



# WSS NEWS

---

# WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 URGENT
- 4 WSS SHORT COURSES
- 11 SEMINARS
- 15 CONFERENCES
- 20 SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES
- 27 WSS MEMBERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!
- 30 SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!
- 31 STUDENT CORNER
- 33 CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
- 35 WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS
- 40 FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

**URGENT!****SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR THE  
WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Later this spring, the WSS will hold its annual election for several positions on the Board of Directors. If you want to learn more about the activities of WSS, please consider running for office - it's a great way to serve the membership, hone your leadership skills, and network and socialize with colleagues.

For the 2018 election the open positions are

**President-Elect (at least two nominees)**

- for July 2018 to June 2019
- to serve as President July 2019 to June 2020 and Past-President July 2020 to June 2021

**Treasurer (at least one nominee)**

- for July 2018 to June 2020

**Two Representatives-at-Large (at least four nominees)**

- for July 2018 to June 2020

**Communications Officer (at least two nominees)**

- for July 2018 to June 2020

**Methodology Program Chair (at least two nominees)**

- for July 2018 to June 2019
- to serve as Methodology Section Chair July 2019 to June 2020

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2018 election, nominees for President-Elect will be from the government sector. For any other position, nominations may come from either the government or non-government sectors.

For all of the positions listed above, we heartily welcome nominations from any member of the Washington Statistical Society (self-nominations encouraged as well).

Please e-mail any names to President-elect Tom Krenzke ([tomkrenzke@westat.com](mailto:tomkrenzke@westat.com)) by **February 15, 2018** for consideration by the WSS nominations committee.

Continuing Board members for 2018-19 will be:

- Past-President: Linda Young, NASS
- President: Tom Krenzke, Westat
- Secretary: Will Cecere, Westat
- At-large: Theresa Kim, Maryland Population Research Center; Lisa Mirel, CDC/NCHS
- Methodology Section Chair: John Abowd, Census Bureau
- Council of Chapters Representative (until December 31, 2018): Dhuly Chowdhury, RTI

Duties of board members can be found in the WSS handbook, available online at: <http://washstat.org/documents/WSSHandbookv3.pdf>

## **WSS SHORT COURSES**

### **Adaptive Design: Overview, Hurdles, and Examples**

**April 3, 2018 (Rescheduled)**

**9:00 am – 3:30 pm**

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

**Dr. Christopher Coffey**

#### **Course Content:**

In recent years, there has been substantial interest in the use of adaptive or novel randomized trial designs. Adaptive clinical trial designs provide the flexibility to adjust aspects of the design of a clinical trial based on data reviewed at interim stages. Although there are a large number of proposed adaptations, all generally share the common characteristic that they allow for some design modifications during an ongoing trial. Unfortunately, the rapid proliferation of research on adaptive designs, and inconsistent use of terminology, has created confusion about the similarities, and more importantly, the differences among the techniques. Furthermore, the implementation of adaptive designs to date does not seem consistent with the increasing attention provided to these designs in the statistical literature. This course will attempt to clarify some of the confusion surrounding the use of these methods, as well as provide examples where they have been used in the past. The course will provide some clarification on the topic and describe some of the more commonly proposed adaptive designs. The course will also provide a more in-depth discussion of the theory and implementation of adaptive designs in real-world settings. The presenter will draw from several recent examples of studies implementing adaptive designs, and attempt to address the strengths and weakness of the approaches used. Finally, the course will focus on some specific barriers that impede the use of adaptive designs in the current environment, summarize the results of a couple of recently completed surveys to assess the interest and attitudes of the clinical trials community in general with respect to adaptive designs, and discuss future work that is needed in order to ensure that investigators can achieve the promised benefits of adaptive designs.

#### **About the Instructor:**

Dr. Coffey joined the faculty at the University of Iowa in fall 2009 as a Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and became the Director of the CTSDMC in August 2010. He received his PhD in biostatistics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999 and has nearly 20 years of experience providing data management and statistical support to clinical trials. Dr. Coffey serves as the PI of the DCC for several large clinical studies, including the NINDS-funded NeuroNEXT Network. Dr. Coffey also serves as the head of the Statistics Core for the Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative, and is co-PI of the NINDS-funded Clinical Trials Methodology in Neurology short course. Dr. Coffey has served as the primary

statistician for multi-site trials in Huntington's disease, hypertension, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, obesity, pediatric migraine, spinal muscular atrophy, stroke, and traumatic brain injury. He is a past member of the NINDS NSD-K clinical trials study section, a Fellow of both the Society Clinical Trials and American Statistical Association, serves on a number of Data and Safety Monitoring Boards. Dr. Coffey has published extensively in the areas of adaptive designs, missing data, model validation, and general clinical trial design.

**Course Schedule:**

8:15 - 9:00 Coffee, breakfast, and check in

9:00 - 9:15 **Introduction & Welcome**

9:15 - 9:45 **Overview of Adaptive Designs**

9:45 - 10:30 **Types of Adaptive Designs - "Learning Stage" Adaptations**

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 - 12:00 **Types of Adaptive Designs - "Confirming Stage" Adaptations**

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 - 1:45 **Types of Adaptive Designs - "Confirming Stage" Adaptations (cont.)**

1:45 - 2:15 **Good Practices & Barriers for Use of Adaptive Designs**

2:15 - 2:30 Break

2:30 - 3:15 **Surveys on Use of Adaptive Designs**

3:15 - 3:30 **Course Summary & Open Discussion**

**Advance registration:** In addition to your RSVP here, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-adaptive-design-overview-hurdles-and-examples-tickets-38586435066> to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on March 29, 2017; earlier if the course fills up.

**Registration Fee:**

Full-time students (at most 8): \$62.49 advance, \$80 at the door

WSS members: \$185.49 advance, \$200 at the door

All others: \$216.24 advance, \$240 at the door

**Contact person:** Yang Cheng, 301-763-3287, yang.cheng@census.gov

## **The Utility of Commercial Data for Survey Operations and Estimation: Example; from the National Survey of Family Growth**

**April 9, 2018 12:30 – 2:00 PM (ET)**

**Brady West, University of Michigan**

**Chair:** Tom Mule

**Sponsor:** WSS Data Collection

**Abstract:** The combination of declining response rates and increasing data collection costs has led to an increase in the use of responsive survey design strategies and consideration of alternative auxiliary data sources for improvement of survey data collection efficiency and post-survey nonresponse adjustments. Among the myriad sources of auxiliary data that might be appended to a sampling frame to support these efforts, commercial databases maintained by consumer marketing or credit scoring organizations have recently received some research attention, due to the rich amount of information that they make available for survey researchers. Unfortunately, the existing literature raises concerns about the quality of the information in these databases, and few studies to date have considered the ability of these auxiliary data sources to effectively predict survey outcomes, including household eligibility for a given survey, propensity to respond, and key survey measures of interest. Such studies are important to justify the costs of purchasing these commercial data for survey production purposes. In this seminar, I will examine the predictive ability of two alternative commercial databases offering different sets of auxiliary variables to survey researchers. Analyzing survey outcomes from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), we find that these commercial variables improve the fits of models predicting survey eligibility and selected NSFG variables, but that neither data source substantially improves models of response propensity that already include selected NSFG paradata. As a result, the inclusion of the commercial variables in nonresponse adjustments does not result in substantial shifts in selected NSFG estimates. These results suggest that commercial data can be useful for selected survey operations (e.g., identification of eligible households during screening), but may not be useful for post-survey nonresponse adjustment. Suggestions for practice and directions for future research will be provided in conclusion.

