



WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

WSS NEWS

February 1994

Nomination Sought for Shiskin Award

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics. This award, established in 1979 by the WSS and co-sponsored by the National Association of Business Economists, is given in recognition of unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of economic statistics in interpreting the economy. The contributions could be in statistical research, in the development of statistical tools, in the application of computer techniques, in the use of economic statistical programs, in the management of statistical programs, or in developing public understanding of measurement issues, to all of which Mr. Shiskin contributed. Either individuals or groups in the public or private sector can be nominated.

The award will be presented with an honorarium of \$500 at the WSS annual dinner in June 1994. A nomination form may be obtained by writing to the Julius Shiskin Award Committee, American Statistical Association, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3402. Completed nominations must be received by April 1, 1994.

The most recent winners of the Shiskin Award are: Barbara Bailar for her contributions to modernizing the Census Bureau's statistical programs, especially her work in undercount and non-sampling error in the Decennial Census; Allen H. Young for his leadership in forging statistical tools that contribute substantially to the ability to analyze the US economy and for imaginative management of a major statistical agency through critical times; the late Stephen Taylor for his work in developing the US Flow of Funds Accounts and using them to interpret the behavior of financial markets; and Carol A. Carson for her leadership in developing and refining the economic statistical database of the US and for her contributions to the development of the revised US System of National Accounts.

Martin Fleming
Chair, Julius Shiskin Award Committee

WSS Seminars	
(All events are open to any interested persons)	
February	
4 Fri.	Short Course: Nonsampling Errors in Surveys
9 Wed.	Can the Jackknife Be Used With a Two Phase Sample?
11 Fri.	Asymmetric Least Squares Analysis of Correlated Antibody Response Data
24 Thurs.	Meet MATH PC--Introduction and Demonstration to the New PC Version of Microanalysis of Transfers to Households Microsimulation Software
28 Mon.	Microsimulation and Health Care Reform (First of Three Sessions)
March	
1 Tues.	Inverse Sampling Algorithms (Seventh Presentation in Methodology Seminar Series on Analysis of Complex Survey Data)

Announcements

Customer Service Standards

All Federal agencies have been ordered to develop customer service standards and to develop customer survey programs as part of that effort. In conjunction with the Federal Statistical System, the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) is assisting agencies in mounting customer surveys. Two activities are now ongoing:

- group consultative sessions staffed by survey experts from the statistical agencies, offering survey design advice to all agencies
- short courses on topics relevant to mounting customer surveys:

-Introduction to Designing and Conducting Surveys (February 1-2)

-Customer Satisfaction Management (February 23-24)

-Conducting and Evaluating Focus Groups (March 2-3)

-How to Evaluate Alternative Sample Designs for Customer Surveys (March 15-16)

-Response Scales for Satisfaction Measurement (March 28-30)

For more information on these activities, call the JPSM at (301) 314-7911 or fax (301) 314-7912.

Census Bureau's 1994 Annual Research Conference

The Census Bureau's 1994 Annual Research Conference (ARC 1994) will be held March 20-23,

1994 at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, only 5 miles from National Airport and two blocks from Metro. ARC 1994 will comprise a mix of topics such as address registers, determining census content, census questionnaire response research, defining households, ethnicity, sampling in census taking, small area estimation, measuring international trade, data quality in longitudinal surveys, agriculture, and census evaluation. For further information contact Ms. Maxine Anderson-Brown, ARC Conference Coordinator, Office of the Director, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233, (301) 763-1150.

Seminar on New Directions in Statistical Methodology

In 1975, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) organized the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. The committee is comprised of individuals selected by OMB for their expertise and interest in statistical methods. During the past nineteen years, the committee has determined areas that merit investigation and discussion, and watched over the work of subcommittees organized to study particular issues. Since 1978, twenty-one Statistical Policy Working Papers have been published under the auspices of the committee.

