WSS NEWS
WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

On behalf of the current WSS board, we are grateful to the WSS members who so readily agreed to be nominated, and to the WSS members who provided nominations. Special thanks to those who served on the nominating and elections committee: Lisa Mirel, John Czajka, and Linda Young (chair).

The efforts of WSS Webmaster Chris Moriarity were invaluable to facilitating the election via the website, and thanks to Kavitha Acharya at Westat who supported the election process. A total of 333 ballots were cast. The new members of the WSS Board for the 2019-2020 term are:

President-elect: Jill Dever (RTI International)

Secretary: Joe Conklin (Naval Audit Service)

Methodology Program Chair-Elect: Asaph Young Chun (Statistics Research Institute and The ISR Foundation)

Representatives-At-Large: Barnali Das (National Center for Health Statistics), Martha McCroy (Pew Research Center)

I extend my congratulations to all the new 2019-2020 WSS Board members.

~ Tom Krenzke, WSS President

CONFERENCES

American Mathematical Society Annual Mini-conference on Education:

Mathematics Departments and the Explosive Growth of Computational and Quantitative Offerings in Higher Education

Friday, October 25, 2019
Washington, DC

The AMS Committee on Education (COE) would like to invite your participation at its Annual Mini-conference on Education, *Mathematics Departments and the Explosive Growth of Computational and Quantitative Offerings in Higher Education*, to be held on Friday, October 25, 2019 in Washington, DC.

New computational and quantitative majors, minors, specializations, and certificates are flourishing in all sectors of American higher education. Examples include Certificates in Computational Intelligence and Linguistics, Bachelors degrees in Data Science, and Masters degrees in Financial Engineering. This reflects the growing centrality of the mathematical sciences to the development of knowledge in traditional STEM fields as well as to a growing list of non-STEM disciplines. It also reflects the increasing demand for quantitative competence in the workplace. This mini-conference will explore the role of mathematics departments in these new computational and quantitative offerings.

Confirmed speakers for the mini-conference include:

- **Ben Bauman**, Assistant Professor of Statistical & Data Sciences, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Smith College
- **Michael Dorff**, Professor of Mathematics, Brigham Young University & President, Mathematical Association of America (MAA)
- **Mark Green**, Professor Emeritus and Distinguished Research Professor, University of California, Los Angeles & Chair, NAS Board on Mathematical Sciences and Analytics
- **Tom Halverson**, DeWitt Wallace Professor and former Chair 2013-2019, Department of Mathematics, Statistics & Computer Science, Macalester College
- **Stephanie Hicks**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics & Member of Data Science Lab, Johns Hopkins University
- **Nirmala Kannankutty**, Acting Division Director, Division of Graduate Education, National Science Foundation EHR-DGE

- **Anthony Kearsley**, Information Technology Laboratory, Applied and Mathematics Division, NIST
- **William "Brit" Kirwan**, Chancellor Emeritus, University System of Maryland

The meeting will be held from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm on Friday, October 25, 2019 at the Washington Marriott Georgetown, 1221 22nd Street, NW in Washington, DC.

Meeting registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch. If you would like to attend the workshop, please register by September 27th by requesting registration form from alb@ams.org Space is limited, so please register early.

If you need a hotel for the COE mini-conference, please add that information on your registration form as reservations should be made through the AMS, although travel and hotel costs are the responsibility of the attendee. The discounted hotel rate for this meeting is $269 per night + tax. If you are not sure of your travel plans, please provide as much information on the RSVP form as you can so that we may hold a room for you.

Agenda and other materials will be sent to all registered participants prior to the meeting. We look forward to a strong turnout for the mini-conference and hope you will participate.

FCSM Research and Policy Conference
April 14 - 16, 2020
Washington DC Convention Center

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2020 FCSM Research and Policy Conference will focus on the Federal Statistical System's role in helping agencies and the public meet the demands of evidence-based policymaking. The conference provides a forum for experts and practitioners from around the world to discuss and exchange current methodological knowledge and policy insights about topics of current and critical importance to the Federal Statistical System.

