



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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WSS SHORT COURSE

WSS Short Course
Adaptive Design: Overview, Hurdles, and Examples
January 30, 2018 (Rescheduled)
9:00 am – 3:30 pm

Dr. Christopher Coffey

Bureau of Labor Statistics
Conference rooms 1-3, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

Course Content:

In recent years, there has been substantial interest in the use of adaptive or novel randomized trial designs. Adaptive clinical trial designs provide the flexibility to adjust aspects of the design of a clinical trial based on data reviewed at interim stages. Although there are a large number of proposed adaptations, all generally share the common characteristic that they allow for some design modifications during an ongoing trial. Unfortunately, the rapid proliferation of research on adaptive designs, and inconsistent use of terminology, has created confusion about the similarities, and more importantly, the differences among the techniques. Furthermore, the implementation of adaptive designs to date does not seem consistent with the increasing attention provided to these designs in the statistical literature. This course will attempt to clarify some of the confusion surrounding the use of these methods, as well as provide examples where they have been used in the past. The course will provide some clarification on the topic and describe some of the more commonly proposed adaptive designs. The course will also provide a more in-depth discussion of the theory and implementation of adaptive designs in real-world settings. The presenter will draw from several recent examples of studies implementing adaptive designs, and attempt to address the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches used. Finally, the course will focus on some specific barriers that impede the use of adaptive designs in the current environment, summarize the results of a couple of recently completed surveys to assess the interest and attitudes of the clinical trials community in general with respect to adaptive designs, and discuss future work that is needed in order to ensure that investigators can achieve the promised benefits of adaptive designs.

About the Instructor:

Dr. Coffey joined the faculty at the University of Iowa in fall 2009 as a Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and became the Director of the CTSDMC in August 2010. He received his PhD in biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999 and has nearly 20 years of experience providing data management and statistical support to clinical trials. Dr. Coffey serves as the PI of the DCC for several large clinical studies, including the NINDS-funded NeuroNEXT Network. Dr. Coffey also serves as the head of the Statistics Core for the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative, and is co-PI of the NINDS-funded Clinical Trials Methodology in Neurology short course. Dr. Coffey has served as the primary

statistician for multi-site trials in Huntington's disease, hypertension, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, obesity, pediatric migraine, spinal muscular atrophy, stroke, and traumatic brain injury. He is a past member of the NINDS NSD-K clinical trials study section, a Fellow of both the Society Clinical Trials and American Statistical Association, serves on a number of Data and Safety Monitoring Boards. Dr. Coffey has published extensively in the areas of adaptive designs, missing data, model validation, and general clinical trial design.

Course Schedule:

8:15 - 9:00 Coffee, breakfast, and check in

9:00 - 9:15 **Introduction & Welcome**

9:15 - 9:45 **Overview of Adaptive Designs**

9:45 - 10:30 **Types of Adaptive Designs – “Learning Stage” Adaptations**

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 - 12:00 **Types of Adaptive Designs – “Confirming Stage” Adaptations**

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 - 1:45 **Types of Adaptive Designs – “Confirming Stage” Adaptations (cont.)**

1:45 - 2:15 **Good Practices & Barriers for Use of Adaptive Designs**

2:15 - 2:30 Break

2:30 - 3:15 **Surveys on Use of Adaptive Designs**

3:15 - 3:30 **Course Summary & Open Discussion**

Advance registration: In addition to your RSVP here, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-adaptive-design-overview-hurdles-and-examples-tickets-38586435066> to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on January 25, 2017; earlier if the course fills up.

Registration Fees:

Full-time students (at most 8): \$62.49 advance, \$80 at the door

WSS members: \$185.49 advance, \$200 at the door

All others: \$216.24 advance, \$240 at the door

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

SEMINAR

PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO EDUCATORS, STUDENTS AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC

Title: **It's Not What We Said, It's Not What They Heard, It's What They Say They Heard**

Date/Time: **January 24, 2018/4:00–5:30 p.m.**
(Snow date of January 31, 2018)
Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.