On May 25-26, 1994, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) will host a seminar on "New Directions in Statistical Methodology". Developed to capitalize on work undertaken during the past dozen years by the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology and its subcommittees, the seminar will focus on a variety of topics that have been explored in the *(continued on page 11)*

Program Abstracts

- Topic:** Can the Jackknife Be Used With a Two Phase Sample?
- Speaker:** Phillip S. Kott, National Agricultural Statistics Service
- Discussant:** J. Michael Brick, Westat
- Chair:** Michael P. Cohen, National Center for Education Statistics
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 9, 1994, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
- Location:** BLS Cognitive Lab, Postal Square Building, Room 2990, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC (Red Line--Union Station). Enter at Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol St. Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 to add name to visitors' list.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Section
- Abstract:** The jackknife variance estimator has been shown to have desirable properties when used with smooth estimators based on stratified multi-stage samples. Little attention has previously been paid to the behavior of this variance estimator under more general multi-phase samples, however. This talk will explore the use of a jackknife given the following two phase sampling design: a stratified simple random sample is drawn, sampled units are then restratified, and simple random subsamples are selected within each second phase stratum. Under this design, the Jackknife can be nearly unbiased as an estimator for the variance of Oh and Scheuren's weighting class estimator. On the other hand, it is not a good variance estimator for Särndal, Swensson, and Wretman's π' estimator. These results are of special interest to survey statisticians who treat nonresponse as a second phase of sampling. Extensions to more complex sampling designs and estimators will also be discussed.

Program Abstracts (Cont'd)

Topic: Asymmetric Least Squares Analysis of Correlated Antibody Response Data

Speaker: Lawrence H. Moulton, Johns Hopkins University

Chair: George F. Reed, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Date/Time: Friday, February 11, 1994, 1:30 - 3:00 PM (Note Special Time)

Location: Federal Building, 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Room B119, Bethesda, MD (Red Line Metro to Bethesda Stop, half block North on Wisconsin Avenue).

Sponsor: Public Health and Biostatistics

Abstract: Ordinary linear regression models estimate $E(Y|x)$, the mean response for a given covariate set. In public health research and application, however, it is often of interest to examine what variables are important in explaining the responses of those who are the least healthy, not those of the "average" person.

A relatively new method of examining the relationship between a set of explanatory variables and different levels of a response variable is that of regression percentile estimation via asymmetric least squares (ALS) (Newey and Powell, 1987 *Econometrica*; Efron, 1991 *Statistica Sinica*). It enables estimation of all the percentiles of the distribution of Y given x , as well as cross-percentile coefficient covariances, without the assumption of homoscedasticity.

The use and interpretation of ALS estimation is exemplified through application to a data set on the safety and immunogenicity of high-titer measles vaccine in Haiti. Antibody concentrations are sometimes measured at two or more points in time, as in this study example. A method is presented for gaining strength by combining the longitudinal data in one percentile regression analysis while accounting for within-child correlation.

Program Abstracts (Cont'd)

- Topic:** Meet MATH PC--Introduction and Demonstration to the New PC Version of Microanalysis of Transfers to Households Microsimulation Software
- Speaker:** Carole Trippe and Bob Cohen, Mathematica Policy Research
- Discussant:** Jack Rogers, Price Waterhouse
- Chair:** Michael L. Cohen, Department of Energy
- Date/Time:** Thursday, February 24, 1994, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
- Location:** BLS Cognitive Lab, Postal Square Building, Room 2990, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC (Red Line -- Union Station). Enter at Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street. Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 to add name to visitors' list.
- Sponsor:** Social and Demographic Statistics
- Abstract:** Microanalysis of Transfers to Households (MATH) is a microsimulation program that has existed for over 15 years. Recently the software developers, Mathematica Policy Research, converted the program to be used on PCs by the Food and Nutrition Service. The program is a powerful PC-based microsimulation model that can be used by nonprogrammers to simulate hypothetical changes to government transfer programs. The presentation will explain the design and applications on the new software in a step-by-step fashion. In addition to a question and answer period, there will be a demonstration of the software, including an example application with output printed directly from the program.

