



# WSS NEWS

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# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WSS
- 9 SEMINAR
- 10 CONFERENCE
- 11 SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES
- 16 WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!
- 18 SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!
- 19 WORKSHOP & SHORT COURSES
- 25 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
- 26 WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS
- 31 FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WSS**

### **WSS President's Invited Seminar 2017**

#### **Census Bureau Director John H. Thompson**

**April 25, 2017, 12:30-2pm**

At Mathematica,

1100 1st Street, NE, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20002

Details to be announced soon, Reception to follow

Director Thompson had a distinguished career as statistician and executive at the Census Bureau from 1975 to 2002, before joining NORC. As an Associate Director, he was the senior career executive responsible for all aspects of the 2000 Census. Prior to that, Thompson served as Chief of the Decennial Management Division. He worked in the Statistical Support Division from 1987 to 1995 and the Statistical Methods Division from 1975 to 1987.

Thompson served as President and CEO of NORC at the University of Chicago from 2008 until 2013. He served as the independent research organization's Executive Vice President from 2002 to 2008. John H. Thompson was sworn in as the 24th Census Bureau Director on Aug. 8, 2013.

As Director, Thompson oversees preparations for the 2020 Census and presides over more than 100 other censuses and surveys, which measure America's people, places and economy, and provide the basis for crucial economic indicators such as the unemployment rate.

Upon being confirmed, Thompson said: "As America forges its data-driven future, the Census Bureau must lead the way by tracking emerging trends, developing more efficient processes and embracing new technologies for planning and executing the surveys it conducts that are so important to the nation. A culture of innovation and adaptability will allow the Census Bureau to serve the public's needs and meet the challenges of this dynamic new environment."

A longtime leader in the social science research community, Thompson is an elected fellow of the American Statistical Association and past chair of the association's Social Statistics Section and Committee on Fellows. He served as a member of the Committee on National Statistics at the National Academy of Sciences. He participated as a member of the CNSTAT Panel on the design of the 2010 Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments, and the Panel to Review the 2010 Census. He holds both a BS and MS degree in mathematics from Virginia Tech.

<https://www.census.gov/about/leadership.html>

Past WSS President's Invited Seminar speakers include

- 2016 Frauke Freuter, JPSM, University of Mannheim, and Institute for Employment Research
- 2014 Mike Brick, Westat and JPSM
- 2013 Constance Citro, Committee on National Statistics, NAS/NRC
- 2012 Katherine Wallman, OMB
- 2011 Murray Aitkin, University of Melbourne

## 2017 WSS Election Announcement

In accordance with the WSS bylaws, we are announcing the slate of nominees for the upcoming 2017 election. The election is scheduled to occur in May. It will be open for approximately two weeks.

The nominees for each position are listed in alphabetical order.

Candidates other than those proposed by the Nominating and Election Committee may be nominated by petition of at least 2 percent of the members, and must be submitted at least two weeks prior to when the election begins. Petitioned names should be submitted to the **Past-President, Chris Moriarity, at [cdm7@cdc.gov](mailto:cdm7@cdc.gov).**

### For President-elect (2 nominees)

#### **Jana Asher, AABB**

Jana Asher is a survey methodologist and statistical consultant at AABB, a non-profit membership-based professional society for transfusion medicine and cellular therapies. Her prior professional background includes two years teaching at Montgomery College (2013-2015), two years as the Executive Director of a non-profit statistical consultation and research organization (2009-2011), and over a decade as a consultant to multiple nongovernmental and governmental agencies, including the American Bar Association, U.S. Census Bureau, Office for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations, and multiple truth and reconciliation commissions (2000-2015). She began her career as a Mathematical Statistician for the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Branch of the U.S. Census Bureau (1999-2000). Within the American Statistical Association, she has been on the Joint Statistical Meetings Program Committee twice, once representing the Section on Government Statistics (2004) and once representing the Social Statistics Section (2008). She has served on several ASA Committees and was a founding member of the Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship Committee. She has organized multiple JSM sessions, served on many international and national governmental review committees and expert panels, and published multiple peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. Her relevant areas of expertise include Bayesian hierarchical modeling, multiple systems estimation, complex survey sample design and weighting, and questionnaire design for multi-cultural/multi-language populations, populations in developing countries, and highly educated populations (i.e., scientists and medical doctors). She holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Statistics from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.A. in Anthropology and Japanese Studies from Wellesley College. She has received multiple awards and is a Fellow of the ASA and an Elected Member of the International Statistical Institutes.

