



FEBRUARY, 1984

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

- * CALENDAR: February, 1984
- * 1. February 16, Thursday AI, Expert Systems and Statistics
- * 2. February 22, Wednesday Designing Effective Training for Survey Interviewers
- * 3. February 22, Wednesday Medicare's Reimbursements to Physicians
- * 4. February 23, Thursday NCHS: Coding Occupation and Industry on the Death Certificate
- * 5. February 29, Thursday Robust Estimation In A Finite Population Revisited
- * 6. March 6, Thursday Designing Integrated Multi-Purpose Sample Surveys

RANDOM BYTES -- Dick Taeuber, Representative-at-Large

What is the Washington Statistical Society, or rather, what should it be? Obviously the WSS presents a number of technical seminars on methodology or application topics as befits a chapter with approximately 10 percent of the ASA membership. We sponsor a modest, but increasing, level of continuing education activity. We arrange an occasional social event such as the Annual Dinner, one or two luncheon meetings a year, and the recent parties honoring Ed Deming and Morris Hansen. But attendance at these various events is "spotty" in numbers and/or demographics which raises questions as to "are we reaching or responding to our membership?"

Of particular concern are the professional junior statisticians and the needs they may have for social/contact and career development oriented activities. That group tends not to take advantage of the dinner/luncheon/party meetings -- and the technical seminars tend not to expand contacts or provide benefits in these areas. Should WSS have a role in such activities? Do the junior/younger statisticians want more from WSS in these areas?

Several years ago an effort was made to address issues such as the problems of finding or changing jobs, how to get challenging work assignments and the dual problem of how to manage and develop professionally junior statisticians, how to consult as an individual on a free-lance basis or as the statistician, how to get WSS to make its meetings more accessible to suburban and/or time-pressured junior statisticians, and how to broaden the set of peers/statisticians that one has a sense of knowing. This latter problem can be especially important for the junior statisticians, for it seems the more junior a person, the less likely they are to approach a senior person or a helpful office unless they have some sense of knowing that person.

This column is raising questions, space does not permit musing about answers. The Board would appreciate your thoughts and suggestions -- especially from those of you who are "younger". PLEASE call or write with suggestions. Thanks.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM CHAIRS

Agri. & Nat. Res. Fred Vogel 447-3895	Methodology Michael Cohen 334-2266	Phys. Sci. & Eng. Seymour Selig 696-4314
Economics Eva Jacobs 272-5156 Nancy Gordon 226-2669	Short Courses Jim Carpenter 272-2271 Doug Samuelson 536-4756	Interprogrammatic Wendy Alvey 376-0216 Fritz Scheuren 376-0216
Social and Dem. Lee-Ann Hayek 357-1587 Richard Rockwell 212/557-9494	Pub. Health & Biostat Mitchell Gail 496-4208 L.J. Wei 676-6359	Stat. Computing Chap Gleason 633-3458 David Morganstein 251-8215

Employment: Evelyn R. Kay 331-1153

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: AI, Expert Systems and Statistics
 SPEAKER: Terry Ireland, Department of Defense
 DATE AND TIME: Thursday, February 16, 1984; 12:30-2:00PM
 LOCATION: Room 4E069, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
 ABSTRACT: The interface between statistics and computer science has gained increased prominence because of the growing enthusiasm for application of artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to practical problems. This talk introduces the general ideas of AI with respect to its use in statistics and connects these ideas to statistical packages currently in use.

 TOPIC: Designing Effective Training for Survey Interviewers
 SPEAKER: William Mockovak, Census Bureau
 CHAIR: Fred Vogel, U.S. Department of Agriculture
 DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 22, 1984; 12:30-2:00PM
 LOCATION: Room 3109 South Building, USDA, 12th & Independence Avenue, S.W.
 ABSTRACT: Training interviewers is an important part of any survey. This presentation covers training approaches either currently used or under consideration for use by the Census Bureau. Topics covered will include the use of a systems approach for designing training, the use of job aids instead of standard reference materials, guidelines for implementing performance-based training, alternative training techniques, and the evaluation of interviewer performance.

 TOPIC: Medicare's Reimbursements to Physicians
 SPEAKER: Marilyn Moon, The Urban Institute
 CHAIR: Nancy Gordon, Congressional Budget Office
 DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 22, 1984; 12:30-2:00PM
 LOCATION: Room 4E069, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
 ABSTRACT: Reducing Medicare's reimbursements to physicians is a major way to slow the growth in Federal expenditures for health care -- the fastest growing portion of the Federal budget. Marilyn Moon will discuss her analysis of alternative options, concentrating on the data difficulties and the statistical techniques that would be used to analyze the issue.