We seek abstracts that address the following topics from a **research and/or policy perspective**:

1. Implications of the Foundations for Evidenced-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, including with implementation of the Federal Data Strategy, approaches to interagency data sharing, and encouraging program evaluators and analysts to use statistical data in their evidence building

2. Data quality, including evaluating or communicating the quality of administrative or blended data

3. Data access, open data, disclosure avoidance, or disclosure risk mitigation

4. Advances in survey and statistical methodology on a variety of topics of importance to the Federal Statistical System such as:
   - Survey design and data collection
   - Estimation and analysis methods
   - Measurement issues
   - Geospatial statistics
   - Economic measurement concepts, techniques
   - Statistical literacy and communication of results
   - Use of multiple data sources, including linkage and coverage

Policy Submissions: Abstracts should discuss a statistical policy topic listed above from the authors' or agencies' perspective. Submissions can discuss the implications or impacts observed thus far, and may raise questions or issues without having a definitive answer.

Research Submissions: Abstracts should present research studies and findings related to the topics listed above. Submissions should not simply describe a data collection program or be highly specialized.

Organized Session Submissions: Additionally, we seek submissions for organized sessions. An organized session submission should include 3 or 4 papers, a discussant and a chair. Organized sessions with both research and policy presentations will be given priority when the program is assembled.

Instructions: Submission instructions can be found at https://nces.ed.gov/FCSM

Deadline: September 20, 2019

For conference information, or to be included on the mailing list, contact:	For questions on abstract submissions or the program, contact the Program Chair:
fcsm@copafs.org 703.382.8001	David.Kashihara@ahrq.hhs.gov 301.427.1481

SEMINARS

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC
(ESPECIALLY EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS)**

How Public Opinion Research Organizations Work: The Case of Pew Research Center	
Date/Time:	**October 17 2019, 4:00–5:30 pm** Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at Noodles & Company at 1667 K St NW, Washington, DC 20006. Restaurant entrance is on 17th Street between K and L Streets.
Speaker:	Scott Keeter, Senior Survey Advisor, Pew Research Center; Rachel Weisel, Senior Communications Manager, Pew Research Center
Chair:	Robert Aronstam, Teacher, Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
Sponsors:	WSS Statistics Education Committee, WSS Methodology Section and DC-AAPOR (The Washington-Baltimore Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research)
Location:	Pew Research Center at 1615 L St. NW, Suite 800 Washington DC 20036. If you have trouble finding the location, please call (202) 419-4300 for assistance. Closest Metrorail station is Farragut North.
Abstract:	The voice of the people matters in a democracy, and public opinion polling is one means by which that voice can be heard. As a way of gauging public opinion, polling has the advantage of providing relatively equal representation to everyone. But who conducts public opinion polls and how are they conducted? Who decides what is asked, and how? In this seminar, Scott Keeter and Rachel Weisel will address these and other questions. Using Pew Research Center as a case study, with comparisons to other organizations with similar missions, they will address the following topics: • How topics for study are chosen • How specific studies are designed and executed • How the results are disseminated to relevant audiences • How funding for our work is obtained Scott Keeter is Senior Survey Advisor at the Center, where he was director of survey research until 2016. He is a past president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research and author of several

	books and articles on public opinion and survey methodology. Rachel Weisel is Senior Communications Manager at the Center, overseeing dissemination and communication strategy for several of the Center's research areas.
RSVP:	To be placed on the seminar attendance list**, email by noon on October 15** to Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com including the following for each person: Name (as it appears on photo ID), Affiliation (e.g., student at xxxx or statistician at yyyy), and Email Address. Please remember to bring a photo ID to the seminar. **If you do not RSVP, you will not be admitted to the building.**
Remote Access:	**No Remote Access will be available for this event.** We plan, however, to make a videotape and post a link to it on http://washstat.org/presentations/. If you have the equipment and expertise and are willing to videotape the seminar, please let Carol Joyce Blumberg know. We will also post at the above link a copy of the slides & handouts within a few weeks after the talk.
POC:	Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

28th Annual Morris Hansen Lecture
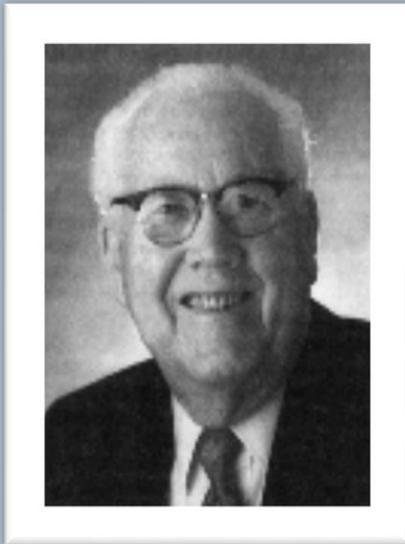## Small Area Estimation: Its Evolution in Five Decades