#### **Tom Krenzke, Westat**

Tom Krenzke, an Associate Director of Westat's Statistical Staff, has over 25 years of experience in survey sampling and estimation techniques. He seeks to serve by facilitating and highlighting the many ways that WSS uses to bring statisticians and future statisticians together in our community, and by building off each other's thoughts and solutions toward making the U.S. a better-informed place. During his career, Tom has supported the ASA and WSS in different roles. For the ASA, currently he is serving as Program Chair and Program

Chair-elect (2016-2017) for the Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS), and as appointed member of the ASA Committee on Privacy and Confidentiality (2015-2017). Tom was also co-editor of the SRMS newsletter (2000-2003). For the WSS, as at-large representative (2014-2016), he has served on the Mentoring Subcommittee of WSS and has provided mentorship to several statisticians, both at Westat and in other settings. He also helped coordinate the WSS member Spotlight articles. From 2007-2013, Tom was chair of the WSS Curtis Jacobs award committee that provides middle school and high school students the opportunity for recognition. Tom has numerous publications and conducted many international and national presentations and workshops on statistical disclosure control and sampling topics. He also leads a Westat Steering Committee relating to data dissemination, Westat's Confidentiality Work Group and he serves on the Westat Institutional Review Board. Prior to Westat, he worked for 6 years at the U.S. Census Bureau.

### **For Methodology Program Chair-elect (2 nominees)**

#### **John Abowd, U.S. Census Bureau**

John M. Abowd is Associate Director for Research and Methodology and Chief Scientist at the Census Bureau and the Edmund Ezra Day Professor of Economics, Professor of Statistics and Information Science at Cornell University. He is also Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (on leave), Research Affiliate at the Centre de Recherche en Economie et Statistique (CREST, Paris, France), Research Fellow at the Institute for Labor Economics (IZA, Bonn, Germany), and Research Fellow at IAB (Institut für Arbeitsmarkt-und Berufsforschung, Nürnberg, Germany). He is the past President (2014-2015) and Fellow of the Society of Labor Economists; past Chair (2013) of the Business and Economic Statistics Section and Fellow of the American Statistical Association; elected member of the International Statistical Institute; and a fellow of the Econometric Society. He has served as Distinguished Senior Research Fellow at the United States Census Bureau (1998-2016) and on the National Academies' Committee on National Statistics (2010-2016). He currently serves on the American Economic Association's Committee on Economic Statistics (2013-2018). He was the Director of the Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER) from 1999 to 2007. His current research focuses on the creation, dissemination, privacy protection, and use of linked, longitudinal data on employees and employers.

#### **Yulei He, National Center for Health Statistics**

Dr. Yulei He has been serving as the Chief of the Statistical Research and Survey Design Branch at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) since past year. Prior to his tenure at NCHS, he had worked as an associate professor of biostatistics in Harvard Medical School. His areas of interest include survey statistics, missing data analysis, Bayesian statistics, and health outcomes and services research. He has authored or coauthored more than 70 publications covering a wide a variety of topics in both statistics and subject-matter fields. He is on editorial boards of multiple statistical journals such as *Statistics in Medicine* and *Statistical Methods in Medical Research*, and has reviewed for numerous journals. Yulei has supported the WSS and the ASA in several capacities, including being the advisory member of the methodology section and program committee of the WSS and being the program chair in ASA Health Policy Statistics Section. He greatly appreciates this opportunity for allowing him to continue serving WSS. He has a Ph.D in biostatistics from University of Michigan.

