WSS NEWS
WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE

WSS MEMBER ELECTED AAAS FELLOW

WSS member Michael P. Cohen has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) by their Council. Mike is a Principal Statistician at the American Institutes for Research in Georgetown.

The honor of being elected an AAAS Fellow began in 1874 for members whose "efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished." The AAAS citation for Mike reads: "For significant statistical research, especially methods for large-scale statistical surveys, and for fostering inter-disciplinary communication through many years of generous service to professional societies."

Mike was WSS president in 2007-8 and currently is WSS program chair for human rights statistics.

SEMINARS

Title: **Strategies for Integration and Innovation in Federal Economic Statistics**

Date/Time: **January 20, 2016**
12:30 – 1:30 pm
Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics Seminar

Speaker: Brent R. Moulton, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Chair: Robert P. Parker, Consultant

Location: Bureau of Economic Analysis
1441 "L" Street, NW, Washington, 2nd Floor Conference Center

To be placed on the attendance list, please email
Sarah.Garrick@bea.gov by noon the day before the seminar, or call 202-606-5641. Bring a photo ID and arrive a few minutes early to allow time for passing through security. The Visitor's Center is located directly to the right as you enter through the front doors. The nearest Metro stations are McPherson Square (Orange/Blue/Silver) and Farragut North (Red Line).

Abstract: How can federal statistical agencies develop and successfully implement a strategy for innovation? The speaker presents and illustrates principles for innovation in federal economic statistics with a focus on developing integrated statistics—statistics that use consistent concepts, definitions, and classifications, thereby allowing data users to clearly interpret and analyze them within a coherent system of economic statistics. The principles are illustrated with detailed examples of both successful and unsuccessful innovations drawn from work on integration of macroeconomic statistics, on identification and removal of biases in the consumer price index, and on updating and revising international guidelines. The talk concludes with a discussion of emerging issues and strategies for anticipating and addressing the changing needs of data users.

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

Title: **An Overview of the Recently Updated ASA Undergraduate Curriculum Guidelines for Statistics**

Date/Time: **January 20, 2016**
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: Steve Cohen, Senior Fellow, NORC at the University of Chicago

Chair: Nathaniel Schenker, Deputy Director, National Center for Health Statistics and Former President, ASA

Sponsors: WSS Statistics Education Committee and Gonzaga College High School

Location: Gonzaga College High School - 19 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 – Ruesch Hall, Room 307. 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 and proceed up the stairs to Room 307.

By Car: Free parking is available in the school parking garage, which is accessible after 3 p.m. Information about the parking garage can be found at http://www.gonzaga.org/parking. 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 and proceed up the stairs to Room 307.

RSVP: To be placed on the seminar attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com by **January 18, 2016**.

Abstract: The American Statistical Association (ASA) recognizes the importance of undergraduate programs in statistics. In 2000 ASA endorsed undergraduate curriculum guidelines for statistics. In 2013 ASA formed an undergraduate curriculum workgroup to revise if necessary the 2000 guidelines as much has changed over the intervening 12 years since they were last reviewed. While many aspects of our 2014 recommendations remain the same as the previous guidelines, much has changed and needs to be made more specific and detailed. The proposed new guidelines reflect the increased importance of data-related skills in practice, with more emphasis on teamwork, communications, and related experiences (e.g., internships, REUs, and capstones). In this talk, I provide the context of how the workgroup attempted to gain community input on what should be included, discuss the details of the new curriculum guidelines as they reflect changes already implemented in many current curricula, and discuss the supporting material that supplements the guidelines with addition detail that is on the ASA website.

POC email: Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

Remote Access: If you want to attend the seminar remotely, using video and/or audio, contact cblumberg@gmail.com by **January 18, 2016**. Instructions will be provided to you around **January 18**.

Title: **Benefits and Challenges in Using Paradata**

Date/Time: **January 26, 2016**
                    12:30– 3:30 pm

Moderator: Mike Fleming

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

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

                    Once in the building, inform the receptionist at the first floor lobby that you are visiting Mathematica for a WSS seminar. Then, take the elevators to the 12th floor and tell the Mathematica receptionist 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.

Guest List: To be placed on the attendance list (in-person or webex), please RSVP to Alyssa Maccarone at AMaccarone@mathematica-mpr.com or (202) 250-3570 at least 2 days in advance of the conference. Provide your name, affiliation, and contact information (e-mail is preferred). Once on the attendance list with webex preference, you will be provided with information about webinar.