Speaker: Barry D. Nussbaum, 2017 President of the American Statistical Association and former Chief Statistician of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Chair: Michael Messner, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Sponsors: Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Statistics Education Committee, Gonzaga College High School, and WSS Methodology Program

Location: Gonzaga College High School - 19 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 – Cantwell Hall, Room 222. 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. You will then be on the 2nd floor. Turn right to where Room 222 is located. More information is at.

By Car: Free parking is available in any empty space in the school parking garage, which is accessible after 3 p.m. More information is at <https://www.gonzaga.org/page/about/directions>. 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. You will then be on the 2nd floor. Turn right where Room 222 is located.

RSVP: To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com by January 20, 2018

Abstract: Statisticians have long known that success in our profession frequently depends on our ability to succinctly explain our results so decision makers may correctly integrate our efforts into their actions. However, this is no longer enough. While we still must make sure that we carefully present results and conclusions, the real difficulty is what the recipient thinks we just said. This presentation will discuss what to do, and what not to do. Several illustrative examples are discussed including some from the speaker's work at the Environmental Protection Agency. These include results used in court cases, executive documents, and material presented for a President of the United States in order to illustrate the principles. The talk is non-technical. This talk is highly relevant to those teaching or studying statistics at any level.

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

No remote access; will be available for this seminar

CONFERENCES



Registration Is Now Open for the Second Annual Capital Data Summit

Feb. 28 Event Will Highlight the Region's Unique Big Data and Analytics Assets

Join the region's leading big data and analytics companies and prominent thought leaders at the second annual **Capital Data Summit** on **Feb. 28, 2018** at the Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner.

Featuring keynote speakers and panels offering unique insights on how big data and analytics are transforming industries and producing results for organizations and their customers, a technology showcase of the region's leading big data and analytics companies, and unmatched networking opportunities, the Capital Data Summit will provide exceptional business development and educational value for NVTC members and the entire Greater Washington technology community.

Keynote Speakers:

Bill Ruh, CEO, GE Digital, and Senior Vice President and Chief Digital Officer, GE

Mark Ryland, Chief Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services Public Sector

NEW IN 2018!

The 2018 Capital Data Summit will include a new **University Data Challenge**, in which teams of students representing the region's universities and community colleges will be challenged to analyze and respond to a topic/question using any combination of data sources and statistical, mathematical modeling, big data, and related techniques available to them.

In addition, one Summit session will focus on big data innovations with **5-minute flash briefings** from innovators and futurists. To be considered, please **click here OR** (http://online.nvtc.org/cfm/docs/capital_data_summit_application_022818.cfm).

REGISTER NOW!  (<http://www.capitaldatasummit.com/>)

Explore the unmatched big data and analytics assets and solutions that make this region the nation's big data capital!

Date:

February 28, 2018

Location:

The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner

1700 Tysons Blvd
McLean, VA 22102

Cost:

Member: \$395.00

Additional Member Attendee: \$345.00

General Audience: \$550.00

Student: \$50.00

Government Employee: \$25.00

Sponsor the Summit! Brand your company within the National Capital Region's big data community by sponsoring the Summit. Don't miss the opportunity to reach the region's top leaders in data analytics. There are sponsorships of all levels available! **Click here** (<http://www.nvtc.org/events/spondetail.php?event=WEB-BDCON>) or email **Yolanda Lee** (ylee@nvtc.org) for more sponsorship information.

Thank You To Our Sponsors



**Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology
Research and Policy Conference
March 7-9, 2018
Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC**

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology ([FCSM](#)) and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics ([COPAFS](#)) are pleased to announce:

Registration is **OPEN** for the 2018 FCSM Research and Policy Conference taking place March 7 - 9, 2018 at the [Washington Convention Center](#), 801 Mt Vernon Pl NW, Washington, DC 20001.

This conference will be well-attended and is an excellent forum to bring together federal and non-federal researchers and policy makers. We expect a wide representation of federal statisticians and Statistical Agency Directors and a strong representation of the academic and business sectors.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

The conference will feature 50 sessions on leading-edge methodological topics as well as emerging policy issues. Check out the preliminary program on both the [FCSM](#) and [COPAFS](#) websites.