**For Representative At-Large (2 positions, 4 nominees)****Abhik Das, RTI International**

Abhik Das, a Senior Research Statistician at RTI International, specializes in the modeling, analysis, and interpretation of public health data. He is a practicing biostatistician actively engaged in the design of intervention studies, including randomized clinical trials, with extensive experience in neonatology, maternal and child health, and substance abuse, among other areas of health research. Dr. Das has helped conduct research in neonatal and neurodevelopment morbidities in premature babies, fetal alcohol effects, and longitudinal effects of prenatal substance abuse on child development trajectories. He has also collaborated on cluster-randomized trials to reduce adolescent pregnancies and intervention studies of maternal-infant nutrition in developing countries and conducted methodological research in correlated data analyses. He plays a leadership role in several federally funded data coordinating centers conducting public health research, applying statistics to improving evidence based clinical care. He received his Ph.D. in Biostatistics from The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health (1998), and has been a member of the American Statistical Association since 1992. He feels that this is a critical time to be a statistician engaged in federally funded research that provides unbiased evidence to improve quality of life. Dr. Das would like to give back to the statistical profession by promoting mentoring and collaboration to demystify our field.

**Theresa Kim, PhD candidate at the University of Maryland**

Theresa Kim, MS (Biostatistics, University of Washington 2006), PhD (candidate in Health Services, University of Maryland 2017), is a public health researcher with 16 years' experience, including four years in reproductive, maternal, and child health, four years in program evaluation, and 15 years in statistical research methods. She is presently applying her comprehensive statistics background to addressing sexual health outcomes such as family planning use and fertility intentions among United States minority and West African populations at the University of Maryland where she is also a student research affiliate with the Maryland Population Research Center. Ms. Kim has presented research findings at conferences such as JSM and APHA. She is an expert at handling nationally representative data. She has worked in a variety of organizations, collaborating with multisite research institutions, state governments, and federal agencies on health behavior research. She has also conducted program evaluations for the Gates Foundation- and the US Department of State-funded programs. In addition to WSS, Ms. Kim is also a member of Population Association of America, American Public Health Association, AcademyHealth, and Global Health Council. In her spare time, she enjoys bicycling, swimming, and baking with her son, volunteering with her college (Bryn Mawr), and walking around Brookside Gardens.

**Lisa Mirel, National Center for Health Statistics**

Lisa B. Mirel is the Chief of the Special Projects Branch in the Office of Analysis and Epidemiology at the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). She has also held positions as a Survey Statistician at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Government Accountability Office, and as part of the Division of Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys at NCHS. Her work has primarily

focused on linking surveys and administrative records and sample design and estimation. She is a member of WSS and ASA. She received her Masters of Science degree in Biostatistics from the University of Michigan.

**Makram Talih, National Center for Health Statistics**

Makram Talih holds a Ph.D. in Statistics (2003) from Yale University. From 2003 to 2012, he was on the faculty of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics as well as the Program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Hunter College of the City University of New York (CUNY). He initially came to NCHS in early 2011 on a sabbatical leave from CUNY. Since, he has stayed on to develop statistical methods for measuring and tracking health-related inequalities. He presently serves as Associate Director for Science for the Office of Analysis and Epidemiology (OAE) at NCHS and is responsible for the initiation, monitoring, and oversight of OAE and NCHS research projects. He also served as ASA Council of Sections representative on the Continuing Education Evaluation Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Continuing Education for the 2015–2017 Joint Statistical Meetings.

**For Secretary (1 nominee)**

**Will Cecere, Westat**

Will Cecere is a Senior Statistician at Westat and has been there 4 years working on sampling, weighting, disclosure control, and other tasks across a variety of surveys including health, education, transportation, veteran's affairs, and crime. In addition to his regular work as a statistician, he enjoys coordinating guest speakers for the statistics group and experimenting with different statistical graphics software and techniques. Previously, he worked at the National Agricultural Statistics Service as a Mathematical Statistician in their research division, primarily working on nonresponse, cluster analysis, and small area estimation techniques. Will's research interests include nonresponse modeling, machine learning methods, disclosure control, sample design, and small area estimation. He is currently involved in the role of organizing and conducting the WSS-ASA K-12 Student Poster competition. He received a M.S. in Statistics from Virginia Tech in 2004.