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 9

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 at least two days in advance of the seminar. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar. 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.

**WebEx:** WebEx event address:

<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m8a9d445ad56bfbaea5c1dd11d0a8cdc5>

**For audio:**

Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-745-4894 (US)

Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-8001 (US)

Attendee access code: 312 885 1

Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

## **Recent Advances in Handling Nonignorable Nonresponse**

**April 16, 2018 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ET)**

**Speakers: Jun Shao, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

**Chair:** Yang Cheng

**Sponsor:** WSS Methodology

**Abstract:** Nonignorable nonresponse presents a great challenge in statistical analysis since the nonresponse mechanism/propensity depends on missing data and it is often not identifiable without any further assumption or information about the population distribution and/or nonresponse propensity. In this presentation we introduce some recent developments in dealing with nonignorable nonresponse, including the use of nonresponse instrument in identifying the unknown population, the semiparametric pseudo likelihood estimation, and the parametric or semiparametric propensity approach. We also show some results on the selection of a parametric model or the determination of nonresponse instrumental variables, which is difficult and previously thought to be impossible because of the nonignorable nonresponse.

**Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Rooms 7 & 8

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 at least two days in advance of the seminar. Please bring a photo ID to the seminar. 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.

**WebEx:** WebEx event address:

<https://dol.webex.com/dol/j.php?MTID=m5ec312949e0f3be630f6fa5fe4860d78>

**For audio:**

Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-745-4894 (US)

Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-8001 (US)

Attendee access code: 312 885 1

Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.



## **Statistical Methods for Handling Missing Data**

**April 17, 2018**

**9:00 am – 4:30 pm**

**Dr. Jun Shao, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

### **Place:**

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Conference rooms 1-3, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC

### **Course Content:**

Missing data or nonrespondents exist in almost all survey problems. It creates difficulties in analyzing data, such as unbalancedness of data, loss of power or efficiency, and bias in estimation and inference when incomplete data are not suitably handled. This course will attempt to summarize some existing methods of treating incomplete data for correct and efficient statistical analysis. The course will provide an in-depth discussion of the motivation and justification of some commonly used methods with emphasize on how to make use of covariate information. The course will start with the simplest case where data are missing at random and then proceed to the more complicated and challenge problems of nonignorable nonresponse. The types of data with nonresponse range from simple univariate response to multivariate or longitudinal response with arbitrary nonresponse patterns. The problem of missing data in covariates or in both responses and covariates will also be addressed. Finally, this course covers variance estimation after handling nonrespondents.

### **About the Instructor:**

Dr. Shao received his PhD in statistics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987. He was a faculty member at Purdue University and University of Ottawa and joined the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in January 1994. Dr. Shao became a Professor in August 1996 and served as a chair of the Department of Statistics at the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2004-2009. He became a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics in 1996 and a Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 1999. Starting from 1996, Dr. Shao has worked with the U.S. Census Bureau for research problems with missing data and variance estimation. Dr. Shao has published extensively in the areas of analysis of incomplete data, variance estimation in survey data, resampling methods in inference, and clinical trials.

**Course Schedule:**

- 8:15 - 9:00 Coffee, breakfast, and check in
- 9:00 - 9:15 Introduction & Welcome
- 9:15 - 9:45 Overview and Missing Data Mechanisms
- 9:45 - 10:30 Methods of Handling Ignorable Missing Data: Analytic Methods and Weighting
- 10:30 - 10:45 Break
- 10:45-12:15 Methods of Handling Ignorable Missing Data: Imputation and Variance Estimation
- 12:15 - 1:15 Lunch (provided)
- 1:15 - 2:30 Methods of Handling Nonignorable Missing Data
- 2:30 - 2:45 Break
- 2:45 - 3:30 Longitudinal Data
- 3:30 - 4:00 Missing Data in Covariates
- 4:00 - 4:30 Course Summary & Open Discussion

**Advance registration:** In addition to your RSVP here, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wss-short-course-statistical-methods-for-handling-missing-data-tickets-42691469334> to register and pay for the class. Online registration will close on **April 12, 2018**; earlier if the course fills up.

**Registration Fee:**

- Full-time students (at most 8): \$63.49 advance, \$80 at the door
- WSS members: \$186.49 advance, \$200 at the door
- All others: \$217.24 advance, \$240 at the door

**Contact person:** Yang Cheng, 301-763-3287, yang.cheng@census.gov

## SEMINARS

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO EDUCATORS, STUDENTS AND OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC**

- Title:** **Integrating Statistical Thinking and Ethics into Teaching, Consulting and Daily Life**
- Date/Time:** **March 15, 2018/4:00–5:30 p.m.**  
Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.
- Speaker:** Jessica M. Utts, 2016 President of the American Statistical Association and Professor, University of California, Irvine.
- Chair:** Paul V. Buckley, Gonzaga College High School
- Sponsors:** Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Statistics Education Committee, Gonzaga College High School, and WSS Methodology Program
- Location:** Gonzaga College High School - 19 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 – Cantwell Hall, Room 222. Please call (202) 336-7100 if you have trouble finding the building.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to Union Station. From Union Station, walk north along North Capitol Street for about 4-5 blocks until you reach St. Aloysius Church (just after the football field). Go through the pedestrian entrance of the gate to the right of the church. To your right are the two academic buildings, Ruesch and Cantwell Halls. Enter through the center entrance of those buildings. You will then be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Turn right to where Room 222 is located. More information is at <https://www.gonzaga.org/page/about/directions>.

By Car: Free parking is available in any empty space in the school parking garage, which is accessible after 3 p.m. More information is at <https://www.gonzaga.org/page/about/directions>. Coming out of the garage, the building in front of you is Dooley Hall. To the right of Dooley Hall is a pass-through to the other part of the campus. Go down those stairs, through the pass-through and then up the stairs after that. As you come up the stairs you will see the two main academic buildings, Ruesch and Cantwell Halls. Enter through the center entrance of those buildings. You will then be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Turn right where Room 222 is located.

**RSVP:** To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com) by March 12, 2018. If possible, please RSVP by February 27 or between March 10 to 12 (since C. Blumberg will be traveling between February 28 and March 9).

