



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

April 1993

Two April Short Courses

The Washington Statistical Society will sponsor two short courses this month:

- *Self-Administered/Mail Surveys*, by Don Dillman, Washington State University, will be held Wednesday and Thursday, April 21-22, 1993, at the University of Maryland Conference Center, College Park, MD. This short course is co-sponsored with the Joint University of Maryland-University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology. For information on space availability, contact Andrea Johns at (1-800) 937-9320 or FAX (313) 763-8264.
- *Exploratory and Robust Data Analysis*, by David Hoaglin, Harvard University, and Andrew Siegel, University of Washington, will be held Thursday and Friday, April 29-30, 1993, in the Jefferson Auditorium, South USDA Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC. This short course is co-sponsored with the National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Limited space is still available; see the enclosed flyer for full details.

WSS SEMINARS

(All events are open to any interested persons.)

APRIL

12	Mon.	Benchmarking: A Powerful Tool for Quality Assurance
13	Tues.	Trust and the U.S. Statistical System
14	Wed.	Confidentiality Issues: Data Access and Confidentiality in Health and Vital Statistics
19	Mon.	Statistics and Human Rights: Finding the Way
20	Tues.	Fixed vs. Random-Regressor Linear Models: Similarities and Differences
21	Wed.	Growth of the Underclass During the Decade of the 1980s
21-22	W-TH	Short Course: Self-Administered/Mail Surveys (Fee Event)
26	Mon.	Activities-Based Statistics: Quantitative Literacy for the College Classroom
28	Wed.	Confidentiality Issues: Disclosure Avoidance Techniques -- What Happens During Production (3rd in series)
28	Wed.	Handling Missing (or Bad) Data: Nonresponse Adjustments for the Estimation of Finite Population Quantiles (5th in series)
29-30	TH-F	Short Course: Exploratory and Robust Data Analysis (Fee Event)

Announcements

WSS Election Ballot Announced

The election of new officers for the 1993-94 program year will be conducted by ballot with the May newsletter. The following members have agreed to run for office:

Vice President and President-Elect

Sue Ahmed, National Center for Education Statistics
Cynthia Clark, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Methodology Program Chair

Michael P. Cohen, National Center for Education Statistics
Stuart Scott, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Representative-at-Large (select two)

Mary Batcher, Internal Revenue Service
Richard Bolstein, George Mason University
Howard Hogan, Bureau of the Census
Blaza Toman, George Washington University

Secretary

Ruth Ann Killion, Bureau of the Census

Candidates other than those listed above may be nominated by petition of at least thirty (30) members of the WSS, provided that such a petition is received by the Nominations and Elections Committee at least two weeks before balloting. Any petitions must be received by Fritz Scheuren, Internal Revenue Service (R:S), P.O. Box 2608, Washington, DC 20013-2608 by April 14, 1993.

WSS Social

Mark your calendars for this year's **WSS Annual Dinner!** The dinner will be held on **Wednesday, June 16, 1993**, at La Porta in Alexandria, VA. More details on this opportunity to chat with fellow statisticians, enjoy a delicious meal, pay tribute to award winners and hear an interesting after-dinner talk will follow in the May newsletter.

(Continued on page 11)

Program Abstracts

Topic: Benchmarking: A Powerful Tool for Quality Assurance

Speaker: Louis Freidman, National Quality Integrators

Chair: Kenneth Riccini, Bureau of the Census

Date/Time: Monday, April 12, 1993, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Location: BLS Cognitive Lab, Room 2990, Conference Room 1 and 2, Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC. (Red Line -- Union Station). Enter at Massachusetts Ave. and North Capitol St. Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 by April 6 to add name to visitors' list.

Sponsor: Quality Assurance Section

Abstract: Benchmarking is a powerful quality tool in which organizations target key improvement ideas, identify and study best practices by others in the same areas and implement new processes and systems to improve performance. Mr. Friedman will discuss the practical application of benchmarking and how this tool can significantly improve quality and performance, even for "unique" programs found in the federal sector.