Speaker: Malay Ghosh

Distinguished Professor
University of Florida

Discussants:

J. N.K. Rao, Distinguished Research Professor,
School of Mathematics and Statistics
Carleton University

Julie Gershunskaya, Mathematical Statistician
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Abstract: A small area or a small domain often refers to a small geographic area such as a county, census tract or school district, but that need not always be the case. For instance, in a survey pertaining to a group, cross-classified by age, sex and ethnicity, even a relatively large geographical area may have very few samples. Thus a small area refers primarily to an area where the sample collected from a survey is not adequate to meet the desired precision. This unreliability of direct small area survey estimates is often due to the fact that the original survey was targeted to achieve accuracy at a higher level of aggregation. Due to limited resources, the same survey data needs to be used at a lower level, resulting in the said inadequacy of the sample size. This makes it imperative to borrow strength from similar other areas to increase the effective sample size and attain the prescribed accuracy. The resulting estimates, usually referred to as indirect estimates require explicit, or at least implicit use of models.

The need for small area estimates is felt in these days by both the public and private sectors. Such estimates are often mandated by the Legislature at the national and/or the state level. Small Area Income and Poverty Estimation (SAIPE) is one such example. Demand from the private sector has also increased rapidly, because business decisions, especially for small businesses, very often rely on local socio-economic conditions.

My talk will be an attempt to trace the evolution of small area estimation, with a modest beginning essentially in the seventies, but with a very rapid growth, especially from the nineties onwards. I will try to trace some of the salient small area estimation methods. I am, however, aware that my talk will fall short of a complete updated account as new and novel small area estimation methods are emerging every day.

Please register on-line at:
https://webba.nass.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Morris_Hansen/index.php

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Wednesday, October 30, 2019
3:30 – 5:30 pm

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

A reception will follow at 5:30 pm
on the Whitten Building Patio
.

Sponsored By:

Westat

Washington Statistical Society

NASS

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

Bringing Statistics Education Up to Data	
Date/Time:	**November 21 2019, 4:00—5:30 p.m.** Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at Bertucci's at 2000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW 20006
Speaker:	Danny Kaplan, Macalester College; Carol L. Howald, Howard Community College
Chair:	Ashley Schreckengost, Resource Teacher (head of Mathematics Department), Wheaton (MD) High School
Sponsors:	WSS (Washington Statistical Society) Statistics Education Committee and MD-DC-VA Section of the MAA (Mathematics Association of America)
Location:	Commons, School Without Walls, 2130 G St NW, Washington, DC 20037, Closest Metrorail station is Foggy Bottom-GWU.
Abstract:	With the explosion of interest in data science over the last decade, statistics has moved to the mainstream from the margins of the late high-school and early undergraduate mathematical curriculum. Regrettably, the impetus for this rise in status is not reflected in the content and pedagogy of introductory statistics. Statistics, as it too often is taught, focuses on the theoretical challenges of working with tiny data using methods from around 1910, covers only arithmetic summaries such as the mean and proportion, and omits entirely techniques for dealing with confounding and covariates. This presentation will be about the development of a pedagogy that puts data in the center, and the tools that are already available (through StatPREP.org (http://statprep.org/) among others) to help you engage students with data -- real, modern data with multiple variables -- and properly serve contemporary uses of data. Danny Kaplan is the Dewitt Wallace Professor of applied mathematics, statistics, and computer science at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He has authored textbooks in computational science, statistical modeling, data science, and even nonlinear dynamics. In 2017, he was the CAUSE award for lifetime achievement for his contributions to statistics education. He is on the leadership team for StatPREP.org, an initiative of the MAA, the ASA, and AMATYC funded by the US National Science Foundation (grant DUE-1626337). Carol Howald is Associate Professor and Co-Chair, Mathematics at Howard Community College and a hub leader for the StatPREP project.