Lunch option: Attendees may arrive early to have lunch nearby. Local lunch options may be found through:
http://www.nomabid.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/FINAL_NeighborhoodGuide.pdf
You may also bring your own lunches to the seminar.

Following the seminar, *snacks and refreshments will be served,* encouraging the *attendees* to continue questions and discussions on the talks.

Schedule:

Time	Speaker	Affiliation	Point of Contact
12:30	Mike Fleming		charles.fleming@bhox.com
12:40	Brady West	University of Michigan	bwest@umich.edu
1:05	Emilia Peytcheva	RTI International	epeytcheva@rti.org
1:30	Stephanie Coffey	US Census Bureau	Stephanie.Coffey@census.gov
1:55	Intermission		
2:10	Jason Markesich Shawn Marsh	Mathematica Policy Research	JMarkesich@mathematica-mpr.com
2:35	James Wagner	University of Michigan	jameswag@umich.edu
3:00	Floor Discussion		

Abstracts:

Interviewer Observations in the National Survey of Family Growth: Lessons Learned and Unanswered Questions

In this presentation, I will discuss several studies of the quality and utility of interviewer observations in the National Survey of Family Growth, ongoing research related to improving their quality, and future research directions for these types of observations. Existing research suggests that these observations can be useful for responsive design and nonresponse adjustment purposes, and that in some cases the observations are more effective than linked commercial data. However, there is a great deal of room for improvement in terms of the collection and analysis of these observations, and the presentation will touch on necessary future research in this area.

~ Brady West

Modelling Paradata for Interviewer Monitoring

Interviewer's performance is essential to data quality. Paradata play a critical role in monitoring and improving interviewer performance, but are not as useful as they could be, in their raw form. For example, even in a centralized CATI survey, cases are not randomly assigned to interviewers; some interviewers only work on evenings, others may not be permitted to call previous refusals, etc. There are also multiple aspects of interviewer performance, ranging from success rate in gaining participation to administering the questions as intended.

We describe a system for interviewer performance monitoring that provides an automated and standardized means to monitor and improve interviewer performance in a call-center environment. Two types of multivariate models are of interest. First are models for predicted interviewer response rate, as a function of type of sample called in a shift, language spoken by the sample member, number and types of cases attempted, etc. These models were started on a study in early 2010 and are now used on multiple surveys. Versions of these models have also been implemented to predict refusal conversion rate, as a function of call history paradata.

In addition, we are currently developing models to incorporate coded interviewer behavior from monitored recorded interviews and interactions. These models aim to provide interviewer-level measures of interviewer adherence to the survey protocol and to allow prompt feedback to interviewers before such behavior can impact the measurement properties of the data.

~ Emilia Peytcheva

Using System Paradata to Target and Evaluate Data Collection Operations

Paradata is being used increasingly for both understanding data collection operations as well as making changes to data collection. Paradata can be either interviewer-generated or system-generated, depending on the data collection operation and the system being used. This talk will discuss three examples of the use of paradata in the National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG). The NSCG is a 6-month long sequential multimode survey, cycling through web self-response, paper self-response, and finally, computer-assisted telephone interviewing for nonresponse followup. Therefore, the vast majority of our paradata is system-generated paradata.

In this talk, I will present three illustrations of how paradata is being used in the NSCG. First, I will discuss an ad-hoc intervention implemented during the 2013 NSCG to respond to an unexpected performance issue in the web instrument. Next, I will present a simple illustration of how we are evaluating CATI as a driver of paper or web response. Finally, I will demonstrate how we are using intelligent mail barcoding (IMB) data to allocate resources to cases more efficiently.

~ Stephanie Coffey

Best Practices for Implementing a Paradata Warehouse

Paradata are a powerful tool for increasing the effectiveness of data collection. To ensure high quality survey data and low-cost data collection, Mathematica developed the Paradata Warehouse, a centralized, standardized repository that will contain paradata for all of our projects. New project data are added to the warehouse, and are accessible, on a daily basis. Survey managers can conduct cross-project and/or cross-instrument analysis of paradata to inform design and budgeting decisions. Because the warehouse tracks hundreds of variables across multiple projects, we have incorporated business intelligence tools and data visualization software to help users understand the story their data is telling. As part of our adaptive design initiative, our survey managers can analyze these paradata and tailor data collection strategies to respond quickly to conditions "in the field" to maximize efficiency and improve quality.

