



WASHINGTON  
STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY

# WSS NEWS

## January 1995

### QL Activities Underway BLS School Outreach Committee

Jill Montaquila and Tran Kratzke, Fairfax County QL Co-Coordinator, met with Ron Zirkle, the Fairfax County Mathematics Curriculum Teacher, on November 17, 1994, to discuss QL activities for this school year. With several new activities on tap, this should prove to be a very exciting year for QL in Fairfax County.

This year we plan to undertake some new activities in the Fairfax County Schools. In addition to providing speakers for middle school mathematics classes, we will provide speakers for the elementary and high school levels. Also, we are working with Dr. Zirkle to plan a "Mathematics Day," where we would set up stations of mathematical and statistical activities. The students would participate by going from station to station, doing different activities at each station.

We provided Dr. Zirkle with information about the Curtis Jacobs Competition and the ASA Poster Contest. He will be encouraging teachers to have their students participate in these activities.

A QL seminar was held October 12 to help recruit volunteers to the program. Barbara Bailar, ASA Quantitative Literacy workers, and area coordinators gave brief talks and Jeff Bailey gave a sample of what his presentation is like. Quantitative Literacy still needs volunteers. If you did not attend the seminar and would like to volunteer, please contact Kirk Mueller (phone 202-606-6352 or internet MuellerK@OEUS.psb.bls.gov.).

WSS Seminars (All events are open to any interested persons)		
January		
6	Fri.	Cognitive Dynamics of Self and Proxy Responding: The Diverging Perspectives of Actors and Observers
11	Wed.	The Measurement of Race and Ethnicity
12	Thurs.	The Census Bureau's Urban/Rural Classification: Retrospect and Prospect
18	Wed.	System Understanding and Statistical Uncertainty Bounds from a Small Amount of Data
25	Wed.	Methodological Issues Raised by Herrnstein and Murray's <i>The Bell Curve</i>
30	Mon.	What's on the Internet for Economists and Statisticians
31	Tues.	Bayesian Methods for the Analysis of Survival Data with Covariates
<b>Call (703) 803-8109 for up-to-date information.</b>		

## Announcements

### Electronic Distribution of Newsletter

WSS is considering distributing the monthly newsletter and schedule via electronic means. Electronic distribution offers several advantages to the present surface mail procedures, primarily much improved timeliness of delivery at significantly lower postal and administrative cost. Participation in the electronic delivery would be voluntary, and should lead to reduced cost and lower member dues.

Those interested in electronic delivery could choose between receiving the newsletter via electronic mail (in a text format), or could retrieve the newsletter via an Internet Gopher or Mosaic utility. No surface mailing would be sent to those who choose to receive the newsletter electronically. Also, WSS will restrict the use of the electronic mailing list to the newsletter or related announcements. The mailing list will not be distributed.

If you are interested in receiving the WSS Newsletter and schedule via electronic means, please send a note to Vince Massimini, svm@mitre.org. If you wish to receive the newsletter via email, include your Internet mail address. (Recall that this may be different than your address internal to your organization. The Internet address is what is required.) If you would prefer to retrieve the newsletter via Gopher or Mosaic, then indicate so. Any general comments or suggestions would be welcome. If you submitted your name/address last month, there is no need to submit again.

We will start electronic distribution shortly, although a dual mailing may be required for a few months until certain administrative changes can be completed with the surface mailing. Thanks for your support. We believe that this initiative will result in much better service to WSS members at a lower cost to the Society.

### Science Fair 1995

Volunteers are now being solicited to represent the Washington Statistical Society as judges in local area Science Fairs next spring. Since 1986, WSS has provided special awards at these fairs to students whose projects demonstrate excellence in statistical theory or applications. Those who have participated in this activity have very much enjoyed the opportunity to interact with these students and to observe the widely diverse projects which are presented.

The WSS sponsors awards at fairs in Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia. The fairs are held on a Saturday morning in mid-March to mid-April. The only time required is one Saturday morning, plus one weekday lunchtime meeting to discuss judging strategy and to distribute the awards to be given out at each fair. If you would like to be a WSS science fair judge, or if you would like additional information about this activity, please contact Lee Abramson at (301) 415-6180.