~ Chris Moriarity  
WWS Past-President

## **Welcome New ASA Members!**

The following new ASA/WSS members were identified in the most recent update of the WSS email list in February:

Jonathan Chipman  
John Cobb  
N. Maritza Dowling  
Leanne Goldstein  
Edward Herranz  
Gaurav Sharma  
Imani Stutely  
Ashley Thompson  
Delia Codruta Voronca

Welcome to WSS!

Mike Larsen, WSS President

Chris Moriarity, WSS Past President

Linda Young, WSS President Elect



## SEMINAR

### PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC

**Title:** How to Avoid Some Common Graphical Mistakes

**Date/Time:** April 20, 2017  
4:00-5:30 p.m.

Informal reception to follow at East Street Café at Union Station

**Speaker:** Naomi B. Robbins, NBR

**Chair:** Kathleen Robens, Montgomery Blair High School

**Sponsors:** WSS Statistics Education Committee and WSS Methodology Section

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Rooms 9/10 (Please check board in case of change of room)

BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station. Parking in the area of BLS is available at Union Station. For parking information see <http://www.unionstationdc.com/parking>. No validation is available from BLS for reduced parking rates.

**RSVP:** To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) (underscore after 'wss') by noon on Tuesday, April 18. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar.

**Abstract:** Good graphs are extremely powerful tools for communicating quantitative information clearly and accurately. Unfortunately, many of the graphs we see today are poor graphs that confuse, mislead or deceive the reader. This talk will describe a number of graphical mistakes and provide guidance for avoiding them.

Note: The talk will be understandable to a wide audience, including high school and college students and faculty members, with only a knowledge of introductory statistics.

**POC email:** Carol Joyce Blumberg, [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com)

**No remote access will be available for this seminar**

## CONFERENCE

### **FFC/2017: The 22nd Federal Forecasters Conference The Potential for Big Data in Forecasting Thursday, April 20, 2017**

Big data coming from all sorts of new sources represents a new frontier in the data-driven analysis of social, physical, and economic trends. Clearly, there is potential for using big data to develop forecasts; however, many analysts are still more familiar with using traditional types of data and techniques to make forecasts and projections. As forecasters explore the potential for big data, there are important questions about the generalizability, specificity, and accessibility of these data and approaches that need to be answered. Please join us at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Federal Forecasters Conference where these and other forecasting questions will be discussed.

**Location:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center  
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20212

**Check-In:** 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**Schedule:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

(Plenary and concurrent session schedule to follow)

**Register Online By:****April 10, 2017**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/federal-forecasters-conference-ffc2017-tickets-29076763382>

There is no charge for participation

**Panelists:**

**Dr. Michael Horrigan**, Associate Commissioner for Employment and Unemployment, Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Dr. Krishna Rao**, Director, Economic Product & Research of Zillow

**Dr. Tara Sinclair**, Associate Professor of Economics and International Affairs, The George Washington University and Senior Fellow at Indeed

## SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

### The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize For Outstanding Statistics Project

==> **Deadline is Friday, May 26, 2017** <==

#### OPPORTUNITY

The Curtis Jacobs Award for outstanding statistics project is an opportunity for fun, experience, and recognition – great for college applications and teacher development. It aims to encourage middle school and high school students to gain an understanding of the design of statistical studies and their uses. One of the intents of the award is to bring awareness and reward to school teachers.



#### AWARDS



#### 1st Place Award: (Middle School and High School Divisions)

- |                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Students           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cash prize of \$100 per entry;</li> <li>■ Complimentary invitation to Washington Statistical Society's annual dinner usually held in late June.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Teacher or Advisor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Invitation to American Statistical Association's (ASA) special Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) with registration, commute, and meal expenses paid (up to a pre-set limit). Likely held in August 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland;</li> <li>■ Complimentary invitation to the WSS annual dinner usually held in late June;</li> <li>■ A plaque;</li> </ul> |
| School             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ One-year free school membership to the American Statistical Association (ASA).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## HELP AVAILABLE

To assist interested teachers, Washington area statisticians are available to visit interested classes to discuss types of projects and survey sampling. For more information on the Curtis Jacobs Award, teachers may contact Brian W. Sloboda at [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov). An available source of information on surveys is the series of pamphlets: *What is a Survey?* (<http://www.whatisasurvey.info/>) published by the American Statistical Association.