REGISTRATION

Early-bird registration continues through December 31, 2017 at \$195.00 per registrant. Starting January 1, 2018, registration will be \$215.00 per registrant.

[Click here to register for this event.](#)

Please feel free to share this great opportunity with your colleagues who may benefit from this conference.

QUESTIONS

For program questions, contact Andrew Zukerberg, Program Chair, at Andrew.zukerberg@ed.gov.

For registration questions or to be included on the mailing list, contact Mae Pattison, Conference Coordinator, at fesm@copafs.org or at 202-507-6254.

Thank you on behalf of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology and COPAFS.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

Roger Herriot Award

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

Nominations are sought for the **2018 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 2018 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 2018. The Washington Statistical Society may 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)
2016 - Thesia Garner (BLS) and Kathy Short (Census Bureau)
2017 - John Eltinge (U.S. Census Bureau)

Nominations for the 2018 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2018**. 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 Mary Batchner, Chair of the 2018 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202-327-6773 or marybat10@gmail.com. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2018.** Electronic submissions to marybat10@gmail.com in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee Seeking nominees for 2018 Gertrude M Cox Award

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

http://washstat.org/awards/cox_award_2018.html

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

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

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

This award is made possible by funding from RTI International, and the recipient is chosen by a six-person committee - three each from WSS and RTI. This year's committee consists of WSS President Linda Young (co-chair), WSS Past President Mike Larsen, and WSS President-Elect Tom Krenzke; and Abhik Das, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (co-chair) from RTI. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS Annual Dinner, and a commemorative WSS plaque. Past recipients, in chronological order: Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, Nilanjan Chatterjee, Amy Herring, Frauke Kreuter, Jerome Reiter, Jae Kwang Kim, Bhramar Mukherjee, and Elizabeth Stuart.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki (kkrotki@rti.org) by **28 February, 2018** with a supporting statement and cv (or link).

If you have previously nominated a candidate and you wish that nomination to be reconsidered, we strongly encourage an update of the supporting materials.

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 Nathaniel Schenker...

Where do you work and what do you do?

Last March, I retired from the National Center for Health Statistics (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>). NCHS is the Nation's principal health statistics agency. Its mission is to provide statistical information that will guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people. I spent my first eleven years at NCHS as a senior research scientist, conducting statistical research relevant to the agency's mission and consulting and collaborating on methodological projects throughout the agency. I spent my final seven years as Associate Director for Research and Methodology, with my primary responsibility being to direct the Division of Research and Methodology, which is NCHS's methodological research and consulting division. The division has three branches, whose names are pretty much self-explanatory: the Collaborating Center for Questionnaire Design and Evaluation Research, the Collaborating Center for Statistical Research and Survey Design, and the Research Data Center.

What attracted you to your current position?

I left a tenured faculty position in the Department of Biostatistics at UCLA to work at NCHS. I enjoyed my time at UCLA, but there were several things about NCHS that attracted me to the agency, some professional and some personal. On the professional side, as a Federal employee, I'd be serving the Nation. I'd also work on addressing important problems that researchers and policymakers care about. In addition, NCHS is on the small side for a major statistical agency, so it had a "friendly" feel to it; and I'd have access to the leaders of the agency. Finally, NCHS seemed to encourage innovation, so I thought I could conduct some interesting research that would make a difference. (For more on NCHS and my transition from academia, see my article in the September 2008 issue of *Amstat News*, pp. 2-3; <http://magazine.amstat.org/archives/2008-amstat-news/>.) On the personal side, I grew up in Washington, so this would be a homecoming for me. And although my wife had grown up in Los Angeles, she had many relatives on the East Coast with whom we'd be able to spend more time.

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

I joined WSS to support it and the ASA, to make connections with DC-area colleagues, and to participate in WSS activities. ASA chapters have been an important part of my professional life, both when I worked in Los

Angeles and when I worked in Washington. When I finished graduate school at the University of Chicago in 1985, I moved back to Washington to work at the Census Bureau. I didn't know many of the Federal employees and other statisticians in the DC area, and the WSS gave me an opportunity to meet them. Moreover, early on I was invited to give a WSS seminar on part of my dissertation work, so I was able to "introduce" myself to a number of colleagues in the area. By the way, Fritz Scheuren was the discussant for my seminar, which made the event extra special!