This presentation discusses some best practices for implementing and deploying a paradata warehouse that collects and organizes information in a manner that is easily accessible and meaningful to managers. We begin by discussing the steps we have taken to ensure the accuracy of the data in the warehouse through the standardization of status and charge codes, metadata management, and testing and reconciliation processes. Next, we present some data visualization techniques that help engage users by providing them with answers quickly, and in an easy-to-understand format. We conclude by offering some tips on how to develop a strategy that will help facilitate user adoption of a paradata warehouse.

~ Jason Markesich and Shawn Marsh

Estimating Response Propensity Models During Data Collection: Challenges and New Approaches

Response propensity models have been used to create inputs to adaptive survey designs. These inputs may be needed during data collection as triggers for design decisions. However, predictions from response propensity models can be biased when fit on a daily basis during data collection using the incoming data. One solution to this problem might be to fix the estimated coefficients from these models using estimates from previous data collections. This approach has two disadvantages. First, a suitably matched data collection must exist. Second, it is not sensitive to temporal changes that may change estimated coefficients. Bayesian logistic regression models, with informative priors, may address these weaknesses. This presentation examines some of the challenges of working with incoming streams of paradata and suggest potential solutions.

~ James Wagner

PLEASE FORWARD THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO OTHERS WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED

Title: **Panel on Careers in Statistics**

Date/Time: **February 17, 2016**
3:30 – 6:45 pm (Snow Date of Wednesday, February 24)

3:30-4:15-Arrivals and informal socializing
4:15-5:40-Formal panel
5:40-6:30-Pizza party (The Washington Statistical Society (WSS) will supply the pizza. Attendees are asked to bring their own non-alcoholic beverages.)

Speakers: Bachelor's Level Employee: Anthony Roring, Ernst & Young
Master's Level Employee: Kathleen M. Kephart, U.S. Census Bureau
Ph.D. Level Employee: Sherry T. Liu, Food & Drug Administration
Employer: Mary Batcher, retired (formerly of Internal Revenue Service and Ernst & Young)

(All employees are within a few years of finishing their degrees)

Moderator: Scott Marchese, George Mason University and WSS Student Representative

Sponsors: WSS Statistics Education Committee, Pew Research Center and the ASA Student Chapters of Morgan State University, George Washington University and George Mason University.

Location: Pew Research Center
1615 L Street NW, Suite 800
Washington DC 20036.

Please call (202) 419-4300 if you have trouble finding the building.

By Metro: The nearest Metrorail station is Farragut North on the Red Line, which is two blocks away. Farragut West station on the Blue, Orange and Silver Lines is only a slightly longer walk.

By Car: The nearest parking is in the parking garage on L Street next to the building. Pew Research Center does not provide any parking validation.

RSVP: To be placed on the attendance list, please email Carol Joyce Blumberg at cblumberg@gmail.com by February 14, 2016. A maximum of 180 reservations will be allowed due to space limitations. Note: High school students must be accompanied by a teacher or parent/guardian. A teacher or parent/guardian may accompany multiple students. Please include both students' and chaperones' names in your RSVP.

Check-in: Upon entering in the building, all attendees must check-in with security. They will ask to see a photo ID, will check off names on the RSVP list, and direct you to the elevators. Once you reach to 8th floor, a receptionist will buzz you into Suite 800.

Abstract: The event will begin with 45 minutes of informal networking and the opportunity for participants to collect informational handouts on careers in statistics from the American Statistical Association, area universities and various government agencies, non-profit organizations and other employers in the greater DC area and to talk informally with employers. Please note that this is not a job fair. Then, the formal part of the program will take place. For approximately one hour the moderator will ask questions of the panelists about topics such as their background (degrees, internships, other jobs, etc.), what they do in their present job, what are the best things and worst things about their jobs, what are the most important courses to take in college—both in mathematics/statistics and outside of mathematics/statistics, what other skills are important for employees to have, and what else are employers looking for. This will be followed by approximately 25 minutes of questions from the audience.

POC email: Carol Joyce Blumberg, cblumberg@gmail.com

Remote Access: Only audio access will be provided for this event. Please contact cblumberg@gmail.com by February 14, 2015 if you want audio access. Instructions will be provided to you around February 14.

