

Washington Statistical Society

W.S.S. Newsletter—May 1980

W.S.S. Open Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 6, 1980, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 3000 at 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.

Topic: Models for Analysis of Warranty Policies
Speaker: Prof. Wallace R. Blischke
Time & Place: May 8, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., GAO Building, Room 2433 A&B

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Topic: The Accuracy of Forecasts of Value
Speaker: Prof. Joseph Gastwirth
Time & Place: May 9, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Department of Labor Building, Conference Room 4437, B-C.

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Topic: Minorities in Statistics: A Movie and a Panel Discussion
Panelists: Nat White, Laverne Collins, Maria Gonzalez, Bruce Gray, Leroy Bailey
Time & Place: May 9, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Department of Labor Auditorium

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Topic: What Industrial Economics Can Contribute to Policymaking (sponsored by Society of Govt. Economists)
Speaker: Beatrice Vaccara
Time & Place: Luncheon Session at Empress Restaurant, May 14, 1980, Cash Bar—12 Noon, Luncheon—12:30 p.m. (Reservation required)

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Topic: Modeling for Short-term Energy Forecasting
Speaker: Frank Hopkins
Time & Place: May 14, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Department of Labor Auditorium

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Topic: Washington Alliance of Statisticians Business Meeting
Time & Place: May 14, 1980, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Nativity Catholic Church, 13th Street, N.W. (Just north of Missouri Ave.-Military Road, between Peabody and Quackenbos Streets)

LEAVE OUT

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Topic: Some Current Work in Telephone Survey Methodology in Health Research
Speakers: Robert Groves, Charles Cannell, Nancy Mathiowetz
Time & Place: May 15, 1980, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Department of Labor Conference Room, N44-37 A&B.

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Topic: Evaluation Plans and Experimental Research of the Census Bureau
Speakers: Susan Miskura and David Bateman
Time & Place: May 22, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Federal Building, Room 3000A, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

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Topic: Recent Trip to China by Government Statisticians and Economists
Speakers: Courtenay Slater, Janet Norwood, Chuck Waite, Shirley Kallek
Time & Place: May 28, 1980, Cash Bar—3:15 p.m., Session—4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Holiday Inn, Rosslyn, 1850 N. Ft. Myer Drive, Arlington, Va.

ANNUAL DINNER (Reservation Required)

Speaker: Dr. Lincoln Moses
Time & Place: Commissioned Officers' Mess, Washington Navy Yard, June 12, 1980
Cash Bar—6:00 p.m.; Dinner—7:30 p.m.; Program—8:30 p.m.

DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE MEETINGS

Physical Science and Engineering

Topic: Models for Analysis of Warranty Policies
Speaker: Professor Wallace R. Blischke, University of Southern California
Chair: Seymour Selig, Office of Naval Research
Date and Time: Thursday, May 8, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.
Location: GAO Building, Room 2433 A&B, 441 G Street, N.W.
Abstract: This paper surveys a number of models that have been developed for analysis of warranty costs. Consumer, commercial and military warranties are included. Consumer warranties include pro-rata, free replacements and combined warranties. The primary military warranty considered is the Reliability Improvement Warranty (RIW). Warranty costs depend on the structure of the warranty and the life distribution of the items in question. Models differ as to how they deal with these elements. They may also differ depending upon whether the analyst considers the buyer's or seller's point of view. In addition, economic considerations (e.g., present value of future income) affect the structure of the models.

Economics

Topic: The Accuracy of Forecasts of Value
Speaker: Professor Joseph L. Gastwirth, George Washington University
Discussant: John Behrens, U.S. Bureau of the Census
Chair: Ed Murphy, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Date and Time: Friday, May 9, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.
Location: Conference Room, N-4437 B-C, Fourth floor, New Department of Labor Building (Frances Perkins Building), 3rd Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. (Metro Red Line, Judiciary Square Stop)
Abstract: Real estate tax assessments, company earnings forecasts, and pre-auction estimates of art can be regarded as forecasts of value. The talk will discuss the relationship between measures of accuracy used in assessment-sales ratio studies (coefficient of dispersion) and those used in the company earnings field (mean relative error). The various measures of accuracy will be illustrated on Parke-Bernet print (etchings and lithographs) auctions. If time permits, implications for more informative summaries from *grouped* data will be presented.

