WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

IN THIS ISSUE	
2	FROM THE WSS NEWS PRESIDENT
6	SEMINARS
19	WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!
22	SPOTLIGHT A WSS MEMBER!
23	CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNER!
24	SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES
37	GET INVOLVED!
41	SHORT COURSES
43	FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY
44	WSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, AND PROGRAMS
49	FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

FROM THE WSS PRESIDENT

Seeking Nominations for the WSS Board of Directors

Later this spring, the WSS will hold its annual election for several important positions on the Board of Directors. Consider running for office – it's the perfect way to serve the membership, hone your leadership skills, and network and socialize with colleagues!
For the 2016 elections, the open positions include:

- President-Elect (at least two nominees required)
  - for July 2016 to June 2017
  - to serve as President July 2017 to June 2018
  - to serve as Past-President July 2018 to June 2019

- Two Representatives-at-Large (at least four nominees required)
  - for July 2016 to June 2018

- Methodology Program Chair (at least two nominees required)
  - for July 2016 to June 2017
  - to serve as Methodology Section Chair July 2017 to June 2018
  -
- Communications Officer (at least two nominees required)
  - for July 2016 to June 2018
  -
- Treasurer (one nominee required)
  - The Treasurer position is up for re-election this year. The WSS bylaws require only one candidate and our current treasurer, Jill Dever, has kindly agreed to stand again

The Nominations and Election Committee will select nominees for each office. **Suggestions for candidates are welcome!**

Please send suggestions to past-president, Diane Herz (dherz@mathematica-mpr.com), who is chairing the committee, **no later than February 26**.

In recent years, nominations for the President-Elect position have alternated between the government and non-government sectors. For the 2016 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. The nominations and election process is described can be found in the WSS By-Laws and the various roles are described in the WSS handbook.

ByLaws: http://washstat.org/documents/WSSBYLAW11.pdf.
Handbook: http://www.washstat.org/documents/WSSHandbookv5.pdf.

Welcome to new ASA/WSS members

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

James Blake Boswell
James J. Colaianne
Junrui Di
Warren Glimpse
Kirk Greenway
Sigurd Hermansen
Yisong Huang
Xiaoqing Huang
Stephine L. Keeton
Lauren M. Kunz
Grace Medley
Kevin Moore
Vivekanand Natanasabapathy
Helen Powell
Andrew Reamer
Joseph Reed
Robert Sivinski
Van Tran
Mika Yamashita
Felice Yuting Yang

Welcome to WSS!

WSS Website Status Report

Webmaster Transition

Tim Allen's job responsibilities increased to a level late last year that he felt it was necessary to step down as WSS webmaster.

Jonathan Lisic, a NASS colleague of Board members Darcy Miller, Wendy Barboza, and Pam McGovern, has agreed to become the WSS webmaster.

There is enough to do on the WSS website that we will transition to a model of having more than one person being capable of doing WSS website maintenance in the future.

I thank Tim for the extensive effort he put forth to revamp the WSS website, and I thank Jonathan for volunteering to succeed Tim.

Online Enrollment/Renewal Option for Associate Members

New/renewing Associate Members now have an online option for doing so at http://washstat.org/joinus.html. Tim Allen contacted several people in DC-AAPOR to learn about DC-AAPOR's online Associate Member enrollment/renewal system, and then he created a similar system for WSS. Again, thanks to Tim for helping to make this possible.

WSS has transitioned to calendar year membership for Associate Members. This will reduce the WSS Secretary's burden of maintaining the Associate Membership list.

More Historic Content Now Available

We have posted WSS newsletter material from the 1996-2003 period that we received last year from former Webmaster Dan Jacobs, and we have posted electronic versions of some WSS newsletters from the 2003-2006 period that we received last year from newsletter editor Mike Feil. Thanks for Dan and Mike for helping to fill some gaps in the historic archive.

Additionally, we have posted slides from several Cox Award presentations at http://washstat.org/dinners/, along with the text of the first Cox Award presentation by Sharon Lohr in 2003.

