



# WSS NEWS

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# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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## **2019 WSS ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

In accordance with the WSS bylaws, we are announcing the slate of nominees for the upcoming 2019 election of WSS Board members. The election is scheduled to occur in May and will be open for approximately three weeks. The nominees for each position are listed in alphabetical order. Candidates other than those proposed by the Nominating and Election Committee may be nominated by petition of at least 2 percent of the members and must be submitted at least two weeks prior to start of the election.

Petitioned names should be submitted to the **Past-President, Linda Young at [Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov)**. Special thanks to the following committee members for their timely and thoughtful service: John Czajka and Lisa Mirel. We also thank Tom Krenzke for his help on merging files needed to conduct the election and Chris Moriarity for facilitating the website.

**For the 2019 election, the open positions are:**

### **For President-Elect (two nominees)**

#### **Jill Dever (RTI International)**

Jill A. Dever has been an active member of the American Statistical Association (ASA) since 1992 and of the WSS since 2002. She has served as WSS treasurer (2014-16, 2016-18), and as a presenter at the WSS Mini-Conference on Nonprobability Samples (2015). Currently, she is a member of the ASA Finance Committee, the joint WSS/Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) ASA Fellows Nomination Committee, and the ICES-VI Organizing Committee, as well as Associate Editor of Survey Methodology and the Journal of Official Statistics. ♦ As WSS President Jill will work with others to strengthen and grow the organization through initiatives that increase collaboration across our many disciplines and areas of focus, educate those new to our fields, and challenge us to identify signals in our data with new methods and to effectively communicate these signals above the din of noise experienced daily. ♦ She has worked in statistics and survey research for over 20 years on many topics including opioid use disorder, child protective services, and saltwater fishing, and on methods such as estimated control calibration, multiple objective optimization and nonprobability sampling. To date, Jill has co-authored 3 books, 2 scientific reports, and 20 peer-reviewed journal articles. She holds a BS in Mathematics from the University of Louisville (her home town); an MS in Biostatistics from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and a PhD from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) at the University of Maryland, College Park. ♦ She is a Senior Director at RTI International in Washington, DC, an Associate Research Professor at JPSM, and an elected Fellow of the ASA (2015).

**Ed Mulrow (NORC)**

Ed Mulrow is Vice President, Statistics and Methodology for NORC at the University of Chicago. Ed has over 30 year of statistical consulting experience, which includes: area probability sampling, tax compliance sampling, utilizing administrative records and other secondary data sources, Bayesian methods, evaluation methods, geographic information systems, visualization, data mining, record linkage, and performance measurement comparisons for determining parity. In his current role at NORC, he leads a number of projects for government and non-government clients, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). In the past, Ed has worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ernst and Young, SAIC, and the Statistics of Income division of the IRS. He earned a PhD from Colorado State University, and served as a faculty member at Southern Illinois University early in his career. Over the past year, Ed has been the co-chair of the WSS Social Arrangements Committee. For ASA, Ed is the Program Chair for the Section on Statistical Graphics, and previously served on the ASA LGBT Concerns Committee. Ed is an ASA Fellow, as well as, an Accredited Professional Statistician™ (PStat).

**For Methodology Program Chair-elect (two nominees)****Asaph Young Chun (Census Bureau)**

Dr. Asaph Young Chun, a Mathematical Statistician with the U.S. Census Bureau, has 25+ years of experience in survey methodology and interdisciplinary statistical research to inform evidence-based policy making. His goal, if elected as a Methodology Program Chair, is to spearhead a WSS mission-enabling program that advances statistical science and research and promotes the vital interests of the statistical profession shared among government, academia and industry. How can he implement this goal? Young will draw on two decades of his experience in leading a number of local and national programs of the ASA to vitalize cross-collaboration among statisticians, survey methodologists, and data scientists. He recently served as Program Chair of Social Statistics Section (2018), as well as Program Chair (2012-2014) of Statistics Without Borders, an official outreach group of the ASA. He currently serves as Program Chair of Survey Research Methods Section. Young has numerous publications on survey methodology and statistics and led a number of workshops on the use of administrative records as well as adaptive survey design across the Atlantic. He recently served as a Guest Editor-in-Chief of *A Special Issue on Responsive and Adaptive Survey Design* published by Journal of Official Statistics (2017, 2018). He is currently leading an edited book, *Administrative Records for Survey Methodology*, for publication this year by Wiley. Prior to the Census Bureau, he worked for 3 years at NORC at the University of Chicago; 9 years at American Institutes for Research; 8 years at the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and 2 years at the University of Michigan. A journalist-turned-sociologist who is devoted to statistical research and development, Young feels confident to lead and serve the WSS Methodology Program, together, with each of you.

**Benjamin Reist (USDA NASS)**

Dr. Benjamin M. Reist is currently the Deputy Director for Science and Planning in the Research and Development Division of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Before joining NASS in 2018, Ben worked for 12 years at the U.S. Census Bureau. At the Census Bureau, Ben was the Assistant Center Chief for Research in the Center for Adaptive Design. Before being promoted to Chief, Ben was the Survey Director for the National Survey of College Graduates. In addition to his Deputy Director duties at NASS, Ben is an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Maryland in the Joint Program in Survey Methodology. In this position, he teaches courses in the International Program in Survey and Data Science. In addition, Ben is the co-chair of the Federal Community on Statistical Methodology's Adaptive Survey Design Interest Group. Ben holds a Ph.D. in Survey Methodology from the University of Maryland, College Park; an M.S. in Statistics from George Washington University; and an M.S. in Mathematics and a B.A. in Economics and Mathematics from the University of Vermont.