### Census Bureau's Annual Research Conference

The Census Bureau's Annual Research Conference (ARC 1995) will be held March 19-23, 1995 at the Key Bridge Marriott in Arlington, VA, only 5 miles from National Airport and two blocks from Metro. ARC 1995 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) 456-2308.

## Program Abstracts

- Topic:** Cognitive Dynamics of Self and Proxy Responding: The Diverging Perspectives of Actors and Observers
- Speaker:** Norbert Schwarz, University of Michigan
- Discussant:** Jeffrey Moore, Bureau of the Census
- Chair:** Kent Marquis, Bureau of the Census
- Date/Time:** Friday, January 6, 1995, 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.
- Sponsor:** Data Collection Methods Section
- Abstract:** This session presents the results of work conducted jointly by Norbert Schwarz (U. of Michigan) and Tracy Wellens (U.S. Bureau of the Census). Basic psychological research into person perception and attribution helps us to understand how individuals form mental representations of self and other, and how they use these representations in recall and estimation processes. The authors apply this theoretical work to methodological issues of self and proxy reporting and review relevant laboratory and survey experiments. In general, proxy reports (i.e., reports about others) are more likely to be based on assumptions about the target person's dispositions, whereas self reports are more likely to be based on episodic information, provided that episodic information is accessible in memory. Methodological implications for questionnaire construction and respondent selection are discussed.

**Program Abstracts (Cont'd)**

- Topic:** The Measurement of Race and Ethnicity
- Speakers:** Katherine Wallman, Office of Statistical Policy  
Napiel McKeny, Bureau of the Census  
Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Chair:** Mary Grace Kovar, National Opinion Research Center
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, January 11, 1995, 12:30-2:00 PM
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Training Center, Ground Floor--Postal Square Building, 2 Massachusetts Ave NE (Red Line to Union Station). Enter on First Street.
- Sponsor:** Data Collection Methods Section
- Abstract:** The Federal statistical systems follow the guidance on the classification of race and ethnicity that were published in OMB Circular 15. The Office of Statistical Policy at OMB is currently reviewing the classification of race and ethnicity to revise those guidelines, now almost 20 years old, using hearings and research so that all points of view can be heard, all uses identified, and the relevant information brought to bear. This seminar will provide a unique opportunity for the Washington statistical community to learn about this important work in progress and to provide input.

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

Items for publication in the March 1995 WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than January 31, 1994. FAX items to:

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

## Program Abstracts (Cont'd)

- Topic:** The Census Bureau's Urban/Rural Classification: Retrospect and Prospect
- Speaker:** Nancy Torrieri, U.S. Bureau of the Census
- Chair:** John Cromartie, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Date/Time:** Thursday, January 12, 1995 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.
- Sponsor:** Social and Demographic Section

**Abstract:** The introduction of the urbanized area (UA) as a statistical area for the 1950 census improved the urban/rural classification by defining the densely settled fringe areas of large places as urban. The criterion of a minimum 1000 persons per square mile was used as a basis for including fringe areas within a UA and the entire area required a minimum population of 50,000 to qualify. However, this did not change the traditional "place-based" concept underlying the urban/rural classification: UAs were defined with reference to a central place and, within the fringe area of UAs, places were classified as either urban or rural. The introduction of the extended cities concept for the 1970 census allowed splitting of overbounded incorporated places within UAs into urban and rural components. The criteria for defining extended cities are conservative, however some overbounded places with large areas of low-density land have not qualified as extended cities.

For the 2000 census, the Census Bureau is examining alternatives for improving its urban/rural classification including: expanding the concept of a UA to recognize as urban small population agglomerations consisting of a place or places and surrounding densely settled areas; abandoning a place-based concept in favor of splitting all places into urban and rural components; replacing a dichotomous classification with one that recognizes degrees of urban/rural by varying population density; adopting regionally variable criteria; and offering several alternative classifications to give data users the opportunity to choose the best for their needs. The talk will explore these alternatives.

