving home- and community-based long term care services. Other projects included analysis of data from a Centers for Disease Control survey of physicians regarding adverse outcomes from vaccinations, and analysis of longitudinal income data from a welfare-to-work program for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to joining Westat, I was Chief of the Biometry Section in the Laboratory of Epidemiology, Demography and Biometry at the National Institute on Aging at N.I.H. There I directed and conducted epidemiologic, demographic and biometric research on aging and the health problems of older persons.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

In addition to the wide variety of statistical projects Westat is currently involved in, and the outstanding staff of statistical colleagues at Westat, the Westat offices are a short commute for me! The other big attraction Westat held for me is that my daughter works as a Westat statistician as well.

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

...meet and interact with other statisticians, to learn about the latest work in statistical research and methodology at the local level, and to do my part to serve the statistical community.

4. What was your first job?

As a teenager, I worked for my father, a piano tuner and technician, assisting him in rebuilding the actions (that is, the internal workings) of old upright (and sometimes grand) pianos. That led to regular part-time work during my college years at a piano store.

5. Why did you join the statistics profession?

In my senior year of an undergraduate Math major at Southern Methodist University, I had the good fortune to take an introductory course in Mathematical Statistics taught by Alfred E. (Pat) Crofts, a graduate teaching assistant who made the subject so interesting for me that I inquired about further study. He introduced me to Professor Paul D. Minton, the founder and Chair of a new Department of Statistics at S.M.U. Paul, a natural-born salesman for Statistics, made it very attractive for me and a number of other students to stay at S.M.U. and do graduate work in Statistics. Paul not only recruited good students to the program, he also saw to it that we all received financial support for our studies, and he helped us find jobs when we graduated. With that kind of background, it was very easy for me to enter the statistics profession.

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

First, realize that the set of skills you learned in graduate school will take you only so far. It is really important to learn from your experiences outside of the classroom and to do your best to keep up with the rapid changes that are taking place in statistical theory, methodology and computing. Finally, work hard at honing and improving your communications skills, both oral and written. We as statisticians can do much for our profession by communicating our ideas and thoughts effectively, especially to non-statistical colleagues and lay audiences.

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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

7. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?

In addition to my background in Math and Statistics, I did serious study to become a classically trained vocal musician. I sang semi-professionally for a number of years after moving to the Washington area, doing freelance solo work and as a regular member of a professional choral ensemble, but I never attempted a full career as a musician. That would have been my choice of an alternative profession to attempt.

8. What is your favorite daily ritual?

Every morning, weather permitting, my wife and I take a 4-mile walk. At home we walk through our neighborhood, but when we are away, we seek out new venues for our daily walks. One of the more interesting ones is the Charles W. Cullen Bridge over the Indian River Inlet in the Delaware Seashore State Park. It is a cable-stayed bridge with a span of 2600 feet. The cables are painted blue, and when they are lit at night, they add a bit of color to the night sky in southern Sussex County, Delaware.

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

I retain my interest in music, expressing that interest primarily through serving as the director of the NIH Chamber Singers, a volunteer choral group consisting of 16 singers who perform a wide variety of musical styles, as they like to say, from Bach to the Beatles. In addition, my wife and I are very fortunate to live close to our two children and their families (four grandchildren). We try to spend as much time as possible enjoying the grandchildren in particular.

10. Is there anything else you would like to share with the WSS members?

The WSS is a vibrant, active organization offering a wide variety of opportunities to its members for both learning and participating in the excellent seminar series and for giving back to the profession through service to the Society. I encourage WSS members to take advantage of as many of its activities as they can. The reward is in meeting new colleagues, adding to one's knowledge base and serving the profession.

* Dwight has actively served the WSS community through his roles as past President (1998-1999) and Representative-At-Large (1989-1991). He is also currently serving as WSS Historian.