Why did you join the statistics profession?

To be honest, when I was a kid, I never said, "I want to grow up to be a statistician." And when I started college at Princeton, I had no idea that I'd end up being a statistics major. I kind of just fell into the major. I always liked math and science, and when I was a sophomore, I took a course on exploratory data analysis. John Tukey, a faculty member at Princeton, had completed a draft of his soon to be famous "orange book" on the topic, and his draft was used as the course text. I did well in the course, and the instructor, Jane Menken, gave me positive comments on my final paper and told me that I should take more statistics. I took her advice and ended up majoring in the subject. I liked it enough that I studied it further in graduate school, and the rest is history. For more of my views about studying statistics, see my article in the July 2014 issue of *Amstat News* (<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2014/07/01/prescorner-july2014/>).

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

One of my most interesting statistical projects involved missing body-scan data in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). In 1999, dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scans were added to the NHANES to provide information on soft tissue composition and bone mineral content. However, in the years that ensued, DXA data were missing in whole or in part for about 20% of the eligible participants; and the missingness was associated with important characteristics such as body mass index and age. To handle this issue, the project team performed multiple imputation of the missing DXA data (<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/dxa/dxa.aspx>). Several features made the project interesting and challenging, including the relationship between

missingness on the DXA measures and the values of other variables; the highly multivariate nature of the variables being imputed; the need to transform the DXA variables during the imputation process; the desire to use a large number of non-DXA predictors, many of which had small amounts of missing data themselves, in the imputation models; the use of lower bounds in the imputation procedure; and relationships between the DXA variables and other variables, which helped both in creating and evaluating the imputations. Schenker et al. (2011), *Statistics in Medicine*, Volume 30, pages 260-276 describes the project in more detail.

What is your favorite daily ritual?

I'd have to say spending time with our dog, Callie, early in the morning. Every day at about 6 a.m., Callie jumps on me in bed and starts licking my hands and face, as if to say, "Daddy, it's time for our morning walk." I take her to a local field, and she runs around with some other dogs from the neighborhood. It's a very peaceful time of day, and I've experienced some beautiful views of the sky, the stars, and the moon. I've also become friends with other dog walkers, and we spend some time chatting while the dogs play. Callie and I finish our "outside time" by walking around the neighborhood. We then head home and have some breakfast, and then I read the newspaper or Facebook while Callie dozes on a chair next to me. My wife, Eve, usually wakes up a little while later, and Callie and I go upstairs and say good morning to her.

What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

When I was a kid, my mother made fantastic spaghetti with meat sauce, and that was my favorite meal. I'd always ask for at least seconds, not to mention thirds! My love of spaghetti, and more generally, pasta, has continued to this day.

What is your favorite song/artist/genre?

I come from a family of classical musicians. My father was a DC public school music teacher, choir director, and flutist. My sister is a professional violinist. I am an amateur cellist, and I played in my high school and college orchestras as well as a community orchestra early in my career. It's been several years since I last played, but I'd like to pick it up again in my retirement. I think my favorite composer is Brahms. I can't think of any of his compositions that I've not liked.

What is your greatest accomplishment?

On a personal level, the answer is easy: It was Eve's and my raising our son, Joseph. He's a terrific young man -- smart, thoughtful, kind, and friendly -- and currently a fourth-year student at the University of California, Berkeley majoring in cognitive science. We're very proud of him! On a professional level, the answer is harder. But I'd have to say it was being the president of the ASA in 2014. It was the year the association

celebrated its 175th anniversary. I worked with some great people and was able to contribute to the profession. And giving my Presidential Address on Tuesday night at JSM 2014 in Boston (<http://ww2.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2014/webcasts/index.cfm>) was definitely a highlight, although I have to admit that the prospect terrified me when I was elected!

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

I've sought out mentors at every stage of my career, including over the last few years, and I've had some great ones! Several characteristics made them great. When they were with me, they were really with me. In other words, they focused on me -- not their phones or computers -- and they listened to what was on my mind and tried to figure out what I needed. They were smart and experienced, and they gave me good advice. They were straight shooters -- they didn't dance around the issues. Finally, they had flexible views about what constitutes success, understanding that everybody has different strengths.