**Program Abstracts (Cont'd)**

- Topic:** System Understanding and Statistical Uncertainty Bounds from a Small Amount of Data
- Speaker:** James C. Spall, The Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory
- Discussant:** Michael P. Cohen, National Center for Education Statistics
- Chair:** Sandra A. West, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, January 18, 1995, 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.
- Sponsor:** Methodology Section
- Abstract:** A common issue in fields such as engineering, economics, and medicine is to extract as much information as possible from a limited amount of data. Oftentimes, this process involves the statistical estimation of an underlying set of parameters related to the system's behavior. For these estimates to provide meaningful system understanding, it is required that uncertainty bounds (e.g., confidence regions) be attached to the parameter estimates. We present an approach for constructing uncertainty bounds for a broad class of statistical estimation procedures when faced with only a limited amount of data. The estimates of concern here are those based on minimizing or maximizing some criterion, including, for example, maximum likelihood and least squares estimates (this is the class of so-called "M-estimates"). The approach will be illustrated on a problem motivated by the U.S. Navy's testing of the accuracy of a missile system, where each test is very expensive. The same generic estimation problem arises in other applications, such as the combining of several estimates/forecasts (meta-analysis), Kalman filtering, dose response evaluation for drugs, and small-area survey analysis. The approach here will be seen to extract more information (from the limited sample) than such well-known techniques as asymptotic approximations and the bootstrap.

**Program Abstracts (Cont'd)**

- Topic:** Methodological Issues Raised by Herrnstein and Murray's *The Bell Curve*
- Speaker:** Bob Burton, National Center for Educational Statistics
- Chair:** Michael A. Greene, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
- Discussant:** Arthur Kirsch, George Washington University
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, January 25, 1995, 12:30-2:00 PM
- Location:** BLS Training Center, Postal Square Building, Suite G-440, Room 3, 2 Massachusetts Ave, NE, Washington, DC (Red Line -- Union Station) Enter at First Street.
- Sponsor:** Social and Demographic Section

**Abstract:** Herrnstein and Murray have raised or revived puzzling and disturbing questions concerning the nature and relevance of intelligence as measured by IQ and similar tests. What is the ontological status of this intelligence? To what extent is it amenable to heritability analysis? To what extent can it "explain" differences within and between racial groups?

Attempts to answer these questions lead to daunting methodological problems. Some are statistical in nature, while others relate more to genetics or to experimental and quasi-experimental design. The statistical problems involve not only technical matters, but more fundamental concerns. One important example is to consider what the types of research questions that can and cannot be answered by multiple regression.

Mr. Burton will attempt to separate the methodological issues from those in the realm of politics and policy. He will discuss these methodological issues in broad terms, identifying problems and solutions proposed by various workers in the field. This will include a critique of the methods Herrnstein and Murray have used in *The Bell Curve*.

**Program Abstracts (Cont'd)**

**Topic:** What's on the Internet for Economists and Statisticians

**Speakers:** Charlie Hallahan, USDA/Economic Research Service

**Discussant:** Jim Faulkner, Federal Reserve Board

**Chair:** Linda Atkinson, USDA/Economic Research Service

**Date/Time:** Monday, January 30, 1995; 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

**Location:** 1301 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC (13th & New York Ave.), Waugh Auditorium, in basement (Blue/ Orange Line - between Metro Center and McPherson Square). Call Linda Atkinson on (202) 219-0505 to place your name on the guard's list for entry.

**Sponsor:** Economics Section

**Abstract:** Among the vast array of discussion groups and repositories of software and documents available on the Internet are a growing number of interest to economists and statisticians. Recommended reading is the recent article by W. Goffe, "Computer Network Resources for Economists", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 8, No. 3, Summer 1994, 97-119; along with "A Guide to Statistical Computing Resources on the Internet" available via anonymous ftp from una.hh.lib.umich.edu in the directory inetdirsstacks as file statistics:varnweise. This talk will be a live demo of the various features of Internet, ranging from Usenet Newsgroups/Listserv Mailing Lists to searching for and downloading files. In particular, e-mail, ftp, gopher and the Mosaic front-end to the World Wide Web will be demonstrated. Suggestions for the demo should be sent to hallahan@ers.