Social and Demographic Statistics

Topic: Minorities in Statistics: A Panel Discussion
Program: (1) A Movie—"Statistical Inference—Part I"
(2) The Panelists: Nat White, National Institutes of Health
LaVerne Collins, Office of Management and Budget
Maria Gonzalez, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards
Bruce Gray, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Leroy Bailey, U.S. Bureau of the Census
Chair: Ruth Foster, Environmental Protection Agency
Date and Time: Friday, May 9, 1980, Movie and Panel Discussion: 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.; Light Refreshments: 2:00 P.M.
Location: New Department of Labor Auditorium, 3rd Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Abstract: This session is aimed at young minority persons interested in exploring the field of statistics as a possible career choice. A movie on practical applications of statistics will be shown. This will be followed by a panel discussion on minority participation in statistics. The panelists will present their experiences and opinions, including training and employment opportunities. Following the panel discussions, attendees will be encouraged to participate and express special concerns of minority statisticians. At 2:00 P.M., coffee and soda will be served and an informal discussion will continue with all interested attendees.

Luncheon Session at Empress Restaurant

Sponsor: Society of Government Economists (SGE)
Topic: What Industrial Economics Can Contribute to Policymaking
Speaker: Beatrice Vaccara, Director, Bureau of Industrial Economics, U.S. Department of Commerce
Date and Time: Wednesday, May 14, 1980, Cash Bar: 12:00 Noon; Luncheon: 12:30 P.M.
Location: Empress Restaurant, 1018 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
Cost: \$6.00, SGE Members; \$7.00, non-SGE members
Reservations: For reservations, please call Greg Schoepfle (202/523-9292) before noon on Tuesday, May 13, 1980. Space is limited and reservations will be accepted on a first-come basis. Please call early if you wish to be assured a place. *Please cancel your reservation if you cannot keep it.*

Methodology

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Title: Modeling for Short-term Energy Forecasting
Speaker: Frank Hopkins, ORI, Inc.
Chairman: Tom Jabine, EIA
Discussant: John Stanley Miller, Policy & Evaluation Office, DOE
Date and Time: Wednesday, May 14, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.
Location: New Department of Labor Auditorium, 3rd Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Abstract: A review of past procedures used to produce short-term forecasts. A discussion of the evolution of present models. Suggestions for modifications to the present approach.

Washington Alliance of Statisticians Business Meeting

Sponsor: Washington Alliance of Statisticians
Topic: Business meeting to discuss (a) plans for a summer Potomac River boat ride and dance; (b) the operational and organizational future of the Alliance; and (c) common problems which might be the focus of Alliance programs during next year. Light refreshments will be served.
The ALLIANCE is an affiliation of statisticians in the Washington area, concerned with career development aspects other than straight statistical theory and methods, topics which especially impact on all professionally junior statisticians, both male and female. ANY statistician in the local area is invited and welcome, whether or not s/he is a WSS or ASA member, and whether or not you have participated in any Alliance activities to date.
If you have any questions about the meeting or the Alliance, or need a ride to the meeting, please call Ruth Foster, 472-5040, Marcia Blauberman, 632-9797, Lee-Ann Hayek, 381-4204, Mary Mulry, 841-8843, Nancy Schroeder, 827-6848, or Dick Taeuber, 790-1580 (x238). (Ample parking, lighted lot.)

Public Health and Biostatistics

Title: Some Current Work on Telephone Survey Methodology in Health Research
Speakers: Robert M. Groves, Charles F. Cannell, Nancy A. Mathiowetz –Survey Research Center, University of Michigan
Chair: James Massey
Date & Time: Thursday, May 15, 1980, 12:00 Noon - 1:30 P.M.
Location: New Department of Labor Building, Conference Room, N44-37, A&B, 4th Floor, 3rd Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Abstract: The first paper reviews an experiment to increase telephone survey response rates by preceding the contact that requests an interview with an earlier contact. This approach at gaining compliance, called the "Foot-in-the-Door Technique" is compared to the usual procedures of seeking cooperation in a survey.
The second paper is a review of findings of a recently conducted study which adapted techniques of interviewing to the specific needs of telephone surveys, especially the need to compensate for lack of usual cues and messages. Emphasis is placed on response differences associated with alternative interviewing techniques.
The third paper presents some guidelines for the establishment of telephone interview monitoring systems. Methods of training, monitors, defining subsets of questions to monitor and determining optimal hours for monitoring are discussed.

Methodology

Title: Evaluation Plans and Experimental Research of the Census Bureau
Speakers: Susan Miskura, Assistant Division Chief, Census Programs, Statistical Methods Division, Bureau of the Census
David Bateman, Assistant Division Chief, Methods and Development, Statistical Methods Division, Bureau of the Census
Discussant: Maria Gonzalez, Office of Management and Budget
Date and Time: Thursday, May 22, 1980, 12:30 - 2:00 P.M.
Location: Federal Building, Room 3000A, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Abstract: This joint presentation will give an overview of the 1980 Census Evaluation Program. Subjects include: coverage error, content error, processing evaluations and other miscellaneous error sources. The experimental research consisted of six experiments contained in the 1980 Census. These were: update/list leave (method of delivering instruments); telephone followup of nonrespondents; alternative questionnaire designs; alternative interviewer training; use of student interns as enumerators; and job enrichment (additional training for enumerators).

