



# WSS NEWS

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# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

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On December 1 we had a wonderful online holiday party. Leanna Moron and Maura Bardos planned a great in-person event, but thanks to the Spirit of Omicron Present, they waved their wands, and we went virtual. We had people as far away as New Mexico. As winners of the ASA Giving Day Contest, October 8, ASA Executive Director, Ron Wasserstein, joined us. He told us of coming out from Kansas and was wondering about this mammoth chapter, the Washington Statistical Society. He was surprised that difference was a core of dedicated volunteers. Thanks Ron. We broke into groups to mingle and took a WSS history quiz that no one did very well on. At the end an ASA goody bag was given (mailed) to the raffle winner Claire McKay Bowen. It was worth her while to come all the way from New Mexico. Maybe she will show some of her bling off when she gives us her WSS seminar on privacy January 11. Watch for the notice.

Maybe it is time to make a New Year's resolution to dig some of those WSS emails out of your spam folder and join us for some informative seminars and social events next year.

Thank you for being supportive colleagues!	Happy Holidays. I thank ASA for doing a great job during pandemic	Looking forward to seeing you all in person in 2022
Happy holidays everyone!	Enjoy the beautiful weather of December	Happy holidays! We shall overcome this;) )
Thank you to all of the members of the ASA who have supported the COVID-19 response in all ways!	Greetings for this holiday season to all WSS and hoping our skills will promise a healthier 2022!	🎄🌲 Seasons greetings to the WSS members. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season. 🌲🎄
Happy holidays to WSS! Looking forward to in person social events in the future!	wishing everyone great fortune in 2022!!	Happy Holidays to the wonderful statistical community represented by the WSS. Wishing you all good health and much happiness!
Happy Holidays and Happy New Year WSS!	Will these be graded!! 😂 haha	Thanks for all the work on mentoring, quantitative literacy, and inclusivity the WSS and ASA volunteers work on
Looking forward to seeing you all in person in the future! Stay healthy!	Happy Holidays , even to Barry Nussbaum.	
	Looking forward to JSM in 2022	



# MESSAGE FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT

*Mark Otto*

In addition to my other ASA/WSS volunteer work, I'm also vice chair of the ASA Membership Council. During these last couple of years where we all have been working from home and connecting virtually, the ASA has struggled to figure out how to support its members. For much of the six years I have been vice chair we have and are still trying to support statisticians in their transition from university to work. We lose the most members then. It is ironic because that is the period that the ASA can help the most. Figuring out how to replace in-person connections—such as the job fair, social events, and in-person lectures—has been a challenge that we've met pretty successfully!



On Giving Day last year, I was surprised that so many people gave to the ASA when there are so many dire humanitarian and political causes to support around the world. I asked Amanda Malloy, the ASA development director, why she thought so many of us contributed to the ASA. She said there are many reasons, but one of the most common was the ASA has helped them start their careers and supported them throughout. They could not help but give back. Wow, would I like to hear those stories!

When I started my career, I was encouraged in many ways to become active in the professional organizations supporting statisticians. As I finished my masters, my major professor enlisted me to speak in a session he organized on wildlife statistics at the Biometric meetings each year. At the Census Bureau my supervisors had us give talks at JSM each year. I also helped them sort abstracts when each was program chair of the Business and Economics Section. Advisors and supervisors showed by example how important involvement with support organizations enhanced professional career growth.

In 2015 we started our mentoring program. It was a lot of effort to start and maintain this project, but it proved to be a wonderful way to build a community of WSS statisticians that supports each other and promotes the growth of our profession. Now as I am helping Jill Dever (Past WSS President) cull our overgrown board email list, I see committee and board members that started as mentees in the WSS and became part of the ASA/WSS family. So, we continue to build the WSS committee.