A special note to universities or employers: If you wish to provide handouts (or similar), please bring the materials with you the afternoon of the event. Those who cannot attend the event may drop off or mail materials ahead of time to the following address: John Wade—Careers in Statistics, Pew Research Center, 1615 L Street NW, Suite 800, Washington DC 20036-5622. Please bring or send no more than 180 copies of any materials.

Ross-Royall Symposium on Population Inference at
Johns Hopkins University

February 26, 2016

The Department of Biostatistics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is pleased to announce the Inaugural Ross-Royall Symposium focused on population inference, to be held on Friday February 26, 2016 in Baltimore, MD. This year's symposium, "From Individuals to Populations" will highlight recent advances in statistical methods for making population inferences in public health. It will honor the contributions made in this area by Alan Ross and Richard Royall, both former faculty in the JHSPH Department of Biostatistics.   There will be a particular focus on innovative methods that allow for population inferences despite a lack of formally representative data sources, or for enhancing inferences by combining multiple data sources.

The symposium on February 26 will include three sessions with leading researchers in the field as well as a concluding panel discussion and an evening reception.   The session topics include "Population inferences from observational studies", "Transporting treatment effects using randomized trials and observational studies," and "Inference from internet samples."   We have lined up an impressive set of speakers and experts from across the country; see the whole listing below.

Full details, including registration information can be found at this site: http://goo.gl/Nd9qjm

We hope many of you can join us for this exciting event, and help us continue the wonderful legacy of Alan Ross and Richard Royall.

Sincerely,

The Ross-Royall Symposium Organizing Committee
Michael Rosenblum and Elizabeth Stuart, co-Chairs
Karen Bandeen-Roche, Jay Herson, Tom Louis, and Chuck Rohde

Speaker list:

- William R. Bell, Research and Methodology Directorate, US Census Bureau

- Andy Gelman, Professor, Department of Statistics and Department of Political Science, Columbia University

- Tim Gregoire, J.P. Weyerhaeuser Professor of Forest Management, Yale University

- Erin Hartman, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and Statistics, University of California at Los Angeles

- Eloise Kaizar, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, Ohio State University

- Jae Kwang Kim, Professor, Department of Statistics and Center for Survey Statistics and Methodology (CSSM), Iowa State University

- Frauke Kreuter, Professor, Joint Program in Survey Methodology, Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland

- Jon Krosnick, Professor of Communication, Political Science, and Psychology, Stanford University

- Rod Little, Richard D. Remington Distinguished University Professor, Department of Biostatistics, University of Michigan

- Peter Miller, US Bureau of the Census

- Doug Rivers, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University, and Chief Scientist, YouGov

- Sebastian Schneeweiss, Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Harvard Medical School and Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics, Brigham and Women's Hospital

- Elizabeth Stuart, Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

- Rick Valliant, Research Professor, Universities of Michigan and Maryland: Inferential in Finite Population from Nonprobability Samples
- Ravi Varadhan, Associate Professor, Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, Department of Medicine Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

CALL FOR PROPOSAL

ICES-V Call for Software Demonstrations

As the fifth in the series of international conferences on establishment surveys, ICES-V is designed to look forward at key issues and methods pertaining to establishment surveys (http://www.ices-v.ch). We invite you to submit proposals for demonstrations of software used in establishment surveys and statistics. Demonstrations should target live processing of data with possible customizations for the interest of specific audiences, rather than inflexible slide shows or presentations. Proposed software packages should already be in use for one or more establishment surveys and should be designed to automate establishment survey or statistical processes, including but not limited to:

- Producing statistics in developing countries
- Creating and updating registers
- Questionnaire development
- Selection of samples and sample weighting
- Data collection methodology
- Survey management: adaptive and responsive designs, using paradata and metadata
- Measuring and mitigating nonresponse bias
- Automated data coding and variable transformations
- Estimation & variance estimation (e.g. small area) for standard and complex survey designs
- Calibration to administrative data or other benchmarks
- Data linkage, matching and data unduplication and using big data with surveys
- Descriptive and complex statistical analyses
- Statistical methods of developing consistent data sets (editing, imputation, and outlier treatment)
- Data mining, reduction, blocking or segmentation, harmonization and use of decision trees
- Systems and architecture for statistical production
- Data governance
- Advances in disclosure protection

Schedule and Equipment

The demonstrations will take place in a separate room during the regular conference sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday of the conference. They will be split into different groups, each with a dedicated half-day. Participants will be provided with large monitors, tables, and chairs. The participants will provide their own computers and demonstration software, and will be able to arrange for Internet connections.