**For Representatives-at-Large (four nominees)****Darryl Creel (RTI International)**

Darryl V. Creel is a Senior Research Statistician at RTI International, where he has worked for the last 15 years. Prior to RTI, he worked five years at Mathematica Policy Research and two years for the Federal government. His current work is primarily in the areas of complex survey data and biostatistical analysis. His professional areas of interest are in the analysis of complex survey data, imputation, and statistical learning. He has an MS in Statistical Science from George Mason University and pursued PhD course work in computational statistics there. He has held two previous positions at WSS. The first was as the head of the Local Area Committee when the Joint Statistical Meetings were in Washington, DC. The second was two two-year terms as the WSS secretary. He would like to continue his service to WSS as a representative-at-large. In his spare time, he joyously serves as chauffeur and ATM for his two teenage daughters.

**Barnali Das (National Center for Health Statistics)**

Barnali Das, a statistician at NCHS, has over 18 years of experience in biostatistics and epidemiology, and statistical consulting. She currently works on Health, US report to Congress at NCHS. She has also worked at the Congressional Research Service, the National Cancer Institute and at Westat. She has a particular interest in cancer statistics and cancer registry data and has worked in diverse areas including child welfare, education and various types of health data. She organized the WSS judging of the ASA K-12 Student Poster Competition for several years from 2012-2016 and then served as the WSS Communication Officer 2016-2018. She received her PhD in Statistics from the University of Washington, Seattle.

**Tiandong Li (Health Resources and Services Administration)**

Tiandong Li is a Statistician in the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis (NCHWA) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Dr. Li is the lead statistician overseeing the design and implementation of the National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses. He is also engaged in estimating supply and demand of the U.S. health workforce using micro-simulation model and researching U.S. health workforce with survey/administrative data. Previously, Dr. Li worked as a senior survey statistician at Westat for 14 years and served as the lead statistician in designing, conducting and analyzing multiple national studies. His work includes sampling, weighting, imputation, variance estimation, statistical modeling, and other tasks across a large variety of subject areas including health, education, transportation, labor, and crime. In addition to his regular work as a statistician, he enjoys volunteering at WSS/ASA activities, such as the WSS-ASA Student Poster competition, the Montgomery County Science Fair, and the ASA booth at the Science & Engineering Festival. Dr. Li would like to take this opportunity to serve the statistical society and promote younger generation of statisticians. Dr. Li received his Ph.D. in Applied Statistics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Martha McRoy (Pew Research Center)**

Martha McRoy is a research methodologist on the International Methods team at the Pew Research Center. Prior to joining the Center, she was a statistician in the education directorate at the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) where she worked on the annual publication *Education at a Glance*, focusing on indicators for instruction time, teacher salaries, and teachers' working time. She was also a survey statistician at Westat for five years. As a research methodologist, Martha works as a consultant within the Center on all international projects including the annual Global Attitudes Survey, International Religion studies, and an international Science and Society survey. These projects can range from two country studies to cross-national 35+ country studies. She works on everything from sample designs, sampling and weighting to questionnaire development and quality control. Her areas of interest in methodological research include interviewer contact strategies, interviewer effects, and imputation. She has a bachelor's degree in statistics from Grand Valley State University and a master's degree in survey methodology from the University of Michigan. In addition to being an active member of the WSS, Martha is also a member of DC-AAPOR as well as international statistics and public opinion research associations including the World Association for Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) and the European Survey Research Association (ESRA).

**For Secretary (one nominee)****Joe Conklin (Naval Audit Service)**

Joe Conklin is a twenty plus year resident of the Washington, DC, area and has worked as a mathematical statistician at the Census Bureau and Energy Information Administration. He presently is employed as the statistician for the Naval Audit Service. A native of Western New York, Joe graduated with a BA in liberal arts from the University of Rochester and an MS in Statistics from Virginia Tech. His specialty in statistics is quality control and assurance. Before joining the Federal government, he worked as an applied statistician for fifteen years in the defense electronics, airplane manufacturing, aluminum, semiconductor, and automotive industries. He served as WSS historian from 2011-2012.

## **WELCOME NEW ASA/WSS MEMBERS!**

The following new ASA/WSS members were identified in the update of the WSS email list in April:

Pramita Bagchi  
Le Bao  
Evan P. Carraway  
Sophia Chan  
Adam J. Ciarleglio  
Kate Dowdy  
Yein Jeon  
Tien-Huan Lin  
Robert Long  
Emily C. Nail  
Brandon Sepulvado  
John Timm  
Sipeng Wang

- ~ Welcome to WSS!
- ~Tom Krenzke, WSS President
- ~Linda Young, WSS Past President
- ~Eileen O'Brien, WSS President Elect

# **SEMINARS**

# STATISTICAL DISCLOSURE LIMITATION AND DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY

WSS PRESIDENT'S INVITED SEMINAR AND RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019

2:30 – 4:00 WITH RECEPTION FOLLOWING ON LOCATION

1100 FIRST STREET NE

12<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, MATHEMATICA POLICY RESEARCH CONFERENCE CENTER  
NEAR NOMA/GALLAUDET METRO

REGISTER BY APRIL 29 HERE:

[HTTPS://WSS.2019.PRESIDENTS.INVITED.SEMINAR.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://wss.2019.presidents.invited.seminar.eventbrite.com)

WEBEX LINK FOR PRESENTATION:

[HTTPS://MATHEMATICA.WEBEX.COM/MATHEMATICA/ONSTAGE/G.PHP?MTID=EBC9386C0E3881A70FE36A44D11F65446](https://mathematica.webex.com/mathematica/onstage/g.php?MTID=EBC9386C0E3881A70FE36A44D11F65446)

TO ADD AUDIO OR FOR AUDIO ALONE:

US TOLL: +1-415-655-0002; ACCESS CODE: 648 231 419



WASHINGTON STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY

## Abstract

For decades, statistical agencies have been disseminating statistical data in the form of microdata from social surveys and tabular data from censuses, surveys and registers. There are many publications detailing the disclosure risk scenarios, types of disclosure risks, statistical disclosure limitation (SDL) methods and the quantification of disclosure risk and data utility. However, these traditional forms of statistical data and their confidentiality protection rely heavily on assumptions that may no longer be relevant. In recent years, we have seen the digitalization of all aspects of our society leading to new and linked data sources offering unprecedented opportunities for research and evidence-based policies. These developments have put pressure on statistical agencies to provide broader access to their data. On the other hand, with detailed personal information easily accessible from the internet, traditional SDL methods may no longer be sufficient and this has led to the opposite effect of statistical agencies restricting and licensing data as an SDL method. To meet the demands and challenges for disseminating more open and accessible data through for example, web-based platforms where outputs are generated and protected on-the-fly without the need for human intervention, statistical agencies have been investigating more rigorous data protection mechanisms to incorporate into their SDL toolkit. One such mechanism is Differential Privacy (Dwork, et al. 2006), a mathematically principled method of measuring how secure a protection mechanism is with respect to personal data disclosures. In this talk, we present some future dissemination strategies being considered by statistical agencies and the potential for Differential Privacy to protect the confidentiality of data subjects with well-defined privacy guarantees.



## Dr. Natalie Shlomo

University of Manchester

Natalie Shlomo is Professor of Social Statistics at the School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester. Prior to that, she was on faculty at the University of Southampton and a methodologist at the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics. She is a survey statistician with interests in survey design and estimation, record linkage, statistical disclosure limitation, statistical data editing and imputation and small area estimation. Natalie is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute and currently serving as Vice President. She is also a fellow of the Royal Statistical Society and the International Association of Survey Statisticians. She serves on the editorial board of several journals and is a member of national and international methodology advisory boards.

Homepage:

<https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/natalie.shlomo.html>

<b>Joint WSS and DC-AAPOR Seminar: Diving into the U.S. Census Bureau Planning Database and ROAM Application: Tools for Survey and Census Planning</b>	
<b>Date/Time:</b>	<b>June 5, 2019, 12:30 – 2:00 PM (ET)</b>
<b>Speaker:</b>	Suzanne McArdle, Luke Larsen, Kathleen Kephart, U.S. Census Bureau
<b>Chair:</b>	Tom Mule, U.S. Census Bureau
<b>Sponsors:</b>	Washington Statistical Society Chapter of the American Statistical Association and the Washington-Baltimore Chapter of the American Association of Public Opinion Research
<b>Location:</b>	Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference Center, Room 3  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 <a href="mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov">wss_seminar@bls.gov</a> (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 <a href="http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking">http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking</a> . No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>The presenters will demonstrate how to use the Planning Database (PDB) and Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM), giving several examples of their capabilities.</p> <p>The PDB is an easy-to-access dataset that is updated annually. It contains the greatest hits of American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. These include popular U.S. housing, demographic, socioeconomic, and operational statistics from the 2010 Decennial Census and the most recent ACS dataset. The PDB also contains the Low Response Score (LRS), which is a predicted mail return rate by block group and by census tract. New to the 2019 PDB are ACS 5-year internet access statistics and 5-year ACS self-response rates.</p> <p>ROAM is an interactive mapping application, developed to make it easier to identify hard-to-survey areas and the socioeconomic and demographic profiles of those areas. It is based on a subset of PDB data at the census tract-level, including the LRS, poverty status, education level, race, Hispanic origin, and language spoken at home. A new version of ROAM will be released in Summer 2019.</p> <p>Both of these products have many potential uses. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying geographic areas for special outreach and promotional efforts</li> <li>• Examining expected completion rates at low levels of geography</li> <li>• Linking with spatial map data to create thematic maps</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generating reports, cross tabulations, and simple analyses</li></ul> Website: PDB: <a href="https://www.census.gov/research/data/planning_database/">https://www.census.gov/research/data/planning_database/</a> ROAM: <a href="https://www.census.gov/roam">https://www.census.gov/roam</a>
<b>Remote Access:</b>	WebEx event address: <a href="https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m7d2372d3d006e0830737edf8ba d78223">https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m7d2372d3d006e0830737edf8ba d78223</a>  Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.
<b>For audio:</b>	Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-865-9536 (US) Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-966-0857 (US) Attendee access code: 744 124 3

## CONFERENCES

### The 36-th ASA Quality & Productivity Research Conference “Data and Science is a Winning Alliance”

Hosted by American University in Washington DC on June 10-13, 2019

<https://www.american.edu/cas/qprc/>

- June 10, 2019 – [ASA Short Course](#) “Big data analytics: dealing with structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data”.
- June 11 – 13, 2019 – [The 36-th ASA Quality and Productivity Research Conference](#)

[Registration](#) continues for [the 36-th ASA Quality and Productivity Research Conference](#) (June 11-13) and the accompanying [ASA Short Course](#) (June 10), to continue a long [history of QPRC](#). The theme of this year’s conference is *Data and Science is a Winning Alliance*. The conference aims to demonstrate and explore the marriage of **data** and **science**, the modern scientific approaches to handling big, multidimensional, and unstructured data. Its aim is to show convincingly how data and science, two fundamental sources of knowledge, are utilizing each other to produce discoveries, progress, improved quality, and increased productivity. It will include a comprehensive discussion of cutting-edge modern methodologies in all aspects of data science, the current progress made in such computer intensive fields as stream data mining, machine learning, functional data analysis, image reconstruction, and text analytics. Participating statisticians, data scientists, quantitative analysts, and representatives of different branches of industry and government will exchange novel ideas and experiences in working with modern big data to discover knowledge and apply it to diverse fields.