RSVP:	To be placed on the seminar attendance list, **email by November 20** to Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com including the following for each person: Name (as it appears on your ID), Affiliation (e.g., student at xxxx or statistician at yyyy), and Email Address. You will need to bring a photo ID to enter the building.
Remote Access:	**No Remote Access will be available for this event.** We plan, however, to make a videotape and post a link to it on http://washstat.org/presentations/. If you have the equipment and expertise and are willing to videotape the seminar, please let Carol Joyce Blumberg know. We will also post at the above link a copy of the slides & handouts within a few weeks after the talk.
POC:	Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

AWARD

The 2019 Links Lecture Award: Hold the Date

The American Statistical Association is pleased to announce that Bruce Meyer, the McCormick Foundation Professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, has been selected as the 2019 awardee for the Links Lecture Award. Among many other things, Prof. Meyer has worked extensively to explore ways to improve official statistics by linking data from multiple survey and administrative sources and he served on the Commission Evidence-Based Policymaking. The award citation reads: "For adding important links in the progress of official statistics through research and advisory activities." Prof. Meyer's lecture will be entitled "Linking Data to Improve Income Statistics."

Mary Bohman, Deputy Director at the Bureau of Economic Analysis, will serve in the program as the "Connector" in relating the points in Prof. Meyer's lecture to the work of agencies engaged in the production of official statistics.

The lecture will be held on the afternoon of October 18th at the National Academy of Sciences building at 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW. The timing will align with events being held at the Academy for Data Linkage Day. Details on timing and registration will be announced later. The Links Lecture is sponsored by the American Statistical Association to bring more visibility to issues surrounding the advancement of official statistics, such as:

- The statistical use of administrative records and alternative data sources
- Record linkage
- Statistical methods for creating blended estimates
- Privacy, confidentiality, researcher access, and reproducibility of results

The lecture series also celebrates a group of statisticians who have been critical links in envisioning the future of official statistics: Constance Citro, Robert Groves and Fritz Scheuren. For more information about the Links Lecture Award, see https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Your-Career/Awards/Links-Lecture-Award.aspx.

Please show your interest in official statistics by contributing to the ASA fund that supports the Links Lecture Award. Contributions are critical for ASA to provide such support for the future.

Only a bit more than $10,000 remains to complete the Links endowment. You may contribute directly at https://ww2.amstat.org/payments/index.cfm?paymentfor=links or by contacting Amanda Malloy, ASA Director of Development, at amanda@amstat.org.

WSS MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Washington Statistical Society
Member Spotlight

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

Meet WSS Member Elizabeth Petraglia…

Where do you work and what do you do?
I work at Westat as a senior statistician.

What attracted you to your current position?
I loved the variety of work that Westat does, and also the company culture. I was moving halfway across the country with (at the time) three small children, so it was important to me to work for a place that respected the balance between work and family.

Finish the sentence: "I joined WSS to…"
… connect with colleagues! I didn't know anyone in the DC area when I started at Westat; almost 4 years later, I have a professional network outside of Westat.

Why did you join the statistics profession?
I was working as a research assistant at a public policy firm after college. I liked my job, but the really cool parts all had to do with statistics—running basic models, R programming, evaluation of experiments. I wanted to be coming up with the analysis plans rather than just carrying them out! So I quit when my oldest was 6 months old to start my PhD in statistics.

What skills are most important for the next generation of statistics professionals?
Communication and an understanding of the limitations of methods. Now anyone with a computer can run a linear regression, do a t-test, or Google the definition of a statistical term. But only statistics professionals can listen to a client, help translate the vague "this is what I want to know" into a research plan, and explain their results in a way that the client can understand. With that comes the responsibility to also explain what can and cannot be inferred from the findings.

What is the most interesting statistical project you have worked on recently?
Not a single project, but a common theme among my recent projects has been attempting to do more with less. Adapting statistical methods to work with smaller samples, more reliance on auxiliary data, and/or combining data from multiple sources is both interesting and challenging.

What is your favorite daily ritual?
Reading the paper with a cup of coffee, even if it's only 5 minutes to skim the headlines. My paper Washington Post subscription is one of my luxuries!

Finish this sentence: "On an ideal Saturday, I would…"
… sleep in, clean my whole house, and then take a nap. (Can you tell I'm a sleep-deprived mom? My younger self would be so disappointed in me.).

What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?
I could eat pasta or sushi every day. Sfoglina is one of my favorites for pasta!

How do you like to spend your free time away from work?
I'm a runner. It's hard work getting back out there after having a baby, but I love the peace of just being out on a run by myself.