### Submitting a Project

**Eligibility:** The competition is open to students who attend a high school or middle school in the Washington, D.C. area who have not previously won the award. For students enrolled at a school, a school teacher or a school advisor needs to oversee the project. For students enrolled in home based learning, the instructor (parent or tutor) needs to oversee the project.

**Rules:** Students may work individually or in teams of up to four students. Subject matter is the choice of the participants. The students must collect original data and submit an approximately five-page typed report that includes an introduction, research questions or hypotheses, data collection and analysis methods, and conclusions. A copy of the data and questionnaire (or data collection form) must be enclosed with the project report. Individual schools are responsible for implementing informed consent policies involving data collection on persons younger than 18 years old. Entries become the property of the Washington Statistical Society and cannot be returned.

**Types of Projects:** The project should involve the design of a statistical study (preferably a survey) as a way of gathering information for making decisions, as a way to make comparisons among groups, or as a way of analyzing trends over time. **Note that science fair projects involving data collection and statistical analysis are often eligible for this competition; students are strongly encouraged to simply submit the associated report for a science fair project as an entry.** Two examples of data that students might collect are expenses associated with automobiles and money earned in part-time jobs held by classmates.

**Steps:** The steps involved in a typical project will include those found in many surveys or other statistical studies: define the objectives and the population of interest; determine an appropriate method of random sample selection and/or data collection approach; develop a questionnaire or data collection instrument; select a random sample and collect data; process completed questionnaires or data collection forms; analyze data and interpret results; and finally write a report.

**Judging:** Each entry will be judged according to the following criteria: creativity in the choice of topic and objectives; understanding of the steps needed to conduct a statistical analysis and how well those steps are executed; definition of the population; utilization of an appropriate sample selection methodology; thoughtfulness of the data collection (i.e., survey questions); analysis of the data and interpretation of study results; and the overall quality of the written report. Entries will be judged by members of the Washington Statistical Society.

**Submitting a Project: The deadline for entry is Friday, May 26, 2017.** To compete for the award, submit a pdf copy of the entry form (see reverse) and an approximately five-page typed report (with the questionnaire, if applicable, and the data attached) to: [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov).

Alternatively, submit a hard copy to:

Brian W Sloboda  
Curtis Jacobs Entry  
8710 Cameron Street, Unit 409  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

After the submission deadline, an email will be sent confirming our receipt of your submission.

### **Background on the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize**

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize was established in 1991 to honor the memory of a former statistician of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mr. Jacobs served as the chief statistician on many major Federal economic statistics programs, including the Consumer Price Index, which measures the rate of inflation in the American economy. The innovations he introduced are good examples of the practical uses of statistics and mathematics in improving the collection of data needed to inform public policy.



**Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project  
2015-2016**

Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society  
and the American Statistical Association

***Entry Form***

Please print clearly or type

Title of Project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student name(s) on team: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student/Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Teacher's name overseeing project: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email completed form to [bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu](mailto:bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu) or [Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov](mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov) or mail to the address shown below.

Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **Friday, May 26, 2016.**

Brian W Sloboda  
Curtis Jacobs Entry  
8710 Cameron Street, Unit 409  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## **WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!**



# Washington Statistical Society

## Member Spotlight

*Introducing your fellow members and showcasing the diversity of the WSS membership*



### Meet WSS Member Wendy Martinez...

**1. Where do you work and what do you do?**

I work at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). I am the Director of the Mathematical Statistics Research Center. My group conducts research to improve the accuracy of survey data and published estimates and to provide general mathematical statistics support to the BLS.