The conference welcomes contributed papers and posters that align with its mission and theme. Register a [contributed talk](#) by April 15, 2019, or a [contributed poster](#) by May 15, 2019.

The conference will honor Dr. Barry Nussbaum, the former Chief Statistician of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the 112-th President of the American Statistical Association.

Registration for the conference includes a banquet dinner on June 11, the technical tour *History of Inventions* at the National Museum of American History, a short bus sightseeing tour of the National Mall, and the Potomac River dinner cruise on June 12.

**Students** are invited to participate in the conference! [Student scholarships](#) are available, in addition to two [Mary G. and Joseph Natrella Scholarships](#).

The [conference website](#) contains the up-to-date information about the program, short course, registration, and hotels. American University provides discounted [accommodation](#) for conference participants who choose to stay on campus, in the same building as all the sessions. A flyer is attached. Please consider posting it on your department’s bulletin board. For further information on the conference, contact Prof. Michael Baron at [baron@american.edu](mailto:baron@american.edu).

# *The 36-th ASA Quality and Productivity Research Conference, June 10-13, 2019*

Theme: “Data and Science is a Winning Alliance”

Hosted by **American University** in Washington D.C.

The conference aims to demonstrate and explore the marriage of data and science, the modern scientific approaches to big, multidimensional, and unstructured data. Its aim is to show convincingly how **data** and **science**, two fundamental sources of knowledge, are utilizing each other to produce discoveries, progress, improved quality, and increased productivity. It will include a comprehensive discussion of cutting-edge modern methodologies in all aspects of data science, the current progress made in such computer intensive fields as stream data mining, machine learning, functional data analysis, image reconstruction, text analytics, and others.

The conference is preceded by a **one-day course** “Big data analytics: dealing with structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data” on June 10.

The conference welcomes **contributed papers and posters** that align with its mission and theme. Register a talk by April 15 or a poster by May 15.

Registration for the conference includes a banquet dinner on June 11, the History of Inventions tour at the National Museum of American History, a bus sightseeing tour of the National Mall, and the Potomac River dinner cruise on June 12.

**Students** are invited to participate! Student scholarships are available to help cover the cost, in addition to two Mary G. and Joseph Natrella Scholarships.

**Lodging** is available either on campus, in the same building as all the conference and sessions, or at nearby hotels at discounted rates.

Conference details: [www.american.edu/cas/qprc/](http://www.american.edu/cas/qprc/)

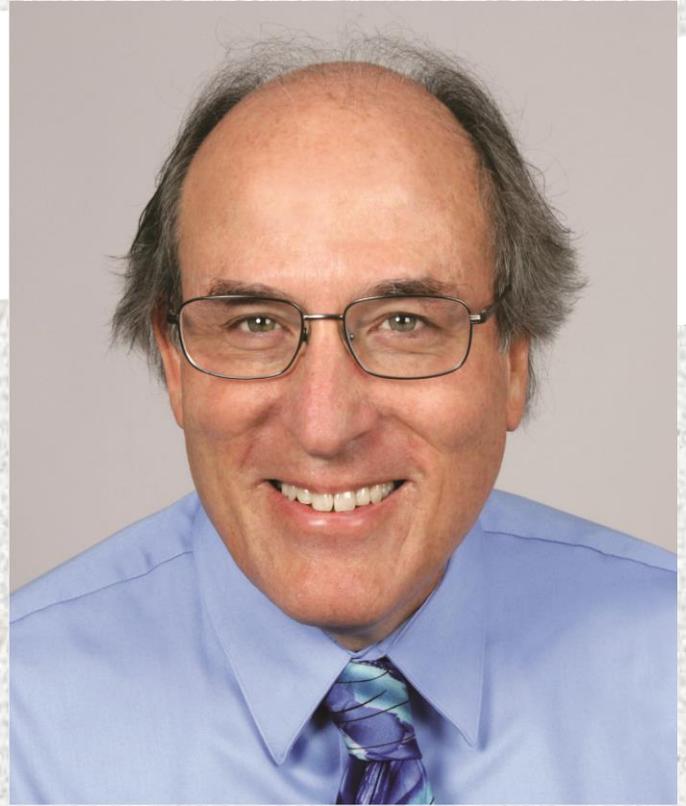
Conference chair and contact: Michael Baron, [baron@american.edu](mailto:baron@american.edu)

# **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 David Marker...

#### **Where do you work and what do you do?**

I have worked at Westat since 1983! I work on a great variety of projects, mostly for the Federal government. I believe I've supported almost every agency other than DoD and DHS. I am currently conducting a pilot survey of a surveillance system for CDC, directing projects for NCES related to the National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), and designed the sample for a national HUD survey. I am also directing a survey of the Philadelphia Jewish community.

#### **What attracted you to your current position?**

I loved the opportunity to work on interesting topics with outstanding statisticians. When I joined Westat the statistical staff included Morris Hansen, Joe Waksberg, Ben Tepping, Hal Nisselson, and David Morganstein. The opportunity to learn directly from them was very exciting.

