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Program: Peter A. Bounpane

# Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION



Program Committees:  
Agriculture: Robert Tortora  
Computer Tech.: Gary Liberson  
Economics: Gregory Schoepfle  
Phys. Sci. & Eng.: Seymour Selig  
Public Health & Biost.: John Patterson  
Soc. & Dem.: Maria Gonzales  
Interprogrammatic: Paul Ahmed  
Arrangements Comm.: Robert O'Keefe  
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NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 1978

February 15 - Sar Levitan Luncheon Meeting  
February 21 - Perspectives on Reliability Theory  
February 23 - The HEW Secretary's Report: Health, United States, 1976-77  
March 15-17 - NBER Workshop on Social Security Research Files

PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING  
(cosponsored by George Washington University)

Topic: Perspectives on Reliability Theory

Speaker: Professor Benjamin Epstein, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel

Chair: Professor Frank Proschan, Florida State University

The development of modern reliability theory and its implementation in engineering practice was totally influenced by the pioneering studies of Benjamin Epstein in the early fifties. The results of these studies led to the extensive use of the exponential distribution for reliability testing and prediction in the electronics, aerospace and other industries for over two decades. In the ensuing period the methodology of reliability has burgeoned. Against this background of technique-oriented literature, Professor Epstein will discuss his views on such questions as: what is the meaning of reliability, what are its values, and how does it help our understanding. In this lecture, some personal views will be presented with the aim of stimulating thought and discussion.

When and Where: Tuesday, February 21, 1978, 12:30-2:00 p.m., George Washington University, Building C, Room 108, 2201 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. (On Metro line)

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

A luncheon meeting will be held on February 15. The speaker will be Sar A. Levitan, Chairman of the National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics, who will discuss the mandate of the commission. The session will be chaired by Julius Shiskin, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

When and Where: Blackie's House of Beef, 22nd and M Sts., NW;  
Wednesday, February 15; Cash Bar, 11:30 a.m.;  
Luncheon, 12:00 noon.

Reservations need to be made by February 8. Please send \$5.25 per ticket to Robert O'Keefe, 436 Sherrow Avenue, Falls Church, Virginia 22046, and state your choice for the luncheon.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Entree:

_____ Steamship round of beef	Included: French fries
_____ Small steak	Salad
_____ Fried filet of sole	Coffee or tea
	Rum cake

Note: Because space is limited, reservations will be accepted in order of receipt.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BIostatISTICS

Topic: The HEW Secretary's Report: Health, United States, 1976-77

Speakers: Jacob J. Feldman and Mary Grace Kovar,  
Division of Analysis, National Center for Health Statistics

Chair: Dorothy P. Rice  
Director, National Center for Health Statistics

The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, acting through the National Center for Health Statistics and the National Center for Health Services Research, is required to submit an annual report on health care costs and financing, health resources deployment, utilization of health services, and the health of the population.

The speakers will discuss the kinds of decisions that must be made on what to include and how to present it, the problems of comparability in data from diverse sources, the problems of varying reliability, and gaps in our data collection systems.

When and Thursday, February 23, 1978, 12:30-2:00 p.m.  
Where: IRS Auditorium, 7th floor, IRS Building.  
(Please use entrance at 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., and bring a copy of this letter to show the building guard).

NBER WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL SECURITY RESEARCH FILES

The National Bureau of Economic Research is sponsoring a Workshop on Policy Analysis with Social Security Research Files, to be held at the Hospitality House Motor Inn in Williamsburg, Virginia, on March 15-17, 1978.

The conference features both invited and contributed papers by government and nongovernment researchers doing policy analysis on Social Security issues. There are scheduled sessions on:

1. general problems of access, availability, and confidentiality of Social Security research files;
2. uses of the Longitudinal Retirement History Survey;
3. documentation and analysis of data linkages among Census Bureau, Internal Revenue Service, and Social Security Administration information
4. research based on Social Security disability data; and
5. analyses with the Continuous Work History Sample.