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

Meet WSS Past-President Tom Krenzke…

1. Where do you work and what do you do?
I work at an employee-owned research company called Westat, located in Rockville, MD. My position is Senior Statistician and Associate Director in the Statistics and Evaluation Sciences Unit, which is comprised of 70 statisticians who provide support for the rest of the 1,800 full-time staff at Westat. One of the projects I work on is the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, for which Westat is a consortium member and provides guidance to participating countries on sampling-related activities. Over the years, I have gained experience in statistical confidentiality, and enjoy the research opportunities as well as the couple of dozen projects each year that are in need of guidance while producing datasets.

2. What attracted you to your current position?
I had a great experience at the Census Bureau from 1991-1997 and was very fortunate to build working relationships and get a solid on-the-job training in survey statistics. I wanted to experience the private sector and grow in its diversity of tasks and have been at Westat since 1997.

3. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to…"
… learn from others in the geographic area, meet people with common interests, and have opportunities to serve the community.

4. What was your first job?
I delivered the morning newspaper for a couple of different routes. I've been waking up very early ever since then. Back then, the newspaper deliverers had to go door-to-door to collect payment for the bills from most customers that did not mail-in their checks. I met a lot of neighborhood cats and dogs that way, which was an experience that help build up a lot of respect for survey interviewers.

5. What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?
Seriously consider getting more involved with WSS. It is a well-respected society where you can build connections that might pay off in many different ways in the future. Other than that, as one approach, it seems to me that if you are putting your organization first, encouraging to others, humble, interruptible, and treating your colleagues as you would like to be treated, going to work becomes something to look forward to, and you will have a rewarding work career.

6. If you could have dinner with 3 people from history, who would they be?
Other than family, I have interest in baseball, fishing, and Christian faith. So maybe Lou Gehrig because, as scripted, he seemed very sincere in the Pride of the Yankees, sense of humor, and would put a lot of thought into his words; James Michener, who wrote about the Chesapeake Bay and could document the conversation; and the apostle Peter, a fisherman who would have some important insights to share.

7. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?
Being an electrician is appealing to me. You can work outside, see other homes, and the work relies on basic math principles. I was inspired in a recent visit by an electrician nicknamed "Sparky".

8. How do you like to spend your free time?
I'm basically addicted to boating and fishing. We are fortunate to have a boat with easy access to the bay, so if there is free time coming up, I check with family and friends to see if they would like to go out, or just go out on my own. Every time out there is something to learn, and some story to tell.

9. What is your favorite vacation spot?
For most of the past 25 years, my wife Heidi of 32 years and I have camped with a group at Assateague Island on Memorial Day weekend. Each of our three daughters have nice memories from there. Maybe someday we can get our three grand-kids from Austin to AI. With family now all over the place, I think now our favorite vacation spots are wherever they are: Tampa, Austin, Winona, St. Louis, and Indianapolis. Several of us really enjoyed meeting at Tybee Island, GA a couple of years ago. We set aside time around each July 4th to get our family back together again.

10. Have you had any great career mentors? If so, what made them great?
I am glad to have this opportunity to thank Carol Blumberg, professor of my first statistics class at Winona State who made it understandable; Ralph St. John, who gave me a shot at Bowling Green State and was my advisor; and Leyla Mohadjer, who provided 22 years of steady guidance at Westat. Many others include David Morganstein, Graham Kalton, Keith Rust, Shep Roey, and the list goes on.

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) or Natalia Weil (NataliaWeil@westat.org).

We look forward to hearing from you.

COURSES

Webinar Sponsored by the
National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS)
September 27, 2019
12pm – 2pm

If you have been following the intense debate on statistics vs data science and wondering about the increasing use of phrases like machine learning and artificial intelligence in the business world, you will definitely want to take advantage of a free webinar on these topics on **September 27** sponsored by the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS).

The 2-hour webinar (**12:00 – 14:00 EDT**) will feature 4 prominent leaders in statistics and data analytics. The 4 speakers, Vincent Granville, Victor Lo, Hal Stern, and Lee Wilkinson are pioneers in their distinct areas of expertise. The webinar will be moderated by Dan Jeske. Following is the program for the webinar (all times are EDT) followed by a short bio for each participant.