#### **Finish the sentence: "I joined WSS to..."**

... meet other local statisticians and keep up-to-date on our changing profession. I was quickly invited to run for WSS Methodology Chair (and lost). I really enjoyed attending seminars in person and interacting with everyone from different agencies and private companies. Eventually I ran (and won) for Methodology Chair, At-Large Board member, and then WSS President. Now I am a candidate for President of the ASA.

#### **What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?**

What a wonderful choice you have made! John Tukey was correct, "You get to play in everyone's backyard." Be open to the wide range of opportunities to impact society and have new adventures. I have had the opportunity to work on important topics like homelessness, pollution, and human health. Consulting on Total Quality Management meant I learned my way around steel mills, in coal mines, and statistical offices on four different continents. Prepare for, and enjoy, these exciting opportunities.

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

I have been an Expert Witness in Federal and State court cases on Voter Identification laws. In the Texas case, the State introduced a survey to demonstrate that the Voter ID law didn't discriminate against blacks and Hispanics. It was a terrible survey done very quickly, with a 3% response rate. I explained the many ways it violated OMB and AAPOR standards and shouldn't be trusted. The judges' ruling threw out the data, quoting my testimony. In Pennsylvania state court the judge had refused to accept a survey that demonstrated the discriminatory impact of their law. I was brought in to review the survey and found it to be done quite reasonably, and up to expected standards. Based on my testimony the judge included the data.

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

Martin Luther King, Abraham Lincoln, and Moses. I believe King was the greatest person to be alive during my lifetime. I would love to discuss non-violence while standing up for what is right. It would be fascinating to have a discussion with Lincoln about how he became such a great leader, bringing together his biggest rivals for the better good. What wouldn't you want to discuss with Moses, who overcame a terrible childhood to speak with the greatest leaders?

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

It is important to be well-rounded. While understanding basic statistical methods is very important, including both Bayesian and classical approaches, they are not sufficient. You don't have to be an expert programmer, ideally you will work with some of those. However you do need to know enough programming to be able to communicate what needs to be done, and to review the programs to identify possible problems. I would suggest knowledge of both SAS and R. Additionally, as others mention in this column, you must learn to communicate. Statisticians always work as part of a team, your value will be amplified if you can communicate well.

**What is the last book you read?**

Warmth of Other Suns. This eye-opening book describes the Great Migration of Blacks from the South to the rest of the country during the 20th Century. This topic is not taught in our schools, but has a huge impact on understanding life today in America.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?**

I am filling out this form while on vacation in Australia. We are returning to my favorite spot, Heron Island. It is the only place you can spend the night ON the Great Barrier Reef. You can just walk off any part of the island and start snorkeling. Half the island is a turtle preserve so you can also observe them laying eggs, or the eggs hatching.

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

Morris Hansen, Joe Waksberg, David Morganstein, and Steve Dietz have all been wonderful mentors. Morris would ask you into his office to discuss an issue with him and would brainstorm how to proceed. For such a great statistician to openly ask for advice, and demonstrate his cooperative working style was a great lesson. Joe encouraged you to take risks and ask questions; he would patiently suggest how to make improvements. David always focuses on mentoring everyone, finding ways you can grow as a statistician and a person. Steve helped me grow as a manager, focusing on the importance of interpersonal skills. All treated you as an equal, someone to be valued, and an important co-worker and friend.

## **SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER**

### **Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program**

The WSS Board of Directors has established a program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.

1. Your name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be great be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to Nick Hart ([nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org](mailto:nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org)) or Natalia Weil ([NataliaWeil@westat.org](mailto:NataliaWeil@westat.org)).

We look forward to hearing from you.

# COURSES

## **WSS Short Course Applications of Hot Deck Imputation Methods to Survey Data**

**April 26, 2019  
9:00 am – 4:30 pm**

**Instructor:** Dr. Rebecca Andridge, Ohio State University College of Public Health, Katherine Jenny Thompson, U.S. Census Bureau

**Place:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center Room 1-3,  
2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

### **Course Content:**

This continuing education course will provide an introduction to the use of hot deck imputation with survey data. Hot deck imputation is a commonly used procedure for handling missing data in which each missing value (recipient) is replaced with an observed value from a “similar” unit (donor). Each step of hot deck imputation will be explored in this course, from different ways in which to select a donor unit through methods for obtaining valid variance estimates. Classical hot deck methods will be presented alongside more cutting-edge approaches, including fractional hot deck imputation. All steps will be illustrated with simulated and real data examples from both business and household surveys, highlighting the issues unique to different populations. The course will also present some challenges that arise in the implementation of the hot deck, such as having fewer donors than recipients, and discuss various methods for overcoming these challenges. Attendees will be exposed to both the theoretical and practical sides to hot deck imputation, and examples will be illustrated using both SAS and R. Participants should have some familiarity with survey sampling concepts.