Proposal Submission

Submission of software demonstration proposals begins 01 June 2015 and will close on 12 December 2015. Proposal can be submitted at and inquiries can be directed to: ices-v.demos@bfs.admin.ch. Proposals should include a description of the software package, potential applications to other survey organizations, and special equipment required for the demonstration. Participants are required to register for the conference and pay the registration fee.

The ICES-V program committee will review the proposals and notify all applicants by **30 December 2015** whether their proposal has been accepted, with conference registration payment due by **31 January 2016**.

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 Sebastian "Vince" Massimini…

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

I retired from the USMC 25 years ago as an A4 Skyhawk pilot. The Marines retired my aircraft while I was on active duty, so I went to graduate school while in the Marines, earning master's degrees in Math (statistics) and Operations Research from Memphis State University (now the U. of Memphis). The Marines sent me to Washington as a payback tour, where I earned a Doctor of Science in Operations Research at GWU at night and eventually retired. I met my wife in graduate school and we both now work at The MITRE Corporation, a not-for-profit firm in McLean VA. I work in airport safety and with GPS for civil aircraft, both for the FAA and for foreign governments. It is a neat job—we help folks use GPS and GPS augmentations to make flying safer and we work at airports to make sure they meet safety standards. We also do work to improve safety standards for airports and air traffic operations, which involves simulation and statistical testing.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

The position at MITRE was very attractive because I could immediately use 20+ years of military aviation background in a civil aircraft setting that matched with my educational background. I own a small aircraft and live on an airport on the Eastern Shore of MD, so it is very helpful to be an active pilot when doing analysis and other work on GPS and airports. Also, MITRE is a great place to work—we don't have to worry with trying to make profits, so the emphasis is very strongly to do the right thing for the client and for aviation.

3. Finish this sentence: "I joined WSS to…"

I joined WSS to try to enter the statistical community in the Washington area. ASA is a good organization, but very large. WSS allowed me to get to know folks in the DC area. After joining, I served as a committee chair for a bit, and then we decided to try to start electronic distribution. MITRE was receptive to hosting WSS for email distribution, and I think we're well over 20 years of electronic distribution. I think we were one of the first chapters to transition to electronic distribution, and it's been a success story. I am sure that all WSS members know the "svm@mitre.org" address well. ☺

4. What is the most interesting statistical project you have worked on recently?

Like most everyone who gets more senior, I don't do as much direct statistical and simulation work as I used to, but we did some interesting data collection and analysis for the FAA recently. As a direct result of having good data, the FAA was able to change some of their runway separation standards and still meet accepted safety norms. This will eventually save a lot of money for airports in the future (and, indeed, has already helped the new runway construction at Chicago O'Hare.)

5. What skills are most important for the next generation of statistics professionals?

There are so many statistical tools available and they are easy to use—far from the "old days" when you had to be in the statistics department to even have access to a statistical computer program. So lots of folks come up with statistical "answers." But I find that many folks have no real idea of what statistical test they are running and what the results actually mean. Unfortunately, some of these misinterpretations come from folks who have had statistical training. So one of the most important things I think that statisticians can give to the profession is making sure that statistical results are interpreted and used correctly. This includes making sure that data meets appropriate standards for randomness and completeness.

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

Stick to your guns. Many folks want to treat statistics as a numbers game. That is fine, but make sure that folks understand what the numbers really mean. It is really easy to misuse statistical results—don't let folks do that to you (and don't do it yourself, of course).

7. Finish this sentence: "On an ideal Saturday, I would …"

Give a tour!! One of my other volunteer efforts is as a docent at the Air and Space Museum (downtown and at Dulles airport). So I'll take a group around the museum and see the really neat stuff. I am a history buff, especially about aviation, so the Museum is like working in a candy store, but less fattening. Another fun thing is to go for a flight in my airplane, which resides in the hanger under my house. I often combine these by flying from my airport to College Park airport, taking the Metro from College Park to downtown, and giving a tour. Beats driving to work!! BTW, if anyone is interested in being a docent or in taking a tour, let me know.