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 Wendy Barboza (Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov) or Natalia Weil (NataliaWeil@westat.org).

We look forward to hearing from you.

STUDENT CORNER

2018 JSM Student Travel Award Application

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) is offering a Student Travel Award for a local area student in a degree program (bachelors, masters, or doctoral) in the areas of statistics, survey methodology, or allied survey research disciplines. Support is offered for students to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), to be held in **Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada) July 28 - August 2, 2018.**

Applications must contain a letter of support either by a current member of the WSS or a faculty advisor (see below). Applicants are encouraged to plan to present a paper or poster at **JSM 2018**. The abstract submission deadline for *JSM 2018* is *February 1, 2018*. Applications for the WSS student travel award are due by **December 31, 2017**.

One award will be granted to a student attending a school local to the DC, MD or VA area. The award will cover conference hotel and travel expenses up to \$800, early-bird student conference registration, and a one-year student membership to the WSS.

In addition to attending the JSM sessions, the winner is expected to attend the Survey Research Methods Section Business Meeting in order to be recognized by the WSS. The winner is also expected to prepare an essay on his/her experience at the JSM to be published in the WSS Fall Newsletter.

Applicant Name: _____ Full time student [] Part-time []
 Department: _____
 University: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____
 Degree: _____ Anticipated graduation date: _____

Are you planning to present a paper or poster at JSM this year? YES NO

If yes, paper or poster title? _____

Have you previously attended any professional meeting on statistics, survey research, or a related discipline? YES NO

If YES, please describe (meeting, location, dates):

Signature of Applicant _____ Date Submitted _____

As a current WSS member and/or faculty advisor, I endorse this student's request:

Signature: _____
Printed Name: _____
Date: _____

**2018 JSM Student Travel Award Application
APPLICATION CHECKLIST – PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING:**

- Copy of most recent transcript or advising report from your university.
- Double-spaced essay, no more than two pages, describing your interest in statistics/survey research methods and your interest in attending JSM.
- Letter of support from a current WSS member or faculty advisor.

Application materials should be sent to Erin Tanenbaum (Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org) by email with the subject "WSS Student Travel Award".

Phone: (301)-634-9405.

Applications must be received by **December 31, 2017.**

Now Accepting Applications for Edward C. Bryant Scholarship

Applications for the [Edward C. Bryant Scholarship](#) are now being accepted. Each year, an outstanding graduate student in survey statistics is awarded the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship to help support the student's graduate education. The application deadline for the 2018 award is **March 1, 2018**. The award will be presented at the 2018 Joint Statistical Meetings.

Westat established the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Trust Fund in 1995 to honor its cofounder and chair emeritus. Under Bryant's leadership, Westat, an employee-owned statistical firm established in 1961, has grown into what is now one of the world's leading statistical research corporations serving federal, state, and local governments, as well as businesses and foundations.

Graduate students in survey statistics are encouraged to apply for the scholarship. For more information, including application instructions, see <http://www.amstat.org/ASA/Your-Career/Awards/Edward-C-Bryant-Scholarship-for-an-Outstanding-Graduate-Student-in-Survey-Statistics.aspx>.

~ Jill DeMatteis, Westat
Chair, Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Committee



ANNUAL POSTER COMPETITION FOR K-12 STUDENTS



Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **April 1, 2018.**

Call for Entries

The **American Statistical Association** (ASA) has an annual poster competition for students in Grades K-12, with separate winners in Grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The aim is to increase statistical awareness and understanding via a statistical poster containing two or more related graphics that summarize a set of data, look at the data from different points of view, and answer specific questions about the data in a coherent manner.

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

Objectives

Enhance students' understanding of:

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

Entry Rules & Guidelines

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

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

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

Further questions can be directed to Elizabeth Petraglia at (240) 314-7535 or elizabethpetraglia@westat.com.