**Abstract:** Understanding some basic ideas from statistics and probability can help people make better decisions in their personal and professional lives, yet statistics courses rarely are taught with that emphasis in mind. In this talk the speaker will provide numerous non-technical examples of how statistical thinking can benefit individuals and society. Examples also will be used to illustrate how statistical and probabilistic thinking do not come naturally to most people, including statisticians. Therefore, it is important to teach people how to integrate such thinking into their daily lives by overcoming poor intuition about some of these basic ideas. The talk is non-technical and relevant for both statisticians and non-statisticians.

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

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

**Title:** **Why Writing about Statistics is Hard (And Here's How to Do It Anyway)**

**Date/Time:** **April 20, 2018/4:00– 5:30 pm**  
Informal reception to follow at approximately 5:45 p.m. at East Street Café on the mezzanine level of Union Station.

**Speaker:** Regina Nuzzo, Professor, Department of Science, Mathematics, and Technology, Gallaudet University

**Chair:** Fanghan Wu, Georgetown University and WSS Student Representative

**Sponsors:** Washington Statistical Society (WSS) Statistics Education Committee, WSS Methodology Program and Mathematica-MPR

**Location:** Offices of Mathematica-MPR 1100 1st Street NE, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20002

Once in the building, take the elevators to the 12th floor and inform the secretary that you are attending the WSS seminar. Please call Mathematica's main office number (202 484-9220) if you have trouble finding the building.

By Metro: Take the Red Line to either the NoMa-Gallaudet U (used to be called New York Ave) Station or Union Station. From the NoMa-Gallaudet U Station, follow signs to exit at M Street. Then walk 1 block west on M street and 2 blocks south on 1st Street NE (the building will be on your right). From Union Station, walk north along 1st Street NE for about 4-5 blocks until you reach L Street (the building will be on your left after crossing L street).

By Car: Pay parking is available in the building parking garage, which is located 1 block east of North Capitol on L Street NE.

**RSVP:** To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com) by Tuesday, April 17 with your name and affiliation.

**Sign Language Interpretation Requests:**

Requests for Sign Language Interpretation must be received by [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com) by Thursday, April 12. Please note that if you then decide not to come and do not email [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com) by Thursday, April 12 then the Washington Statistical Society will be charged anyway by Gallaudet University for the services.

**Abstract:**

The art of “science communication” has rightfully received a great deal of attention and respect in the past decade, but what’s often overlooked is an endeavor that’s even harder: the art of “statistics communication.” This talk will draw on the speaker’s experience as both a statistician and a science journalist writing about statistics. Real-life examples from the media will illustrate a few principles for clearly writing about statistics (or effectively working with those who do). The talk is non-technical and relevant to a wide audience.

**POC email:**

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

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

## CONFERENCES



### Registration Is Now Open for the Second Annual Capital Data Summit

#### Feb. 28 Event Will Highlight the Region's Unique Big Data and Analytics Assets

Join the region's leading big data and analytics companies and prominent thought leaders at the second annual **Capital Data Summit** on **Feb. 28, 2018** at the Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner.

Featuring keynote speakers and panels offering unique insights on how big data and analytics are transforming industries and producing results for organizations and their customers, a technology showcase of the region's leading big data and analytics companies, and unmatched networking opportunities, the Capital Data Summit will provide exceptional business development and educational value for NVTC members and the entire Greater Washington technology community.

#### Keynote Speakers:

**Bill Ruh**, CEO, GE Digital, and Senior Vice President and Chief Digital Officer, GE

**Mark Ryland**, Chief Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services Public Sector

#### NEW IN 2018!

The 2018 Capital Data Summit will include a new **University Data Challenge**, in which teams of students representing the region's universities and community colleges will be challenged to analyze and respond to a topic/question using any combination of data sources and statistical, mathematical modeling, big data, and related techniques available to them.

In addition, one Summit session will focus on big data innovations with **5-minute flash briefings** from innovators and futurists. To be considered, please **click here OR** ([http://online.nvtc.org/cfmldocs/capital\\_data\\_summit\\_application\\_022818.cfm](http://online.nvtc.org/cfmldocs/capital_data_summit_application_022818.cfm)).

**REGISTER NOW!**  (<http://www.capitaldatasummit.com/>)

**Explore the unmatched big data and analytics assets and solutions that make this region the nation's big data capital!**

**Date:**

**February 28, 2018**

**Location:**

The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner

1700 Tysons Blvd  
McLean, VA 22102

**Cost:**

Member: \$395.00

Additional Member Attendee: \$345.00

General Audience: \$550.00

Student: \$50.00

Government Employee: \$25.00

**Sponsor the Summit!** Brand your company within the National Capital Region's big data community by sponsoring the Summit. Don't miss the opportunity to reach the region's top leaders in data analytics. There are sponsorships of all levels available! **Click here** (<http://www.nvtc.org/events/spondetail.php?event=WEB-BDCON>) or email **Yolanda Lee** (ylee@nvtc.org) for more sponsorship information.

**Thank You To Our Sponsors**





**Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology  
Research and Policy Conference  
March 7-9, 2018  
Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC**

There's still time to register for the upcoming Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) Research and Policy Conference. Don't miss out! Register now to attend this informative event!

**PROGRAM**

The conference features two plenary sessions this year with speakers Nancy Potok, Chief Statistician of the United States, and Sharon Lohr, Professor Emerita at Arizona State University. The program also features 50 sessions on leading-edge methodological topics, as well as, emerging policy issues. [Click here to view the program and abstract booklet.](#)

**REGISTRATION**

The cost is \$215.00 per registrant. [Click here to register.](#)

Please feel free to share this great opportunity with your colleagues who may benefit from this conference.

**QUESTIONS**

For program questions, contact Andrew Zukerberg, Program Chair, at [Andrew.zukerberg@ed.gov](mailto:Andrew.zukerberg@ed.gov).

For registration questions or to be included on the mailing list, contact Mae Pattison, Conference Coordinator, at [fcsm@copafs.org](mailto:fcsm@copafs.org) or at 202-507-6254.

Thank you on behalf of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology and COPAFS.

## **Second Seasonal Adjustment Practitioner's Workshop**

The first Seasonal Adjustment Practitioner's Workshop was held in Washington, D.C. at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference and Training Center in the Fall of 2016. It was a great experience for attendees and presenters, and planning is under way to hold another workshop.

The next workshop will be held on Thursday, **April 26, 2018**, again at the Bureau of Labor Statistics Janet Norwood Conference and Training Center, and a registration site for the event has been created:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seasonal-adjustment-practitioners-2018-workshop-tickets-38658914855>.

The American Statistical Association's Business and Economics Statistics Section, Government Statistics Section, and the Washington Statistical Society provide support for the conference.

The morning will have a keynote speaker with discussants. Abstracts are being accepted now for morning and afternoon contributed sessions of the workshop. Papers may cover any subject relating to seasonal adjustment methodology or the process of seasonally adjusting series at a statistical agency.

There is a particular interest in talks that

- share experiences in producing seasonal adjustments;
- give details of interesting problems and possible solutions;
- discuss best practices in seasonal adjustment, trend estimation, and time series modeling;
- share lessons learned, tips, and shortcuts;
- present applied research in seasonal adjustment practice.