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Topic: Trust and the U. S. Statistical System

Speaker: Janet L. Norwood, The Urban Institute

Chair: Michael Horrigan, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 13, 1993, 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM

Location: BLS Conference Center, Meeting Room 1 and 2, Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE., Wash., DC. (Red Line -- Union Station) Enter at First Street. Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376, by no later than April 7, 1993, to arrange for admittance.

Sponsor: Social and Demographic Section

Abstract: Janet Norwood is a Senior Fellow at The Urban Institute. She served as Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics from 1979-91 and as President of the American Statistical Association in 1989. Her talk will draw on her experience with the Federal statistical system.

Program Abstracts (cont'd)

- Topic:** Confidentiality Issues: Data Access and Confidentiality in Health and Vital Statistics
- Speaker:** Mary Moien, National Center for Health Statistics
- Chair:** Ginny deWolf, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 14, 1993, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
- Location:** National Science Foundation, Conference and Training Center, 5th Floor, 1110 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington DC. (Orange/Blue Lines -- McPherson Square; walk across park to 15 & K Streets, go two blocks to Vermont Ave.)
- Sponsor:** Statistical Computing Section
- Abstract:** Since its inception, NCHS has worked diligently to provide the maximum amount of detailed data possible from its many data collection activities while steadfastly maintaining the confidentiality of its records. Now, the Center is faced with improved technology; vastly increasing numbers of data sets; increasingly sensitive data items; and evolvment into longitudinal studies and linked data sets, all of which increase the tension between providing and withholding data. This presentation will review the legislative authority which provides for both collection of and protection of the Center's data; recent state concerns regarding the dissemination of vital statistics data; and statements of informed consent provided to respondents. Also emphasized will be the researcher's responsibility in the use of NCHS microdata. The ways in which NCHS is modifying the above activities to meet the needs of those who will have access to public-use data through various electronic means will be highlighted.

Program Abstracts (cont'd)

Topic: Statistics and Human Rights: Finding the Way

Speaker: Herbert F. Spierer, University of Connecticut

Discussant: Tom Jabine, Consultant

Chair: Michael A. Greene, The American University

Date/Time: Monday, April 19, 1993, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Location: BLS Cognitive Lab, Room 2990, Conference Room 1 and 2, Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC (Red Line -- Union Station). Enter at Massachusetts Ave. and North Capitol St., Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 by April 13 to add name to visitors' list.

Sponsor: Social and Demographic Section

Abstract: Can statistics play a role in the advancement of human rights? Recent experience gives an answer of "yes!" -- from survey design to spatial analysis, statistical tools can play an important role in providing visibility and credibility to human rights data. Today, we know that there is a greater demand for statistics, from programs to raise the statistical literacy of human rights advocates, to increased use of statistical consultants, to the development of software which creates extensive databases capable of storing large amounts of data. This talk will discuss the increased use of statistics in human rights work and offer examples of how statistics are being used in current crisis situations throughout the world.

Among the examples to be cited are: use of spatial (geographical) analysis to establish patterns of terror in Guatemala; demographic analysis to estimate the effects of the Persian Gulf War on the Iraqi civilian population; sampling to establish the nature of gross human rights violations in a country in the Middle East; survey design to determine the nature of administrative detention problems in the Philippines; and estimation of the scope of rape in Bosnia.

In addition to discussing how statistical tools can aid human rights organizations in "making their case," the speaker will also pose the problem that gains in credibility may be balanced with increased security risks and ethical issues. With this and other issues, hopefully, you, as statisticians, will be challenged to expand your contributions to human rights advocacy.

Program Abstracts (cont'd)

Topic: Fixed vs. Random-Regressor Linear Models: Similarities and Differences

Speaker: Juliet P. Shaffer, University of California, Berkeley

Discussant: Steve Miller, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chair: Robert Casady, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 20, 1993, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Location: BLS Cognitive Lab, Room 2990, Conference Room 1 and 2, Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC. (Red Line -- Union Station). Enter at Massachusetts Ave. and North Capitol St., Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 by April 14 to add name to visitors' list.

Sponsor: Methodology Section

Abstract: In the standard linear regression model, the regressor values are treated as fixed and known. In many applications, however, it is more realistic to treat the regressors as random variables. The typical practice of conditioning on realized regressor values in these cases and relying on the fixed-regressor model does not always lead to the most appropriate procedures. Some theoretical distinctions between the models and their practical implications will be considered.



