

Washington Statistical Society

W.S.S. Newsletter—September 1981

Seminar on Selected Papers Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association

The Internal Revenue Service, Statistics Division is sponsoring a seminar on papers presented at the 141st Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association by members of the Statistics Division. The seminar will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 1981, 12:30 p.m. at the IRS Auditorium, 7th floor, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20224. Interested persons are invited to attend whether or not they are WSS or ASA members. Further information on the seminar may be obtained by contacting Wendy Alvey on 376-0216.

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- Sponsor:** Internal Revenue Service, Statistics Division
 - Topic:** IRS Statistics of Income Program: Planned Improvements
 - Chairman:** Fritz Scheuren, Director, Statistics Division
 - Date and Time:** Wednesday, September 23, 1981, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 - Location:** IRS Auditorium 7th Floor, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20224
 - Papers:**
 1. Multi-Year Planning for Statistics of Income, by Robert A. Wilson and John DiPaolo
 2. Statistics of Income: An Historical Perspective, by Jack Blacksin and Ray Plowden
 3. Individual Statistics of Income: Advancing the Close-out Date, by Jim Dumais and Ray Shadid
 4. Feasibility of Using Business Master File Corporation Date for Statistics of Income, by William T. Powell and Joel R. Stubbs
 5. Total Quality Control for a Chameleonic Input, by Thomas M. Durkin

FLOOR DISCUSSION

The Washington Statistical Society has been the most active chapter of the American Statistical Association. It looks as if 1980-81 will continue to show WSS leadership. I look upon the major functions of WSS as to provide: first, a means for scientific exchanges and development of statisticians; second, a place for statisticians to express and resolve their professional concerns—issues of ethics, employment, academic freedom; and third (and very important), a means for the younger statisticians to enter the mainstream of American statistics—and join their peers in having an impact on how our whole country lives, behaves, and, I hope, prospers.

In keeping with this concept of our function, the chapter held 38 program sessions this year—three more than 1979-80 (and like so many others of us not quite keeping up with inflation). To me it was interesting that the fields contributing to the most sessions were basic statistical science—methodology and at least one field of applied statistical science—Public Health and Biostatistics. I expect that next year may more reflect the newer emphasis in the national scene—with more sessions in the field of economic statistics—programs ranging from taxation issues to employment to energy to the interface between economics and the environment. The AAAS this coming January in its annual meeting in Washington will have one major session on this interface, “Statistical Modeling for Risk Assessment.”

A well-attended session dealing with statisticians’ personal needs and development was “Personal Computers and the Statistician.” The session was prompted by the newest of growth industries—home computers. A large number of our members either own one of these devices or have access to one. There are likely to be a few more meetings following up on this first one.

With 1980 being our election year we looked into polling and election-night “forecasting” in an evening session called “Polls and Pols: Forecasting the 1980 Elections.” This evening session cosponsored with the Washington OR/MS Council was well attended, and we hope to hold more of them. Professor Samuel Greenhouse of George Washington University, our speaker at the annual dinner meeting in June, also recommended more evening sessions. He spoke on “Forty Years in Government and the University” contrasting the plusses and minuses in these two different environments. James Bonnen, who so ably directed the President’s reorganization project for the Federal Statistical System, was awarded the (second annual) Julius Shiskin Award for outstanding achievement in Economic Statistics.

As part of WSS’s efforts to bring young statisticians to the Society—and conversely—three young women, (what happened to the men?) were designated as outstanding graduate students in Statistics by their universities and were awarded an honorary membership in ASA and WSS for one year. They were:

Ms. Ayah Johnson—George Washington University
 Ms. Verona Wynn—Howard University
 Ms. Julie Ann Rosen—University of Maryland

I was disappointed that the other universities in the area did not nominate anyone for this award—(particularly since I received my Ph.D. from American and I’m on the graduate faculty at Georgetown). I think this must have been an oversight—and we’ll remind them early (and often) this year.

Among the meetings of special professional interest this year were a hot session on “Code of Conduct for Statisticians: Do we need it?” and an equally vigorous discussion on “Scientific Freedom and Human Rights: The Argentina Controversy.” Our session anticipated the publication of the Zimmerman book, and the controversy surrounding him, by over six months. Maria Gonzalez held a workshop on Presentation of Papers—for persons planning to give papers at ASA annual meetings—and other places. The themes developed in her workshop are applicable to any presentation by a professional.

Also as part of the integration of young statisticians into the Washington Scene, we joined with the Washington Alliance of Statisticians in their social and professional programs. These were particularly pleasurable. In combining the social and professional activities we held two luncheon meetings this year—both on topics of broad interest: “World Energy Projections” and “Adjusting Census Figures for Undercounting.”

1980 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Poisson, the French polymath. We will have a scientific session—in cooperation with the French Embassy, and including a distinguished French scientist, to celebrate this bicentennial. Seymour Selig and Nozer Singpurwalla are the organizers.