8. What is the last book you read?

Not surprisingly, my last book was David McCullough's *The Wright Brothers*.

9. What is your favorite vacation spot?

My wife and I like visiting our kids and grandkids, and they live in four different states (and none are close). But my favorite spot to visit is Spain. We drive about Spain and stay in the Paradors, which are castles, monasteries, and estate houses that have been converted to modern hotels. So you sleep in a 12th century castle. In Santiago de Compostela, we slept in a converted hostel that was built in 1492 by the Catholic Kings, Ferdinand and Isabella. Spain is a fun country that is rich in history, easy to get around, and not horrendously expensive. Try paradors.es for a look at some neat places.

10. What is your favorite song/artist/genre?

I like classical music and opera, so my favorite movie is still *Amadeus*. We also routinely attend the Washington Opera and sometimes the Met in NYC. But I admit that *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* is an equal favorite. We also like Mardi Gras (I am a New Orleans native), and we combine opera and Mardi Gras. See the photo of Carmen and Escamillo, the bull fighter.

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, John Finamore (jfinamore@nsf.gov), member of the WSS Board.

We look forward to hearing from you.

SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

Roger Herriot Award Nominees

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 **2016 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 2016 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 2016. The Washington Statistical Society will 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)

Nominations for the 2016 award will be accepted beginning in **January 2016**. 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 Dave Hubble, Chair of the 2016 Roger Herriot Award Committee, at 301-610-8814 or davidhubble@westat.com. **Completed packages must be received by April 1, 2016**. Electronic submissions in MS-Word or as a "pdf" file are strongly encouraged.

ASA SRMS is seeking applicants for the 2016 JSM Student Travel Award

The Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) of the American Statistical Association offers a Student Travel Award for students in any terminal degree program (bachelors, masters, or doctoral) in the area of statistics, survey methodology, or allied survey research disciplines. Support is offered for students to attend the Joint Statistical Meetings, to be held in Chicago, Illinois from July 30 to August 4, 2016.

Preference is given to students presenting a paper or poster at the conference. In addition, applications must be supported by a current member of the SRMS. Approximately 6 awards of up to $800 each are expected to cover conference expenses. Winners are expected to attend JSM sessions and the SRMS Business meeting to be recognized by our section. Note, previous SRMS student travel award winners and JSM 2016 student paper competition winners are not eligible for this award.

Application forms are available at http://www.amstat.org/sections/SRMS/travelapp_2016.pdf. Deadline for applications is December 15, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Michael P. Cohen at mpcohen@juno.com.

~ Michael P. Cohen, ASA SRMS Treasurer

SHORT COURSES & GRADUATE PROGRAM

Experimental Design for Surveys
JANUARY 21-22, 2016
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC 20212
Presented by Roger Tourangeau
Registration and Payment Due by January 7, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=012116

Issues in Data Science: Unpacking "Big Data"
FEBRUARY 12, 2016
College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, East Hyattsville, MD
Presented by Cliff Lampe
Registration and Payment Due by January 29, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=021216

Writing Questions for Writing Questions for Surveys
MARCH 10-11, 2016
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC
Presented by Nora Cate Schaeffer
Registration and Payment Due by February 25, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=031016

Introduction to the Federal Statistical System
MARCH 24, 2016
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by Brian A. Harris-Kojetin and Hermann Habermann
Registration and Payment Due by March 10, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=032416

Using Paradata in a Responsive Design
APRIL 6-7, 2016
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Washington DC
Presented by James Wagner and Brady T. West
Registration and Payment Due by March 23, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=040616

Introduction to Survey Estimation
MAY 2-3, 2016
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC
Presented by David Morganstein and Sunghee Lee
Registration and Payment Due by April 18, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/htmlcontent.cfm?CourseID=0506

Creating and Updating Prices Indexes: Theory and Practice
May 23-24, 2016
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC
Presented by Dennis Fixler and Richard Valliant
Registration and Payment Due by May 9, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=052316

Synthetic Data: Balancing Confidentiality and Quality in Public Use Files
JUNE 13-14, 2016
Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, DC
Presented by Joerg Drechsler and Jerry Reiter
Registration and Payment Due by May 30, 2016
https://projects.isr.umich.edu/jpsm/html_content.cfm?CourseID=061316

University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology

The University of Michigan Program in Survey Methodology (MPSM), established in 2001, seeks to train future generations of survey methodologists. The program offers doctorate and master of science degrees and a certificate through the University of Michigan. The program's home is the Institute for Social Research, the world's largest academically-based social science research institute.