The abstracts should be less than 100 words in length for a presentation of about 15-20 minutes.

Some important dates are below:

Abstract Submissions Due: **March 1, 2018 to [esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov](mailto:esmd.seasonal.workshop@census.gov)**

Register Online By: **April 20, 2018 at**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seasonal-adjustment-practitioners-2018-workshop-tickets-38658914855>

There is no charge for participation.

We are committed in making this workshop a development opportunity for newer employees with seasonal adjustment responsibilities as well as those who are more experienced.

## SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

### Roger Herriot Award

Roger Herriot was the Associate Commissioner of Statistical Standards and Methodology at the U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) when he died in 1994. Prior to his service at NCES, he also held several positions at the U.S. Census Bureau, including Chief of the Population Division. Soon after his death, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association (ASA) along with the Washington Statistical Society (a chapter of ASA) established the Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to recognize individuals or teams who, like Roger, develop unique and innovative approaches to the solution of statistical problems in federal data collection programs.

Nominations are sought for the **2018 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics**. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career including:

- Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals or teams at all levels within Federal statistical agencies, other government organizations, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions. As innovation often requires or results from teamwork, team nominations are encouraged. Team innovations often are more lasting, resulting in real paradigm shifts, not just one-off improvements. For an example, see the 1998 Herriot (team) award.

The recipient of the 2018 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and of the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with, and strongly supportive of, these organizations during his career. The award consists of a \$1,000 honorarium and a framed citation, which will be presented at a ceremony at the Joint Statistical Meetings in August 2018. The Washington Statistical Society may also host a seminar given by the winner on a subject of his or her own choosing.

Past Award Recipients:

1995 - Joseph Waksberg (Westat)  
1996 - Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics)  
1997 - Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences)  
1998 - Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
1999 - Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT)  
2000 - Donald Dillman (Washington State University)  
2001 - Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF)  
2002 - Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau)  
2003 - David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST)  
2004 - Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau)  
2005 - Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau)  
2006 - Nathaniel Schenker (National Center for Health Statistics)  
2007 - Nancy J. Kirkendall (Office of Management and Budget)  
2008 - Elizabeth Martin (U.S. Census Bureau)  
2009 - Lynda Carlson (National Science Foundation)  
2010 - Katharine Abraham (University of Maryland)  
2011 - Michael Messner (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency)  
2012 - Paul Biemer (RTI International)  
2013 - Exact Match Team (Social Security Administration, Census Bureau, and Internal Revenue Service)  
2014 - Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics study; Abowd, Haltiwanger, Lane  
2015 - Jennifer Madans (National Center for Health Statistics)  
2016 - Thesia Garner (BLS) and Kathy Short (Census Bureau)  
2017 - John Eltinge (U.S. Census Bureau)

Nominations for the 2018 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2018**. Nomination packages should contain:

- A cover letter from the nominator that includes references to specific examples of the nominee's contributions to innovation in Federal statistics. These contributions can be to methodology, procedure, organization, administration, or other areas of Federal statistics, and need not have been made by or while a Federal employee.
- Up to six additional letters in support that demonstrate the innovativeness of each contribution.
- A current vita for the nominee with current contact information. For team nominations, the vitae of all team members should be included.

The committee may consider nominations made for prior years, but it encourages resubmission of those nominations with updated information.

For more information, contact Mary Batcher, Chair of the 2018 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 202-327-6773 or [marybat10@gmail.com](mailto:marybat10@gmail.com). **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2018.** Electronic submissions to [marybat10@gmail.com](mailto:marybat10@gmail.com) in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

## **The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee Seeking nominees for 2018 Gertrude M Cox Award**

- In memory of Dr. Cox (1900-1978), one of the founders of modern statistics, President of the American Statistical Association (1956)
- In recognition of early- to mid-career statisticians who have made significant contributions to areas of statistics in which Dr. Cox worked
- Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society and RTI International

[http://washstat.org/awards/cox\\_award\\_2018.html](http://washstat.org/awards/cox_award_2018.html)

The award was established in 2003 through a joint agreement between the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and RTI International. The award annually recognizes a statistician in early to mid-career (less than 15 years after terminal degree) who has made significant contributions to one or more of the areas of applied statistics in which Gertrude Cox worked: survey methodology, experimental design, biostatistics, and statistical computing.

The award is in memory of Gertrude M. Cox (1900-1978). In 1945, Dr. Cox became director of the Institute of Statistics of the Consolidated University of North Carolina. In the 1950's, as Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics at North Carolina State College, she played a key role in establishing Mathematical Statistics and Biostatistics Departments at the University of North Carolina. Upon her retirement from North Carolina State University in 1960, Dr. Cox became the first head of Statistical Research Division at the newly founded RTI. She was a founding member of the International Biometric Society (IBS) and in 1949 became the first woman elected into the International Statistical Institute. She served as president of both The American Statistical Association (1956) and the IBS (1968-69). In 1975 she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

The award is presented at the WSS Annual Dinner, usually held in June, with the recipient delivering a talk on a topic of general interest to the WSS membership before the dinner.

This award is made possible by funding from RTI International, and the recipient is chosen by a six-person committee - three each from WSS and RTI. This year's committee consists of WSS President Linda Young (co-chair), WSS Past President Mike Larsen, and WSS President-Elect Tom Krenzke; and Abhik Das, Phil Kott, and Karol Krotki (co-chair) from RTI. The award includes a \$1,000 honorarium, travel expenses to attend the WSS Annual Dinner, and a commemorative WSS plaque. Past recipients, in chronological order: Sharon Lohr, Alan Zaslavsky, Tom Belin, Vance Berger, Francesca Domenici, Thomas Lumley, Jean Opsomer, Michael Elliott, Nilanjan Chatterjee, Amy Herring, Frauke Kreuter, Jerome Reiter, Jae Kwang Kim, Bhramar Mukherjee, and Elizabeth Stuart.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki ([kkrotki@rti.org](mailto:kkrotki@rti.org)) by **28 February, 2018** with a supporting statement and cv (or link).

If you have previously nominated a candidate and you wish that nomination to be reconsidered, we strongly encourage an update of the supporting materials.

 Statistical Partnerships Among Academe,  
Industry, and Government Committee

## **Call for SPAIG Award Nominations to Recognize Successful Collaborations**

Have you seen great examples of statistical partnerships and collaborations? Are you part of an organization that has an effective partnership with another organization? Then we want your help. We want nominations that recognize excellence among collaborating organizations for the ASA SPAIG award.

The key element to qualify is as follows: “Nominees must represent **at least two of the organizations from academe, industry, or government**. Also, their collaboration must have resulted in significant contributions to the statistical field with applications to real-world problems.”

The winner will be recognized at this year’s Joint Statistical Meetings in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Nominations are **due by March 1, 2018**.

### **Nomination Instructions and Form:**

To access the nomination instructions and form on the SPAIG website, please [click here](#).