**Program Abstracts (Cont'd)**

- Topic:** Bayesian Methods for the Analysis of Survival Data with Covariates
- Speaker:** Richard Simon, National Cancer Institute
- Discussant:** Edmund A. Gehan, Georgetown University
- Chair:** Boris I. Freidlin, EMMES Corporation
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, January 31, 1995, 1:30-3:00 PM
- Location:** Conference Room G, Executive Plaza North, 6130 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD
- Sponsor:** Public Health and Biostatistics Section
- Abstract:** Cox's proportional hazards model plays a major role in the analysis of clinical data. Because of problems involving the selection and representation of variables for inclusion in the model, however, modeling results are often based on subjective judgments and probabilistic statements are subject to misinterpretation. This talk will present a simple Bayesian version of the Cox model. The posterior distributions of linear combinations of the regression coefficients will be derived analytically and results applied to two types of problems. One problem is the evaluation of treatment by covariate interactions and the method will be illustrated using data from a large clinical trial for patients with HIV infections. The second application is prognostic modeling with a large number of potential covariates. The accuracy of predictions based on the Bayesian model are compared to those of standard Cox modeling in a simulation experiment.

## Reflections on the 1978-80 White House "Federal Statistical Reorganization Project" Part I.

*The following is a reminiscence written by James Bonnen. James Bonnen is a member of the faculty of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University. From February 1978 through March 1979 he was the Executive Director of The President's Reorganization Project for the Federal Statistical System. 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.*

**A Personal Note.** My statistics career was not premeditated. It started in the 1960s when, over my objection that I was a policy analyst and no econometrician or statistician, Harry Trelogan, Administrator of the Statistical Reporting Service (today's National Agricultural Statistics Service), put me on his advisory committee. Harry and Joe Ackerman, both influential members of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA), also worked (I later learned) to have me appointed (again despite reservations) as chair in 1969 of a new AAEA Committee on Economic Statistics. Our charge was to diagnose data base problems and work to improve agricultural statistics. At the time private forecasters were harassing Harry Trelogan for an apparent deterioration in some of his numbers. Harry asked our Committee for an independent assessment. This started me on nearly three decades of involvement with statisticians struggling to improve US statistics.

**Organizing The Project.** Wayne Granquist, Associate Director for Management and Regulatory Policy in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), called in late 1977 inviting me to direct a White House reorganization project for Federal statistics. A few days earlier Vincent Barabba, then at Kodak, but former Census Director, whom I had gotten to know well while chair of the Advisory Committee to the Agricultural Census in 1973-74, called to warn me that I would be getting an offer from OMB. In a charmingly jocular manner Vince suggested, if I did not accept Granquist's offer, he would consider breaking both my arms and perhaps a leg or two. Naturally, with such encouragement I accepted, but not before asking a wise-old owl and friend, Con Taeuber (retired Associate Director of Demographic Fields in the Census Bureau), if he thought I had sufficient experience to do the job.

Also involved was Patrick Caddell, President Carter's pollster. He was distressed by inadequate national level statistical coordination and by the transfer of the Statistical Policy Division (SPD) from OMB to the Commerce Department in the 1977 Carter reorganization of the Executive Office of the President (EOP) and the White House. President Carter had mandated a substantial reduction in the size of the White House-EOP staff. Caddell was supported by OMB Director Bert Lance who in retrospect also concluded that the transfer of SPD to Commerce had been a mistake.

An OMB sponsored Airlie House conference of both government and private users and the statistical agencies in July 1977 concluded that the single greatest deficiency of the Federal statistical system was inadequate coordination of statistical policy, planning and standards. Ranked close behind it was the inability of statistical agencies to share identifiable records for statistical purposes. So the Reorganization Project for the Federal Statistical System was created to address the question of how coordination of statistical policy and standards should best be organized. The White House was asking "How does the President (and presumably the Congress) get a more coherent and integrated output for *national policy decisions* from a very decentralized statistical system?" We were more accurately a management improvement project than a reorganization project.

The first task was to introduce myself to the leaders of the major statistical agencies. I was met with polite reserve. After all, what was I saying but "Hi, I'm Jim Bonnen from OMB, (an agricultural economist whom you probably never heard of), and I am here to help you." Right! Exceptions to "polite reserve" were Julius Shiskin, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and Dorothy Rice, Director

of the National Center for Health Statistics, who in almost the same words said, "Young man, what makes you think you will succeed where better men have failed?" It was clear I had a tall mountain to climb. Dorothy I had not known before. But I did know Julie from the late 1960s or early 1970s when he was Chief Statistician of the US and Director of the Statistical Policy Division in OMB. We had had serious differences over statistical policy at that time. He argued that centralization was the solution to many of the chronic problems of a decentralized statistical system. So when I visited with him in 1978, mischievously I asked if, as Commissioner of Labor Statistics, he still supported centralization. "Absolutely not" was the answer. It was a bad idea! Somehow it was comforting to know that where one stands in Washington still depended on where one sits. Sadly, Julie died a few months later. I had not been a close friend, but I enjoyed our blunt, bantering relationship and I had grown fond of him.