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.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

Roger Herriot Award Nominees

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 **2016 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 2016 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 2016. 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
2015 - Jennifer Madans (National Center for Health Statistics)

Nominations for the 2016 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2016**. 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 Dave Hubble, Chair of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-610-8814 or davidhubble@westat.com. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2016.** Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

ASA SRMS is seeking applicants for the 2016 JSM Student Travel Award

The Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) of the American Statistical Association offers a Student Travel Award for students in any terminal degree program (bachelors, masters, or doctoral) in the area of statistics, survey methodology, or allied survey research disciplines. Support is offered for students to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings, to be held in Chicago, Illinois from July 30 to August 4, 2016.

Preference is given to students presenting a paper or poster at the conference. In addition, applications must be supported by a current member of the SRMS. Approximately 6 awards of up to \$800 each are expected to cover conference expenses. Winners are expected to attend JSM sessions and the SRMS Business meeting to be recognized by our section. Note, previous SRMS student travel award winners and JSM 2016 student paper competition winners are not eligible for this award.

Application forms are available at http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/travelapp_2016.pdf. Deadline for applications is December 15, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Michael P. Cohen at mpcohen@juno.com.

~ Michael P. Cohen, ASA SRMS Treasurer

SHORT COURSES & GRADUATE PROGRAM

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	Application Deadline
MS & PhD	January 1 for study beginning the following fall term
Change of Program, Dual Degree, & Readmission	January 1 for study beginning the following fall term
Certificate	April 1 for study beginning the following summer term July 1 for study beginning the following fall term
Non-Candidate for Degree	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 OPPORTUNITIES

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Special Service Faculty Positions Position Description

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in The George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health seeks two full-time Special Service (non-tenure track) faculty to teach undergraduate and graduate students on site and online as part of the undergraduate public health program, the master's degree programs in Epidemiology and in Biostatistics, and the online MPH@GW.

Job Description. The Special Service faculty members will work full-time on a 2-year renewable contract to support the teaching mission of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics program. The positions may include course director responsibilities for undergraduate epidemiology courses as well as introductory graduate level epidemiology and biostatistics courses. Educational administrative responsibilities may be included. The positions will also include participation in monthly Department faculty meetings. Appointments will be as a Teaching Assistant Professor, Teaching Associate Professor, or Teaching Professor depending on qualifications.

Basic Qualifications. Applicants must have: 1) a doctoral degree in epidemiology, biostatistics or a related field. 2) Relevant teaching experience as a course director or equivalent experience.

Application Process. To apply, please complete an online faculty application at <https://www.gwu.jobs/postings/29719> and upload a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and a statement of teaching experience and interests. Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2015 and will continue until the positions are filled. Only complete applications will be considered. Employment offers are contingent upon the satisfactory outcome of a standard background screening.

The university is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer that does not unlawfully discriminate in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or on any other basis prohibited by applicable law.



ASSISTANT / ASSOCIATE RESEARCH PROFESSOR

Clinical Trial Statistician / Biostatistician

With an opportunity for substantial leadership responsibility in studies of international public health import

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health. We manage NIH research funding totaling over \$60 million per year for major studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. The center has a staff of over 115 with 35 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 13 faculty. We are recruiting a Ph.D. level research faculty position to participate in these and future studies. Please visit our web site at www.bsc.gwu.edu to learn more about our research.

Assistant / Associate Research Professorial Position with responsibilities at the Biostatistics Center and in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Position involves: serving as Co-Investigator on an existing grant studying youth-onset type 2 diabetes. The successful candidate will join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists, contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, interact with medical investigators, participate in the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and make an impact on issues important to public health. The candidate will be expected to develop expertise in the design, conduct, analysis, and report of multi-center collaborative research, with the ultimate goal of acquiring funding as a coordinating center principal investigator. As a member of the faculty of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the candidate will be expected to participate in Milken Institute School of Public Health faculty activities as well as educational activities at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration between faculty and graduate students.

Basic Qualifications: Applicants must have a Doctorate in Statistics, Biostatistics, or Epidemiology with strong credentials in statistical methodology.

