



SEPTEMBER 1984

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------|--|
| September 10: | Monday | An Integrated Design for Dose Comparison Trials |
| September 12: | Wednesday | Wine and Cheese Reception for John Aiken (FEE EVENT -
Pre-registration Form Inside) |
| September 19: | Wednesday | Components of the Total Variance for Survey Data |
| September 20: | Thursday | An Introduction to LISREL |
| September 21: | Friday | Economists and Statisticians: Something Missing in the Dialogue? |
| September 25: | Tuesday | Survey Design and Data Analysis Using Microcomputer
Spreadsheet Software |

1983-1984 President's Report - Maria Gonzalez, Past President

This has been a busy year. We started last July with hopes of expanding WSS's commitment to Continuing Education and providing social opportunities for our members. I feel we made good progress on those goals. We were able to coordinate with ASA and jointly announce some courses which carried Continuing Education credit. Among the special courses this year were a three-part session "Improving Federally Funded Surveys" presented by Don King and David Morganstein; "Survival Analysis" by Gordon Lan; "Categorical Analysis of Data From Complex Sample Surveys" by Richard Landis and James Lepkowski; "Personal Computers for Statisticians" by David Morganstein and Jim Carpenter; "Workshop on Presenting Statistical Papers" and a "Writing Workshop" put on by Charles Alexander, Wendy Alvey and Beth Kilss. An even greater emphasis will be placed next year on Continuing Education programs.

There is a new look to the organization and its publications. Thanks largely to Dick Taeuber a new Logo has been designed for WSS and incorporated into our stationery, Newsletter and name tags for special meetings. A new Constitution was framed. One major change under the new Constitution is the establishment of two-year terms of office for the Secretary, Treasurer and Representatives-at-Large. While we have been fortunate to have good continuity throughout our history in the Secretary and Treasurer positions, the change for the Reps-at-Large will be a big plus to improve continuity of programs and special activities.

This year's Reps-at-Large (Dan Kasprzyk, Susan Miskura and Dick Taeuber) represented each of you very well. In addition to participating in regular Board meetings, I called on the Reps-at-Large, the President-Elect Terry Ireland and the Past-President Joe Gastwirth for extra meetings and counsel throughout the year. Largely through the efforts of this "Executive Committee" we were able to improve and expand our system of local representatives to nearly every statistical organization in the area. I am glad that all three will be returning to the Board next year; Susan through the recent election and Dan Dick through the luck of the draw to implement the new two-year terms of office. I also want to recognize the Program Chairs who were responsible for organizing the sessions in our program areas. Eva Jacobs and Nancy Gordon, who are retiring this year from the Board, have been a very effective team the past two years scheduling our Economics programs.

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1983-1984 WSS President's Report (Continued)

Both of our Social and Demographic Committee co-chairs were operating under difficult circumstances this year: Richard Rockwell was transferred to New York in the fall and Lee-Ann Hayek had a baby about halfway through the program year. They still were able to plan some interesting sessions in their area. We had another pair of individuals heading up our Public Health and Biostatistics programs. Mitchell Gail was on for his second year, helped this year by L.J. Wei. Our Methodology Section was very busy during the past year. Michael Cohen took over as Program Chair with a lot of energy and some interesting ideas for programs. With the assistance of Nancy Kirkendall as Section Chair, Mike gave us two programs a month almost every month. Fred Vogel in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Seymour Selig in Physical Sciences and Engineering were their own program committees. Each of them planned some very good program sessions. We had several people contributing to our Statistical Computing Sessions. Chap Gleason and David Morganstein started as program co-chairs. Later Terry Ireland helped with ideas and arrangements for sessions during the rest of the year. Fritz Schueran assisted Wendy Alvey with Interprogrammatic Sessions and served as a session presenter himself, but also assisted in many other ways with his advice and counsel. The Short Course Section was chaired by Jim Carpenter and Doug Samuelson. All these activities contributed to the Continuing Education Program. Besides the work of the program organizing committees it takes several other people to carry out the work of the Board of Directors. Rick Griffin, as Arrangements Chair, and Julia Oliver, as Newsletter Editor, have important responsibilities each month in finalizing details and publicizing our programs and activities. Julia's efforts have resulted in more of a true Newsletter rather than just a monthly listing of programs and employment ads.

The employment column was one very popular feature this year. More employers seem to use it all of the time and we are getting considerable "repeat business". The effectiveness is very largely due to Lynn Kay's very professional handling of all inquiries. I also want to thank Lynn for her efforts in handling the Annual Dinner arrangements. She scouted out prospective locations and menus, handled all details with the restaurant, and took all the reservations. Arranging a dinner for 170 people is never an easy task, but Lynn took all the responsibilities and problems in stride.

One new function we have added in the past two years is the concept of a Social/Membership Committee. These individuals aid as needed whenever help is required with functions such as the party for Morris Hansen or the coordination of the new local representative system. Josefina Lago, Aroona Borpujari and Cecelia Snowden were the members of this committee this year.