### **AmStat News Articles:**

*Many Honored at Presidential Address and Awards Ceremony*

<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2017/10/01/asajsmawards>

*2017 SPAIG Award Winners Announced*

[http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2017/12/01/spaig\\_2017](http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2017/12/01/spaig_2017)

Best wishes,

The ASA SPAIG Committee

## **The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award**

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award recognizes and encourages the mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in federal, state, or local government. It is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other statistical staff member who is nominated by a supervisor and co-workers for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award was established to honor Dr. Griffith, who died in August 2001, after working for more than 25 years in the federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her latter senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

The award recipient will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. Preference will be given to individuals with a track record of mentoring government statisticians. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation, and organizational skills and knowledge;
- Encouraging the growth and career development of junior staff through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staff of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self-confidence by providing feedback, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone regardless of rank, race, ethnicity, or seniority.

Nominations for the 2018 Award will be accepted beginning in February 2018. The nomination form and guidelines are available from the Government Statistics Section and the Social Statistics Section websites (see <http://community.amstat.org/governmentstatisticssection/home>).



**NOMINATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL 16, 2018**, and the Award Committee will determine the award winner in May. The award will consist of a \$1,000 honorarium, a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors.

The nomination package must be mailed or emailed **no later than April 16, 2018**, to:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee  
c/o The American Statistical Association  
732 N. Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1943

Email: [rick@amstat.org](mailto:rick@amstat.org)

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at [rick@amstat.org](mailto:rick@amstat.org) or (703) 684-1221, or the chair of the Award Committee: **Bill Mockovak** at [Mockovak.William@bls.gov](mailto:Mockovak.William@bls.gov).

### **Previous recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award**

Rich Allen (National Agriculture Statistical Service), 2003  
Beth Kilss (Internal Revenue Service), 2004  
Renee Miller (Energy Information Administration), 2005  
Martin O'Connell (U.S. Census Bureau), 2006  
Stephanie Shipp (National Institute of Standards and Technology at time of the award), 2007  
Rosemary D. Marcuss (Bureau of Economic Analysis), 2008  
Kevin Cecco (Internal Revenue Service) and Lillian S. Lin (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), 2009  
Deborah H. Griffin (U.S. Census Bureau), 2010  
Jenise L. Swall (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 2011  
Bill Mockovak (Bureau of Labor Statistics), 2012  
Brian Harris-Kojetin (Office of Management and Budget), 2013  
J. Gregory Robinson (U.S. Census Bureau) and Kenneth Schoendorf (National Center for Health Statistics), 2014  
Aldo "Skip" Vecchia (United States Geological Survey), 2015  
Diane L. Willimack (U.S. Census Bureau), 2016  
Cynthia Ogden (National Center for Health Statistics), 2017

### **Sponsors of the Award**

The Government Statistics Section (GSS) of the American Statistical Association manages the award. GSS would like to thank our co-sponsors:

- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- American Institutes for Research (AIR)
- Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS)
- National Opinion Research Center (NORC)
- Social Statistics Section, American Statistical Association
- Washington Statistical Society
- Westat

GSS also thanks the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy for its support and championing of this award.

***Please contact Kevin Cecco at [kxccc00@gmail.com](mailto:kxccc00@gmail.com), if your organization would like to co-sponsor the award.***

# **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 Diane K. Willimack...

#### Where do you work and what do you do?

I work in the Economic Programs Directorate at the U.S. Census Bureau. I am the Methodology Director for Measurement and Response Improvement in the Economic Statistical Methods Division. Since we're all about acronyms in the government, this makes me the MD for MRI! (Lame joke that my co-workers are tired of hearing!) I lead a small group of methodologists and statisticians responsible for supporting questionnaire/instrument design, development, testing and evaluation for the Census Bureau's economic programs. My group's primary activities include conducting cognitive and usability testing for economic surveys, investigating sources of measurement error, developing and evaluating response metrics, and assessing the effectiveness of nonresponse reduction techniques.

#### What attracted you to your current position?

In 1998, I was recruited to the Census Bureau by one of my mentors, Dr. Cynthia Clark, then the Census Bureau's Associate Director for Methodology & Standards, to work with Professor Seymour Sudman from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prof. Sudman was interested in doing a sabbatical year at the Census Bureau, working on establishment surveys, and Dr. Clark had arranged for him to work in the Economic Programs Directorate. She also arranged for two mid-level research staff to collaborate with him – myself and Elizabeth Nichols of the Center for Survey Methods Research. The chance to work with and learn from survey research pioneer Seymour Sudman was a professional opportunity without compare, and was, without a doubt, a major turning point in my career.

#### Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to..."

I joined WSS in order to stay current in the field of survey research and to remain connected with the statistical research community in Washington D.C., particularly colleagues from other Federal statistical agencies. I am especially proud to be a public servant and help to ensure the quality of the Official Statistics of the United States.

#### What was your first job?

My first *paying* job was as a waitress and short order cook at a lunch counter in a small department store named Kresge's. Kresge's, for all you youngsters, was the forerunner of K-Mart. An interesting coincidence

about this job/location was that my parents, on their wedding day and wearing their wedding clothes, had their lunch at this very same lunch counter in this very same store. Back in those days, the photographer didn't come to you; you went to the photographer. So, my parents had to drive 50 miles from their farming community to the "big city" to have their wedding photos taken. And I guess they got hungry! Of course, I wasn't there to wait on them. But *maybe* they thought that they would have a daughter who, one day, would earn her first paycheck working behind this lunch counter!

#### Why did you join the statistics profession?

It happened in a roundabout way. I was a math major undergrad, and I didn't know what else to do with math except to go to graduate school in math. Well, that didn't work out – euphemism for failure. But I'd had an economics professor undergrad who had told me that people good in math are usually good in economics. The two came together for me when I took an econometrics course while I was flunking out of the hardcore math courses in grad school. So, I went to grad school at Iowa State University, and earned a Masters degree in economics with a minor in statistics. My first job post-grad-school was as an economist at the USDA's Economic Research Service. I was on the verge of specializing in a particular commodity – oilseeds – when I realized that I didn't want to be a commodity expert. So I fell back on my education in mathematics and statistics, and became a mathematical statistician at USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). There I found that I was less interested in "doing numbers" than I was in investigating where the numbers actually came from. So then I took advantage of NASS's support of full-time training, attended the University of Michigan, and earned a second Masters degree in Survey Research Methods. I finally found my calling as a survey data collection methodologist.

#### What advice would you give to someone entering the statistics profession?

My advice has to do with becoming a survey researcher: You don't have to work in or build your career in the field that you majored in. Survey research is the accumulation of a number of different disciplines – sociology, psychology, economics, political science, cultural anthropology, mathematics, statistics, computer

science, software development, and, now, data science. It's this hodgepodge that makes survey research ever interesting and challenging. So look around...., and stretch, because you may find your true calling outside your comfort zone.

**If you could give your 18-year-old self one piece of advice, what would it be?**

It's okay to fail and to make mistakes. Make lots of mistakes. Because you learn more from making mistakes than you do from being right. But, as a former Econ Associate Director said, fail quickly, so that you can get on with learning from the failures and move forward.