Still Seeking

Please let me know if you have electronic copies of WSS newsletters prior to 2003, or electronic copies of more recent issues we're still missing: Summer 2004, Summer 2005, January 2008.

If you have electronic versions of Cox Award presentations that are not currently available on the WSS website, please let me know.

SEMINARS

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.

Title: **New developments in small area estimation using a Bayesian-Frequentist Integrated approach**

Date/Time: **February 22**
12:30 – 2:00 pm

Speaker: Avi Singh, American Institutes for Research, Rockville, MD

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

Chair: Donsig Jang

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center #3

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 (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar, or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.

Abstract: Small area estimation (SAE) of finite population parameters such as domain totals under a model for sample survey data provides a natural ground for applications of the Bayesian approach because the parameters of interest are random and the domain sample sizes, as a rule, are not large enough to yield reliable frequentist interval estimates commonly based on normality assumptions. Even for fixed second order parameters such as the common variance and correlation of random effects (which admit consistent estimates for large number of small areas), a Bayesian solution might be preferable because frequentist methods may give rise to inadmissible or unreasonable point estimates. Assuming that the model is valid, the traditional Bayesian framework is in principle simple and attractive due to its prescriptive nature but it does not support various desirable practical requirements that can be built in a frequentist framework. These requirements are driven by user concerns for the validity of modeling assumptions, robustness of the estimates to departures from them, and for the key assumptions being amenable to frequentist-type easily interpretable model diagnostics under repeated sampling.

Since neither Bayesian nor frequentist methods are adequate by themselves for the SAE problem under consideration, it would be useful to develop a Bayesian-Frequentist Integrated (BFI) approach which starts with the specification of a frequentist model and the corresponding Bayesian model such that the two are equivalent when priors for the 'frequentist model' fixed parameters (first and second order) are not introduced. It is believed that a SAE system based on the BFI approach could generate user confidence by not being perceived as a black box. With this in mind, we extend the traditional Bayesian framework to include various frequentist-type features. We define a new type of posterior (to be termed as BFI-posterior) where the conditional posterior for random parameters given the 'frequentist model' fixed parameters may not make full use of the available data while the marginal posterior for the 'frequentist model' fixed parameters does when treated as random in the Bayesian framework. The concept of BFI-posterior is somewhat akin to the concept of quasi-likelihood as an alternative to the maximum likelihood when the likelihood is not specified or is difficult to do so. However, BFI-posterior is not quasi as it does refer to a legitimate distribution although different from the traditional posterior.

Some of the key practical requirements needed for an SAE system (for balancing the trade-off between efficiency on the one hand and face-validity and weaker set of modeling assumptions for robustness on the other) that do not fit in a traditional Bayesian framework are:

(i) For SAEs at different levels of aggregation, there is need for a single underlying model for the sample total at the lowest level (or the building block) to render the exchangeability assumption more plausible and be able to derive models for sample totals at different higher levels without changing the original set of parameters. The 'frequentist model' fixed parameters are estimated using the lowest (BB-) level input data but the random effects are estimated using the input at the higher domain level under consideration in order to grant full say to the direct estimator and to reduce over-shrinkage.

(ii) For estimating parameters at the BB-level, it may not be possible to specify the variance-covariance structure of sampling errors and hence the likelihood without making additional modeling assumptions. Use of normal likelihood for sample totals is convenient in practice but approximation to normality becomes tenuous with the small sample size. Moreover, at the BB-level, the likely presence of zero direct estimates makes it even more problematic. Therefore, there is a need to group BBs to specify an approximate normal likelihood for the grouped total estimates as input to modeling.

(iii) Given 'frequentist model' fixed parameters, the posterior of the random effects obtained at higher levels using less informative or coarser data as input to the likelihood needs to be linked to the posterior of the same set of parameters obtained at the lower level using more informative or granular data as input so that SAEs at the lower level can be adjusted or benchmarked to sum to the corresponding SAE at the higher level. Here, the term 'linking' simply refers to the joint distribution which can be obtained empirically by linking the MCMC replicates. Thus, BFI can give rise to a benchmarked posterior to obtain benchmark-adjusted credibility intervals unlike the customary second step for benchmarking performed outside the Bayesian framework.