We have four Board members whose functions are mainly to represent WSS with other organizations. These individuals work behind the scenes and are rarely seen at Board meetings. This is particularly true of Lillian Madow, who continues to serve as the Board's Representative to the Shiskin Award Committee, although she is living in California. This is a special kind of dedication. Jerry Coffey serves as the District 1 Representative to the ASA Board and does report to the WSS Board on significant ASA Board actions or deliberations. Don King is our Representative on the new ASA Council on Chapters. Since WSS is the only chapter in District 1, he serves as one of the Board of Governors for that new council. Bob Smyth has been the WSS representative to the National Council of Associations for the Policy Sciences (NCAPS), which ties together information for several associations similar to WSS. Being President of the Board of Directors is a one-year assignment with a year as President-Elect to prepare for the assignment. I see now why former Board Presidents have been very complimentary of our Treasurer, Bennie Clemmer and Secretary, Rich Allen. These two individuals provide the "institutional memory" of the Board's previous actions and unwritten policies. I was very pleased that in spite of the length of service, they both are constantly looking for improvements in their responsibilities.

1983-1984 WSS President's Report (Continued)

In addition to the members of the Board of Directors WSS utilizes other committees to carry on specific functions. This year's Nominating and Elections Committee was composed of Wray Smith, Penny Erickson and Joe Gastwirth. This committee put together a very good slate of candidates for this year's election. The committee on ASA fellows, which recommends WSS members for nomination and seeks to coordinate sponsors was composed of Courtenay Slater, Noger Singpurwalla, Mary Grace Kovar and Marie Eldridge. Selected in this year's election were Mary Grace Kovar as President-Elect, Susan Miskura and Nancy Kirkendall as Representative-at-Large for 1984-86, Bennie Clemmer as Treasurer and Cathryn Dippo as Methodology Section Program Chair. We have continued our annual offer to local universities of recognizing one individual at each as their outstanding graduate student with an interest in statistics. The universities that participated this year and the students that were recognized were: American University, Ms. Chai-Kyung Lim; Georgetown University, Mr. David Foley; and the University of Maryland, Mr. Ngi-Lang Chan. As mentioned above, I felt that this year's Annual Dinner meeting was most successful. Instead of "outside" speakers this year, we invited Jack Keane of the Census Bureau and Janet Norwood of the Bureau of Labor Statistics to speak on the topic of "Looking Ahead" at their respective organizations. Both presentations were very interesting and well received by the audience. The total attendance of 170 must rank as one of the largest Annual Dinners ever.

The fifth annual Shiskin Award for Economics Statistics was also presented at the Annual Dinner. This year's awardee was Dr. Geoffrey Moore, who was honored for his economic research. It seems that there are many other accomplishments of the past year that I could, and perhaps should document. I want to close by thanking all the persons who worked on the WSS Board and by wishing the best to Terry Ireland as he begins his year as President of WSS. In addition I want to offer him my pledge to try and help him as much as he assisted me this past year.

SPSS SEMINARS

On October 29-30, 1984 SPSS will teach a course designed for users of Census Bureau data sets. Examples are developed using STF and PUMS tape files, with one day devoted to applications from each type of data set. You will leave the seminar with the with the ability to access these files using complex file handling capabilities and input programs. You will also see how to match and merge other available data sets and how to produce reports and display your findings. Some familiarity with Census data and SPSS is assumed. The seminar fee is \$395 with a \$30 discount for members of the SPSS user's group ISSUE. For further information contact the Training Department, SPSS, Incorporated, 444 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3000, Chicago, Illinois 60611 or phone 312/329-2400.

During the week of September 24 to 28, SPSS will present two workshops on LISREL. The first, and introduction to LISREL meets for three days with a fee of \$395. The Advanced Applications with LISREL workshop costs \$295, and meets September 27 and 28. Karl Joreskog, Professor of Applied Statistics and Director of the Institute of Statistics, Uppsala University, Sweden, will be the workshop leader. He is the originator of the LISREL technique and publishes and teaches extensively on topics of factor analysis, non-linear Multivariate estimation methods, analysis of data in biological, social and behavioral research, and econometric applications. For further information contact the Training Department, SPSS, Incorporated, 444 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 3000, Chicago, Ill. 60611 or phone 312/329-2400.

ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: An Integrated Design for Dose Comparison Trials
SPEAKER: Ping-Hwa Hsu, Bristol Myers Pharmaceutical Company
CHAIR: Terry Ireland, DOD
DISCUSSANT: James Dambrosia, NIH
DATE AND TIME: Monday, September 10, 1984; 1:30PM-3:00PM
LOCATION: Center Building, Rm. 1-23, 3700 East West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland
ABSTRACT: An integrated design, which incorporates the features of dose titration into the classical parallel comparative scheme, is proposed for some dose comparison trials. In addition to the usual information derived from these studies such as dose-response relationship, estimation of effective dose, and response rates, this design resolves the safety issue of "first dose syndrome" and the ethical issue of unnecessary high dose of medication, and provides information regarding time related residual effects and maintenance of response.