**2. What attracted you to your current position?**

I worked at the Department of Defense for over 20 years before I came to the BLS. My former agency was undergoing a reduction-in-force, so I decided it was time for a change. This position at the BLS seemed very exciting and challenging. It was an opportunity to lead people and also to do my own research.

**3. Finish this sentence: “I joined WSS ....”**

to network with my fellow statisticians and to take advantage of WSS events, such as seminars and short courses.

**4. What was your first job?**

My first job was with the Bell Telephone Company before they broke up. I was a service representative handling billing and orders for businesses.

**5. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?**

I would like to be a medical examiner because it involves solving problems and puzzles. However, it is probably not a good choice because I do not like the sight of blood.

**6. If you could have dinner with 3 people from history, who would they be?**

I would like to have dinner with Jesus Christ. I would ask him to “Tell me more about your Dad.” My second choice is Abraham Lincoln. He is an excellent example of a leader, and I would just like to give him a hug. It was hard to come up with a third choice because there are so many. I finally settled on Grace Hopper, since we both worked for the U.S. Navy, and she is a wonderful role model. I would ask her to tell me about her early professional years – what it was like being a woman during that time and how it was during the war years.

**7. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?**

I like all foods, for the most part. However, I would have to say that my favorite type of food is Indian.

**8. How do you like to spend your free time away from work?**

I like to spend my free time reading and traveling.

**9. What is your greatest accomplishment?**

My greatest accomplishment is raising two wonderful children.

**10. Describe yourself in three words...**

Optimistic, curious, and energetic.

## **SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!**

### **Washington Statistical Society's Spotlight on Members Program**

The WSS Board of Directors has established a program to highlight members who have made or are making notable contributions to the work of their organization or their professional field of expertise. We know that WSS members are doing interesting work in the fields of statistics, survey methodology, and the social sciences. Through this program, we hope to spotlight the accomplishments of our fellow WSS members.

This is our first request for nominations, to be featured in an upcoming issue of WSS News. We are interested in featuring members at all levels of the employment spectrum including recent graduates, mid-career employees, and those seasoned veterans.

Please feel free to nominate more than one person or a team working together. You may also nominate yourself as well. The nominees must be members of the WSS and not currently affiliated with the Board.

Please provide us with the following information about your nominee or nominees.

1. Your name, email address, and telephone number
2. Name or names of nominee(s)
3. Organizational affiliation
4. Job title
5. Their contact information including email address and telephone number
6. A brief narrative describing the reasons for your nomination
7. A photo of the nominee, although not required, would be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to, Wendy Barboza (Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

## **WORKSHOPS & SHORT COURSES**

### **JPSM Short Courses**

#### **Nonprobability Survey Samples**

**APRIL 14, 2017 (1-Day Course)**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC**

Presented by Courtney Kennedy

**Payment and Registration Due March 31, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=041417](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=041417)

#### **Introduction to Survey Estimation**

**MAY 1-2, 2017**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC**

Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee

**Payment and Registration Due April 17, 2017**

[https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html\\_content.cfm?CourseID=050117](https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=050117)

## **WSS Short Course Communicating Data Clearly**

**April 21, 2017  
9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Dr. Naomi Robbins**

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Conference rooms 1-3, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

***Communicating Data Clearly*** describes how to draw clear, concise, accurate graphs that are easier to understand than many of the graphs one sees today. The course emphasizes how to avoid common mistakes that produce confusing or even misleading graphs. Graphs for one, two, three, and many variables are covered as well as general principles for creating effective graphs. This short course will cover principles and methods of effective graphs. It is software agnostic and does not include software training.

### **About the Instructor:**

Naomi B. Robbins is a seminar leader and consultant who specializes in the graphical display of data. She trains corporations and organizations on the effective presentation of data. She also reviews documents and presentations for clients, suggesting improvements or alternative presentations as appropriate. She is the author of *Creating More Effective Graphs* who recently served as Chair of the Statistical Graphics Section of the American Statistical Association. Dr. Robbins received her Ph.D. in Mathematical Statistics from Columbia University, M.A. from Cornell University, and A.B. from Bryn Mawr College. She had a long career at Bell Laboratories before forming NBR, her consulting practice.