# TUESDAY LEADERSHIP DISCUSSION SERIES

Mark Otto and Eileen O'Brien started a new leadership series as a continuation of the 2019 WSS Leadership workshop. The series will consist of six half-hour topic-driven leadership discussions once a month finishing in May. As many of our senior statisticians are retiring, this is an opportunity to capture and share their lessons and experience before they go. Speakers will share their 'brain trust' with early and mid-career statisticians, emerging leaders in their fields.



This series is not limited to statisticians currently in management or leadership roles. Statisticians often focus on their specific expertise, grow their technical skills, and strive to achieve accurate, innovative work in your organization. Their work is critical to their organizations ability to make informed policy decisions. Mid-level statisticians can play more of a leading role in implementing their analysis work. Statisticians and Data Scientists are excellent problem solvers. All stages of a project benefit from their involvement. In this series, we will work through a variety of aspects on leading from the middle.

Eileen and Mark kicked off discussions with an overview on Tuesday, December 14. The first guest speaker in the series is Sally Morton ([Arizona State University Knowledge Enterprise Dean](#), 2019 WSS Statistical Leadership speaker, and 2009 ASA President) and scheduled for Tuesday, January 4. The meeting format will include announcements, a 10-minute talk, then question and answer. We will provide resources on a WSS webpage between discussions. With this series, WSS hopes to develop a strong peer network of leaders that extends beyond the discussions. Given the short notice, sign up even if you cannot make the introductory meeting.

The series enrollment for the 6 monthly sessions has been filled at 20. Please email Mark Otto ([mark.ot2o@gmail.com](mailto:mark.ot2o@gmail.com)) or Eileen O'Brien ([eileen.obrien@usda.gov](mailto:eileen.obrien@usda.gov)) if you want to be notified of future series or have other questions.

## January 4, 2022

As part of the Leadership Lunch Sally Morton, Arizona State University Knowledge Enterprise Dean & 2009 ASA President, will share her experiences as a leader and take questions. (Registration filled)

## The WSS Mentoring Program: Reach Out and Mentor Someone

We are pleased to announce the seventh-year anniversary of the WSS mentoring program. This program is a wonderful opportunity to do your part in building the WSS community, forging friendships, and of course, making a difference in the career and life of a fellow statistician!



Contrary to popular belief, this mentorship is not about a senior, sage statistician heaping (might I say *dry*) technical wisdom on your much younger mentee. Everyone has valuable experiences to share, and useful information and tips to learn. In fact, mentorship pairs oftentimes focus on building soft skills, beyond what are taught in the traditional classrooms (albeit virtually considering the circumstances) such as collaborating, networking, and stepping into new roles. You are not expected to be much more experienced than your mentee. On the contrary, being closer to your mentee in age and experience can be tremendously beneficial due to greater ease of empathizing with each other. Regardless of background and experiences helping mentees grow in their professional lives is truly a rewarding experience.

We launched the newly formed WSS mentor workshop this year. It was officially introduced on November 16<sup>th</sup> by Jill Dever (RTI and WSS Past-President), David Morganstein (retired Westat, Inc. and 2015 ASA President) and Mark Otto (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and WSS President). Erin Tanenbaum (NORC and WSS President-Elect), Cathy Furlong (past chair of the Statistics without Borders and co-chair of the New Client Acquisition Committee), and Eunice Kim (Microsoft and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women in Statistics) provided testimonies about their mentor and mentee experiences. The recording is provided [here](#).

New members are wholeheartedly welcomed. Our goal is to recruit at least 20 members. Information about the mentoring program and the registration form are available at [WashStat.Org/mentoring](http://WashStat.Org/mentoring). The forms take less than five minutes to complete!

The WSS Mentoring Committee members ([Benmei Liu](#), [Martha McRoy](#), [Jaki McCarthy](#), [Mark Otto](#)) are available to answer any questions. The initial commitment requirement is simply to meet monthly, for a period of six months. Decisions to continue beyond the six months are made between individual pairs.