TOPIC: Components of the Total Variance for Survey Data
SPEAKER: Colm O'Muircheartaigh, ASA Fellow, Bureau of the Census
DISCUSSANT: Benjamin Tepping, WESTAT
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, September 19, 1984; 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5, 901 G Street, N.W.
ABSTRACT: Some alternative models of response error will be presented and contrasted. The magnitude of the components of the total variance will be illustrated using data from the U.S.A. and elsewhere.

TOPIC: An Introduction to LISREL
SPEAKER: Philip W. Wirtz, George Washington University
CHAIR: Charles Mann, Charles R. Mann Associates, Inc.
DISCUSSANT: F. Mark Schemmer, Advanced Research Resources Organization
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, September 20, 1984; 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: Marvin Center, Rooms 413-414; 21st & H Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C.
ABSTRACT: Discusses LISREL, a statistical procedure which unifies the concepts of linear regression analysis and factor analysis. The decision to incorporate LISREL in the latest version of SPSS-X suggests that statisticians will want to have sufficient knowledge to consider making use of it. LISREL is drawing interest among psychologists, sociologists, economists and other social scientists and has begun to appear frequently in their literature. Dr. Wirtz will present the rationale and methodology of LISREL as well as specific examples of its use and various fields of applications.

TOPIC: Economists and Statisticians: Something Missing in the Dialogue?
MODERATOR: W. David Montgomery, Energy Information Administration
PANELISTS: Joseph L. Gastwirth, George Washington University; Nancy Gordon, Congressional Budget Office; Larry Slifman, Federal Reserve Board; Wray Smith, Mathematica and George Washington University; and Gail Wilensky, Project HOPE
DATE AND TIME: Friday, September 21, 1984; 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: Room 4E-069, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
ABSTRACT: Economists often find themselves in the role of a consumer of statistical products whose characteristics are only partly known and which may be inappropriate to the intended users. The original data series may have had missing values that were filled in by "hot-deck" methods or other procedures and, if the series has been seasonally adjusted, there may be some subtle departures from textbook methods that could propagate through the economists' model in unpleasant ways. These other examples of an apparent knowledge and information gap seem to require some response by both statisticians and economists.

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ABSTRACTS (Continued)

TOPIC: Survey Design and Data Analysis Using Microcomputer Spreadsheet Software
SPEAKERS: Michael Rowland, NCHS and Andrew White, NCHS
CHAIR: Harry Foxwell, American Chemical Society
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, September 25, 1984; 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: IRS Auditorium, 7th floor, 1111 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.
ABSTRACT: Popular spreadsheet software for microcomputers, such as Lotus 1-2-3, can be used for a variety of computational problems in survey research. Mr. Rowland and Mr. White will discuss their experience using such software in survey sample design, and in survey data analysis.

TOPICS WANTED FOR WSS SHORT COURSES

The Short Course Committee of the Washington Statistical Society is soliciting topics for future short courses. Possible areas of interest include: questionnaire and survey design; analysis of survey data; and statistical computer packages. If you are interested in courses in these and/or other areas, or if you have taken a short course that may be of interest to the WSS membership, please call Wendy Alvey at 376-0216, Josefina Lago at 251-1500, Cecilia Snowden 436-7047, or Ginny deWolf at 275-4419.

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, DC 20037 202/331-1153

Supervisory Statistician (GS-14) The National Center for Health Statistics has a supervisory statistical position available. Background in analysis of health data, experience using statistical computer packages, knowledge of health related sciences and knowledge of methodology of population based health surveys are needed. Write to Cynthia A. Rooney, DHHS/National Center for Health Statistics, 3700 East West Highway, Room 2-58 Center Building, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

Statistician/Data Analyst (Part-Time/Temporary) Work with attorneys, statisticians and economists providing consulting and litigation support services. Requires experience with statistical packages and Bachelor's degree with quantitative background. Send resume to Charles R. Mann, Charles R. Mann Associates, Inc., 818 - 18th Street, N.W., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20006.

Statistician: JRB Associates has an opening for a Ph.D. Statistician. Experience with engineering/management data, prior background in consulting or regulatory support services, and an interest in environmental issues, are desirable. Submit resume, writing sample, statement of availability and salary requirements to: John M. Dawson, JRB Associates, 8400 Westpark Drive, McLean, Virginia 22102.

Medical Research/Biostatistician Experienced Ph.D. to participate in design, development and analysis of clinical, biological and medical experiments in collaboration with professional staff at Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C. Responsibilities include developing new statistical methods for handling novel research problems; assuming responsibility for statistical integrity of programs; communicating results of studies to professional staff. Background should include linear and nonlinear models; continuous and discrete multivariate methods; non-parametric statistics; working knowledge of medicine and pathology; experience with SAS and BMDP. Contact Dr. E.C. Cowart, 202/576-2980, Executive Director, American Registry of Pathology, Washington, D.C.

JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an applicant seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing this applicant 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: 84-07-01

Position Wanted: **Biostatistician**

Education: **MS, MPH Biostatistics; BS Mathematics**

Experience: **More than ten (10) years data collection, management and analysis. Management and Health Information Systems. Survey design and analysis. Computer programming and statistical packages.**

Areas of Interest: **Consulting and International work. Data collection, management and analysis.**



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