(iv) For data from repeated surveys where random effects in the model are connected over time, the posterior of random effects from the previous time needs to be linked (using MCMC replicates, for example) to the posterior at the current time for a given level of aggregated input data in order to obtain posterior of the change in small area parameters over time. This gives rise to the posterior of the change parameter without revising or updating previous time point posterior unlike the traditional approach which, although more efficient, updates by design using more information from the current time.

(v) For robustification as well as for borrowing additional strength, inclusion of new covariates, as in the frequentist modeling, is needed so that the estimating equations corresponding to new regression coefficients ensure synthetic estimates at the BB-level sum to corresponding reliable direct estimates at much higher levels. This type of exact built-in benchmarking in the frequentist framework becomes approximate in the Bayesian framework but inclusion of new covariates, nevertheless, is beneficial.

(vi)The BFI methodology needs to be amenable to familiar diagnostics using the frequentist version of the model. This is important for building user confidence because it is relatively easier for users, for example, to interpret behavior of estimated model residuals under sampling randomization given the parameters than the parameter randomization given the sample.

Potential applications of the BFI methodology to well-known government programs (such as SAIPE, SAHIE, and LAUS) and to SAEs from surveys (such as NSDUH and NIS) will be discussed. The basic ideas underlying BFI can be found in a preliminary paper (Singh, 2013) in the FCSM Research Conference Proceedings.

POC: asingh@air.org

WebEx event address:

https://dol.webex.com/mw0401lsp13/mywebex/default.do?service=1&siteurl=dol&nomenu=true&main_url=%2Fmc0901lsp13%2Fe.do%3Fsiteurl%3Ddol%26AT%3DMI%26EventID%3D405132467%26UID%3D0%26Host%3DQUhTSwAAAALzWMuGH8MAGSZJMntEfvqAEchYl5yRuz8t9NL0hWEZcGutzSk6hrLemnGS0RszwKlDEFV9z32kdFM_--Mvk2iZ0%26FrameSet%3D2%26MTID%3Dm5c51a0d62958b3a6d9d8698a53fea0ec

Audio: Call-in toll-free number (Verizon): 1-866-747-9048
(US) Call-in number (Verizon): 1-517-233-2139
(US) Attendee access code: 938 454 2
Note: Particular computer configurations might not be compatible with WebEx.

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

Title: **Big Data in Public Sector**

Date/Time: **March 10, 2016**
12:30pm – 3:30pm

Sponsors: WSS Methodology Section

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center 9 and 10

Guest List: "To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, or to let us know that you will attend online, you need to pre-register (free) at http://www.eventbrite.com/e/big-data-in-public-sector-registration-21116863106 by noon at least two days in advance of the seminar."

Schedule:

Time	Speaker	Affiliation	Point of Contact
12:30	Donsig Jang	Mathematica Policy Research	djang@mathematica-mpr.com
12:40	Frauke Kreuter	University of Maryland	fkreuter@umd.edu
1:05	David Banks	Duke University	banks@stat.duke.edu
1:30	Harlan Harris	The Education Advisory Board	harlan@harris.name
1:55		Intermission	
2:10	Phil Killewald	Mathematica Policy Research	PKillewald@mathematica-mpr.com
2:35	John Eltinge	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Eltinge.John@bls.gov
3:00		Floor Discussion	

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

Title: **Teaching Simulation-Based Inference**

Date/Time: **April 1, 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: Kari Lock Morgan, Assistant Professor of Statistics, Penn State University

Chair: Paul Buckley, Gonzaga College High School

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 **March 29, 2016**.

Abstract: Teaching inference via simulation methods such as bootstrap confidence intervals and randomization tests is becoming more common, in part because they are intrinsically connected to the underlying concepts, more intuitive, require less background knowledge, and are more generalizable than the traditional approach of formulae and theoretical distributions. In addition to their use in college introductory statistics classes, the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics for high school recommend teaching statistical inference via simulation, stating that students should be able to "develop a margin of error through the use of simulation models for random sampling" and "use simulations to decide if differences between parameters are significant". This talk will focus on the teaching of these two concepts, and will also demonstrate free online tools (www.lock5stat.com/statkey) designed for teaching these simulation methods, although the methods covered in this talk can also be implemented using many other software packages.