Program Abstracts (Cont'd)

- Topic:** Microsimulation and Health Care Reform (First of Three Sessions)
- Speakers:** Pat Doyle, Agency for Health Care Policy and Research
- Discussant:** B.K. Atrostic, Congressional Budget Office
- Chair:** Martha Starr-McCluer, Federal Reserve
- Date/Time:** Monday, February 28, 1994, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
- Location:** BLS Cognitive Lab, Postal Square Building, Room 2990, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC (Red Line -- Union Station). Enter at Massachusetts Avenue and North Capitol Street. Federal government employees show ID; nongovernment employees call Ed Riddick at (202) 606-7376 to add name to visitors' list.
- Sponsor:** Economics Section
- Abstract:** The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) is building a microsimulation model of the health care industry (AHSIM). The goals of the AHSIM model are to simulate the impact of proposed changes in the health care industry on insurance coverage, costs of care, and payments for care. The focus is on the household sector of the economy rather than the provider sector, but the model does incorporate employer and health insurance provider responses. Consistent with the microsimulation technique, AHSIM subjects a representative sample of individuals and households to a stimulus, (e.g., a change in the availability and cost of private health insurance), stimulates a reaction to that stimulus, and records the results of that reaction on the individuals' records for use in responding to other stimuli. The representative sample of individuals is derived from the 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey (NMES) enhanced with attributes of employers. The model produces estimates of the impact of a proposed reform to the health insurance industry by aggregating the simulated responses over members of the sample. This session summarizes our progress to date in building the model and simulating the impact of program reform.

Program Abstracts (Cont'd)

Topic: Inverse Sampling Algorithms (Seventh Presentation in Methodology Seminar Series on Analysis of Complex Survey Data)

Speaker: Susan Hinkins and Fritz Scheuren, Internal Revenue Service

Discussant: Susan Ahmed, National Center for Education Statistics

Chair: Wray Smith, Synectics

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 1, 1994, 12:30 - 2:00 PM

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

Sponsor: Methodology Section

Abstract: Much of conventional statistics begins with the sampling assumption that the observations are realizations of independent, identically distributed (IID) random variables. On the other hand, in most surveys for reasons of efficiency or even just plain feasibility, the observations are typically obtained without replacement, often from highly stratified populations, using cluster selection schemes. A great deal has been written about methods of adapting conventional statistical routines, like regression or contingency table analysis, to the complex randomization settings encountered in surveys. It might not be too unfair to characterize these adaptations as either highly approximate or exceedingly complex (some are even both).

In this talk, the speakers explore the use of inverse sampling algorithms to convert an existing complex design back into a simpler randomization setting--one that more nearly fits standard computer packages (e.g., SAS). Issues of power and practicality are explored. Prominently featured are some of the unsolved problems that remain to be faced.

Histories, Anecdotes, or Reminiscences of Our Federal Statistical Community

The following is an excerpt from an interview of Edwin Goldfield by Fred Bohme in October, 1991 as part of a project to develop an oral history of the Bureau of the Census. WSS is interested in printing similar material, either histories, anecdotes, or reminiscences from other members of our federal statistical community. Possibly, this will motivate other federal agencies to initiate similar projects so that the history of statistics in Washington, DC, that is our rich heritage, is preserved.

[EG] During the heyday of that office, and continuing even into the present to some extent, it was never proper to regard it [the Statistical Policy Office at OMB] as an enemy or even as an obstacle. On the whole, the office has been dedicated to working for the betterment of Federal statistics. Therefore, its objective is not that different from that of the Bureau of the Census. It certainly has supported legislation. For example, it did tend to support the legislation that resulted after the St. Regis case that we've spoken of earlier, and it has generally approved virtually all of the many survey forms and census forms that the Census Bureau has sent to it over the years. At one time, one of my functions was to be the internal Census Bureau reports clearance officer. The Bureau people had to go through me before they got to OMB. But at both levels they were getting careful consideration -- not merely my saying, or anybody at the Statistical Policy Office saying, "Oh, I see there is another census form on my desk; where is my rubber stamp?" Generally speaking, the office's objective was to give good professional review to survey plans and so on, and work with the Bureau to resolve whatever it thought ought to be changed. It was not a situation where the only outcomes could be outright acceptance or outright rejection, but rather negotiation to reach agreement.

Margaret Martin said they did that all the time. For many years she -- and before her, her predecessor, Gladys Palmer -- chaired an interagency committee on labor force statistics that was very helpful to the Census Bureau. The Statistical Policy Office was able to do things like that when it had more staffing. Gladys Palmer was a world-renowned expert on that subject....Later, Margaret took over and herself became a world-renowned expert on labor force statistics and various other subject fields.