Interprogrammatic

Topic: Recent Trip to China by Government Statisticians and Economists
Speakers: Dr. Courtenay Slater, Chief Economist for Department of Commerce; Janet Norwood, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Chuck Waite, Chief Economist, Bureau of Economic Analysis; Shirley Kallek, Associate Director, Bureau of Census
Chair: Dr. Courtenay Slater, Chief Economist for Department of Commerce
Date and Time: Wednesday, May 28, 1980, Cash Bar: 3:15 - 4:00 P.M. (includes free chips); Session: 4:00 - 5:30 P.M.
Location: Holiday Inn (Rosslyn), 1850 N. Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA (Metro Blue or Orange Line)

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Speaker: Dr. Lincoln Moses, Administrator, Energy Information Administration
Date and Time: Thursday, June 12, 1980, Cocktails (Cash Bar): 6 - 7:30 P.M.; Buffet Dinner: 7:30 P.M.; Program (Guest Speaker's Speech and Presentation of Julius Shiskin Award): 8:30 P.M.
Location: Commissioned Officers' Mess, Washington Navy Yard, Gates at 9th & M Streets, S.E., Building 101, Washington, D.C.
Cost: \$9.50 per person (including tips, etc.)
Buffet Menu: Roast Beef, Fried Chicken, Baked Lasagne, Salad, Vegetable, etc.

Please make checks payable to the Washington Statistical Society and mail to Jim Carpenter before June 4, 1980.

Print name(s) for Name Tag(s)

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Number of Persons _____ Mail to: Jim Carpenter, Route 1, Box 410
Jefferson, Maryland 21755

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

In addition to the Washington Statistical Society elected Representatives, the work of the Society depends on the effects of many other volunteers who serve on the various WSS committees. If you would like to volunteer for a particular type of assistance or wish more information on WSS needs, write to Rich Allen, WSS, P.O. Box 23502; Washington, D.C., 20024 (447-4896).

— Marvin Schneiderman, WSS President-Elect

SUMMER INSTITUTE AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

This summer, the Mathematical Statistics Program of the University of Maryland is sponsoring a Summer Institute in Statistics. Two short courses will be offered: "Applied Regression Analysis" (July 14-15) and "Markov Chain Models for Social Processes" (July 16-18). For information and registration materials, contact: Patricia A. Grim, Office of Summer Programs, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742.

AFTER HOURS GRADUATE PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

The Mathematical Statistics Program of the University of Maryland offers graduate courses in statistics in the late afternoon and early evening hours, leading to the M.A. degree in statistics. This fall's schedule is as follows:

Introduction to Probability	M,W	5 - 6:15
Sampling Theory	T,Th	5 - 6:15
Mathematical Statistics I	T,Th	5 - 6:15
Analysis of Variance	T,Th	6:30 - 7:45

For information about courses or admission to the M.A. program, contact: Director, Mathematical Statistics Program, Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 (454-4883).

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices is the 12th of the month preceding the publication date

Send notices and requests to:
Evelyn R. Kay
National Center for Education Statistics
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202 (301/436-6791)
(Note new number)

Job Openings

Mathematical Statistician
GS-1529-13

The Internal Revenue Service is seeking a person with an interest and aptitude for a leading role in a growing high level statistical consulting group. In this capacity, the person will provide statistical expertise to all organizations of the service. Large-scale studies, such as the Taxpayer Compliance Measurement Program, require help in providing sample designs, describing statistical computer approaches to analysis, and in doing data analyses. Incumbent will also review proposed and completed studies and conduct mathematical statistical research in aid to service programs. Send SF-171 to Internal Revenue Service, Statistics Division, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20224, ATTN: Pete Howerton, Room 407. 202/376-0159. OPM eligibility or 1 year required at GS-12 level.

The following four positions are located in the Epidemiology Branch, Health Review Division, Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C. If interested, send SF 171 and college transcript to Ms. Casey Kennedy, EPATS-792, Room 711 East Tower, Waterside Mall, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20460.