Application Procedures: To be considered please complete an online faculty application at <http://www.gwu.jobs/postings/29015> and upload a Curriculum Vitae, a letter that includes a synopsis of your experience and qualifications, including any medical scientific presentations or publications, and a statement of career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals. Please send three letters of reference to researchjobs@bsc.gwu.edu or by U.S. Post to Manager of Human Resources, The Biostatistics Center, The George Washington University, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852.

Only complete applications will be considered. Review of applications will begin on [November 5, 2015](#) and is ongoing until the position is filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children. Employment offers are contingent on the satisfactory outcome of a standard background screening. The George Washington University is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer that does not unlawfully discriminate in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity expression, or on any other basis prohibited by applicable law.



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D C

**Position Announcement: Tenure-Track Assistant Professorship
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
College of Arts and Sciences
American University**

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at American University (Washington, DC) invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor beginning August 1, 2016.

Candidates should be effective teachers and must be strongly committed to excellence in scholarly research. An ideal candidate will have a facility with computation, and can identify specific prospects for on-campus collaboration, possibly interdepartmental. From a mathematician, we also seek a research program with roots in deep mathematics. From a statistician, we seek a familiarity with Bayesian modeling. We are open to researchers who ignore traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Applicants must have a PhD in a relevant discipline, and post-doctoral experience is preferred. Responsibilities include: establishing an internationally recognized research program, preferably in cooperation with other AU faculty; teaching and curriculum development, including engagement of students in research; and service to the department and to the wider university.

American University's areas of long-time strength or recent investment in related computational areas include computational and behavioral neuroscience, environmental science, public health, persuasive gaming, visualization, biostatistics, Big Data and analytics, and informatics.

Salary and benefits are competitive. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled, subject to on-going budgetary approval. Applications received by December 1 will receive full consideration. Please submit applications via mathjobs.org. Applicants should submit a cover letter explaining how they fit the criteria above, curriculum vitae, teaching statement, and research statement, and they should arrange for the submission of at least three letters of recommendation, at least one of which should address teaching ability. Please contact Linda Greene, Administrative Coordinator, at 202-885-3137 or lgreene@american.edu if you have any questions.

American University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution that operates in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The university does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, personal appearance, gender identity and expression, family responsibilities, political affiliation, source of income, veteran status, an individual's genetic information or any other bases under federal or local laws (collectively "Protected Bases") in its programs and activities. American University is a tobacco and smoke free campus.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

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Statistical Computing	VACANT			
Student Representative	Scott Marchese	7/2015-6/2016	(540) 313-0258	smarches@masonlive.gmu.edu

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Web Master	Tim Allen	(202) 465-1434	washstat.webmaster@gmail.com
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	(202) 693-5904	Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov
Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition	Barnali Das	(301) 279-4593	barnalidas@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coord.	VACANT		
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coord.	Mark Otto	(301) 497-5872	mark_otto@fws.gov
Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coord.	Frank Yoon	(609) 945-6616	FYoon@Mathematica-Mpr.com

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	Adam Safir		(202) 691-5175	safir.adam@bls.gov
	Fritz Scheuren		(202) 320-3446	scheuren@aol.com
Herriot Award Committee	Jill Montaquila	Soc. Sec. Rep.	(301) 517-4046	jillmontaquila@westat.com
	John Dixon	Govt. Sec. Rep.	(202) 691-7516	dixon.john@bls.gov
	Mary Batcher	WSS Rep.		marybat1@verizon.net
WSS Committee on ASA Fellows	Polly Phipps	Chair	(202) 691-7513	Phipps.polly@bls.gov
	Cynthia Clark		(703) 556-8825	czfclark@cox.net
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Shiskin Award Committee	Robert Parker	Chair	(301) 467-7677	parkerrobertp@aol.com
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	Connie Citro			ccitro@nas.edu
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	Mark Harris	USDA Rep.	(703) 877-8000 ext. 100	mark_harris@nass.usda.gov
	Keith Rust	Westat Rep.	(301) 251-8278	keithrust@westat.com

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **December, 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.

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