The Statistical Policy Office was very helpful to the agencies in serving as a forum, because for almost any statistics that any statistical agency puts out, some other agency is a user. That is certainly true for the Census Bureau. The Bureau isn't a user of any of its own statistics except in the sense that it looks at them to find out how to make them better, but it is not a user in the sense that it is a policy-determining or program-operating agency. So these various forums that Statistical Policy Office set up and chaired were very helpful to the Census Bureau and to other agencies. There were times when we were trying to push something through and we felt maybe they were trying to be picky. That is a normal course of events, but I would always look upon this, on the whole, as a helpful procedure.

[FB] Down through the years, I think we've seen variations in the attention that the top officials at the Department of Commerce have paid to the Census Bureau. Would you care to comment on those, based on your experience and observations?

[EG] Yes, I will comment by saying that your comment is right. I have no measure of this, but I think from earlier participation, and from recent observation, that the department has become more and more involved in micromanagement. We are now using that term in a pejorative way. Before there was an Under Secretary for Economic Affairs and something that they call the Economics and Statistics Administration in the Commerce Department -- in earlier days that kind of structure just didn't exist, the Census Bureau was more autonomous and so was the Bureau of Economic Analysis (or the Office of Business Economics, as it was earlier called), simply because there wasn't this whole departmental staff group that had an interest in it. There was somebody to report to, but that was more a matter of formality than anything else.

There has always been a question that some of us have batted about as to whether the Census Bureau would be better off if it were an independent agency as opposed to being within the Commerce Department or within any other department. Again, there are pros and cons on that. If you're in a department, then you have somebody representing you sitting at the cabinet table in the White House. You're part of a major appropriations bill; you've got somebody who can give you political backing when you need it. If you are not in a department, then you're perhaps not subject to the threat of political interference as much, and you're not as much over-layered, which is sometimes frustrating, but on the other hand you are more naked. So there are unresolvable pros and cons.

As I had earlier mentioned, President Nixon had a plan to reorganize the whole Federal Government. Part of that plan was the creation of a department of industry and trade modeled after the Japanese ministry. It would be made up of some, but not all, of the elements of the Commerce Department plus some other governmental units. Some parts of the Commerce Department, considered not closely involved with the promotion of industry and trade, would be moved elsewhere. Several locations were mentioned for the Census Bureau. At one point, the word was that the reorganization team had settled on the Treasury Department as the new home for the Census Bureau. The Committee on National Statistics, along with others, got very concerned about that. We felt that putting the Census Bureau in the same department as the tax collectors, the immigration officers, and other enforcement groups would have an adverse effect on the willingness of people to be respondents in Census Bureau censuses and surveys.

To express our concern at the top level, I led a small delegation to the White House office of Ed Meese, Counsellor to the President. Bruce Chapman [Census Bureau director, 1981-1983] helped us to set that up; he was then one of the advisors to the President. I found that when we started talking with Meese that he had already been convinced that was a good thing to do. I said to him, "The Treasury Department is well-established, well-directed, and well-operated, and it has good staffing and it knows what it is doing, but it is the wrong place to put the Census Bureau." He asked why. I said, "Because we are then in the same department with the tax collectors. This is going to adversely affect the willingness of people to report income and other information to the Census Bureau." He said, "That's no problem; we'll just send out a notice saying that the census law still applies and nobody else can see anything you give to the Census Bureau."

I said to Ed Meese, "How do you expect to get that message to every person in the United States? How do you expect them to believe it? I have been involved in making studies in which I find that people don't believe such promises. Half of them don't get the message in the first place, and those that do don't believe it." Well, we spent an hour or so talking with Meese. I did most of the talking, and the end result seemed to be that the idea was dropped -- not so much as a favor to the Census Bureau, but because the whole master plan never really got executed. But it was a problem, and it was the sort of problem that a strong statistical policy office in OMB would have quashed right away. But that isn't the way it happened.

[FB] What about the proposals that the Bureau be an independent agency? We've already seen that there are pros and cons, but it seems to me there were one or two specific proposals; how did they get quashed?

[EG] Remember, I mentioned that President Carter had set up a commission on streamlining the Federal Government and that there was also a particular commission on the Federal statistical system. Professor James Bonnen was the chair of that. Tom Jabine and others worked there with him. I carefully looked into this matter. As the director of the Committee on National Statistics, I worked informally with Bonnen. He would keep sending me drafts of things to review and so on, and he said to me, "I am looking for a house to put the Census Bureau in." He had in mind taking it out of the Commerce Department but not leaving it completely alone. Well, he never really found a good house to put it in. At one time he was thinking of putting it in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. I thought that was kind of an odd place to put it, but he said, "Well, it's sort of self-standing and it is highly reputable. Maybe it would provide a house." He never really settled the issue.