MPSM is a program where students learn the science of surveys. Our students study with some of the world's leading survey methodologists while pursuing their Master's or PhD degree. The Program provides a rich intellectual environment for study and work at one of the premier public universities in the world.

MPSM brings together faculty and scientists from the social and behavioral sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; the School of Public Health; and the Institute for Social Research. Moreover, the quantitative strengths of disciplines such as communication studies, economics, education, political science, psychology, sociology, and statistics are integral to the empirical underpinnings of the program. With its depth and breadth of curriculum; faculty who are outstanding researchers, teachers, and mentors; exceptional research opportunities at the Institute of Social Research; and the extraordinary range of course offerings at the University of Michigan, the program offers qualified students superb educational opportunities.

Students in the program receive theoretical grounding in all aspects of survey methodology, from sample design and measurement, to modes of data collection, statistical estimation, and probability and distribution theory. Students have the opportunity to explore novel ways to develop applications of survey methodology in a wide variety of fields. Survey methodology principles can be applied to professions such as market research, nursing, public health, natural resources, information sciences, and operations engineering, through courses taken in cognate areas within the rich, diverse academic environment of the University.

Application Deadlines

Admissions applications and supporting credentials must be received at the University's Rackham School of Graduate Studies by specific deadlines. These deadlines vary by program.

Program	Application Deadline
MS & PhD	**January 1** for study beginning the following fall term
Change of Program, Dual Degree, & Readmission	**January 1** for study beginning the following fall term
Certificate	**April 1** for study beginning the following summer term **July** 1 for study beginning the following fall term
Non-Candidate for Degree	**One month prior to the first day of classes** for study beginning that fall, winter, or spring term

For more information please visit our website at, http://psm.isr.umich.edu/ or email us at, michpsm.isr@umich.edu.

FELLOWSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

2016 ASA/NSF/BLS Fellowship Program

Are you interested in expanding your research to new and interesting domains? Are you doing research that could benefit the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)? If so, consider applying for our Research Fellow Program!

The program's main objective is to facilitate collaboration between academic scholars and government researchers in fields such as statistics, mathematics, economics, survey methodology, behavioral science, and other related fields. Research Fellows have unique opportunities to expand their work to address some of the difficult methodological problems and analytic challenges BLS faces. Fellows are funded to conduct research at the BLS headquarters in Washington, DC, use BLS data and facilities, and work closely with BLS staff.

There is more information available on our website at http://www.bls.gov/osmr/asa_nsf_bls_fellowship_info.htm or in our brochure at http://www.amstat.org/careers/pdfs/ASANSFBLSFellowshipProgram.pdf. Proposals are due is February 8, 2016.

Fellowship applicants should have a recognized research record and considerable expertise in their area of proposed research. Applicants must submit a detailed research proposal, which will be evaluated on the applicability of the research to BLS programs, the value of the proposed research to science, and the quality of the applicant's research record. Applicants do not need to be U.S. Citizens, but they must be employed by a U.S. institution of higher learning or a non-profit institution (IRS code 501(c)(3) entity) and are expected to retain their position for the duration of the fellowship. U.S. Government employees are not eligible.

We encourage interested researchers to contact us before submitting a proposal, so we can provide assistance in tailoring the proposed topic to best utilize your skills and interests in addressing BLS issues.

The BLS coordinates our Senior Research Fellow Program in cooperation with the American Statistical Association (http://www.amstat.org/) (ASA), under a grant from the National Science Foundation (http://www.nsf.gov/) (NSF).

Please contact Jeffrey Gonzalez (Gonzalez.Jeffrey@bls.gov) if you have any questions.

Center for Vein
Restoration

Department: Clinical
Title: Healthcare Statistical Analyst/ Statistician
Status: Exempt
Hours: Full Time
Reports to: President & CEO

Position Summary:

The Lakhanpal Vein Foundation seeks a healthcare statistician to lead its new research program. This is a hard money, research-focused position with an emphasis on scholarship and publication. This position will allow the healthcare statistician to use his or her statistical knowledge to investigate numerous questions related to treatment and outcomes in venous disease. The healthcare statistician will lead efforts to design research studies using electronic health data, develop analysis protocols, analyze quantitative data, perform multivariate analyses, and author reports summarizing this work for peer-reviewed journals.

