

# Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER 1979

## Methodology and Economics Sections

<b>Topic:</b>	The Employment Cost Index (ECI): Its Uses and Statistical Implementation	
<b>Speakers:</b>	Victor J. Sheifer, Bureau of Labor Statistics	(523-1508)
	Easley Hoy, Bureau of Labor Statistics	(523-5922)
<b>Chair:</b>	Edward A. Robinson, Bureau of the Census	(763-5936)
<b>Discussants:</b>	Jack Meyer, American Enterprise Institute	(862-5800)
	Joseph Steinberg, Survey Design, Inc.	(593-0288)

The Employment Cost Index (ECI), now being developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, will provide a comprehensive measure of change in rates of employee pay.

The first paper discusses the factors leading to the new series, its uses, its conceptual framework, the translation of the concepts into data requirements and index computation.

The second paper discusses the survey design, including sample selection, estimation procedures and variance estimation. The sample is selected in stages, the final stage involving the use of two-way controlled selection.

**When:** Tuesday, September 18, 1979, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

**Where:** FAA Auditorium, 3rd Floor, 800 Independence Avenue, SW

## THIRD ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMPUTER APPLICATIONS IN MEDICAL CARE TAKES PLACE OCTOBER 14-17

The Third Annual Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care takes place October 14-17, 1979 at the Sheraton Inn - Washington Northwest, 8727 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910.

This Symposium is designed to inform physicians, computer scientists, biomedical and clinical engineers, medical educators, health care administrators, and other health care professionals about advancements in the rapidly expanding field of medical computing.

Additional information on fees, registration, Continuing Medical Education credits, etc. is available by contacting Janice Eldridge, Office of Continuing Medical Education, George Washington University Center, 2300 K Street, NW, Washington, D. C., (202) 676-4285.

## EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

### Job Openings

**Statistician GS-1530-13** MS or PhD in statistics with extensive knowledge and experience in the applications of probability theory, statistical theory, and theory of experimental design. Requires knowledge of advanced univariate and multivariate statistical methods, nonparametric methods, FORTRAN programming and use of statistical software packages. Send SF-171 to Ms. Patricia A. Reissig, Administration Division, US Army Concepts Analysis Agency, 8120 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20014, or call (202) 295-1630.

**Systems Analysts - Asian Development Bank** The Asian Development Bank is implementing Bank-wide Computer Information Systems and needs Senior Systems Analysts with substantial EDP experience in Accounting/Finance/Personnel/Statistical Analysis and Data-Base. Please address resumes/inquiries to: Mr. Trujillo, Asian Development Bank, P.O. Box 789, Manila, Philippines 2800.

## President's Annual Report 1978-79

### Program Activities

A total of 36 program sessions, including four luncheon sessions were held during the year. Four of these were cosponsored presentations. Cosponsors included the National Bureau of Standards and the George Washington University Departments of Statistics and Operations Research. Program sessions normally attracted audiences of 30 to 50 but there were several with audiences of 70 to 75 and a number with audiences exceeding 100.

One of the largest audiences of the year was for the C.R. Rao session cosponsored with the George Washington University Department of Statistics and held on the GWU campus. This was one of the few events during the year attended by a large number of students.

Dr. Fred Leone's official "visit" to WSS for a luncheon meeting in January was a lively session. Fred suggested that this would be a good time for our chapter to evaluate its activities and a review committee has been appointed based on his recommendation. We expect to receive recommendations from the committee later this year.

A luncheon meeting in May featured Professor George E. P. Box, immediate past President of ASA, who spoke on "Sampling and Bayes' Inference in the Advancement of Learning."

The Society held its annual banquet on June 7 at Fort McNair, with Vincent Barabba, Director Designate of the Census Bureau, as principal speaker. Barabba's talk, which made use of some highly sophisticated visual aids, emphasized the need for Federal statisticians to improve communications with data users in order to serve their needs more effectively.

A major innovation for WSS this year was its sponsorship of 6 summer meetings, held on consecutive Tuesdays, starting on June 19. These meetings were primarily designed to provide summer employees of statistical agencies with a broad picture of the history and current status of Federal statistical programs and institutions, and to let them hear several distinguished Federal statisticians talk about their work. Attendance at the 6 meetings ranged from 30 to 70. Over 160 persons, representing more than 25 different organizations attended one or more sessions.

### Organizational Activities

A significant new activity this year was the establishment of the Washington Statistical Society Award in memory of Julius Shiskin. This Award, to be given periodically for an outstanding achievement in the field of economic statistics, will honor this distinguished public servant who died on October 28, 1978. The major organizations with which Julius Shiskin was associated will join WSS in the selection of Award recipients. The first Award is planned for 1980.

Representative at Large Dick Taeuber took the lead in arranging a special invited paper session at the 1979 American Statistical Association Annual Meetings in Washington. The topic for this WSS sponsored session was "Statistics and the Press".

In order to assure a reasonable distribution of duties and responsibilities among the officers of WSS, the Board decided, late in 1978, to split the offices of secretary and treasurer. This new arrangement, permitted by our constitution, is working well.

The WSS this past year joined the National Council of Associations for Policy Sciences (NCAPS). It is hoped that this new affiliation will enable WSS to take advantage of programs sponsored by other member organizations, and to participate in more jointly sponsored meetings.