### **About the Instructor:**

Dr. Rebecca Andridge, Associate Professor, has worked in the area of missing data for almost 10 years. Her review paper on hot deck imputation is highly cited (180+ citations since publication in 2010) and she has many publications in the area of novel imputation approaches, including hot deck methods. She has taught both undergraduate and graduate statistics courses at The Ohio State University College of Public Health, and won the College’s Teaching Award in 2011. She has also taught in the “short course” format in the College’s Summer Program, a program geared toward working professionals. Katherine Jenny Thompson, U.S. Census Bureau, is a survey statistician with over twenty years of professional experience in official statistics, currently serving as Methodology Director of the Complex Survey Methods and Analysis Group in the Economic Directorate of the U.S. Census Bureau. She has published papers on statistical data editing and missing data treatment, among other survey sampling and estimation-related topics. Her research is motivated by “real world” survey problems, and her proposed methods have been adopted by numerous ongoing

programs; a recent example includes the implementation of hot deck imputation for product estimates in the 2017 Economic Census. She has taught in the “short course” format in the International Statistics Program and Economic University programs of the U.S. Census Bureau and has given two workshops in statistical editing and imputation methods in workshops co-sponsored by Statistics Japan and Hosei University. Dr. Andridge and Ms. Thompson have published together in the area of missing data and are currently collaborating on a project involving hot deck imputation for survey data.

**Course Schedule:**

8:15 - 9:00	Coffee, breakfast, and check in
9:00 - 10:15	What is the hot deck, and why is it “hot”?
10:15 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 12:00	Donor selection methods
12:10 - 1:00	Lunch (provided)
1:00 - 2:30	Choosing what to impute (direct substitution, ratio, rate-of-change, fractional imputation)
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 4:00	Variance estimation and Challenges when implementing the hot deck
4:00 - 4:30	Discussion

**Advance registration:**

In addition to your RSVP here, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-applications-of-hot-deck-imputation-methods-to-survey-data-tickets-58032020335> to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on April 19, 2019; earlier if the course fills up.

**NO late registration or onsite registration after April 19, 2019!**

**Registration Fee:**

Full-time students (at most 8): \$63.69  
WSS members: \$187.89 advance  
All others: \$218.94 advance

**Contact person:**

Daniel Yang, 202-691-7530, yang.daniel@bls.gov

## **WSS ASA-COC Traveling Course**

### **Welcome to the Tidyverse: An Introduction to R for Data Science**

**May 7, 2019**  
**9:00 am – 4:30 pm**

**Instructor:** Dr. Garrett Golemund, Data Scientist and Master Instructor, Rstudio  
**Place:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center Room 9-10,  
2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

#### **Course Content:**

Looking for an effective way to learn R? This one day course will teach you a workflow for doing data science with the R language. It focuses on using R's Tidyverse, which is a core set of R packages that are known for their impressive performance and ease of use. We will focus on doing data science, not programming. You'll learn to:

- \* Visualize data with R's ggplot2 package
- \* Wrangle data with R's dplyr package
- \* Fit models with base R, and
- \* Document your work reproducibly with R Markdown

Along the way, you will practice using R's syntax, gaining comfort with R through many exercises and examples. Bring your laptop! The workshop will be taught by Garrett Golemund, an award winning instructor and the co-author of R for Data Science.

#### **About the Instructor:**

Dr. Garrett Golemund is the author of Hands-On Programming with R and a co-author of R for Data Science and R Markdown: The Definitive Guide. He wrote the lubridate R package and works for RStudio as an advocate who trains engineers to do data science with R. If you use R yourself, you may recognize Garrett from his video courses on Datacamp.com and O'Reilly Media, or for his series of popular R cheatsheets. Garrett earned his Phd in Statistics from Rice University in 2012.

**Course Schedule:**

8:15 - 9:00	Coffee, breakfast, and check in
9:00 - 10:15	Document your work reproducibly with R Markdown
10:15 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 12:00	Visualize data with ggplot2
12:10 - 1:00	Lunch (provided)
1:00 - 2:30	Wrangle data with dplyr
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 4:30	Fit models with the Tidyverse

**Advance registration:**

In addition to your RSVP here, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-welcome-to-the-tidyverse-an-introduction-to-r-for-data-science-tickets-58726348088> to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on April 30, 2019; earlier if the course fills up.

**NO late registration or onsite registration after April 30, 2019!**

**Registration Fee:**

Full-time students (at most 6): \$63.69 advance

WSS members: \$187.89 advance

All others: \$218.94 advance

**Contact person:**

Daniel Yang, 202-691-7530, yang.daniel@bls.gov

## JPSM SHORT COURSES

The [2018-2019 JPSM Short Course Schedule](#) is now available and registration is open.

- **April 24-25, 2019**      **Web Survey Design**  
Instructor: Florian Keusch
- **May 29-30, 2019**      **Introduction to Survey Estimation**  
Instructors: David Morganstein & Sunghee Lee

\*Some agencies allow current year training funds to be used when there is a limited time on a discounted rate. Please check with your agency training office.

*All courses will be held at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in Washington, D.C.*

A friendly reminder: payment must be received at the time of registration to reserve a seat in a course. An emailed receipt will confirm payment and successful registration.

<https://jointprogram.umd.edu/prodev/jpsm-short-courses>

JPSM Short Course Team  
University of Maryland  
1218 Lefrak Hall  
College Park, MD 20742  
Ph: 301-314-7911  
Fax: 301-314-7912  
[jpsm-shortcourse@umd.edu](mailto:jpsm-shortcourse@umd.edu)

## **ASA Short Courses**

### **ASA Short Course**

**June 10, 2019**

"Big data analytics: dealing with structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data".

<https://www.american.edu/cas/qprc/One-Day-Course.cfm>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course will cover theory and methods dealing with structured, semi-structured, and unstructured data based on real-world scenarios. Examples will include application of mathematical statistics and machine learning to numeric, click-stream, and text data from the real world. The range of algorithms will cover supervised and unsupervised learning spanning projection methods such as Discriminant Analysis, Principal Component Analysis, Independent Component Analysis and Regression Analysis (exponential families), Deep Neural Networks, and Statistical Clustering. We will use the R/SAS programming languages for analyzing the data and demos.