A short course on Measurement Errors in Surveys, by Paul Biemer, Research Triangle Institute, will be held May 25-26, 1993, at the Washington Park Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The course, sponsored by the Joint University of Maryland - University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology, will provide a general framework for the study of measurement error for students with basic knowledge of sampling theory. Registration is due May 5, 1993; availability is limited. For more information, contact the Joint University of Maryland - University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology, 1218 Lefrak Hall, College Park, MD 20742; telephone: (301) 314-7911; Fax: (301) 314-7912.

Program Abstracts (cont'd)

- Topic:** Growth of the Underclass During the Decade of the 1980s
- Speaker:** Ronald Mincy, The Urban Institute
- Chair:** Michael Horrigan, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 21, 1993, 12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM
- Location:** BLS Cognitive Lab, Room 2990, Conference Room 1 and 2, Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC. (Red Line -- Union Station). Enter at Massachusetts Ave. and North Capitol St. Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 by April 15 to add name to visitors' list.
- Sponsor:** Social and Demographic Section
- Abstract:** In this paper, co-authored with Susan J. Wiener, we estimate the size and composition of the population in underclass and concentrated poverty areas in 1990. The paper compares these results to comparable estimates of 1980 underclass and concentrated poverty area populations to determine the extent of growth of these areas and the changing demographics of the population residing in these areas between 1980 and 1990.

The findings are based on analysis of the STF3a Census data file, which contains detailed socioeconomic information about residents of census tracts, which are approximations of neighborhoods. The number of underclass tracts and the population residing within these tracts increased slightly between 1980 and 1990, while the concentrated poverty areas and population grew dramatically during the same time period. The ethnic/racial distribution and the regional dispersion of these populations also changed during the decade.

Program Abstracts (cont'd)

Topic: Activities-Based Statistics: Quantitative Literacy for the College Classroom

Speaker: Elizabeth M. Eltinge, Texas A&M University

Chair: Ron Fecso, National Academy of Sciences

Date/Time: Monday, April 26, 1993, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Location: BLS Cognitive Lab, Room 2990, Conference Room 1 and 2, Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC (Red Line -- Union Station). Enter at Massachusetts Ave. and North Capitol St. Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 by April 20 to add name to visitors' list.

Sponsor: Social and Demographic Section

Abstract: Several years ago, the American Statistical Association developed a series of booklets designed to introduce statistical concepts at the Junior High and High School levels. These booklets have been enormously successful. Extensions of the original project have included training high school teachers to use the materials and training elementary school teachers in basic statistical concepts. Efforts are currently underway to develop materials for use in the college classroom. The focus is on developing activities which will make the teaching of statistics more of a laboratory-based activity and less of a lecture activity. The speaker will discuss some of the philosophy behind this project and demonstrate some sample activities.

This discussion should be of special interest to WSS QL volunteers, in their efforts to develop and improve their use of these and other materials in classroom activities in elementary and high schools.

Program Abstracts (cont'd)

- Topic:** Confidentiality Issues: Disclosure Avoidance Techniques -- What Happens During Production (3rd in a series)
- Speaker:** Robert S. Jewett, Bureau of the Census
- Chair:** Colleen M. Sullivan, Bureau of the Census
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 28, 1993, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
- Location:** National Science Foundation, Conference and Training Center, 5th Floor, 1110 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington DC. (Orange/Blue Lines -- McPherson Square; walk across park to 15 & K Streets, go two blocks to Vermont Ave.)
- Sponsor:** Statistical Computing Section
- Abstract:** During the latter part of this year, the Census Bureau will be publishing tables with data from the 1992 Economic Census. Many cells in these tables will be suppressed to ensure that no one can use the tables to derive the data for an individual respondent. In this seminar, the speaker will give a simple description of the techniques that determine which cells in the tables must be suppressed. The computer programs to implement these techniques have been written and recently been used to perform disclosure avoidance on various sets of tables published by the Census Bureau. The talk concludes with examples of efficiency produced and time required for processing.