Confirming an arrangement used on an experimental basis in the preceding year, at the joint board meeting in July 1978, the by-laws were amended to transfer responsibility for the WSS Newsletter to the publicity chairperson. During the 1978-79 program year, 10 monthly issues were mailed to the membership, the final one being the announcement of the summer program in the June 1979 issue. During the program year, in order to combat increased mailing costs, the Newsletter was converted to a self-mailing format. Some mailing list problems were encountered as the result of conversion of the national ASA membership lists to a new system; we believe these problems are now largely resolved.

At the suggestion of President-elect George Hall, a new committee was established early this year to investigate the need for and feasibility of providing technical assistance on statistical matters to local government units in the Washington Metropolitan Area. The Committee, which is chaired by Richard Taeuber, has already received several positive expressions of interest from local government officials.

WSS also assisted the national ASA office in establishing a Local Arrangements Committee for the 1979 Annual Meetings. The Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by James O'Brien, has exercised its very substantial responsibilities independently of the WSS Board. However, WSS provided assistance in recruiting members for the Committee and, of course, it is staffed largely by members of WSS.

Awards

The Society awards a year's membership in the ASA and the WSS to outstanding graduate students nominated by local universities. This program is designed both to provide recognition to outstanding students and to direct their attention to the field of statistics. This year's recipients were:

American University	Peter Nestor
Georgetown University	Peter Boyle
George Washington University	Richard Meinhold
Howard University	Karen Coleman
University of Maryland	William Knox

Elections

The nominations and Elections Committee (Barbara Bailar, chair, Ed Goldfield and Hubert Lilliefors) announced that the following officers were elected for 1979-80:

Vice President and President-Elect	Marvin Schneiderman
Secretary	Rich Allen
Treasurer	Nancy Dearman
Representatives-at-Large	C.Terrence Ireland, Irene Montie, Anthony Turner
Methodology Section Program Chair	David Morganstein

270 Ballots were cast.

Other

Many different people contributed to the success of our programs this year and deserve our thanks and appreciation. I would like especially to thank Jim Carpenter, Chair of the Arrangements Committee, Dharendra Ghosh, Chair of the Publicity Committee, and Nancy Dearman and Rich Allen, who took over as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, in mid-year, for their efforts on behalf of WSS, Sue Rustemeyer, Greg Schoepfle and Bill Shelton organized the summer program, which proved successful and is likely to be repeated. The Committee on Fellows (Jeanne Ridley, Chair, Sally Ronk, Millie Orshansky, and Charles Jones) obtained sponsors for several WSS members considered worthy of nomination to be fellows of ASA. Under the leadership of Evelyn Kay, the Employment Committee handled an increased volume of vacancy announcements and employer referrals. Finally, thanks go to Bennie Clemmer, who performed the annual audit of our financial status.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES  
FOR JULY 1, 1978 TO JUNE 30, 1979

On Hand June 30, 1978 ..... \$1,751.87

Receipts

1. Dues collected July 1978-June 1979:		
through ASA	\$ 6,718.90	
2. through Local Associates	61.00	
3. Interest on Savings - National Bank of Washington	22.85	
4. Luncheons	1,410.65	
5. Annual Dinner	1,062.75	
		<u>9,275.75</u>
		11,027.62

Expenses

1. Direct Newsletter Costs	\$ 5,801.61
a. Graham Letter Service	4,445.95
b. Bulk Mail Postage	755.63
c. Bulk Mail Permit	40.00
d. ASA Addressing Charge	560.03

2. Frame, Presidential Association Certificate .....	8.40	
3. Graduate Student Scholarship Awards .....	65.00	
4. Society letterhead and envelopes .....	65.52	
5. Miscellaneous: Stamps, rebates for overpayment, name tags at events .....	132.87	
6. Luncheons .....	1,342.00	
7. Annual Dinner.....	1,011.35	
8. Dues for joining NCAPS .....	25.00	
Total Expenses .....		<u>8,451.75</u>
Difference, Operating Funds Minus Expenses		2,575.87
<u>On Hand June 30, 1979</u>		
National Bank of Washington Savings Account .....	2,187.13	
National Bank of Washington Checking Account .....	388.74	
Total on Hand June 30, 1979.....		2,575.87
<u>WSS - Shiskin Award</u>		
1. Contributions December 1978 - June 1979 .....	\$ 2,488.00	
2. Interest on Savings - National Bank of Washington .....	47.27	
Total WSS - Shiskin Award .....		2,535.27
<u>Accounts Payable</u>		
ASQC (Funds being held in Escrow) .....	\$ 25.00	
Total Accounts Payable .....		<u>25.00</u>
Net Society Reserves as of June 30, 1979		\$ 5,136.14

*Bennie A. Clemmer*  
 Bennie A. Clemmer  
 Chair, Auditing Committee

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The President of ASA has been asked by the ASA Board of Directors to appoint a Committee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights. The Committee will work on such issues as the disappearance of Carlos Noriega (Argentina, February, 1977). It will work closely with the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Amnesty International. Since much of the work will be with organizations in the Washington area, the Committee would like to have members from this area to serve on the Committee. If you would like to volunteer or recommend someone to serve on this committee, please call Richard Taeuber on 472-4415, or Tony Turner on 763-1121. Names will be submitted to the President-Elect of ASA for consideration.

**ASA Committee Appointments**

The President-Elect of ASA will be appointing new members to standing and ad hoc committees of the Association in October. A list of the committees appears in the March 1979 issue of the *Amstat News*. If you would like to volunteer or recommend someone to serve on one of these committees, please call Dick Taeuber on 472-4415, or Tony Turner on 763-1121. All names will be forwarded to the President-Elect for her consideration.

(Mailed Sept. 4)



**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION**  
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