Over the first seven months, besides continuing to acquaint myself with the statistical agencies, their views and problems, I gave endless speeches to various government and private sector statistical groups and visited with knowledgeable statisticians, analysts and policy makers to get advice while explaining the purpose and nature of the Project. I also was getting the Project work plan approved in OMB and recruiting a staff from the statistical agencies.

As I explained in luncheon speeches, to agency heads and anyone who would listen, I did not claim to understand the whole Federal statistical system but would depend on a staff from across the system to provide that knowledge. What I did have was a strategy based on an information system concept I developed during the AAEA Economic Statistics Committee experience and published in my presidential address to the AAEA in 1975. This concept specified the relationship between the functions of data collection, analysis and policy decision. My strategy was to capture knowledge of the statistical system by recruiting outstanding statisticians and analysts whose experience covered these three functions and especially the transaction points between them. I also promised nervous statistical agency leaders to keep them informed and to run an open and consultative operation. This we did, soon reducing anxiety levels a bit.

A superb staff was in place by mid September 1978. Ivan Fellegi (currently Chief Statistician of Canada and former President of the International Statistical Institute), who happened to be headed for Washington, D.C. on leave from Statistics Canada was, with Margaret Martin's help, persuaded to join me in May 1978. Joe Duncan, Chief Statistician and Director of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards in Commerce (OMB's Statistical Policy Division until 1977), was very helpful throughout the Project, but especially critical in the arrangements and financing of Ivan's period with the Project. Ivan helped recruit Tom Jabine from the Social Security Administration by late June. By mid September we also had as staff members Ron Kutscher, Economist and Assistant (now Associate) Commissioner at the Bureau of Labor Statistics; Chuck Waite, then Chief Economist at BEA (who has just retired as Associate Director for Economic Programs at Census); and Ted Clemence from Census where he was Special Assistant to the Director and later Chief of the Office of Program and Policy Development. My administrative assistant, who tried valiantly to keep me organized, was temporarily Fred Barrett and by September Larry Roberson, both from the Statistical Reporting Service (now the National Agricultural Statistics Service) in the Department of Agriculture.

Barrett over the summer of 1978 and, for the rest of the Project, Roberson did a fine job of "putting out fires," participating in staff debate, and keeping us all organized and on track. This made it possible for us to produce our recommendations in a brief six months in 1978. Fellegi and Jabine were outstanding mathematical statisticians, logicians, and old friends, both with unusually broad command of statistical agency problems and issues from data design, collection and processing to formatting and analysis. Indeed, Fellegi had recently published a highly articulated information systems model of statistical agency functions. We consequently shared much the same way of thinking about statistical processes and policy. With Ivan and Tom committed, I was able to "persuade" agency heads to give me other outstanding professionals. Recruiting Waite involved a "power lunch" at the Cosmos Club with George Jaszi, Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, a pioneer in national income accounts and an Austro-Hungarian aristocrat. My lunch was something between a Ph.D. oral exam and a football

coach's "prove it drill" to find out who makes the first team. I am still not sure I passed, but Chuck did join the Project. Negotiating for Ron's services with the Commissioner of Labor Statistics (by then, Janet Norwood) was more straight-forward. Waite and Kutscher were economic analysts, researchers and friends who worked closely together and with statisticians as well as with policy analysts, and policy makers. Clemence was a demographer, logician and philosopher by training whose role at Census included responsibility for working with the Congress, and for policy analysis and advice to the Director, including general trouble-shooting in relations with other statistical and analytical agencies. In matters of statistical policy, he seemed to understand every conflict, personality, political issue or tension in the statistical system. He was an effective devil's advocate and invaluable to the Project. Ted's death a few years later was a great loss to Census and to the Federal statistical system.