**What is your favorite daily ritual?**

COMMUTING!! Really! Driving to work in my sweet little Thunderbird convertible, with the top down. Weather permitting of course.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?**

Hawaii – need I say more!



**What is your greatest accomplishment?**

I would be remiss not to take this opportunity to highlight the book I co-authored with Ger Snijkers (Statistics Netherlands), Gustav Haraldsen (Statistics Norway), and Jacqui Jones (currently at the Australian Bureau of Statistics). The book is entitled *Designing and Conducting Business Surveys* (Wiley, 2013), and is the first and only book since 1995's *Business Survey Methods* (Cox et al., ed.) to focus exclusively on **establishment** survey methodology. A large part of why it's so meaningful to me is that it grew out of having built professional relationships with fellow survey methodologists internationally.

However, the accomplishment I still feel most proud of dates back to 1997 when I worked at USDA/NASS, and the Census of Agriculture was transferred from the Census Bureau to NASS. NASS decided to add a pre-production screening phase to identify non-farms and

duplicates and remove them from the mail list, and I became the survey administrator for this project. Under my direction, we conducted a multi-mode survey of 500,000 cases nationwide, developing the instrument from scratch, piecing together data collection procedures across multiple NASS field offices, collecting and processing the data, all in a matter of a few months, from start to finish, figuring out how to put procedures in place before various systems were ready to support full production. The project exemplified how teamwork – relying on one another's different skills and strengths – successfully achieves a common goal. The experience was extremely gratifying, because I felt that I used every aspect of my survey research education, and I did a job that I didn't think I was capable of.

**Have you had any great career mentors? If so, what made them great?**

I have been fortunate to have two outstanding mentors. One is Dr. Cynthia Clark, whom I mentioned earlier as having recruited me to the Census Bureau for the amazing opportunity to work with survey research pioneer Seymour Sudman. The nature of Cynthia's mentoring was to open doors and help keep them ajar, but it was still up to me to walk through them and demonstrate that I was worthy. My other great mentor is Rich Allen, retired Associate Administrator at USDA/NASS. Rich's role in my career was to tell me to leave NASS when the Census Bureau opportunity came about. To this day, I remain impressed that he was more concerned about me being able to achieve professional fulfillment contributing my own skill set, at the expense of losing an employee from his own organization. Rich received the inaugural WSS/GSS Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award, and I was thrilled and humbled to "follow in his footsteps" when I was selected to receive this honor in 2016.

I would like to add that those who influence your professional behavior need not always be mentors. There are also role models, people that you hope/try to emulate. For me, a key role model was Jack Nealon, my second-level supervisor at NASS. I remember an episode when Jack advised me about something I'd done incorrectly. When I walked out of his office, it dawned on me much later that Jack had, in fact, scolded me for "behaving badly." Now that's the way to deliver "constructive criticism," such that you don't even realize you're being criticized. Another piece of Jack's advice: Don't despair when someone higher up adopts your ideas as their own. The point is that you succeeded at getting your idea(s) implemented *for the betterment of your organization*, regardless of who received credit. I have to admit that I don't always succeed at emulating Jack Nealon's managerial style, but I always try.

## **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 great be greatly appreciated

Please submit your nominations or direct any questions to Wendy Barboza ([Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov](mailto:Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov)) or Natalia Weil ([NataliaWeil@westat.org](mailto:NataliaWeil@westat.org)).

We look forward to hearing from you.

## STUDENT CORNER

### Now Accepting Applications for Edward C. Bryant Scholarship

Applications for the [Edward C. Bryant Scholarship](#) are now being accepted. Each year, an outstanding graduate student in survey statistics is awarded the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship to help support the student's graduate education. The application deadline for the 2018 award is **March 1, 2018**. The award will be presented at the 2018 Joint Statistical Meetings.

Westat established the Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Trust Fund in 1995 to honor its cofounder and chair emeritus. Under Bryant's leadership, Westat, an employee-owned statistical firm established in 1961, has grown into what is now one of the world's leading statistical research corporations serving federal, state, and local governments, as well as businesses and foundations.

Graduate students in survey statistics are encouraged to apply for the scholarship. For more information, including application instructions, see <http://www.amstat.org/ASA/Your-Career/Awards/Edward-C-Bryant-Scholarship-for-an-Outstanding-Graduate-Student-in-Survey-Statistics.aspx>.

~ Jill DeMatteis, Westat  
Chair, Edward C. Bryant Scholarship Committee



# ANNUAL POSTER COMPETITION FOR K-12 STUDENTS



Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **April 1, 2018.**

## Call for Entries

The **American Statistical Association** (ASA) has an annual poster competition for students in Grades K-12, with separate winners in Grades K-3, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12. The aim is to increase statistical awareness and understanding via a statistical poster containing two or more related graphics that summarize a set of data, look at the data from different points of view, and answer specific questions about the data in a coherent manner.

The **Washington Statistical Society** (WSS), a chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA), is awarding prizes for the competition in the Washington DC metropolitan area. Winners of this local competition will then be entered into the national competition.

## Objectives

Enhance students' understanding of:

- ▶ the use of statistics in the real world
- ▶ how statistics are used to analyze information
- ▶ the importance of graphical displays
- ▶ how to prepare a coherent poster presentation

## Entry Rules & Guidelines

This local competition follows the rules and evaluation process for the national competition at:

<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

The deadline for submission of entries is **April 1** of each year. Note: Although the forms and posters are sent to the ASA national office, they will be judged separately from the posters from other regions.

Further questions can be directed to Elizabeth Petraglia at (240) 314-7535 or [elizabethpetraglia@westat.com](mailto:elizabethpetraglia@westat.com).

## Eligibility

- ▶ Grades K-12
- ▶ Residence in the Washington DC metropolitan area

## Evaluation

- ▶ Overall impact – Eye-catching appeal, visual attractiveness, and ability to draw the viewer to investigate the individual graphs
- ▶ Clarity – Demonstration of important relationships in a clear, coherent manner
- ▶ Appropriateness – Appropriate graphics for the data
- ▶ Creativity! – A unique statistical question, original dataset, or novel approach

## Prizes & Awards

**WSS Poster Competition winners will be awarded as follows:**

INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES	
1st Prize:	\$100
2nd Prize & 3rd Prize:	\$50
TEAM ENTRIES	
1st Prize:	\$50 for each team member, up to a maximum of \$200.
2nd Prize & 3rd Prize:	\$25 for each team member, up to a maximum of \$100

Winners and their teachers/academic supervisors will also be invited to attend the annual WSS awards dinner, typically held in June. For team entries, a maximum of four students per entry will be provided with free meals, although additional students may attend the dinner at their own cost.

## Prizes & Awards, cont'd.

WSS poster competition winners will also have their submissions sent to the national ASA poster competition.