The problem is that you see the advantages of being autonomous and you see the advantages of being protected, but if you try to combine them, then you don't know where that leaves you. In countries that have a central

statistical office, sometimes that office is a self-standing institution reporting, perhaps, to the prime minister. Sometimes it's within whatever they think is the appropriate ministry or department. This is sometimes one that has to do with finances or sometimes one that has to do with social services or whatever, but they locate it somewhere. My own feeling is that, given the proper internal circumstances, it is probably better to be part of a major department. You are more protected. You have more authority above you than you would have otherwise. Although it is nice to think that an independent agency would be recognized as having more integrity, I don't really know why that necessarily follows. ... Certainly, some of us who observe the Bureau have seen what seems to be an increasing degree of micromanagement. It is almost embarrassing to the Census Bureau that when congressional committees or subcommittees hold a hearing on the decennial census -- and Lord knows there have been plenty of them -- that the spokesman is the Under Secretary of Commerce or the Deputy Under Secretary, with maybe the director of the Census Bureau sitting off to one side. It used to be that the director would be the chief witness. It happens that people like the recent Under Secretary and Deputy Under Secretary are competent and knowledgeable people. They have learned to speak with a considerable degree of technical assurance about issues concerning the census and other matters relating to the Census Bureau, but it is not the sort of thing that makes the Census Bureau think that it is the master of its own destiny as it once used to be to a greater degree.

Contributed by Michael L. Cohen

Conference on Statistics and Public Policy

co-sponsored by

the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the American University
and the American Statistical Association

May 12-14, 1994 in Washington, DC

Examining the impact of statistical methods on problems and debates in public policy.

Sessions will include Governmental Policy, Environmental Policy, Medical Policy, and

Linkage to Policy Makers. Speakers include:

Dr. John Bailar (Ph. D. AU 1973) and Dr. Barbara Bailar (Ph.D. AU 1972)

Submit abstracts to be considered for contributed paper sessions by March 1, 1994.

For more information contact:

Dr. Nancy Flournoy

Department of Mathematics & Statistics

The American University

Washington, DC 20016-8050

Announcements Cont'd

Seminar on New Directions in Statistical Methodology (Continued)

Statistical Policy Working Paper series. The subjects to be covered will include:

- Economic Classification Revisions
- Disclosure Limitation Methodology
- Customer Surveys/Contracting for Surveys
- Incentives in Surveys
- Statistical Uses of Administrative Records--Effects of Using IRS Data on BLS, Census, and BEA Data
- Computer Assisted Survey Information Collection (CASIC)
- Cognitive Testing and Self-Administered Questionnaires
- Longitudinal Surveys
- Small Area Estimation
- Time Series Revision Policies
- Data Editing
- Nonresponse in Surveys

Each of these topics will be considered in a two-hour session that will feature formal papers and discussion, followed by informal dialogue among all speakers and attendees.

Seminar participants will include federal statisticians, economists, and managers, as well as others in the broader statistical community who share an interest in the quality of federal data. Users and producers of federal statistics who participate in the seminar will have the opportunity to share experiences and ideas, discuss technical issues, and consider future policy initiatives.

The cost for the two-day seminar will be \$125.00 per person, and will be held in the Washington, DC area. Registration will be limited to 250 participants. For further information, contact Edward Spar in the COPAFS office (703) 836-0404.

SIGSTAT Meetings

SIGSTAT is the Joint Special Interest Group in Statistics for the Capital PC User Group and WORMSC (Washington Operations Research/Management Science Council). SIGSTAT is sponsoring the following meetings: on February 9, 1994, "MathCad 4.0", the new 32-bit application includes SmartMath (a rules processor) and symbolic/numeric optimization to increase solution speed; on March 9, 1994, "Derive 2.55", latest version of small, but powerful, symbolic math processor with graphics.

All meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Room B-14, 1301 New York Avenue NW, Washington, DC. The building is located midway between Metro Center and McPherson Square Metro stops. If this is your first SIGSTAT meeting, call Charlie Hallahan, (202) 219-0507, and leave your name in order to gain entry into the building.