**Developing Project Recommendations.** We began by putting five summer-long task forces together staffed by 33 experienced professionals from the statistical agencies to review the previous analyses of major statistical issues, to evaluate possible alternatives and to make recommendations to the Project Director by the end of September 1978. This allowed the staff to get off to a fast start from a common knowledge base. It also reassured some who were concerned the Project might ignore the wisdom of past studies and presidential commissions.

The idea of a "reorganization project" was not viewed with equanimity among statistics users and statisticians outside of government. Consequently, in June 1978 Wayne Granquist put together an external advisory committee chaired by Graham Allison of Harvard to provide continuing review of our plans and product. Members included Vincent Barabba, Pat Caddell, William Kruskal, Richard Ruggles, William Shaw, Eleanor Sheldon and Phyllis Wallace. Their experienced advice was of great value to us at every step in the Project.

The Project staff reexamined the old debate over centralized versus decentralized statistical systems. It was a spirited debate. But we concluded that there was not enough political energy in all of Washington, D.C. to make organizational centralization a viable option. Consequently, relocating and redesigning the statistical policy and coordination function was the focus of our efforts. This also meant that in a decentralized system a government-wide statistical confidentiality statute was needed, which included a statistical enclave for sharing records for statistical purposes between authorized statistical agencies.

By early December 1978 we circulated to about 400 knowledgeable statisticians and analysts in and out of government an Issues and Options Paper, which, starting from the Task Force Reports, explored in-depth the problems and evaluated possible lines of action to improve statistical policy and coordination, but with no recommendations (a final version can be seen in the Statistical Reporter of February 1981). The 200 responses were extremely helpful in deciding to push hard for government-wide confidentiality legislation and in forming our final report for OMB.

The Statistical Reorganization Project recommended that an independent Statistical Policy Office be set up in the Executive Office of the President (EOP), not back in OMB where it had been viewed as a foreign object and its resources eroded. Among the alternatives we explored were to beef it up and leave it in Commerce (an option pushed hard at the political level in Commerce), put it back in OMB, or set it up as an independent agency outside of the Executive Office. There were several variations of these alternatives. A number of OMB divisions vigorously opposed our EOP recommendation.

Contrary to Ed Goldfield's memory in his February 1994 WSS NEWS column, moving the Census Bureau was never discussed by the Project and I never said to anyone "I am looking for a place to put the Census Bureau." Our battle over a location for the statistical policy unit appears to have gotten confused with the 1983 Reagan Administration's effort to find a place to put the Census Bureau in case their proposed reorganization succeeded in transforming Commerce into a Department of International Trade and Industry. They were proposing to transfer the Census Bureau to the Treasury Department, which Ed Goldfield and I both described as a bad idea in a meeting with Ed Meese at the White House. A month earlier, in July 1983, I testified to that effect before the Senate Government Affairs Committee hearing on reorganization of Commerce. (Part II. will appear in the next issue of WSS News.)

## Announcements

### **Nominations Sought for Shiskin Award**

Nominations are invited for the annual Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics. The award, established in 1979 by the Washington Statistical Society 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 Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner in June 1995. 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, 1995.**

Richard D. Allen and Joel Popkin won the 1994 Shiskin Award. Richard D. Allen was recognized for his contributions to the application of statistics to agricultural economics and to improving the quality, integrity, and timeliness of agricultural statistics. Joel Popkin was given the award for his contributions to the field of economic statistics, especially in the development of price indexes and other gauges of inflationary pressures.

Previous winners include: 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 U.S. economy and for imaginative management of a major statistical agency through critical times; the late Stephen Taylor for his work in developing the U.S. 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 U.S. and for her contributions to the development of the revised U.S. System of National Accounts.

For further information, contact Dr. Howard Hogan, Julius Shiskin Award Committee Secretary, Services Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Room 2641-3, Washington, DC 20233-6500 or call at (301) 763-7003.

Martin Fleming  
Chair, Julius Shiskin Award Committee

### **SIGSTAT Meetings**

SIGSTAT, the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the Capital PC User Group and the Washington Operations Research and Management Science Council (WORMSC), will be sponsoring the following meetings. On January 11, 1995, the topic will be EViews, the latest version of the econometric package MicroTSP running in the Windows environment. On February 8, 1995, the topic will be Statistica, a full-featured Windows statistics package with controversial advertising techniques.