Efforts to recruit mentees will start later in January. Mentees may register by completing the same form at [WashStat.Org/mentoring](https://WashStat.Org/mentoring). We will match as many mentees as we have mentors, so every mentor counts. Mentors will be notified as they are matched. We will check-in afterwards to ensure that the matched pairs were able to meet and doing well.

Reminders will be sent during the six-month commitment period to touch base about how the mentorship is progressing towards meeting the mentee's goals and where the meetings are taking place.

Again, please sign up. I have heard many positive stories about the rewards of mentorships for and from both parties. There is no reason to deny yourself this opportunity. You owe it yourself!



## STUDENT CORNER

### Washington Statistical Society Student Travel Award

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) offers a Student Travel Award annually for a local area student in a degree program (bachelors, masters, or doctoral) in the areas of statistics, survey methodology, or allied survey research disciplines. Support is offered for students to attend an American Statistical Association (ASA) meeting or conference.

Applications must contain a letter of support either by a current member of the WSS or a faculty advisor. Plans to present a paper or poster at an ASA meeting or conference will entitle the applicant to preferential review of their submission.

One award will be granted to a student attending a school local to the DC, MD or VA area.

The award covers conference hotel and travel expenses up to \$800, early-bird student conference registration, and a one-year student membership to the WSS. In addition to attending the meeting or conference, the winner also is required to attend the WSS Annual Dinner in the spring of 2022 to be recognized by the WSS. The winner also is required to prepare an essay on his/her experience at the ASA meeting or conference to be published in a WSS newsletter shortly after the meeting/conference.

For the 2022 Student Travel Award, applications are due by January 9, 2022. The application is [here](#).



# HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

## WSS FY19 Financial Audit

November 23, 2021

The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Audit Committee carried out its periodic audit of financial statements and income tax statements for WSS for Fiscal Year 2019 (7/1/2019-6/30/2020). The statements were found to be in order.

We did not find any material issues, only a few minor things.

As of June 30, 2020, WSS had assets totaling \$89,712.87. This included \$21,525.64 in the checking account; \$44,649.98 in the Hansen Lecture savings account (funded by Westat); and \$23,537.25 in the PayPal account.

WSS Fiscal Year 2019 tax year revenues and expenses were as follows:

Within the checking account: \$25,305.24 revenue and \$15,507.01 expenses.

Within the Hansen Lecture savings account: \$20.58 revenue and \$0.00 withdrawals (there were \$6,461.40 Hansen Lecture-related expenses paid by the checking account).

The PayPal account collects payments for some Eventbrite registrations (short courses, WSS social events) and some Associate member dues payments. (There were no short courses during Fiscal Year 2019.) The total Fiscal Year 2019 revenue was \$1,731.50. Funds transferred from the PayPal account to the checking account during the fiscal year totaled \$15,000, which is included in the checking account revenue amount. The PayPal account was used to pay PayPal and Eventbrite fees.

The audit committee sincerely thanks former Treasurer Dhuly Chowdhury and current Treasurer Amy Lin for their faithful service and generous cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Cohen and Chris Moriarity

Audit Committee, Washington Statistical Society

## **Welcome to new ASA/WSS**

The following new ASA/WSS members were identified in the update of the WSS email list in April 2021:

Mario Arthur-Bentil

Jonathan Auerbach

Habtamu Kassa Benecha

Sarah E. Burgoyne

Michael Burton

George Richmond Carter

Lori E. Dodd

Qianmiao Gao

Andrew O. Hall

Shuai Hao

Wenjun He

Llewellyn Jones

Inez Khan

Benjamin Lee

Bruce Liska

Reetam Majumder

Hope Muller

Brian Daniel Segal

Samuel Solomon

Dominic White

Jeffrey Yan

Shalima Zalsha

### **Welcome to WSS!**

Mark Otto, WSS President

Jill Dever, WSS Past President

Erin Tanenbaum, WSS President Elect

A huge shout-out to Chris Moriarity for compiling this list!