****** Note from WSS NEWS Editors ******

Items for publication in the **May 1993 WSS NEWS** should be submitted no later than Tuesday, March 30, 1993. Fax items to:

Bettye Jamerson or Wendy Alvey

Fax: (202) 874-0922

Program Abstracts (cont'd)

Topic: Handling Missing (or Bad) Data: Nonresponse Adjustments for the Estimation of Finite Population Quantiles (5th in series)

Speaker: John Eltinge, Texas A&M University and ASA/NSF/BLS Research Fellow

Discussant: Fritz Scheuren, Internal Revenue Service

Chair: Phil Kott, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 28, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Location: BLS Cognitive Lab, Postal Square Bldg., 2nd floor; 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Washington, DC. (Red Line -- Union Station) Enter on Massachusetts Ave. and North Capitol St. Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 by April 22, to add name to visitors' list.

Sponsor: Methodology Section

Abstract: Some practical survey applications require the estimation of population quantiles from data that are subject to nonresponse. For example, data from the Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey are used to produce estimated quantiles of consumer-unit income; in that survey, approximately 15 percent of interviewed consumer units provide incomplete income information, and thus are excluded from current quantile estimation work.

This talk describes some general methods for estimation of finite population quantiles in the presence of nonresponse. The proposed strategy is to adapt standard adjustment cell and ratio methods to obtain an approximately unbiased estimator of a finite population distribution function. Inversion of the estimated distribution function then produces an estimator of a specified quantile. Approximate bias and variance results lead to some specific suggestions regarding construction of appropriate adjustment cells. For estimation of a single quantile, the resulting cells may be somewhat coarser than adjustment cells appropriate for estimation of a population mean. In addition, large-sample confidence intervals for quantiles follow from simple modifications of the full-response procedures developed previously by Woodruff (1952) and Francisco and Fuller (1991). These ideas are illustrated with some income data from the Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey.

Announcements (cont'd)

IASS93 Short Courses

Planning on attending the International Statistical Institute's 49th Session in Italy this summer? The International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) will be sponsoring a program of short courses during August 21-25, 1993 -- the week prior to the ISI meetings. All courses will be held at the Università Degli Studi di Padova in Padua, Italy. Offerings include:

- Workshop on Survey Sampling in Developing Countries, by Graham Kalton, Westat, Inc.; Colm O'Muircheartaigh, London School of Economics; Nanjamma Chinnappa, Statistics Canada; and Anis Maitra, U.N. Statistical Office.
- Variance Estimation in Complex Surveys, by Wayne Fuller, Iowa State University; Michael Hidioglou, Statistics Canada; and Kirk Wolter, A. C. Nielsen Co.
- Nonresponse in Surveys, by Roderick J.A. Little, University of California, Los Angeles; and Donald B. Rubin, Harvard University.
- Calibration Estimators and Generalized Raking, by Jean Claude Deville and Olivier Sautory, Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques, Paris; and Carl Eric Samdal, Université de Montreal.
- Survey Measurement: Methods for Error Evaluation and Reduction, by Paul Biemer and Barbara Forsyth, Research Triangle Institute; and Judith Lessler, Battelle.
- Environmental Sampling, Statistical Modeling and Observational Economy, by S.D. Gore, G.P. Patil, A.K. Sinha, C. Taillie and S.K. Thompson, Pennsylvania State University; and G. Lovison, University of Padua.

Registration is due May 1, 1993. For information, contact Nancy DuPree in Chicago, at (708) 498-6300 ext. 2968.

QL Update

The WSS seminar on Quantitative Literacy (QL) that took place in late October was a big success by any standards. The QL Group would like to take this occasion to once more thank the speakers, Sharon Bobbitt, Amrut Champaneri, Maureen Clifford, Diem-Tran Kratzke, Leslie Miller, Terry O'Connor, Andy Spisak and Marie van Melis-Wright, for describing the various areas of QL activity, and, especially, Katherine Wallman, for agreeing to be the guest speaker. Special thanks, also, to Shail Butani for organizing this excellent session. One highlight was a demo by O'Connor and Clifford on a presentation for career days for students in the intermediate schools. Two follow-up presentations were made at the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Internal Revenue Service by O'Connor and Butani. All in all, 60 new volunteers were added to the QL list. Thank you for your interest!