12:00 **Dan Jeske**, (University of California, Riverside)
        Introductions and moderator guidelines
12:05 **Victor Lo**, (Fidelity Investment)
        "History of evolving terms"
12:25 **Hal Stern**, (University of California, Irvine)
        "The role of statistics in modern data analysis "
12:45 **Lee Wilkinson**, (H2O)
        "Visualization for data science"
13:05 **Vincent Granville**, (Data Science Central)
        "Applications of data analytics"
13:25 **Q & A** with the audience and speakers
        Moderated by Dan Jeske
14:00 Webinar ends

Daniel Jeske is a Professor in the department of statistics at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), where he served as the department chair 2008-2015. He is also the Vice-Provost of Administrative Resolution at UCR. He is a fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and served on the ASA board 2014-2016. Dan is the current Vice-President of Membership and President-Elect for the International Society of Business and Industrial Statistics, one of the Associations of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). He is the current Editor-in-Chief of *The American Statistician*. Dan's research interests include classification and prediction methodologies, statistical process control methodologies, biostatistics applications, and reliability modeling.

Victor Lo has managed analytics teams in multiple organizations. Currently, he leads the Center of Excellence for AI and Data Science in Workplace Investments at Fidelity Investments. Previously Victor managed advanced analytics teams in Personal Investing, Corporate Treasury, Managerial Finance, and Healthcare and Total Well-being at Fidelity Investments. Prior to Fidelity, he was VP and Manager of Modeling and Analysis at FleetBoston Financial (now Bank of America). Victor has 25 years of extensive consulting and corporate experience employing data-driven solutions in a wide variety of business areas including marketing and finance. He is a pioneer of Uplift/True-lift modeling, a key subfield of data science.

Hal Stern is Chancellor's Professor of Statistics at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). He served as founding chair of the department of statistics for 8 years and then served 6.5 years as dean of the UCI School of Information and Computer Sciences. Hal is known for his research in Bayesian statistics and for collaborative projects in the life sciences and social sciences. He has published more than 100 refereed journal articles and is a co-author of the book *Bayesian Data Analysis*. Hal is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), ASA and the Institute for Mathematical Statistics.

Lee Wilkinson is Chief Scientist at H2O and Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at the University of Illinois Chicago. He founded SYSTAT Inc. in 1984 and wrote the SYSTAT statistical package. Lee is a Fellow of ASA, an elected member of ISI, and a Fellow of AAAS. He has won best speaker award at the National Computer Graphics Association and the Youden prize for best expository paper in Technometrics. Lee owns several patents on visualization and distributed analytic computing. He is the author of The Grammar of Graphics, the foundation for several commercial and opensource visualization systems (e.g., IBMRAVE, Tableau, Rggplot2, and PythonBokeh).

Vincent Granville is a former post-doctorate of Cambridge University and NISS. He is a data science pioneer with proven success in bringing value to companies ranging from startups to fortune 100 across multiple industries. Vincent developed and deployed a set of statistical / machine learning techniques such as hidden decision trees, automated tagging, indexing and clustering of large document repositories, Jackknife Regression, model-free confidence intervals, and combinatorial feature selection algorithms. He also invented many synthetic metrics, some of which have been implemented in a Map-Reduce Hadoop-like environment. Vincent created the first IoT platform to automate growth and content generation for digital publishers.

The webinar will use Zoom and is free to the public. Registration is required. Please register here (or psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gG6SIZJ6R2-wIY3gZjtpBw).
Please join us.
Christy Chuang-Stein
Chair, Affiliates Committee, NISS

Ps You can find all upcoming NISS events under the Events tab (www.niss.org/events) at the NISS home page. In addition, recordings of all past NISS webinars and virtual meet-ups can be found at Events -> Meet-up Recordings at the NISS home page.

Save the Date!
WSS Education Seminar: StatPREP

November 21, 2019
4pm

The topic will be StatPREP, an innovative new program for teaching introductory statistics that was developed by a group sponsored by the MAA (Mathematical Association of America), ASA and other organizations. The speaker will be Daniel (Danny) Kaplan of Macalester College.

The discussant will be Carol Howald of Howard Community College. More details to follow soon. For information about StatPREP, see

http://statprep.org/background-for-statprep/.

American University Institute for Data Science
JANUARY 2 - JANUARY 11, 2020

This Institute covers the essential basis for doing data science as practiced in the 21st century. Data scientists are expected to know how to obtain relevant data for a specific problem, clean and explore data, create models using data, state inferences, make reliable predictions, and communicate findings to multiple, possibly non-technical, audiences. We will cover each of these steps in 10 intense working days.