National winners will receive additional prizes as described at: <http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>

## Useful Resources about What Makes a Successful Poster

- ▶ **Webinar at (Under "Resources"):**  
<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Poster-Competition-for-Grades-K-12.aspx>
- ▶ **Observations from winners of the 2013 competition at:**  
[http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/EDU-2013Posters\\_Observations.pdf](http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/EDU-2013Posters_Observations.pdf)
- ▶ **Winning posters from recent competitions at:**  
<http://magazine.amstat.org/blog/2017/08/01/2017-poster-and-project-winners/>

The WSS and ASA also have competitions for written papers/projects with significant statistical content/analyses. Details for those competitions are at:

- ▶ **WSS Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize:**  
<http://washingtonstatisticalsociety.org/awards/#jacobs>
- ▶ **ASA:**  
<http://www.amstat.org/asa/education/ASA-Statistics-Project-Competition-for-Grades-7-12.aspx>





## **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

### **Volunteers Needed for the ASA Booth at the USA Science and Engineering Festival**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the staffing of the American Statistical Association booth at the USA Science and Engineering Festival on Friday, April 6 (from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), Saturday, April 7 (from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and Sunday, April 8 (from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) at the Washington Convention Center. The basic duties are to help with a hands-on activity about careers in statistics and to answer questions from the public. An ASA staff member will also be at the booth most of the time. However, having 3 to 4 additional volunteers there will help immensely, since the Festival organizers estimate that around 10,000 people will visit each booth over the three days. Plus, it's fun!!!!

If you can volunteer for one or more hours on any of these days, please contact Carol Joyce Blumberg **by March 20 at [cblumberg@gmail.com](mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com)**. Please specify which days and hours you can volunteer. If possible, please avoid sending her an email from February 28 to March 9, since she will be in England during that time. If you decide to volunteer after March 20, that is fine. But some slots may already be filled by then.

The festival itself will have more than 3,000 exhibits, stage shows, a book fair with author presentations, a career pavilion and much more. Friday is a sneak peek day (attendance by invitation only to all DC public schools, home schoolers, military and others). Saturday and Sunday are open to the public. The entire festival is free of charge. Even if you cannot volunteer, bring your family and friends and give your future and current scientists the experience of a lifetime. For more information, the festival website is at <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>. The ASA Booth will be in the Mathematics/Computer Science area in Halls ABC.

Please feel free to forward this announcement to others you think might be interested.

## **Volunteer For WSS!**

WSS is updating its volunteer database and issuing a call for volunteers. Volunteer opportunities allow WSS members to share their statistical expertise with the community, meet other statisticians around the Washington area, and inspire the next generation of WSS members. Potential volunteer opportunities throughout the year range from science fair judging to speaking at school career days and ASA student chapters.

Please consider supporting WSS community service efforts. There is no commitment associated with adding your name to the database. WSS members listed in the database will receive notifications about volunteer opportunities, however, there is no requirement to volunteer. Even if you've volunteered in the past, please resend your information so we can ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information. Contact information will not be used for any other purposes.

If you are interested in adding your name to the volunteer database, please contact the Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator, Maura Bardos, by email ([maura.bardos@eia.gov](mailto:maura.bardos@eia.gov)) or phone ([202-287-6090](tel:202-287-6090)) with the following information:

Name:

Affiliation:

Email:

Phone:

Interests (e.g., science fair judging, guest speaking at ASA student chapters):

## WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

<b>Voting Members</b>				
<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
President	Linda Young	7/2017-6/2018	(352)281-6469	Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov
Past President	Mike Larsen	7/2017-6/2018	(802) 654-2399	mlarsen@smcvt.edu
President-Elect	Tom Krenzke	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 251-4203	tomkrenzke@westat.com
Secretary	Will Cecere	7/2017-6/2019	(301) 294-4477	williamcecere@westat.com
Treasurer	Jill Dever	7/2014-6/2018	(202) 974-7846	jdever@rti.org
Representatives-at-Large	Mark Otto	7/2016-6/2018	(301)497-5872	Mark.ot2o@gmail.com
	Jay Clark	7/2016-6/2018	(240) 453-2762	jayclark@westat.com
	Theresa Kim	7/2017-6/2019	(425) 243-2413	theresa.kim@gmail.com
	Lisa Mirel	7/2017-6/2019	301-458-4087	zav8@cdc.gov
Council of Chapters Representative	Dhuly Chowdhury	1/2016-12/2018	(301) 770-8234	dchowdhury@rti.org
Methodology Section Chair	Wendy Martinez	7/2017-6/2018	(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
Communications Officer	Barnali Das	7/2016-6/2018	(240) 498-0137	barnalid33@gmail.com

<b>Non-Voting Members – Programs</b>				
<b>Program</b>	<b>Chair</b>		<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Methodology Program Chair	John Maron Abowd	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 763-5880	john.maron.abowd@census.gov
Methodology Program	Yulei He	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 458-4533	wdq7@cdc.gov
Agriculture and Natural Resources	Michael Bellow	7/2017-6/2018		MBellow@nass.usda.gov
Data Collection Methods	Vincent T. "Tom" Mule	7/2017-6/2018		Vincent.T.Mule.Jr@census.gov
Defense and National Security	Wendy Martinez	7/2017-6/2018	(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
Economics	Michael Jadoo	7/2017-6/2018		Jadoo.Michael@bls.gov
Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 232-4651	mpcohen@juno.com
Public Health and Biostatistics	Grant Izmirlian	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 496-7519	izmirlian@nih.gov
	Carolyn Carroll	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 320-8709	carolyn@stattech.com
Public Policy	Bob Sivinski	7/2017-6/2018		<a href="mailto:Robert.G.Sivinski@omb.eop.gov">Robert G Sivinski@omb.eop.gov</a>
Quality Assurance	Michael Yang	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 634-9492	Yang-Michael@norc.org
Social and Demographic Statistics	Promod Chandhok	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 366-2158	promod.chandhok@dot.gov
Statistical Computing	Xin He	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 405-2551	<a href="mailto:xinhe@umd.edu">xinhe@umd.edu</a>
Student Representative	Fanghan Wu	7/2017-6/2018		<a href="mailto:fw183@georgetown.edu">fw183@georgetown.edu</a>