- **Activities in Fairfax County** -- Already, for the current school year, volunteers have spoken at over 100 classes in Fairfax County. The responses from the teachers have been very positive; many subsequent requests for our service have been received as a result of "good" work done by volunteers. The best advertisement source is the teachers. Sincere thanks to all of the volunteers! It is only because of your efforts that 2,500 to 3,000 students know a little more about "What is Statistics?" For more information about QL activities in Fairfax County, contact Shail Butani at (202) 606-6347.
- **Activities in Arlington County** -- Abingdon Elementary School held its first Math Fair on Friday evening, February 5. WSS/QL members participated in three ways: provided a copy

Announcements (cont'd)

QL Update (cont'd)

bers participated in three ways: provided a copy of ASA's 15-minute video "What is Statistics?" prepared posters illustrating different types of statistical graphs, and designed and analyzed a student survey. The survey, conducted shortly before Inauguration Day, asked students to choose the most important issue for the new president to address. For more details on QL activities in Arlington County, contact Eugene Burns at (202) 586-1125.

- **More volunteers needed!** -- Other schools in Arlington, Fairfax, and elsewhere have similar events planned, offering opportunities for WSS members to become involved. These QL activities include providing speakers for career days, curriculum development, science fair judging, mentoring, poster and project competitions, and providing feedback to students on statistics-related projects, as requested by their math teachers. Contact your local area QL coordinator or Ron Fecso -- at (202) 334-3754 -- for further information.

Jacobs Awards Projects Due

The deadline for submissions for the WSS/ASA Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project is April 16, 1993. Washington-area middle and high school students are encouraged to enter projects which focus on the role of sample surveys in gathering information. For more information, contact Richard Valliant, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4915, 2 Massachusetts Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20212; phone: (202) 606-7382.

Reminder: entries for the American Statistical Association's Statistics Poster Competition (for K-12th grade) and Statistics Project Competition (for 4th-12th grade) are due by April 15, 1993. Posters

should demonstrate graphical analysis of data; projects should show use of applied statistics to a research project. For more information, contact Katherine Rowe, Center for Statistical Education, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402; phone: (703) 684-1221; FAX: (703) 684-2037.

AU Observes Math Awareness Week

The Mathematics and Statistics Department of The American University is holding an art contest to celebrate Math Awareness Week. Original 2- or 3-dimensional art works relating to mathematics (including amateur videos) should be submitted to the Mathematics and Statistics Department, Clark Hall, Room 205, The American University, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20016-8050, by no later than April 5, 1993. All submissions should be accompanied by a paragraph explaining how mathematics influenced the work.

All artworks will be on display in the President's Building on the AU campus during the weeks of April 12-24. On April 13, the exhibit will close from 12:00-5:00 PM, to allow for judging. A reception will follow at 5:30 PM in the President's Building, at which winners will be announced and Dr. Helman Ferguson, Sculptor/Research Scientist, will speak. The President's Building is located off the Massachusetts Avenue entrance to AU, on the left. Parking is available at meters and by daily permit. For more information, contact Peggy Winfield at (202) 885-3120.

NISS and EPA to Monitor Environment

Since October 1992 the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have begun work on a three-year cross-disciplinary research project, entitled Statistical Strategies for Monitoring and As-

Announcements (cont'd)

NISS and EPA (cont'd)

ronmental planning, modeling, sampling and analysis will be conducted for such specific research areas as network design, space-time models, data fusion, health and pharmacokinetics, risk assessment of toxicants and data representation, interpretation and reporting. The principal investigators on the project are Peter Bloomfield, North Carolina State University, and Jerome Sacks, NISS.

NSF Office for Disabled Opens

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently established a new office for scientists and engineers with disabilities. It is aimed at promoting full inclusion and participation of students with disabilities in science, engineering and mathematics education and careers. In fiscal 1992 the Program for Persons with Disabilities (PPD) supported several projects directed at reducing attitudinal and accessibility barriers. Anyone interested in finding out more about this effort should contact Lawrence Scadden, Senior Program Director, PPD, at (202) 357-7552.