The course consists of a dynamic mixture of theoretical lectures, guest speakers, and group assignments. The guest lectures include data science leaders from Washington's unparalleled mixture of government, academia, and business. Statistical topics include: exploratory methods, graphics, regression, machine learning, ensembles, clustering analysis, and Bayesian approaches. Specific technical skills including: R, Python, Pandas, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, API Interactions, Social Media Mining, SQL, Tableau, GitHub, and more.

Course Information

- Instructor: Ryan Moore, Associate Professor, Department of Government
- Course schedule: 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday
- Cost (non-credit): $1,500 plus fees
- Participants will receive a certificate of completion.
- The course will be held on the American University campus.

Professionals can apply by submitting a resume and letter of interest to dsi@american.edu.

More information: https://www.american.edu/spa/data-science/data-science-institute.cfm

The 2019-2020 JPSM Short Courses Open for Registration

- **September 23-24, 2019 Introduction to Big Data for Social Science**
  Frauke Kreuter and Christoph Kern
- **October 15-16, 2019   Statistical Analysis with Missing Data**
  Roderick Little and Trivellore E. Raghunathan
- **Novermber 12, 2019 (1-Day)   Practical Tools for Nonresponse Bias Studies**
  Jill Montaquilla DeMatteis and Michael Brick
- **December 3-4, 2019 Synthetic Data: Balancing Confidentiality and Quality in Public Use Files** Joerg Drechsler and Jerry Reiter
- **December 16-17, 2019   Introduction to Survey Sampling**
  Jim Lepkowski and Colm O'Muircheartaigh
- **March 9-10, 2020   Data Linkage**
  Partha Lahiri
- **March 30-31, 2020   Writing Questions for Surveys**
  Nora Cate Schaeffer
- **April 8-9, 2020   Using Paradata in a Responsive Design Framework**
  James Wagner and Brady West
- **April 20-21, 2020   Machine Learning for Survey Data**
  Trent Buskirk
- **May 11 -12,2020   Introduction to Survey Estimation**
  David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee
  May 18 - 19, 2020   Differential Privacy
- Anand D. Sarwate

*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 RTI 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://jpsm.umd.edu/academics/jpsm-short-course-2019-20-schedule

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The American Association for the Advancement of Science needs scientists, engineers and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the District of Columbia and adjacent counties, including Loudoun and Howard Counties, during the 2019-20 school year.

The details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day orientation session before being assigned to schools.

To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.stemvolunteers.org. If you care about K-12 STEM education and have time to share your knowledge with students and teachers, please send a note to bcalinge@aaas.org with your home address, or call Betty Calinger, 202-326-6629.

STUDENT CORNER

I had a wonderful time at JSM 2019! The new ideas I gained from attending various sessions and meeting new colleagues has invigorated me with a great enthusiasm for my work. Further, my participation in JSM has encouraged me as I work as a Presidential Scholar PhD candidate at George Mason University's Department of Computational and Data Sciences. In particular, presenting my work on Shape Proportions and Encircled Image-Histograms, SPEIs (pronounced like "spies"), and providing a short course for an introduction to R were some of the major highlights of the trip. This was in part made possible by the 2019 Washington Statistical Society Joint Statistical Meeting Student Travel Award – so thank you!

Presenting SPEIs

The first major activity I participated in was presenting my work on "Investigations on Shape Proportions and Encircled Image-Histograms". This work had two goals in regard to its application to 2D binary shape images:

1. Describe shapes using a novel and interpretable metric
2. Apply the metric in small data classification problems that outperform convolutional neural networks, CNNs

In short, the algorithm produces metrics that are not only understandable, but also able to outperform CNNs by about 86%. I am very encouraged by these results, and the feedback I gained from those that attended my talk was invaluable.

Providing a Continuing Education Course on R

I was also able to offer a short course, or as the JSM organizers call it, a continuing education course, on an introduction to R for non-programmers. While I have been able to provide various courses for varying organizations, such as NASA, this was my first time providing a short course at JSM. The students came from a variety of backgrounds, which made the discussions very engaging and lively. The feedback from them was very encouraging, and I hope to be able to provide the short course at JSM again in the future.

JSM 2020

With another JSM under my belt, I feel energized to continue the work required to complete my PhD in Computational Sciences and Informatics. I hope to be able to present additional results from my research, provide another short course, learn from and meet potential collaborators at the next JSM in Philly!

~ name not provided

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Email items to wss.editor@gmail.com.

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