Joint University of Maryland - University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology

The Joint University of Maryland - University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) announces a short courses to be held in Winter, 1994 in the Washington, D.C. area: "Self-Administered/Mail Surveys," February 23-24, 1994 at the Capital Hyatt taught by Don Dillman. Call the JPSM at 1-800-937-9320 for more information about the courses and registration.

Obituaries

Sidney Cutler

Sidney J. Cutler, 76, a biostatistician and epidemiologist, died of cancer October 21, 1993 at his home in Silver Spring. He was born in what was then Odessa, Russia. He immigrated to the

Obituaries Continued

United States in 1923 and graduated from the City College of New York and received a master's degree in sociology at Columbia University. He received a doctorate in epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh. During World War II, he served in the army in Europe. In 1948, he joined the staff of the National Cancer Institute, retiring in 1975 as associate chief of its biometry branch. In 1954 and 1955, he was among the first scientists to publish statistical data showing a direct relationship between smoking and developing lung cancer.

Gary Forrest Grindstaff

Gary Forrest Grindstaff, 41, who retired in May after 15 years as a biostatistician with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), died November 6, 1993 in a hospital in Asheville, NC. He had AIDS. He was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, where he also received a master's degree in public health and biostatistics. At the EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxins, he specialized in estimating cancer risks from chemical exposure.

Philip S. Lawrence

Philip S. Lawrence, 79, retired Deputy Director of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), died November 25, 1993 in his home at Leisure World after a stroke. At NCHS, he supervised pioneering studies of illness and disability. He was the first director of the National Health Interview Survey. He later was promoted to Deputy Director, a post he held until retiring in 1975. He was a recipient of the Public Health Service's Superior Award and was a fellow of the ASA. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Denison University in Ohio and received a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University's School of Public Health.

Henry A. Gordon

Henry A. Gordon, 46, a retired statistician with the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, died November 29, 1993. He had AIDS. He was a 1969 sociology graduate of the George Washington University and received a master's degree in Sociology from the University of North Carolina and a doctorate in sociology and statistics from the University of Maryland. He was a member of the ASA and the Association for Applied Sociology. At the Education Department, he collected and analyzed data for the Office of Civil Rights. He also spent a year in Munich as a public opinion researcher for Radio Free Europe.

Employment Column

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description 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 or call: Bill Arends, USDA-NASS, Room 4133 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000, (202) 720-6812.

Job Applicant

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an applicant seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing an applicant should write or call: Bill Arends, USDA-NASS, Room 4133 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-2000; (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.

Employment Column Cont'd.

Applicant #94-06

Interest: Applying statistical, analytical, and patent agent skills to any of a wide variety of chemical/biotech related areas, such as environmental or health impact issues.

Education: Ph.D in Quantitative Genetics; M.S. in Biophysics; B.S. in Chemistry. Registered Patent Agent.

Experience: Teaching experience in graduate and undergraduate statistics and statistical computer packages. Administrative experience directing and scheduling research and clerical staff. Diverse clinical and research experience including patent research, chemical and biotech research, genetic and environmental effects, and microbiology. Extensive experience preparing publications including a student manual on the use of computer packages for statistical purposes, journal articles, and other research reports. Member of several professional organizations and a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists.

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

Items for publication in the April 1994 WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than February 22, 1994. FAX items to:

Hattie Ramseur or Theresa Hallquist
FAX: (202) 586-0018

Contributions of W. Edwards Deming to the Washington Statistical Society

By Rich Allen

One striking fact found in an earlier Washington Statistical Society history project was that Ed Deming was never an elected officer of WSS, other than serving the Methodology Section for the 1969-70 and 1970-71 program years. Of course, even without a WSS connection, he still would have had a profound effect upon statisticians in this area through his leadership in the advancement of statistical quality. However, further review indicates that Ed was a frequent and valuable contributor to the technical programs of WSS. This article is intended to present "Part of the Rest of the Story" since historical records are not complete.