### **Course Schedule:**

8:15 - 9:00	Coffee, breakfast, and check in
9:00 - 9:25	<b>Introduction</b>
	Introductions
	Pie chart/dot plot quiz
	What we mean by an effective graph

- 9:25 – 9:55     **Limitations of some common graph forms**  
 Pie charts  
 Charts with pseudo-3D effect  
 Stacked bar charts  
 Difference between curves  
 Area or bubble charts  
 Gauges  
 Donut charts
- 9:55 – 10:05    Break
- 10:05 – 10:35   **Human perception and our ability to decode graphs**  
 Sequential vs. pre-attentive processing  
 Gestalt laws  
 Cleveland's hierarchy
- 10:35 – 11:15   **Newer and more effective graphs in one and two dimensions**  
 Dot charts  
 Order in charts  
 Logarithmic scales  
 Box plots  
 Jittering  
 Strip plots  
 Smoothing  
 Sparklines  
 Bullet graphs  
 Time series  
 Four ways to plot time series  
 Components of a time series  
 Month or cycle plots
- 11:15 – 11:25    Break
- 11:25 – 11:55   **Newer and more effective graphs in three or more dimensions**  
 Trellis Displays  
 Scatterplot matrices  
 Mosaic plots  
 Parallel coordinate plots  
 Linked micromaps
- 11:55 – 12:15   **Plotting Likert and other rating scales**  
 What is wrong with most of the ways rating scales are plotted now?
- 12:15 – 1:15     Lunch (provided)
- 1:15 – 2:30     **General principles for creating effective graphs**  
 Visual clarity  
 Clear understanding of what is graphed
- 2:30 – 2:40     Break

- 2:40 – 3:20    **Scales**  
Must zero be included?  
When to use logarithmic scales  
Scale breaks  
Using two different scales (double-Y axes)
- 3:20 – 4:00    **Choosing colors for graphs**  
ColorBrewer color schemes  
Color Vision Deficiencies  
Simulating how those with color vision deficiencies will see figure  
Consideration of reproduction
- 4:00 - 4:10    Break
- 4:10 – 4:30    **Turning tables into graphs**  
Obesity example
- 4:30 – 5:00    **Before and after examples**  
**Q&A**

**Advance registration:**

In addition to your RSVP here, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-communicating-data-clearly-tickets-31258112857> to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on April 17, 2017; earlier if the course fills up.

**Registration Fee:**

Full-time students (at most 8): \$52.24 advance, \$72.24 at the door  
WSS members: \$164.99 advance, \$184.99 at the door  
All others: \$216.24 advance, \$246.24 at the door

**Contact person:**

Yang Cheng, 301-763-3287, yang.cheng@census.gov

# Emmes Short Course

## **Course Title:** Practical Bayesian Computation using SAS

**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2017

**Time:** 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

**Instructor:** Dr. Fang Chen (FangK.Chen@sas.com)

**Place:** The Emmes Corporation, 401 N Washington Street, Suite 700, Rockville MD 20850

This course will also be available for remote participants through webinar.

## **Course Content:**

This three-part tutorial reviews the basic concepts of Bayesian inference and introduces Bayesian computation in SAS. The objectives are to familiarize statistical programmers and practitioners with the essentials of Bayesian computing, and to equip them with computational tools through a series of worked-out examples that demonstrate sound practices for a variety of statistical models and Bayesian concepts.

The first part of the tutorial provides an introduction to Bayesian inference, covers the fundamentals of prior distributions and concepts in estimation. The tutorial will also cover MCMC methods and related simulation techniques, emphasizing the interpretation of convergence diagnostics in practice.

The second part of the tutorial discusses applications using Bayesian capabilities in SAS/STAT software in the GENMOD, LIFEREG, and PHREG procedures. Examples will include methods such as linear regression, generalized linear models, and survival analysis.