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 March 29, 2016. Instructions will be provided to you around March 29, 2016.

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

Date/Time: **April 18, 2016**
12:30pm – 3:30pm

Moderator: Mike Fleming

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.

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

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 and Shawn Marsh	Mathematica Policy Research	JMarkesich@mathematica-mpr.com
2:35	James Wagner	University of Michigan	jameswag@umich.edu
3:00		Floor Discussion	

WSS MEMBER IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Washington Statistical Society

Member Spotlight

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

Meet WSS Volunteer Mark Otto…

Mark is pictured with son Kory on the Mount Edith Cavell trail in Jasper National Park, coming back from the ASA meetings in Seattle last year.

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

I work at Patuxent Research Refuge for the Migratory Bird Management Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I design and process surveys, consult on different migratory bird research, and do analysis, including building population models with our survey data. My main work now is helping assess and mitigate the effects of eagles colliding with wind turbines. I like working in the Government, being able to actually contribute to the decisions that improve wildlife conservation and our environment.

2. What attracted you to your current position?

I can make use of both my experience in population biology and statistics. I studied limnology (lakes and algae) in and after college but never thought I could work on birds at one of the leading institutions in quantitative wildlife biology. I get to collaborate with some of the most interesting quantitative biologists and statisticians in the world, including John Sauer, Jim Nichols, Bill Link, Ken Williams, Andy Royle, Jim Hines. I think wildlife statistics has some of the most innovative survey designs. We also work on structured decision-making and adaptive management, which would be some great general skills for statisticians to have.

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

I joined years ago as part of my ASA membership. But what is more important is what I have gotten since then. I took advantage of the seminars and workshops. Later I volunteered to do science fair judging and then visit schools with the Quantitative Literacy Committee. Wendy Martinez and Dwight Brock and many others taught more students using M&Ms than we would care to admit. With Dhuly Chowdhury, I have not only judged science fair projects but worked with a few schools to use statistics to make better science fair projects. In 2013 we got the ASA's Meeting within a Meeting to come to DC. I am heading a committee on mentoring with Dhuley, Jaki McCarthy, and Tom Krenzke. I have gotten to meet incredible people in the WSS working on the board and that stepped up to mentor in our pilot program. I wish I had the track records of many of our mentees. When I started working with the WSS then president Jonaki Bose reassured me that "we all just help each other." Past president Diane Herz downplays her role by saying "this organization practically runs itself." You get more out of the things you work at.

4. What was your first job?

On the Time Series Staff at the Census, my major professor pulled the job ad off another professor's desk before his students had a chance to look at it. I tried to find jobs in wildlife statistics but not any that required my masters. My supervisors, David Findley and Bill Bell, took extra time and effort to mentor their staff: they arranged internal training sessions, had us rehearse our monthly Committee on Time Series presentations, and encouraged us to present our work at JSM each year. I thought I would jump back in a couple of years and apply my time series analysis experience to biology, but the work and people were so interesting, I stayed for 14 years.

5. Why did you join the statistics profession?

At UC Davis, I weaseled my way into a phytoplankton job studying Lake Tahoe. (For that I got to SCUBA dive in it every month of the year.) Every project I worked on involved some statistics. Later I was accepted into a masters program at NC State but no professor had my interests in community ecology. I took Statistics courses as the most practical thing to do, until Ken Pollock suggested getting a Statistics masters. I could be involved in the interesting aspects of design and analysis; I just needed the biologists to still take me out in the field.

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

I designed a national breeding bald eagle survey with John Sauer and executed it with Emily Bjerre. The Fish and Wildlife Service is required to monitor species we take off the endangered species list. Even though our national symbol is growing exponentially after DDT destroyed its

reproduction. They are still statistically rare. We used a dual-frame survey design to make use of the nest lists the states maintained. It was crazy for just two people to organize a national aerial survey, but I did get to fly the coast of Oregon in a helicopter and Minnesota in the FWS's new Kodiak. In my analysis, I had the worst probability of detecting eagles. I knew I should stick to the stats. (By the way the connection between the thinning eggshells and DDT was discovered here at Patuxent.)