The earliest WSS reference to Ed is a February 13, 1940, session on "Sampling Techniques and the Census" that he presented with Frederick Stephan and Morris Hansen. During the next WSS program year, Ed participated in two sessions. He and Frederick Stephan spoke on the topic of "Interpretation of Censuses as Samples" and Ed joined Philip M. Hauser for a session entitled "Sampling Techniques in Practice." Hauser presented the "Role of Sampling", followed by Ed, who talked about "Techniques of Sampling." Both were listed as Bureau of Census representatives. In 1941-42, Ed again joined Hauser, along with Irvin Holmes and Morris Hansen, for a presentation on "The Proposed Sample Census of Population." Ed discussed "The Design of the Sample."

There are no detailed records available from the 1942-43 program year but one topic discussed was "quality control." It is interesting to speculate if Ed contributed to that presentation.

A listing from the 1943-44 program year shows that Ed was the coordinator of a "Seminars in Statistical Inference" program advertised in the WSS Newsletter. This involved five sessions on special topics offered through the USDA Graduate School. Speakers that year included Morris Hansen and William Hurwitz. WSS and USDA Graduate School records are sketchy but the seminar series was apparently offered from at least 1940-41 through 1945-46. In the later years, the program was renamed "Seminars in Sampling and Statistical Inference." Topics within those seminars look very much like the sessions offered by the WSS Methodology Section when it was formed in 1962.

During the 1948-49 program year, Professor David J. Finney of Oxford University gave three lectures on "Statistical Principles in Biological Assay" with Ed serving as the chairman. Ed was listed as Advisor in Sampling, Bureau of the Budget and Chairman of the USDA Graduate School Committee on Mathematics and Statistics.

During 1949-50, he chaired a session on "Serial Number Sampling" and the following year chaired "The Wald Theory of Decision Functions" session. At that time, he was listed at the Division of Statistical Standards of Bureau of the Budget.

During 1952-53 Ed participated in a WSS session on "Statistical Quality Control", speaking on "Statistical Quality Here and Abroad." The other topic presented was "Statistical Control in Development of Ammunition" by Leslie E. Simon of the Department of the Army.

In the 1954-55 program year, Ed (now at New York University) joined Morris Hansen to discuss "Sampling and Sample Surveys." Later that year, he made two more WSS presentations. One was "On the Preparation and Presentation of Statistical Studies as Legal Evidence." The other one was shared with

E.T. Magruder of C&P Telephone Company on "Sampling Techniques in the Field of Accounting and Management."

In 1963-64, Ed was billed as a statistical consultant and his presentation on "The Quality of Data Existing and Needed for Current Tax Models" was based on work for Statistics Division of IRS. This was part of a 3-presentation session on "Statistics and Tax Legislation." Quality was also the theme in the 1964-65 program year when he served as one of the four presenters on the topic "The Quality of Data in the Social Sciences."

Two WSS sessions were chaired by Ed in 1967. In a January meeting, cosponsored by Section U of the American Academy for the Advancement of Sciences, the speaker was Churchill Eisenhart on "Antecedents of Modern Experimental Design." In March, Geoffrey S. Watson of Johns Hopkins spoke on "The Statistical Analyses of Orientation Data."

In 1969, Ed took part in the WSS memorial meeting for William N. Hurwitz. The topic of that session was "Survey Principles" with Ed serving as one of the discussants.

During his year as Methodology Section Chairman, he arranged one very striking event. Some 23 top Japanese industry and banking representatives met with leading Washington area statisticians and economists for an afternoon of open discussions.

In October 1982 WSS held a special session to honor Ed for his contributions to the organization over the years. There are likely other WSS events for which Ed served as organizer, chairman, presenter, or discussant that have been overlooked or for which the records are missing. However, let me include two other references that also illustrate Ed's interest and contributions to WSS.

I first saw Ed at a WSS luncheon meeting sometime after 1976. Someone grabbed my arm, pointed, and said "THAT'S ED DEMING!" We must have looked like tourists as we sat to the side of Ed's table watching him as much as the speaker. I don't recall the speaker but he said something that triggered a new thought for Ed who then spent the rest of the meeting writing notes to himself.

One experience, as Secretary of WSS, illustrates how closely Ed kept up with WSS. I received a note from him pointing out a misuse of grammar in the WSS Newsletter. I hadn't written that particular article but Ed didn't know where else to address his comments.

One last footnote. One good reason Ed was not an officer of WSS is that he might never have been nominated. There is not a complete list of all candidates or ballots but his name does not show up in any existing records.

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