On a more personal level, some members of the Society were again pleased by our having a disproportionate number of our members elected Fellows of ASA. They were:

Barbara Ann Boyes—Bureau of Labor Statistics
David P. Byar—National Cancer Institute
William E. Kibler—Statistical Reporting Service, USDA
Charles E. Land—National Cancer Institute
Mary G. Natrella—National Bureau of Standards
John E. Patterson—National Center for Health Statistics
Naomi D. Rothwell—Bureau of the Census
Fritz Scheuren—Internal Revenue Service

Two major organizational efforts were made this year to make WSS more useful to its members. The WSS Board of Directors conducted its first large scale membership survey in some years. Doug Samuelson sent all members a questionnaire with the December newsletter. While efforts were not taken to maintain a probability sample, Doug's summarization of responses returned did yield valuable information on members preferences for subject matters areas, types of presentations, meeting times and meeting place. Particularly helpful to the members and program planners will be the cross tabulations of responses such as preferred locations by subject matter preference. In addition, a strenuous effort was made to have the monthly newsletter in the hands of members earlier than in previous years. The adjustment in submission due dates made by Dharendra Ghosh, our Newsletter Editor, was successful in circulation of copies by the first of the month for most editions. Members in some zipcodes continue to receive copies up to a week later than other members. (Perhaps our members in the Post Office Department can use a little internal influence to improve this condition.) The Washington Alliance of Statisticians and the Internal Revenue Service, Statistics Division used our newsletter for advertising their programs throughout the year.

The new officers elected for next year (1981-1982) are: Vice President and President-Elect—Joseph Gastwirth, George Washington University; Secretary—Rich Allen, Department of Agriculture; Treasurer—Bennie A. Clemmer, Social Security Administration; Representatives-at-Large—Yvonne Bishop, Department of Energy; Don King, King Research, Inc; David Morganstein, WESTAT, Inc.; Methodology Program Chair—Nancy Kirkendall, Department of Energy. A total of 246 ballots were cast.

The Nominating Committee whose efforts led to such a fine slate of officers was made up of Barbara Bailar, Tom McKenna and Arthur Kirsch.

On a personal note, I want to thank all the effective hard-working and dedicated people who made the running of the WSS so smooth and so effective. I especially want to thank Shirley Kallek, the 1981-82 President, for filling in for me during my many absences from Washington. Rich Allen, the Secretary, was most successful in tying-up loose-ends. Bennie Clemmer is a first class treasurer. The various program chairs—Julia Oliver, Paul Biemer, Zoltan Kenessey, Seymour Selig, Jim Wetzel, Jim Carpenter, and Doug Samuelson—brought us a stunning variety of top quality speakers. My old and honored friend, Lillian Hunvold Madow, managed the Shiskin award program with grace and good humor. Charles Roberts as Arrangements Chair and Dharendra Ghosh as Newsletter Editor both performed yeoman duties in scheduling and publicizing all of our program sessions. Evelyn Kay, in addition to running our monthly Employment column, is the person with the contacts to arrange meeting space for monthly board meetings. Our Representatives-at-Large for the year—Mitchell Gale, Maria Gonzalez and Jack Moshman—provided valuable counsel to the Board throughout the year.

It gives me great pleasure to report to the members the obvious vigor of our Society, and the bright prospects for the coming year.

Marvin A. Schneiderman
President, 1980-81

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES
FOR JULY 1, 1980 TO JULY 16, 1981

On Hand June 30, 1980\$ 5,374.10

Receipts

1. Dues Collected July 1, 1980–July 16, 1981	\$ 6,140.00
a. through ASA	6,111.00
b. through Local Associates	29.00
2. Interest on Savings	195.50
3. Luncheons	492.75
4. Annual Dinner	1,353.00
Total Receipts	\$ 8,181.35
Total Operating Funds	\$13,555.35

Expenses

1. Newsletter	\$ 4,905.02
a. Graham Letter Service	3,449.78
b. Postage	830.63
c. ASA Addressing Charge	474.11
d. Newsletter Typing	150.50
2. Graduate Student Scholarship Awards	57.00
3. Society Letterhead	67.08
4. Miscellaneous	212.56
5. Luncheons	505.00
6. Annual Dinner	1,310.56
7. Meetings	80.00
Total Expenses	\$ 7,137.22
Difference, operating funds minus expenses	\$ 6,418.13

On Hand July 16, 1981, Washington Statistical Society

National Permanent Federal Savings & Loan

\$ 6,418.13

WSS–SHISKIN AWARD

On Hand June 30, 1980\$ 2,941.53

Receipts

1. Contributions July 1, 1980 to July 16, 1981	\$ 375.00
2. Interest National Bank of Washington (through 3/31/81)	26.11
Total Receipts	\$ 401.11
Total Operating funds	\$ 3,342.64

Expenses

1981 Award to James T. Bonnen	\$ 250.00
Difference, operating funds minus expenses	\$ 3,092.64

On Hand July 16, 1981, WSS Shiskin Award

National Bank of Washington Savings Account	\$ 792.64
National Permanent Federal Savings Certificate (matures 8/82)	\$ 2,300.00
Total	\$ 3,092.64

Bennie A. Clemmer
Treasurer

I have examined the Treasurer's Report of the Washington Statistical Society for the period July 1, 1980 to July 16, 1981. The examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. In my opinion the report presents fairly the cash receipts and disbursements of the Washington Statistical Society for the period July 1, 1980 to July 16, 1981.