**The 36-th ASA Quality and Productivity Research Conference  
June 11 – 13, 2019**

**"Data and Science is a Winning Alliance"**

Hosted by American University in Washington DC

<https://www.american.edu/cas/qprc/>

**REGISTRATION:**

<https://www.american.edu/cas/qprc/registration.cfm>

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:**

<https://www.american.edu/cas/qprc/Abstract-Submission.cfm>

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM:**

<https://www.american.edu/cas/qprc/Conference-Program.cfm>

**PLENARY SPEAKERS**

- Barry Nussbaum  
CONFERENCE GUEST OF HONOR  
The 112th President of the American Statistical Association, Dr. Nussbaum was former Chief Statistician at the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- James Rosenberger  
Director of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences, Dr. Rosenberger is Professor Emeritus and former Head of the Department of Statistics at the Pennsylvania State University
- Will Guthrie  
WILLIAM F. GUTHRIE  
William Guthrie is a Mathematical Statistician at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

**CONFIRMED INVITED SESSIONS**

- Machine Learning and its Applications. Organizer: Xiao Wang (Purdue University).
- Applied Data Mining. Organizer: Nathalie Japkowicz (American University).
- Time Series and Forecasting in Business and Industry. Organizer: Stefa Etcheagaray (IBM).
- Text Analytics. Organizer: Diane Michelson (SAS/JMP).
- Data Science and its Applications. Organizer: Latifur Khan (University of Texas at Dallas).
- Cybersecurity. Organizer: Emmanuel Yashchin, Michael Baron (IBM, American University).
- Data Science in Finance. Organizer: Yada Zhu (IBM).
- Data Visualization. Organizer: Blan Godfrey (North Carolina State University).
- Big Data Analytics. Organizer: Choudur Lakshminarayan (Teradata Corp.).
- Recent Advances in Statistical Process Control Monitoring. Organizer: Daniel Jeske (University of California, Riverside).
- Functional Data Analysis. Organizer: Diane Michelson (SAS/JMP).
- Innovative Statistical Inference Methodologies with Interesting Applications - I. Organizer: Nitis Mukhopadhyay (University of Connecticut).
- Innovative Statistical Inference Methodologies with Interesting Applications - II. Organizer: Nitis Mukhopadhyay (University of Connecticut). TBD. Organizer: Will Guthrie (NIST).
- Advances in Spatial Data Science. Organizer: Jeff Gill (American University).
- Recent Advances in Statistical Machine Learning. Organizer: Lingzhou Xue (Pennsylvania State University and National Institute of Statistical Science).
- Software demonstrations. Organizer: Michael Baron (American University).
- Panel Discussion on Data Science in Industry and Government. Organizer: Choudur Lakshminarayan and Michael Baron (Teradata and American University).
- New Frontiers of Time Series and Data Analysis. Organized by: Ta-Hsin Li (IBM), Donald Martin (North Carolina State University), and James Troendle (NIH).
- Software demonstrations. Organized by: Michael Baron (American University).
- Panel Discussion on Data Science in Industry and Government. Organized by: Choudur Lakshminarayan (Teradata) and Michael Baron (American University).

For further information on the conference, contact Prof. Michael Baron at [baron@american.edu](mailto:baron@american.edu).

## **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

The coordinators for the WSS K-12 Student Data Visualization Poster Competition are looking for volunteers for judging the competition this year.

The Washington Statistical Society, in collaboration with The American Statistical Association runs a Data Visualization Poster Competition for school children in grades K-12 in the Washington DC metro area. This is part of the Poster competition run by ASA with the WSS judging and awarding prizes to local children. There are four age groups and children may work singly or in small groups under the supervision of a teacher or guide. Winning entries of the WSS competition are automatically advanced to the second round of the national competition where they may win additional prizes and recognition. Local area winners and their guides/teachers are invited to attend the WSS annual dinner as guests to receive their prizes. Our aim is to encourage a new generation of children to explore the exciting world of math and statistics.

The judging is scheduled for **Saturday, May 4th** at Westat's conference center. Tentatively the plan is to start at 1 pm and end before 4 (whenever you're done), but the time is somewhat flexible if enough people need it to be moved earlier or later. If you are interested, email Will Cecere at [williamcecere@westat.com](mailto:williamcecere@westat.com)

# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

## 2018-19 Board of Directors, Committees, and Programs

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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
Council of Chapters Representative	Abhik Das	1/2019-12/2021		adas@rti.org
Methodology Section Chair	John Abowd	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 763-5880	john.maron.abowd@census.gov
Communications Officer	Leanna Moron	7/2018-6/2020	(240) 223-9264	lmoron@childtrends.org