The third part of the tutorial starts with an in-depth introduction to the general simulation procedure PROC MCMC and moves on to demonstrate its use with a series of applications. The presentation takes a topic-driven approach to cover broad Bayesian topics, such as random-effects models, sensitivity analysis, prediction, PK models, model assessment, and missing data problems.

## **About the Instructor:**

**Fang Chen** is a Senior Manager of Bayesian Statistical Modeling in Advanced Analytics Division at SAS Institute Inc. Among his responsibilities are development of Bayesian analysis software and MCMC procedure. He has written about Bayesian modeling using the MCMC procedure and taught continuing education course on Bayesian computation at JSM. Prior to joining SAS Institute, he received his PhD in statistics from Carnegie Mellon University in 2004.

## Course Schedule:

<b>8:15 - 9:00</b>	Coffee, breakfast, and check in
<b>9:00 - 10:30</b>	Introduction to Bayes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Prior Distribution and Concepts in Estimation</li></ul>
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	Break
<b>10:45 - 11:30</b>	Bayesian Procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SAS SAS/STAT capabilities in the GENMOD, LIFEREG, and PHREG</li></ul>
<b>11:30-12:00</b>	Introduction to PROC MCMC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Simulation</li></ul>
<b>12:00-1:30</b>	Lunch (on your own)
<b>1:30-2:30</b>	Applications using PROC MCMC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Random-effects models, sensitivity analysis, prediction, PK models, model assessment, and missing data problems</li></ul>

## Advance registration:

There are limited seating for in-person attendance. Please click one of the following links to register:

- On-site attendee registration: <https://www.cvent.com/c/express/71ee83bf-8709-4aff-ade1-da4bec59b22a>
- Webinar registration: <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/othtbkhlm2kj&eom>

Registration will close on April 14, 2017; earlier if the course fills up.

WSS membership information: <http://washstat.org/joinus.html>

## Contact person:

Gaurav Sharma 301-251-1161 ([gsharma@emmes.com](mailto:gsharma@emmes.com))



## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

### **NAPHSIS (National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Services)**

#### **Executive Director**

Vetted Solutions has been retained to assist NAPHSIS (National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems) in recruiting an Executive Director. Headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland, NAPHSIS is the national membership organization representing vital records and vital statistics offices and professionals in the United States.

Founded in 1933, NAPHSIS' mission is to provide national leadership for both vital records and related information systems to establish and protect individual identity and improve population health.

The Executive Director oversees governance and business operations for this \$2.2 million organization with a staff of 7 representing more than 250 organization members who are vital records and vital statistics professionals from 57 jurisdictions including each state, the five U.S. territories, New York City and the District of Columbia. The Executive Director works in concert with the Board and staff to ensure that NAPHSIS' mission is fulfilled through strategic planning, advocacy, data management systems, and member services.

The successful candidate will have a Bachelor's degree, and at least 5 years' experience with evolving areas of informatics, vital records/statistics programs, health information systems management or other closely related fields. In addition, expertise dealing with government departments such as the Centers for Disease Control and other public health agencies is essential, as well as experience with federal funding and grant management.

NAPHSIS seeks a candidate who understands the changing role of vital records and statistics as driven by technology, user needs and societal change—who can capitalize on this dynamic environment to develop relevant programs and services for members and key stakeholders. A strong communicator, the next Executive Director will work with members across 57 jurisdictions to speak with one voice on behalf of the vital records community.

<http://www.vettedolutions.com/searches.html#search220>

The full position profile is available at  
<http://www.vettedolutions.com/Profiles/NAPHSIS%20Position%20Profile.pdf>.

To submit a resume and cover letter, or to find further details regarding specific requirements and desired attributes important for this position, contact

Vetted Solutions at +1 202 544 4749.

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## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the **May, 2017** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **25<sup>th</sup>** of **preceding month**.

Email items to [wss.editor@gmail.com](mailto:wss.editor@gmail.com).

The authors are responsible for verifying the contents of their submissions. Submissions requiring extensive revisions on length and/or contents will be returned. Announcements with track changes will not be accepted.

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