Eligibility

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

Evaluation

- ▶ Overall impact – Eye-catching appeal, visual attractiveness, and ability to draw the viewer to investigate the individual graphs
- ▶ Clarity – Demonstration of important relationships in a clear, coherent manner
- ▶ Appropriateness – Appropriate graphics for the data
- ▶ Creativity! – A unique statistical question, original dataset, or novel approach

Prizes & Awards

WSS Poster Competition winners will be awarded as follows:

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES	
1st Prize:	\$100
2nd Prize & 3rd Prize:	\$50
TEAM ENTRIES	
1st Prize:	\$50 for each team member, up to a maximum of \$200.
2nd Prize & 3rd Prize:	\$25 for each team member, up to a maximum of \$100

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

Prizes & Awards, cont'd.

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

National winners will receive additional prizes as described at: <http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

Useful Resources about What Makes a Successful Poster

- ▶ **Webinar at (Under "Resources"):**
<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>
- ▶ **Observations from winners of the 2013 competition at:**
http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/EDU-2013Posters_Observations.pdf
- ▶ **Winning posters from recent competitions at:**
<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2017/08/01/2017-poster-and-project-winners/>

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

- ▶ **WSS Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize:**
<http://washingtonstatisticalsociety.org/awards/#jacobs>
- ▶ **ASA:**
<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Project-Competition-for-Grades-7-12.aspx>



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

WSS is updating its volunteer database and issuing a call for volunteers. Volunteer opportunities allow WSS members to share their statistical expertise with the community, meet other statisticians around the Washington area, and inspire the next generation of WSS members. Potential volunteer opportunities throughout the year range from science fair judging to speaking at school career days and ASA student chapters.

Please consider supporting WSS community service efforts. There is no commitment associated with adding your name to the database. WSS members listed in the database will receive notifications about volunteer opportunities, however, there is no requirement to volunteer. Even if you've volunteered in the past, please resend your information so we can ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information. Contact information will not be used for any other purposes.

If you are interested in adding your name to the volunteer database, please contact the Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator, Maura Bardos, by email (maura.bardos@eia.gov) or phone ([202-287-6090](tel:202-287-6090)) with the following information:

Name:

Affiliation:

Email:

Phone:

Interests (e.g., science fair judging, guest speaking at ASA student chapters):

WELCOME NEW ASA/WSS MEMBERS!

The following new ASA/WSS members were identified in the most recent updates of the WSS email list in July and October:

Christopher Antoun
 Carlos Roberto Arieira
 Salman Atassi
 Michael K. Bales
 Benjamin Ballerstein
 Allen Baumgardner-Zuzik
 Ionut Bebu
 Rachel Carrig
 Aviva Chaidell
 Eunha Choi
 Muriel Dow
 Mingxing Du
 Andreea Luisa Erciulescu
 Sean Fennell
 Andrew James Fiore
 Isabel Glinsky
 Michael Ryan Guggisberg
 William Kevin Ham
 Ying Han
 Margaret Ann Hansen
 Mehdi Hashemi
 Mina Hosseini
 Ronald J. Kelley
 Ryan W. King
 William Jen Hoe Koh
 Jenna R. Krall
 Janice Lee
 Jennifer Lee
 Richard Levy
 Lei Li
 Yang Li
 Robert Martin
 Andrea McGlynn
 Richard McGrath
 Carlie A. McIntyre
 Thomas Leo Mesenbourg
 Leanna Moron

Sepideh Mosaferi
 Trang Quynh Nguyen
 Brian Oliver
 Nathan Harold Parrish
 Brandon Woosuk Park
 Alexander G. Perrone
 Karriem AJ Perry
 Neil Polhemus
 Andrew Potter
 Mark Prell
 Colleen Amanda Reynolds
 Tracy A. Romano
 Joseph Roy
 Tara Shakley
 Shabab Ehsan Siddiqui
 Rajitha D. Siriwardana
 Bohannon Smith
 Rachelle Smith
 Jeff Steen
 Lucas Streng
 Lawrence Dunbar Stroud
 I-Hsuan Su
 Leanne R. Tims
 Charles R. Twardy
 Garret Dan Vo
 David Waddington
 Jialu Wang
 Michel Wedel
 John Weng
 Xuan Yao
 Bingxin Yu
 Huanjun Zhang
 Xingyou Zhang
 Zhiwei Zhang
 Yi Zhao
 Jinwang Zou

Welcome to WSS!