<b>Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members</b>				
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Short Courses	Yang Cheng	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 763-3287	yang.cheng@census.gov
WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi	7/2017-6/2018		wss.editor@gmail.com
Electronic Mail Committee	S.V. (Vince) Massimini	7/2017-6/2018	(703) 983-5893	svm@mitre.org
Employment Column Coordinator	Lisa Faustlin	7/2017-6/2018	303-396-5164	faustlin@yahoo.com
Financial Advisor and Audit Committee	Jonaki Bose		(240) 276-1257	jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov
	Keith Rust			RUSTK1@westat.com
Historian	Dwight Brock	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 517-4026	dwightbrock@westat.com
Social Arrangements Committee	Ranjana Kohli	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 552-6456	RKohli@mathematica-mpr.com
Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 691-7523	gillman.daniel@bls.gov
Communications	Phil Kalina	7/2017-6/2018	(703) 725-6600	phil@philkalina.com
Web Master	Chris Moriarity	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 270-3416	<a href="mailto:cdm7@cdc.gov">cdm7@cdc.gov</a>
Quantitative Literacy Chair	Leanna Moron	7/2017-6/2018		<a href="mailto:leannaxmoron@gmail.com">leannaxmoron@gmail.com</a>
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 693-5904	<a href="mailto:Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov">Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov</a>
Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition	Elizabeth Petraglia	7/2017-6/2018	(614) 361-4982	elizabethpetraglia@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coord.	Maura Bardos	7/2017-6/2018		<a href="mailto:Maura.bardos@gmail.com">Maura.bardos@gmail.com</a>
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coord.	Mark Otto	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 497-5872	<a href="mailto:Mark.ot2o@gmail.com">Mark.ot2o@gmail.com</a>
Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coord.	Frank Yoon	7/2017-6/2018	(609) 945-6616	<a href="mailto:FRANK.YOON@TRUVENHEALTH.COM">FRANK.YOON@TRUVENHEALTH.COM</a>
Student Travel Award	Erin Tanenbaum			Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org
Membership Committee	John Czajka	Chair, 7/2017-6/2018	(202) 484-4685	jczejka@mathematica-mpr.com
	John Dixon	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 691-7516	dixon_j@bls.gov
	Timothy Kennel	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 763-6795	timothy.l.kennel@census.gov
	Fritz Scheuren	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 320-3446	scheuren@aol.com
Herriot Award Committee	Thesia Garner	Soc. Sec. Rep.		
	Al Gottschalk	Govt. Sec. Rep.		

	Mary Batcher	WSS Rep., 7/2015-6/2018		<a href="mailto:marybat1@verizon.net">marybat1@verizon.net</a>
--	--------------	----------------------------	--	--

**Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
WSS Committee on ASA Fellows	Jill DeMatteis	Chair, 7/2017-6/2018	(301) 517-4046	<a href="mailto:jilldematteis@westat.com">jilldematteis@westat.com</a>
	Cynthia Clark	7/2017-6/2018	(703) 556-8825	<a href="mailto:czfclark@cox.net">czfclark@cox.net</a>
	Polly Phipps	7/2017-6/2018	(202) 691-7513	<a href="mailto:Phipps.polly@bls.gov">Phipps.polly@bls.gov</a>
	Van Parsons	7/2017-6/2018	(301)458-4421	<a href="mailto:vp1@cdc.gov">vp1@cdc.gov</a>
Shiskin Award Committee	Robert Parker	Chair	(301) 467-7677	<a href="mailto:parkerrobertp@aol.com">parkerrobertp@aol.com</a>
	Thomas Evans	Secretary	(202) 691-6354	<a href="mailto:Evans.thomas@bls.gov">Evans.thomas@bls.gov</a>
	John Abowd			<a href="mailto:john.maron.abowd@census.gov">john.maron.abowd@census.gov</a>
	Connie Citro			<a href="mailto:ccitro@nas.edu">ccitro@nas.edu</a>
	Carol Corrado			<a href="mailto:Carol.corrado@conference-board.com">Carol.corrado@conference-board.com</a>
	Dennis Fixler			<a href="mailto:dennis.fixler@bea.gov">dennis.fixler@bea.gov</a>
	Michael Horrigan			<a href="mailto:horrigan.michael@bls.gov">horrigan.michael@bls.gov</a>
	Charles Hulten			<a href="mailto:hulten@econ.bsos.umd.edu">hulten@econ.bsos.umd.edu</a>
	Polly Phipps			<a href="mailto:phipps.polly@bls.gov">phipps.polly@bls.gov</a>
	Robert Sivinski			<a href="mailto:robert_g_sivinski@omb.eop.gov">robert_g_sivinski@omb.eop.gov</a>
Brian Bucks			<a href="mailto:brian.bucks@cfpb.gov">brian.bucks@cfpb.gov</a>	
Hansen Lecture Committee	Frauke Kreuter	Chair	(202) 390-0413	<a href="mailto:fkreuter@umd.edu">fkreuter@umd.edu</a>
	Barry Graubard		(202) 276-7316	<a href="mailto:graubarb@mail.nih.gov">graubarb@mail.nih.gov</a>
	Morgan Earp		(202) 691-7387	<a href="mailto:earp.morgan@bls.gov">earp.morgan@bls.gov</a>
	Eric Slud			<a href="mailto:eric.v.slud@census.gov">eric.v.slud@census.gov</a>
	Linda Young	USDA Rep.		<a href="mailto:Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov">Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov</a>
Keith Rust	Westat Rep.	(301) 251-8278	<a href="mailto:keithrust@westat.com">keithrust@westat.com</a>	

<b>Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members</b>				
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Gertrude Cox Award Committee	Mike Larsen	WSS Rep.	(301) 881-9260	<a href="mailto:mlarsen@bsc.gwu.edu">mlarsen@bsc.gwu.edu</a>
	Linda Young	WSS Rep.	(352)281-6469	<a href="mailto:Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov">Linda.Young@nass.usda.gov</a>
	Tom Krenzke	WSS Rep.	(301) 251-4203	<a href="mailto:tomkrenzke@westat.com">tomkrenzke@westat.com</a>
	Karol Krotki	RTI Rep.	(202) 728-2485	<a href="mailto:kkrotki@rti.org">kkrotki@rti.org</a>
	Abhik Das	RTI Rep.	(301) 770-8214	<a href="mailto:adas@rti.org">adas@rti.org</a>
	Phillip Kott	RTI Rep.	(301) 468-8281	<a href="mailto:pkott@rti.org">pkott@rti.org</a>
Statistics Education Committee	Carol Joyce Blumberg	Chair, 7/2017-6/2018	(301) 920-0278	<a href="mailto:cblumberg@gmail.com">cblumberg@gmail.com</a>
	Elizabeth Johnson	7/2017-6/2018	(703) 993-9116	<a href="mailto:ejohns40@gmu.edu">ejohns40@gmu.edu</a>
	Paul Buckley	7/2017-6/2018		
	Carol Howald	7/2017-6/2018	(443) 518-4933	<a href="mailto:chowald@howardcc.edu">chowald@howardcc.edu</a>
	Kathleen Robens	7/2017-6/2018	(301) 915-5757	<a href="mailto:aarjak@gmail.com">aarjak@gmail.com</a>
	John F. Mahoney	7/2017-6/2018		<a href="mailto:johnf.mahoney@gmail.com">johnf.mahoney@gmail.com</a>
	Ashley Schreckengost	7/2017-6/2018		<a href="mailto:aosborne_amo@hotmail.com">aosborne_amo@hotmail.com</a>

## **FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR**

Items for publication in the **March 2018** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20<sup>th</sup> of the 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.

Please submit all materials as an attachment in **MS WORD** or **plain text**. Submissions in any other format will be returned.

**PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR ITEMS IN PDF OR IN THE BODY OF AN EMAIL.**