 TOPIC: Status of the NCHS Program for Coding Occupation and Industry on the Death Certificate
 SPEAKERS: Harry M. Rosenberg and Jeff Maurer, Mortality Statistics Branch, NCHS
 DATE AND TIME: Thursday, February 23, 1984; 1:30-2:30PM
 LOCATION: Center Building, Room 1-23, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland
 ABSTRACT: The goal of this program is to incorporate occupation and industry reported on the death certificate into the vital statistics cooperative program of NCHS. This talk includes a brief review of evaluation studies on the codability of the reported items, and on the ability of States, using uniform coding instructions, to produce the statistical data within acceptable statistical standards. The activities are a joint endeavor of NIOSH, NCHS, and the Bureau of the Census.

 TOPIC: Robust Estimation in A Finite Population Revisited
 SPEAKER: Phillip Kott, Bureau of Labor Statistics
 DISCUSSANT: Richard Valliant, Bureau of Labor Statistics
 DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 29, 1984; 12:30-2:00PM
 LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room 315, 901 G Street, N.W.
 ABSTRACT: Royall and Herson demonstrate that an expansion estimator based on a non-random, balanced sample is unbiased under a polynomial regression model. This paper shows that there are many linear estimation strategies unbiased under the same model. One of these, a mean-of-ratios estimator based on a sample with properties possessed on average by PPS samples, is optimal among linear unbiased strategies given a particular error structure. Moreover, it is better than the Royall-Herson strategy for a broad range of applications.

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS
(Continued)

TOPIC: Designing Integrated Multi-Purpose Sample Surveys
SPEAKERS: Monroe Sirken, NCHS and Fred Vogel, USDA
CHAIR: Michael Cohen, National Academy of Sciences
DISCUSSANT: Fritz Scheuren, Internal Revenue Service
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, March 6, 1984; 12:30-2:00PM
LOCATION: Auditorium A-5, Martin Luther King Memorial Library, 901 G Street, N.W.
ABSTRACT: The first paper describes the statistical research program for investigating the effects of the plan to integrate the designs of the NCHS health surveys and presents the preliminary findings. The second paper discusses a plan to integrate several single purpose sample surveys into a multi-purpose multiple frame survey design along with an evaluation of theoretical and practical problems.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices is the first of the month preceding the publication date.

Send notices and requests to:
Evelyn R. Kay
520-22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037 202/331-1153

JOB OPENINGS

Statistician: GS-9/11 and GS-12/13 Environmental Protection Agency has two positions in the Office of Water Regulations and Standards. Successful candidates will consult on multi-disciplinary projects involving engineers, scientists, attorneys, and management to develop National water pollution control regulations. Positions offer opportunities and responsibilities to apply a wide range of statistical methods to important visible problems. Communication skills are critical. Send resumes to: Dr. Henry D. Kahn, EPA, 401 M Street, S.W. (WH-586), Washington, D.C. 22102.

Senior Statisticians: JRB Associates, a professional services firm, is seeking Senior Statisticians interested in health and environmental problems. Positions require Ph.D. in Statistics, 10 years of diversified working experience, and management and consulting background. Qualified applicants should submit resume and salary requirements to: Ms. Karen Wise, JRB Associates, 8400 Westpark Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102.

Applied Statisticians: Engineering and Economics Research, Inc., a 150-person Tysons Corner consulting firm, requires applied statisticians with experience in biostatistics, econometrics, and/or survey design. A Master's degree is required. A Ph.D. is preferred. Solid grounding in mathematical statistics a definite plus. Reply to: A. Cabraal, EER, Inc., 1951 Kidwell Drive, Suite 300, Vienna, Virginia 22180.

JOB APPLICANTS

Following are brief descriptions 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: 84-01-01

Position Wanted:

Education:

Experience:

Area of Interest:

Biostatistician/Statistician/Consultant at GS-12/13 or equivalent in Washington, D.C. area.
Ph.D. in Statistics, Florida State University, 1970
Nine years in toxicological research data evaluation and statistical analysis and reporting. 4 years university teaching and 3 years postdoctorate research in statistical methodology.
Survival analysis; Censored sampling data analysis; Linear regression; Multivariate nonparametric statistical methods; Analysis of variance and design of experiment; Analysis of binary data; SAS programming and SAS package.

CODE NUMBER: 84-01-02

Position Wanted:

Education:

Experience:

Area of Interest:

Part-time GS-12/13, or equivalent, Demographic Statistician in Washington, D.C. area.
M.A., Demography, Georgetown University
Ten years experience with all aspects of survey research. Knowledge of 1980 Census microdata, most major surveys. Experienced in project, survey, and questionnaire design, literature review, SPSS programming, data analysis and report writing.
Social indicators, race and ethnicity, policy studies.

(mailed 1/24/84)



P.O. Box 23502
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