NRC Associateship Program

The National Research Council (NRC) announces the 1993 Resident, Cooperative, and Postdoctoral Research Associateship Programs, to be conducted on behalf of 30 federal agencies or research institutions throughout the U.S. About 350 new full-time associateships will be awarded for research in a broad range of scientific fields. The program is open to U.S. and foreign nationals with Ph.D. or above and provides financial support while the Associate works at a host laboratory. For information on specific research opportunities and participating laboratories, contact Associateship Programs (GR430/D2), National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418; or FAX (202) 334-2759. Applications, now being accepted, are due by April 15, for awards announced in July, and by August 15, for awards made in November.

Up-coming Events....

Following are a number of up-coming events which may be of interest to Chapter members:

- April 7-8, 1993, the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements will sponsor its 29th Annual Meeting in Arlington, VA. For more information, contact NCRP, 7910 Woodmont Ave., Suite 800, Bethesda, MD 20814-3095; phone: (301) 657-2652; FAX: (301) 907-8768.
- April 25-28, 1993, the University of Maryland will sponsor the 2nd International Symposium on Uncertainty Modeling and Analysis, in College Park, MD. For more information contact Bilal Ayyub, Dept. of Civil Engineering, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; phone: (301) 405-1956; FAX: (301) 314-9320; e-mail: bal5@umail.umd.edu.
- April 26-30, 1993, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will sponsor a Workshop on Accelerated Testing in Gaithersburg, MD. For information, contact Lisa Oakley, NIST, Admin A337, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; phone: (301) 975-2839.
- May 2-7, 1993, Temple University and the National Institute of Standards and Technology will sponsor a conference on Extreme Value Theory and Its Applications. For information, contact Stefan Leigh, Admin A337, NIST, Gaithersburg, MD 20899; phone: (301) 975-2856; FAX: (301) 990-4127; e-mail: leigh@tiber.nist.gov.
- May 5-7, 1993, the Bureau of the Census will sponsor a Research Conference on Under-counted Ethnic Populations. For more information, contact Maxine Anderson-Brown, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233; phone: (301) 763-1150.

Announcements (cont'd)

Writing Workshop for Young Researchers

Twenty new Ph.D. recipients (degree received between June 1990 and August 1993) will be selected to participate in the Writing Workshop for Young Researchers, to be held in conjunction with the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Francisco this August. Researchers selected will be asked to submit samples of technical writing, to be reviewed by editors of major statistics and probability journals. To apply, send resume to Arthur Cohen or William Strawderman, Dept. of Statistics, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ 08855, by no later than May 1, 1993. For more information, call Cohen at (908) 932-5305 or Strawderman at (908) 932-2697.

Johns Hopkins Course on Clinical Trials

On July 8-9, 1993, the Johns Hopkins Center for Clinical Trials will sponsor a short course on Coordination and Monitoring of Clinical Trials, in Baltimore, MD. The course, led by Barbara Hawkins, Johns Hopkins University, will focus on such topics as coordinating centers for multicenter trials, specialized resource centers, personnel training and certification, quality assurance and monitoring, and monitoring for treatment benefit or harm. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education, Turner 20, 720 Rutland Ave., The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD 21205; phone (410) 955-2959.

Call for Invited Papers on Public Policy

The American University and the American Statistical Association are jointly sponsoring a Conference on Statistics in Public Policy, to be held at AU on May 12-14, 1994. Proposals are invited for sessions on state-of-the-art statistical methodologies in practice to enhance statistics for public policy makers and to promote the role of the statistics community in facilitating informed policy development. Invited sessions are due May 9, 1993. For more information, contact Nancy Flournoy, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, The American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington,

DC 20016-8050; phone: (202) 885-3127; FAX: (202) 885-3155; e-mail: flournoy@american.edu.