All meetings are scheduled from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM in Room B-14, 1301 New York Avenue, NW. The building is located midway between the Metro Center and McPherson Square Metro stops. If this is your first SIGSTAT meeting, call Charlie Hallahan at (202) 219-0507 or e-mail to hallahan@ers and leave you name in order to gain entry into the building.

## Announcements

### The American University Spring 1995 Semester

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at The American University announces its graduate course offerings for the Spring 1995 semester.

41.310 Linear Algebra	Mth 3:35-4:50
41.521 Intro. to Analysis II	Tth 5:20-6:35
42.502 Theory of Sampling	Tth 8:10-9:25
42.514 Statistical Methods	T 5:30-8:00
42.516 Design of Experiments	Th 5:30-8:00
42.522 Time Series Analysis	Tth 6:45-8:00
42.584 Intro. to Stochastic Proc.	MW 6:45-8:00
42.601 Adv. Probability & Stat	MW 5:20-6:35
42.640 Statistical Computing	Tth 5:30-6:35

For additional information, please contact The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at (202) 885-3120 or by e-mail at [mathstat@american.edu](mailto:mathstat@american.edu).

### The George Washington University Spring 1995 Semester

In addition to its annual course offerings, the George Washington University Department of Statistics will offer the following courses in Spring 1995 (classes begin January 17):

Nonparametric Inference Statistics 188	Wed. 6:10-8:40 PM Prof. H. Lilliefors
Advanced Probability Statistics 259	Tues. 6:10-8:40 PM Prof. R. Smythe
Foundational and Philosophical Issues in Statistics Statistics 271	Wed. 6:10-8:40 PM Prof. N. Singpurwalla
Variance Estimation in Surveys Statistics 289	Th. 6:10-8:40 PM Prof. F. Scheuren

For further information please call (202) 994-6356.

### The Joint Program in Survey Methodology Spring 1995 Semester

The University of Maryland-University of Michigan Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) announces the Spring 1995 semester courses:

Mathematical Statistics II	M,W 5:00-6:15
Applied Sampling	M,TH 6:30-7:50
Social & Cognitive Foundations of Survey Measurements	T,TH 5:00-6:15
Inference from Complex Surveys	W 4:30-7:10
Survey Management	W 4:30-7:10

For additional information, please contact JPSM at (301) 314-7911.

### New Course in Establishment Surveys

The USDA Graduate School will offer a course "Topics in Establishment Surveys" beginning January 19 from 6:00-8:00 PM for 10 weeks. Drawing on the materials from the International Conference on Establishment Surveys, key researchers will lead discussions in the area. For further information, please call Gabriela Sheppard at (202) 690-1425.

### Master's of Science in Statistics for Policy Analysis

The American University Department of Mathematics and Statistics proudly announces a new program to begin during the Fall 1995 Semester: Master's of Science in Statistics for Policy Analysis. Applications are now being accepted. Deadline is May 1 for Fall 1995 admission. Interested students may register as nondegree and take courses during the Spring 1995 Semester to be transferred later into the degree program. For more information, please contact the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at (202) 885-3120 or e-mail: [mathstat@american.edu](mailto:mathstat@american.edu).

## 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.

### Vacancies

#### Statistician

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation HIV/Research Program is recruiting for a position in their Behavioral Prevention Program (BPP) to assist senior staff with: sample size calculations, randomization, design and maintenance of databases, statistical analysis on research protocols, and writing of statistical methods and results. An MS in statistics, biostatistics, or in related field with at least 3 years of working in a research environment is required. SAS experience in the analyses of large databases, knowledge of SPSS as well as knowledge/experience of the MACs is highly desirable. Interested individuals should forward a resume, cover letter, and a list of three references to: Human Resource Department, Position #PL4940352/Dr. Ayah E. Johnson, The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600, Rockville MD 20852. (The Foundation is an AA/EOE.)

## Help Wanted

WSS is searching for several people who would like to be newsletter editors.

This is a position for anyone who would like to be up-to-date about the statistics community in Washington. This will be an exciting time for *WSS News* since many new efforts are underway including electronic distribution of the newsletter and broadcast faxing of the *WSS Calendar*.

If you would like more information, contact Theresa Hallquist at (202) 586-2051.

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