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

Three things: (1) Problem solving: statisticians have more value bringing their statistical problem solving skills to internet surveys, big data including genetic, medical, and financial, and even to the now more glitzy data science. (2) Data management: ninety percent of statistical analysis is preparing the data. Statisticians need good knowledge scalable data manipulation tools like the trusted UNIX tools, sed and awk, SAS's data step and SQL procedures, or newer dplyr and tidyr R packages. (3) Writing: clear writing makes clear thinking and clear thinking makes clear writing (Monroe, Meridith, and Fisher, **Science of Scientific Writing**, 1977, a short oldy, but goody). Nothing we do is worth anything unless we can communicate well. I am not a good writer, so have to struggle with it every day.

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

Alexander von Humbolt (explorer, contributions to philosophy, botany, and evolution), Èvariste Galois (political, amazing contributions to math even the last night of his life, and died in a dual over love), and Benjamin Franklin (renaissance man, humorous, and practical). It may be challenging to get them all together at one time, but the interactions would be worth it.

9. What is your favorite meal or local restaurant?

We go the Mandalay Restaurant in Silver Spring. Burma is at the cross roads of Bangladesh, India, China, and Thailand—an interesting mix of cuisines. One of our favorites is fermented green tea salad. They have trouble importing the fermented tea leaves from Thailand, because the customs officials often confuse it for pot.

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

Bird watching, swimming, gardening—trying to plant more native plants, traveling, and squeezing in a little fiddle playing when I can.

11. What is your greatest accomplishment?

Building a family with my wife Sydney and our two Bolivian adopted children, Quilla (24) and Kory (21). For work, writing a RegARIMA program to estimate time series and regression models, especially with seasonal terms. It had an automatic outlier detection routine. The program became part the Census's X-11, 12, and 13 programs used by government official economic statistic bureaus around the world. There are probably more programmers cursing me for the particularities of my FORTRAN coding than I would want to count. Even now, I hope there are better ideas still to come.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS AWARD WINNER!

From The 2015 Curtis Jacobs Award Winning Teacher Kathleen Robens

Due to the generosity of the WSS, as the Jacob Curtis Memorial Award winning teacher, I am so grateful for the opportunity to attend the Meeting Within a Meeting sponsored by the American Statistical Association at 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle. I attended the program for high school teachers in statistics and elected to attend the BAPS, Beyond AP Statistics session the following day. I am a veteran, AP statistics teacher at Montgomery Blair H.S. in Silver Spring, MD, and each session provided me with enrichment, clarity, and insight. In response to the meetings, I shared and discussed teaching strategies with other AP statistics teachers from the West coast and have already utilized some of the content presented in lessons this year.

I met amazing statisticians at Section on Statistical Education Business Meeting of the ASA; engaged in dialogue with poster presenters at the Exhibit Hall; and even attended the Caucus for Women in Statistics. As the Curtis Jacob Award winning teacher, I also received the JMP software and a book "Practical Data Analysis in JMP, by Rob Carver", compliment from JMP - SAS. I was thrilled to use JMP before the meeting and I've experimented with ways of utilizing JMP in my lessons and saw how powerful JMP is in displaying regression trees and mosaic plots.

My many thanks toWSS for this wonderful opportunity and to Carol Blumberg who helped me navigate the 6,000 participants without feeling overwhelmed. Kathy Robens

Here I am "delighted" as shown in the October, 2015 Amstat News (page 25)

SEEKING AWARD NOMINEES

The Gertrude M. Cox Award Committee is Seeking Nominees for the 2016 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

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 Chris Moriarity (co-chair), WSS Past President Diane Herz, and WSS President-Elect Mike Larsen; and Jill Dever, 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, and Jae Kwang Kim.

Please email your nominations to Karol Krotki (kkrotki@rti.org) by **28 February, 2016** with a supporting statement and cv (or link).