Persons interested in attending may obtain full information by writing to:

Ms. Wendy Alvey, Program Coordinator  
Social Security Administration  
Universal North Building, Room 320-J  
1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

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## Economics Program

Topic: Reference Pricing for Imported Steel: Background, Methodology, and Problems

Speaker: Jack Meyer, Assistant Director for Wage and Price Monitoring,  
Council on Wage and Price Stability

Chair: James C. Miller III, Co-Director, Center for the Study of Government  
Regulations, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

### Abstract:

There is currently considerable slack capacity in the world steel industry. The U.S., Western Europe, and Japan, which together account for approximately 80% of total free world steel production, are all plagued by problems related to excess capacity. This excess supply situation, resulting largely from the severity of the recent recession and the sporadic and sluggish recovery from it in industrialized nations, will continue to create pressures and incentives for nations to increase exports. At the same time, there will probably be further retirements of capacity.

Against this backdrop, the U.S. government recently initiated a new program for operationalizing the Anti-Dumping Act in a way designed to obtain judgements regarding potential violations of the Act more expeditiously. A system of reference prices, based on Japanese cost of production, in effect form an early warning system by which the government triggers its own investigation of possible dumping violations.

Although this system is not a minimum price system, it may have the effect of raising average import prices. To the extent this occurs there will be both gainers and losers, but these gains and losses should be compared to the consequences of alternative proposals, including a continuation of the current system.

The basic approach to calculating reference prices involves estimating both factor prices and usage rates for various inputs (labor and different raw materials) and adjusting costs for cyclical swings. This practice differs from the approach typically employed in the past which relies heavily on company financial statements and does not adjust cost for cyclical variations.

When and Where: Wednesday, February 8, 1978, 12:30--2:00 P.M.  
New Department of Labor Building, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Department Auditorium (ground floor, center of building  
across from security guard desk)

(Metro Red Line, Judiciary Square Stop, 4th and D Street exit,  
one block southeast)

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Notes to job applicants and to employers with job openings:

1. Deadline for inserting notices is the 12th of the month preceding the publication month
2. Reruns of notices may be made on a space-available basis
3. Send all notices and requests to the Employment Committee Chairman:

Evelyn R. Kay  
National Center for Education Statistics  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20202 (202) 245-8340

JOB OPENINGS

Statistician (Health)  
GS-1530-7/9  
National Naval Medical  
Center, Bethesda, Md

Promotion possibility to GS-11. Performs bio-statistical analyses and special studies pertaining to morbidity, mortality, and workload data. Must have BS degree in Mathematics, Physical, or Social Sciences (with statistics) plus at least one year of work experience in the Health field. Civil

Service status required. Send Form SF-171 to Mrs. Shirley M. Wellman, Civilian Personnel Service, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland 20014. Closing date: Open until filled.

Statistician (Health)  
GS-1530-11/12  
National Institute of  
Dental Health, NIH

Masters in biostatistics or statistics preferred, with at least one year of experience. Experience in applied biomedical research very helpful. Position involves collaboration in the design and analysis of dental clinical trials and related animal and microbiological studies. Working

knowledge of computer programming and handling of large data bases useful. Send resume to Chief, Biometry Section, National Institute of Dental Research, NIH, WW Building, Room 534, 5333 Westbard Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20016.

## JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below are brief description of the qualifications of applicants seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing these applicants should notify Mrs. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization, and telephone number. The applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential.

### CODE NUMBER 2-6-78

Education: BS (Business Administration), MA (Economics),  
MS (Statistics)

Fields of competence: Exploratory data analysis, model building, multivariate analysis (discrete and continuous), pattern recognition principles, econometrics, statistical software

Experience: 3-1/2 years economist, econometrician, data analyst  
6 months instructor of economics

Salary level: GS-12/\$21,000 in Washington metro area

### CODE NUMBER 2-7-78

Education: BS (mathematics/Education/Biology), MA (Urban Studies)  
PhD (Management Science)

Fields of competence: Statistics, computer programming

Experience: 12 years statistician/analyst  
4 years military electronics

Salary level desired: \$13,700/10 months. Any US location, especially in academic setting: teaching, research, or administrative.