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Methodology Program	Nick Beyler	7/2018-6/2019	(703) 214-0931	<a href="mailto:nbeyler@2mresearch.com">nbeyler@2mresearch.com</a>
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Michael Bellow	7/2018-6/2019		<a href="mailto:MBellow@nass.usda.gov">MBellow@nass.usda.gov</a>
Data Collection Methods	Tom Mule	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 763-8322	<a href="mailto:Vincent.T.Mule.Jr@census.gov">Vincent.T.Mule.Jr@census.gov</a>
Defense and National Security	Wendy Martinez	7/2018-6/2019	(540) 284-1032	<a href="mailto:martinezw@verizon.net">martinezw@verizon.net</a>
Economics	Michael Jadoo	7/2018-6/2019	(786) 763-4318	<a href="mailto:Jadoo.Michael@bls.gov">Jadoo.Michael@bls.gov</a>
Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen	7/2018-6/2019	(202) 232-4651	<a href="mailto:mpcohen@juno.com">mpcohen@juno.com</a>
Public Health and Biostatistics	Grant Izmirlan	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 496-7519	<a href="mailto:izmirlian@nih.gov">izmirlian@nih.gov</a>
	Carolyn Carroll	7/2018-6/2019	(202) 320-8709	<a href="mailto:carolyn@stattech.com">carolyn@stattech.com</a>
Public Policy	Bob Sivinski	7/2018-6/2019	(202) 395-1205	<a href="mailto:Robert.G.Sivinski@omb.eop.gov">Robert.G.Sivinski@omb.eop.gov</a>
Quality Assurance	VACANT	7/2018-6/2019		
Social and Demographic Statistics	VACANT	7/2018-6/2019		
Data Science	Gonzalo Rivero	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 517-8053	<a href="mailto:GonzaloRivero@westat.com">GonzaloRivero@westat.com</a>
Student Representative	Sofia Sikandar	7/2018-6/2019		<a href="mailto:ssikanda@masonlive.gmu.edu">ssikanda@masonlive.gmu.edu</a>

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<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>		<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
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WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi	7/2018-6/2019		<a href="mailto:wss.editor@gmail.com">wss.editor@gmail.com</a>
Electronic Mail Committee	S.V. (Vince) Massimini	7/2018-6/2019	(703) 983-5893	<a href="mailto:svm@mitre.org">svm@mitre.org</a>
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Financial Advisor and Audit Committee	Chris Moriarity		(301) 270-3416	<a href="mailto:cdm7@cdc.gov">cdm7@cdc.gov</a>
Financial Advisor and Audit Committee	Michael P. Cohen		(202) 232-4651	<a href="mailto:mpcohen@juno.com">mpcohen@juno.com</a>
Historian	Dwight Brock	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 517-4026	<a href="mailto:dwightbrock@westat.com">dwightbrock@westat.com</a>
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Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	7/2018-6/2019	(202) 691-7523	<a href="mailto:gillman.daniel@bls.gov">gillman.daniel@bls.gov</a>
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Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coord.	Dan Sherman	7/2018-6/2019		<a href="mailto:dsherman@air.org">dsherman@air.org</a>
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coord.	Mark Otto	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 497-5872	<a href="mailto:Mark.ot2o@gmail.com">Mark.ot2o@gmail.com</a>

Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coord.	Frank Yoon	7/2018-6/2019	(609) 945-6616	<a href="mailto:FYoon@us.ibm.com">FYoon@us.ibm.com</a>
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	Timothy Kennel	7/2018-6/2019	(301) 763-6795	<a href="mailto:timothy.l.kennel@census.gov">timothy.l.kennel@census.gov</a>
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	Al Gottschaik	Govt. Sec. Rep.		
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	Van Parsons	7/2018-6/2019	(301)458-4421	<a href="mailto:vlp1@cdc.gov">vlp1@cdc.gov</a>

Shiskin Award Committee	Robert Parker	Chair	(301) 467-7677	parkerrobertp@aol.com
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Brian Bucks			<a href="mailto:brian.bucks@cfpb.gov">brian.bucks@cfpb.gov</a>	
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	Brian Harris-Kojetin			<a href="mailto:BKojetin@nas.edu">BKojetin@nas.edu</a>
	Steve Cohen			<a href="mailto:cohen.steveh@gmail.com">cohen.steveh@gmail.com</a>
	Linda Young	USDA Rep.		<a href="mailto:Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov">Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov</a>
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	Eileen O'Brien	WSS Rep.		<a href="mailto:Eileen.O'Brien@eia.gov">Eileen.O'Brien@eia.gov</a>
	Tom Krenzke	WSS Rep.	(301) 251-4203	<a href="mailto:tomkrenzke@westat.com">tomkrenzke@westat.com</a>
	Karol Krotki	RTI Rep.	(202) 728-2485	<a href="mailto:kkrotki@rti.org">kkrotki@rti.org</a>
	Abhik Das	RTI Rep.	(301) 770-8214	<a href="mailto:adas@rti.org">adas@rti.org</a>
Phillip Kott	RTI Rep.	(301) 468-8281	<a href="mailto:pkott@rti.org">pkott@rti.org</a>	

Statistics Education Committee	Carol Joyce Blumberg	Chair, 7/2018-6/2019	(301) 920-0278	<a href="mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com">cblumberg@gmail.com</a>
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	Ashley Schreckengost	7/2018-6/2019		<a href="mailto:aosborne_amo@hotmail.com">aosborne_amo@hotmail.com</a>
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	Lloyd Hicks	7/2017-6/2019		<a href="mailto:lloydhicks@westat.com">lloydhicks@westat.com</a>
	Michael Messner	7/2018-6/2020	(301) 518-4781	<a href="mailto:Messner.Michael@epa.gov">Messner.Michael@epa.gov</a>
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	Tiandong Li	7/2018-6/2019		<a href="mailto:tiandong_li@yahoo.com">tiandong_li@yahoo.com</a>
	Fanghan Wu	7/2018-6/2019		<a href="mailto:fw183@georgetown.edu">fw183@georgetown.edu</a>
Spotlight	Natalia Weil	Chair	(240) 314-5811	<a href="mailto:NataliaWeil@westat.com">NataliaWeil@westat.com</a>
	Nick Hart		(202) 218-6762	<a href="mailto:nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org">nhart@bipartisanpolicy.org</a>

## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the next issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.**

Email items to [wss.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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.**