If you have previously nominated a candidate and you wish that nomination to be reconsidered, please update the supporting materials.

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.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award

Guidelines and Nomination Form

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 winning mentor(s) will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of junior staff. 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 junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- Motivating junior staff and building self-confidence through feedback on their efforts, 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 across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

The previous recipients of the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award are:
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. Bureau of the Census), 2010;
Jenise L. Swall (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 2011;
William Mockovac (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.

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee:

- The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior statistical staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers.
- **Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.**
- The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice…counsels with long-term goals in mind…thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts…encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor and the nominator than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach…a teacher.
- Photocopies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

Nominations for 2016 will be accepted beginning in **January 2016.** The last date for submission of nominations is **April 4, 2016** and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by **May 13, 2016**. The award will consist of a $1,000 honorarium (for each award winner if there is more than one awardee), a citation, and a plaque, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in **June 2016.**

The nomination package must be mailed or emailed **no later than April 4, 2016**, to:

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

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:

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

Please contact Kevin Cecco at kxcecc00@gmail.com, if you would like to contribute to the award.

If you have questions about the award, please contact **Rick Peterson** at rick@amstat.org or (703) 684-1221, or **Anna Nevius** at nevius@comcast.net or (301)-258-0565.

JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

Nomination Form

Please type or print. Use your tab key to move from cell to cell and your arrow key to move from table to table. *Nominations must be submitted no later than April 3, 2015.*

Date: _____

MENTOR NOMINATED

Name: _____
Last Name *First* *Middle*

Title of current position and agency : _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____
(Number and Street)
_____ Phone: _____
(City, State/Province, Zip/Postal)

CONTACT INFORMATION OF NOMINATOR

Name: _____
Last Name *First* *Middle*

Title of current position and agency : _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____
(Number and Street)
_____ Phone: _____
(City, State/Province, Zip/Postal)

Purpose and Eligibility:

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring award is intended to encourage the mentoring of junior staff in the statistical community in the Federal, State, or Local government. It is awarded annually to a supervisor, technical director, team coordinator, or other member of the Federal, State, or Local government statistical staff 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.

Guidelines:

Nominations should be prepared in the form of a letter or memorandum for the Award Selection Committee. The identifying and contact information at the top and bottom of this cover sheet and guidelines page should be attached. The letter or memorandum should summarize the nominee's actions that support and encourage junior statistical staff in the Federal, State, or Local statistical community in developing their careers. Nominations may be accompanied by up to six supporting letters. These should be attached to, and submitted with, the nomination.

The Award Selection Committee finds that descriptions of what nominees actually do are the strongest demonstration of candidate mentoring. Here are some examples: the mentor is a source of advice…counsels with long-term goals in mind…thought I was well qualified even though I had some doubts…encourages staff to seek out positions that will increase their visibility and stretch their professional capabilities. These are more explicit and unique to the mentor and the nominator than generic statements such as: the mentor is a coach…a teacher.

Photocopies and email copies of support letters are acceptable.

Name of letter writer supporting the nomination	Affiliation/Email Address
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize For Outstanding Statistics Project

==> Deadline is Friday, May 27, 2016 <==

OPPORTUNITY

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

AWARDS

1st Place Awards (Middle School and High School Divisions)

Students	■ Cash prize of $100 per entry; ■ Complimentary invitation to Washington Statistical Society's annual dinner usually held in late June.
Teacher or Advisor	■ Invitation to American Statistical Association's (ASA) special Meeting Within a Meeting (MWM) with registration, commute, and meal expenses paid (up to a pre-set limit). Likely held in August 2016 in Chicago, Illinois; ■ Complimentary invitation to the WSS annual dinner usually held in late June; ■ A plaque;
School	■ One-year free school membership to the American Statistical Association (ASA).

HELP AVAILABLE

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

Submitting a Project

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

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

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

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

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

Submitting a Project: The deadline for entry is Friday, May 27, 2016. To compete for the award, submit a pdf copy of the entry form (see reverse) and an approximately five-page typed report (with the questionnaire, if applicable, and the data attached) to: bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu or Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov.