Statistician
GS-1530-9 through 13
Two positions

Positions involve analysis and interpretation of data from animal toxicologic tests and epidemiologic studies; risk assessment of toxic substances; evaluation of adequacy of study designs; and research into statistical methodology in the areas of toxicology and epidemiology. Applicants must have training or experience in mathematical statistics and statistical methods for chronic disease epidemiology, and fluency in either FORTRAN or APL. Desirable qualities include: training and/or experience in survival analysis, stochastic processes, bioassay, discrete multivariate analysis, and familiarity with the SAS, BMD, BMDP, or IMSL statistical package.

Epidemiologist
GS-601-9 through 13
Two positions

Positions involve critical review of epidemiologic studies, protocols and proposals; analysis and interpretation of data from epidemiologic studies, epidemiologic research on the effects of toxic substances (in-house or via contracts); and risk assessment of toxic substances. Applicants must have training (M.P.H. or Ph.D.) or substantial experience in chronic disease epidemiology. Other desirable qualities include training in biostatistics, experience in risk assessments, and knowledge of toxicology and environmental health science.

Statistician
GS-1530-11/14

The Environmental Protection Agency is interested in applicants who are specialists in sampling, survey research, and multivariate and decision analysis in health risk and epidemiology. Applicants should have private consulting or government background and an MS or PhD or equivalent experience. Send SF 171 to P. Ross or P. Gardenier, EPA-PM 223, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Computer Programmer
GS-7 through 12

Opportunity for varied experience writing applications programs and using generalized software packages to process survey and census data from developing countries. Position involves short overseas assignments up to 12 weeks per year. Experience with COBOL language and IBM equipment desired. Working knowledge of Spanish and/or French useful. Position in the career civil service. Send SF 171 or resume to U.S. Bureau of the Census, Personnel Division, Room 3227, Washington, DC, 20233. ATTN: Rosemary Allen. Or call Barbara Diskin at (301) 763-1364.

The Department of the Army is seeking two statisticians, as follows. If interested, send 2 copies of SF 171, SF 50 (Notification of Personnel Action) or Notice of Rating from OPM register, and current Employee Appraisal to: MDW Civilian Personnel Directorate, Fort Myer Civilian Personnel Office, ATTN: ANCIV-MPL (Mrs. Manov), Bldg. 305, Fort Myer, Virginia 22211.

Statistician
GS-1530-12

U.S. Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences, 5001 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia. Duties: Provides professional consultation or does professional work requiring the application of statistical theory and technique in the collection, compilation, analysis and interpretation of quantitative information in a variety of subject-matter fields, especially the social and behavioral sciences. Knowledge of statistical applications in the research and development area in a computerized environment is a selective (screen out) factor. Announcement No. M-19-80 (JM), open until 31 December 1980.

Statistician
GS-1530-9/11

U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Agency, 5600 Columbia Pike, Falls Church, Virginia. Duties: Responsible for accomplishing statistical projects and studies involving segments of major programs/sub-programs relative to Army-wide operational design and evaluation activities and/or integrated assignments designed to provide statistical support for Agency activities. Must be able to travel up to 30 percent of the time and to secure a SECRET clearance. Knowledge of research and development and/or test and evaluation in the materiel acquisition process is highly qualifying, as is knowledge of communications/electronics, mechanical/automotive or aviation systems. Announcement No. M-20-80 (JM), open until 31 December 1980.

Economist/Econometrician

Excellent opportunity for professional growth with small high quality consulting firm. Position involves development and application of advanced economic/econometric models to wide variety of problems. Specific areas of interest include development economies, input/output models for regional studies, econometric regression models and related techniques. Candidate should be a U.S. citizen, have a Ph.D. in economics/econometrics, 0-10 years experience, familiarity with computers and be able to present ideas well in oral and written form. Job involves occasional long hours and weekend work to meet client-imposed deadlines. Salary range 20 to 35K plus excellent retirement plan. Work to be conducted in Washington, D.C. area.

Statistician

Position involves development and application of advanced statistical techniques to wide variety of problems. Specific areas of interest include sampling theory, regression models (as understood by econometricians), non-linear and integer optimization techniques and "impressionistic" multivariate techniques. Candidate should be a U.S. citizen, have a Ph.D. in related area, and 0-10 years experience. Candidate should also have knowledge of at least one high level computer language and be able to present ideas well in oral and written form. Job involves occasional long hours and weekend work to meet client-imposed deadlines. Salary range 20 to 35K plus excellent retirement plan. Work to be conducted in Washington, D.C. area.

For both jobs above, applicants should send resume to: Dr. L. Daniel Maxim, President, Everest Consulting Associates, P.O. Box 786, Princeton, Jct., N.J., 08550.

(mailed 4/29/80)



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION

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