Ron Fesco
Chair, Audit Committee

WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The WSS Board of Directors met August 4 to consider "special" program topics for this coming year. Emphasis was on topics which might be presented as short courses or in longer sessions than our usual 12:30-2:00 p.m. programs. Among the topics discussed were evaluation of statistical packages, proper survey methodology and the possibility of a half or full day seminar of presentations by younger statisticians.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are normally held the first Tuesday of each month, September to May. Meetings are open to all WSS members. Check with Rich Allen, 447-4896, for information on location of upcoming meetings.

PROGRAM SESSIONS

The Washington Statistical Society aims to provide a balanced agenda of program sessions during the year of interest to WSS members. This year's program chairs are:

Methodology—Nancy J. Kirkendall
Agriculture & Natural Resources—Julia D. Oliver
Economics—Zoltan Kenessey
Physical Sciences and Engineering—Seymour M. Selig
Public Health & Biostatistics—Mary C. White
Social & Demographic—Jim Wetzel
Interprogrammatic—J. Finley Carpenter

Please contact the appropriate program chair if you have suggestions for program topics. Contact Rich Allen, 447-4896, for telephone numbers of program chairs.

APDU ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Association of Public Data Users (APDU) will hold its 1981 Annual Conference at the Embassy Row Hotel in Washington on October 22 and 23. APDU is a consortium of business organizations, universities, research groups, federal agencies, libraries, and statistical products.

The entire program on Friday, October 23, will be devoted to presentations and discussions concerning the 1980 census. The Director (newly appointed or Acting) of the Bureau of the Census will be the luncheon speaker that day. The keynoter will be Peter Francese, publisher of *American Demographics*.

On Thursday, October 22, the focus will be on non-census public data. The keynote address will discuss the future of statistics in the Reagan Administration. Other presentations will describe end uses of public data products and provide an overview of a variety of data files.

For more information, please contact Ms. Patricia C. Becker, APDU Annual Conference Program Chair, at the Planning Department, 3400 Cadillac Tower, Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 224-6389.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices
is the 10th of the month
preceding the publication date

Send notices and requests to:
Evelyn R. Kay
National Center for Education Statistics
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202 (301) 436-6791

JOB OPENINGS

Statistician GS-1530-9/11 Position available with Information Systems—Research and Development Section of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Projects involve rigorous investigative, law enforcement, and administrative statistical design/analysis applications in conjunction with information systems planning/development. Applicants should have at least a Master's Degree in Statistics (or related field) and be a citizen of the United States. Desired areas of expertise are: sampling, multivariate analysis (discrete and continuous), analysis of subjective data, stochastic modeling, decision theory, and exploratory data analysis. Problem solving is performed in a complex ill-structured domain and requires definite creativity in many analytic situations. Work requires facility in the use of SPSS, SAS, or BMDP and at least one higher-level programming language. Send resume' to the Office of Information Systems—Research and Development, Room 6867, J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I. Building, 10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20535.

Faculty—Applied Math Statistician Full-time appointment in the MS program in math stat. Incumbent teaches courses in statistics at the level and performs research leading to publication. Additional duties are to promote the program by consulting activities, lectures to professional societies, contacts with industrial leaders, and participation in local Rochester and RIT educational and statistical activities. Qualifications: PhD in Mathematical Statistics, operations research, or closely related mathematical fields. Excellent teacher, research publications, several years experience in industry or government in areas requiring applied statistics. Salary and rank to be commensurate with candidate's qualifications to advance to the post of Chairman for the program. Appointment to be effective January 1, 1982. Application should be made to Professor Austin J. Bonis, College of Continuing Education, Rochester Institute of Technology, 1 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623.

Listed below are brief descriptions of the qualifications of applicants seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing any of 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 contracts will be confidential.

Code Number: 09-01-82

Position: Mathematical statistician, \$25,000 in government or private

Experience: Five years of experience in the government agency in the areas of taxation, agricultural economics. Both my education and work experience have given me expertise of analysis of variance, regression analysis, sampling, nonparametric statistics, design of experiments, multivariate analysis, computing, large scale data base, data analysis. Familiar with FORTRAN, BMDP, SPSS, SAS, SPEAKEASY, IBM-JCL.

Education: MA in mathematical statistics—a paper on nonparametric statistics/statistical computing was published on JASA 1979.

Code Number: 09-02-82

Position: Applied Statistician

Experience: 6 years experience with data analysis, computing, consulting; background in linear models, experimental design, statistical methods, programming; familiar with FORTRAN, SAS, WYLBUR, APL, SPSS, BMD; interested in development, implementation, evaluation of computing methods for statistics, probability, math, operations research.

Education: BS and MS in statistics.