"Questionnaire Response Scales and Formats" to be Revised

In 1988, Milton Goldsamt, now a survey statistician with the National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, created a 30-page listing of about 180 Likert, Interval, or other intensity-rating scale (rather than purely categorical) response formats. This "first edition" was distributed, upon request, to program evaluators, policy analysts, survey researchers, applied psychologists, and other types of related professionals or organizations. Survey developers generally found it a very helpful reference tool for suggesting or reminding them what response dimensions might "work" in effectively measuring a particular topic. The listing, arranged by response dimension and, within that, by the number of rating scale points (including "undecided" or "no opinion" categories), also helped them decide how best to measure certain attitudes or topics. It helped them determine how many levels of amount, agreement, change, effectiveness, extent, frequency, importance, quality, education, training, etc. fit their measurement needs and likely respondents.

The scale development field has grown, and now seems like the right time to revise the listing. Goldsamt, therefore, could use your help. Please send him copies of rating scales or response options you've considered effective and sound, together with their corresponding questions. Send along entire pages or surveys in which these rating scales appeared, if that's convenient. The rating scales can cover any response dimension, and have any number of response option categories, or include scale points without category labels. All contributors will be gratefully acknowledged in the revised edition. Send your rating scale "contributions" by April 15 (you've probably heard that date somewhere) to: Dr. Milton R. Goldsamt, 2702 Loma Street, Silver Spring, MD 20902-4844. Call him at (301) 649-2768 with suggestions or comments.

Employment Column

As a service to local statisticians, the **Washington Statistical Society News** provides notification of employment opportunities and descriptions of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should write to: Bill Arends, USDA-NASS, Room 4133 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000. Contact Mr. Arends, at (202) 720-6812.

Vacancies

George Washington University Faculty Position

The Department of Statistics/Computer and Information Systems, The George Washington University, has an opening for a one year visitor at the assistant professor level in computer science beginning Fall 1993. The position requires a Ph.D. in computer science. Applicants for this position should have a strong commitment to both teaching and research. The department has expertise in the areas of probabilistic analysis of algorithms, simulation, statistical languages, and graphics.

The department offers undergraduate majors in Statistics and Computer & Information Systems. In addition, the department offers a masters degree in statistical computing and masters and doctoral degrees in several areas of statistics.

Candidates should send applications, including curriculum vitae, relevant reprints and three letters of reference to Professor A.D. Kirsch, Chairman, Department of Statistics/Computer & Information Systems, The George Washington University, Washington, DC 20052. EOE/AEE

Job Applicant

Listed below is a brief description of the qualification of an applicant seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing an applicant should contact Bill Arends by mail -- at USDA-NASS, Room 4133

South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000 -- or by telephone -- at (202) 720-6812. All requests should include the code number from the applicant's ad and 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 kept confidential.

Applicant # 92-03

Education:

Ph.D. in Applied Statistics, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1993 (expected in August).

M.S. in Statistics (Gold Medalist), with specialization in Multivariate Analysis, University of Calcutta, India, 1988.

B.S. (with Honors) in Statistics, University of Calcutta, India, 1986.

Positions and Scholarships:

- Graduate Fellowship -- responsible for research work in Applied Statistic, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- Teaching Assistantship -- taught undergraduate level courses (including use of software) in Applied Statistics, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.
- Project Assistant, Indian Statistical Institute
- Graduate Scholarship, University of Calcutta
- National Scholarship, Government of India.

Computer Skills:

Software -- Experience in SAS (including Data Step), proficiency in S-Plus and Minitab; Excellence in MATLAB, working knowledge in Maple; LATEX.

Operating Systems -- Familiar with both VAX/VMS & UNIX environment in Mainframe and Sun Workstations.

Language -- Knowledge in Fortran IV.

Background and Areas of Expertise:

Categorical Data Analysis, design of experiments, linear models, multivariate analysis, regression analysis, reliability, sample survey, statistical quality control, survival analysis, testing of hypothesis, theory of estimation, time series analysis.

President
Marie Argana (301) 763-4595

Past President
Fritz Scheuren (202) 874-0700

President-Elect
Michael L. Cohen (301) 405-6345

Secretary
Ruth Ann Killion (301) 763-3807

Treasurer
Ginny deWolf (202) 606-7374

WSS Program Chairs

**Agriculture & Natural
Resources**

Carol House (202) 720-3895
John Herbert (202) 586-4360

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