Minimum Requirements:
- Master's degree in statistics, biostatistics, public health, epidemiology, economics/econometrics or bachelor's degree in statistics with a demonstrated publications record; PhD a plus
- Minimum of 3 years of work using advanced analytic and or statistical methodology
- Minimum of 2 years of healthcare experience or work in the healthcare field preferred
- Experience using SAS, STATA, R, or similar statistical software
- Comprehensive knowledge of statistics including inferential statistics, multivariate regression, advanced modeling, predictive analytics, graphical display, and missing data analysis
- English proficiency, both verbally and in writing, for the purposes of research publication and presentation, is required
- Preference will be given to candidates with experience in cardiovascular disease and those with demonstrated experience with scholarly publishing

Qualifications:
- Self-motivated and able to work with minimal direct supervision and drive results with disciplined follow through
- An inquisitive and innovative nature, excellent critical and analytical thinking, integrity, willingness to step into new roles, strong communication and facilitation skills, team focused mentality, and a commitment to continuously learning and improving
- Work collaboratively with colleagues to identify optimal data sources and statistical analyses to meet project objectives

Duties and Responsibilities:
Statistical

- Work with surgeons and consultants to conceptualize manuscripts and articulate testable hypotheses
- Identify statistical methods that can be applied to address specific project questions/problems
- Analyze and interpret statistical data to identify statistically significant and clinically relevant differences in relationships related to venous disease
- Assist in designing research projects that apply valid statistical techniques
- Conduct sample size determinations and power analyses as needed for specific projects
- Plan multivariate and multi-variable statistical analyses including developing regression models
- Process large datasets for statistical modeling and graphic analysis
- Prepare data for analysis by organizing information and performing quality control checks such as outlier analyses
- Advise team members in determining necessary data and optimal analytic techniques
- Identify and recommend alternative data/methods to meet project needs in most efficient way
- Attend and actively participate in staff, data/operations, and meetings for multiple projects
- Follow all applicable privacy and confidentiality procedures in daily work

Reporting, Writing, and Communication

- Report results of statistical analyses, including information in the form of graphs, charts, and tables
- Independently document project tasks and specifications
- Take the lead in writing the "methods" and "results" sections of scholarly manuscripts in a manner consistent with accepted practice
- Prepare data briefs, web content and other written products using results from statistical analyses
- Work with colleagues to write and edit "introduction" and "conclusions" sections of scholarly manuscripts, including PubMed literature searches
- Manage the manuscript submission process
- Write and manage research-related content for the Lakhanpal Vein Foundation's website
- Interact with, and build relationships with internal and external Foundation stakeholders

Center for Vein Restoration is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

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Methodology Program	Yulei He			wdq7@cdc.gov
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Short Courses	Yang Cheng	(301) 763-3287	yang.cheng@census.gov
WSS Newsletter Editor	Colleen Choi		wss.editor@gmail.com
Electronic Mail Committee	S.V. (Vince) Massimini	(703) 983-5893	svm@mitre.org
Employment Column Coordinator	Anne Peterson	(703) 504-9483	apeterson@insightpolicyresearch.com
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	J. Michael Brick	(301) 294-2004	mikebrick@westat.com
Historian	Dwight Brock	(301) 517-4026	dwightbrock@westat.com
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Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	(202) 691-7523	gillman.daniel@bls.gov
Communications	Phil Kalina	(703) 725-6600	phil@philkalina.com
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	John Dixon		(202) 691-7516	dixon_j@bls.gov
	Timothy Kennel		(301) 763-6795	timothy.l.kennel@census.gov
	Adam Safir		(202) 691-5175	safir.adam@bls.gov
	Fritz Scheuren		(202) 320-3446	scheuren@aol.com
Herriot Award Committee	Jill Montaquila	Soc. Sec. Rep.	(301) 517-4046	jillmontaquila@westat.com
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	Connie Citro			ccitro@nas.edu
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	Michael Horrigan			horrigan.michael@bls.gov
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	Kathleen Robens		(301) 915-5757	Kathleen_c_robens@mcpsmd.org

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

Items for publication in the **January, 2016** issue of WSS NEWS will be accepted thru the **20**[th] of **preceding month**.

Email items to 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.

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