Alternatively, submit a hard copy to:

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

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

Background on the Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize

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

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project

2015-2016

Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society
and the American Statistical Association

Entry Form

Please print clearly or type

Title of Project: _____

_____

Student name(s) on team: _____

_____

_____

Grade(s): _____

School: _____

_____

Address: _____

_____

Student/Parent email address: _____

School Teacher's name overseeing project: _____

Teacher's phone: _____

Teacher's email address: _____

Email completed form to bsloboda@email.phoenix.edu or Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov or mail to the address shown below.

Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date: **Friday, May 27, 2016**.

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

GET INVOLVED!

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTED TALKS/POSTERS

Games and Decisions in Reliability and Risk
May 16-20, 2016
SAMSI, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA

We invite, especially Ph.D. students and young researchers, to register and submit a contributed talk/poster by March, 28th, 2016. Please note that only 60 participants will be allowed and SAMSI (Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute) might offer limited financial support to U.S. based students and young researchers. Abstracts for contributed talks/posters can be uploaded when registering online at http://www.samsi.info/games.

Workshop Organizers
Fabrizio Ruggeri, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy
Refik Soyer, George Washington University, USA

Sujit Ghosh (SAMSI Liason), North Carolina State University, USA

The objective of the workshop is to present novel use of Game and Decision Theory in Reliability and Risk Analysis and to bring together researchers from diverse disciplines such as Economics, Engineering, Finance, Mathematics, Medical Sciences, Probability and Statistics who find themselves working with, and contributing to, this theme.

The first two days will be devoted to courses:

- Introduction to Decision Analysis
  Rene van Dorp, George Washington University, USA
- Reliability
  Fabrizio Ruggeri, CNR-IMATI, Italy
- Introduction to Game Theory
  David Rios Insua, ICMAT-CSIC, Spain
- Decision Analysis in Reliability
  Refik Soyer, George Washington University, USA
- Adversarial Risk Analysis
  David Banks, Duke University, USA
- Risk in Engineering, Finance, Health, and Environmental Sciences
  Thomas A. Mazzuchi, George Washington University, USA
  Jason Merrick, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

The following 3 days will be devoted to invited and contributed talks, posters and discussions aimed to foster cooperation among participants.

Confirmed speakers include: Melike Baykal-Gursoy, Philippe Delquie, Kathy Ensor, Seth Guikema, Joseph Halpern, Aparna Huzurbazar, Lurdes Inoue, Suleyman Ozekici, Tao Pang, Nicholas Polson, Nalini Ravishanker, Kimberley Sellers, Ehsan Soofi, Canan Ulu, Mike West, Simon Wilson, Emmanuel Yashchin.

Become a Member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)!

DC-AAPOR,

Have you never been a national AAPOR member before? Do you want to help DC-AAPOR make money?

Join AAPOR **until May 11, 2016** using the chapter-specific link below. Two great things will happen:

1. If you have never been an AAPOR member before, you will get $50 refunded to you after your eligibility has been confirmed.

2. Half of the dues you pay to National AAPOR will come back to the chapter.

This will help us have more money for chapter events and support programming and other needs at the chapter, and you will be able to take advantage of all the great benefits of being a full AAPOR member!

Sign up today! To do so, use the chapter-specific link here:

https://www.aapor.org/Special-pages/Store-Login.aspx?RETURNURL=https://register.aapor.org/dues.aspx?PROMO=DCAAPOR

Sincerely,

Ashley Amaya
DC-AAPOR Membership Chair

Volunteer Judges Needed

Dear colleagues,

As you may know, the spring season brings science fairs to the region, which showcase the talent and aspirations of the remarkable students in our schools. The Washington Statistical Society has traditionally provided invaluable community support to these important events by nominating and sending delegations of official judges, who serve as representatives of our profession.

WSS is issuing a call for volunteer judges for the five regional sciences fairs of 2016. Our judges work as a team at each fair to identify science projects that demonstrate excellence in investigation or use of statistical methods. Every year, our junior high and high school students eagerly look forward to the opportunity to share their understanding of statistics, and our judges have always valued this rewarding experience.