Linda Young, WSS President

Mike Larsen, WSS Past President

Tom Krenzke, WSS President Elect

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

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Treasurer	Jill Dever	7/2014-6/2018	(202) 974-7846	jdever@rti.org
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	Theresa Kim	7/2017-6/2019	(425) 243-2413	theresa.kim@gmail.com
	Lisa Mirel	7/2017-6/2019	301-458-4087	zav8@cdc.gov
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Methodology Section Chair	Wendy Martinez	7/2017-6/2018	(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
Communications Officer	Barnali Das	7/2016-6/2018	(240) 498-0137	barnalid33@gmail.com

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Methodology Program	Yulei He	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 458-4533	wdq7@cdc.gov
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Michael Bellow	7/2017-6/2018		MBellow@nass.usda.gov
Data Collection Methods	Vincent T. “Tom” Mule	7/2017-6/2018		Vincent.T.Mule.Jr@census.gov
Defense and National Security	Wendy Martinez	7/2017-6/2018	(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
Economics	Michael Jadoo	7/2017-6/2018		Jadoo.Michael@bls.gov
Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 232-4651	mpcohen@juno.com
Public Health and Biostatistics	Grant Izmirlian	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 496-7519	izmirlian@nih.gov
	Carolyn Carroll	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 320-8709	carolyn@stattech.com
Public Policy	Bob Sivinski	7/2017-6/2018		Robert G Sivinski@omb.eop.gov
Quality Assurance	Michael Yang	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 634-9492	Yang-Michael@norc.org
Social and Demographic Statistics	Promod Chandhok	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 366-2158	promod.chandhok@dot.gov
Statistical Computing	Xin He	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 405-2551	xinhe@umd.edu
Student Representative	Fanghan Wu	7/2017-6/2018		fw183@georgetown.edu

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Short Courses	Yang Cheng	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 763-3287	yang.cheng@census.gov
WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi	7/2017-6/2018		wss.editor@gmail.com
Electronic Mail Committee	S.V. (Vince) Massimini	7/2017-6/2018	(703) 983-5893	svm@mitre.org
Employment Column Coordinator	Lisa Faustlin	7/2017-6/2018	303-396-5164	faustlin@yahoo.com
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Social Arrangements Committee	Ranjana Kohli	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 552-6456	RKohli@mathematica-mpr.com
Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 691-7523	gillman.daniel@bls.gov
Communications	Phil Kalina	7/2017-6/2018	(703) 725-6600	phil@philkalina.com
Web Master	Chris Moriarity	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 270-3416	cdm7@cdc.gov
Quantitative Literacy Chair	Leanna Moron	7/2017-6/2018		leannaxmoron@gmail.com
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 693-5904	Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov
Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition	Elizabeth Petraglia	7/2017-6/2018	(614) 361-4982	elizabethpetraglia@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coord.	Maura Bardos	7/2017-6/2018		Maura.bardos@gmail.com
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coord.	Mark Otto	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 497-5872	Mark.ot2o@gmail.com
Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coord.	Frank Yoon	7/2017-6/2018	(609) 945-6616	FRANK.YOON@TRUVENHEALTH.COM
Student Travel Award	Erin Tanenbaum			Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org
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	John Dixon	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 691-7516	dixon_j@bls.gov
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	Al Gottschalk	Govt. Sec. Rep.		

	Mary Batcher	WSS Rep., 7/2015-6/2018		marybat1@verizon.net
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Hansen Lecture Committee	Frauke Kreuter	Chair	(202) 390-0413	fkreuter@umd.edu
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	Eric Slud			eric.v.slud@census.gov
	Linda Young	USDA Rep.		Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov
Keith Rust	Westat Rep.	(301) 251-8278	keithrust@westat.com	

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	Tom Krenzke	WSS Rep.	(301) 251-4203	tomkrenzke@westat.com
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	Ashley Schreckengost	7/2017-6/2018		aosborne_amo@hotmail.com

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **January 2018** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20th of the 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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