Please take a moment to consider this important community service on behalf of the profession! We greatly appreciate your consideration and support of this important WSS community service.

If you are interested in serving as a WSS judge at one or more of the science fairs below, please contact Frank Yoon by email or phone.

Sincerely,
Frank Yoon
FYoon@Mathematica-MPR.com
609-945-6616

All fairs take place on Saturday

Northern Virginia Regional Science and Engineering Fair
March 12, Wakefield High School, Arlington, VA

Montgomery County Science Fair
March 12, Food and Drug Administration White Oak Campus, Silver Spring

Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair
March 19, Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax, VA

Prince George's Area Science Fair
March 19, Charles Herbert Flowers High School, Springdale, MD

DC STEM Fair
March 19, Dunbar High School, Washington, DC

SHORT COURSES

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 Price 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

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, PROGRAMS, AND COMMITTEES

Voting Members				
Office	**Name**	**Term**	**Telephone**	**E-mail**
President	Chris Moriarity	7/2015-6/2016	(301) 270-3416	cdm7@cdc.gov
Past President	Diane Herz	7/2015-6/2016	(202) 250-3529	dherz@mathematica-mpr.com
President-Elect	Mike Larsen	7/2015-6/2016	(301) 881-9260	mlarsen@bsc.gwu.edu
Secretary	Darcy Miller	7/2015-6/2017	(202) 690-2562	Darcy.Miller@nass.usda.gov
Treasurer	Jill Dever	7/2014-6/2016	(202) 974-7846	jdever@rti.org
Representatives-at-Large	Kennon Copeland	7/2014-6/2016	(301) 634-9432	copeland-kennon@norc.org
	Thomas Krenzke	7/2014-6/2016	(301) 251-4203	tomkrenzke@westat.com
	Wendy Barboza	7/2015-6/2017	(202) 720-4503	Wendy.Barboza@nass.usda.gov
	Erin Tanenbaum	7/2015-6/2017	(301) 634-9405	Tanenbaum-Erin@norc.org
Council of Chapters Representative	Dhuly Chowdhury	1/2016-12/2018	(301) 770-8234	dchowdhury@rti.org
Methodology Section Chair	Donsig Jang	7/2015-6/2016	(202) 484-4246	Djang@Mathematica-Mpr.com
Communications Officer	Tom Mule	7/2014-6/2016	(301) 763-8322	vincent.t.mule.jr@census.gov

Non-Voting Members – Programs				
Program	**Chair**	**Term**	**Telephone**	**E-mail**
Methodology Program Chair	Pam McGovern	7/2015-6/2016	(202) 720-8853	Pam.McGovern@nass.usda.gov
Methodology Program	Yulei He			wdq7@cdc.gov
Agriculture and Natural Resources	VACANT			
Data Collection Methods	Fritz Scheuren		(202) 320-3446	scheuren@aol.com
Defense and National Security	Wendy Martinez		(540) 284-1032	martinezw@verizon.net
Economics	VACANT			
Human Rights	Michael P. Cohen		(202) 232-4651	mpcohen@juno.com
Public Health and Biostatistics	Grant Izmirlian		(301) 496-7519	izmirlian@nih.gov
	Carolyn Carroll		(202) 320-8709	carolyn@stattech.com
Public Policy	Jennifer Park		(202) 395-9046	Jennifer_E_Park@omb.eop.gov
Quality Assurance	Michael Yang		(301) 634-9492	Yang-Michael@norc.org
Social and Demographic Statistics	Promod Chandhok		(202) 366-2158	promod.chandhok@dot.gov
Statistical Computing	Xin He		(301) 405-2551	xinhe@umd.edu
Student Representative	Scott Marchese	7/2015-6/2016	(540) 313-0258	smarches@masonlive.gmu.edu

Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members			
Committee	**Member**	**Telephone**	**E-mail**
Quantitative Literacy	Dhuly Chowdhury	(301) 770-8234	dchowdhury@rti.org
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
Financial Advisor and Audit Committee	Jonaki Bose	(240) 276-1257	jonaki.bose@samhsa.hhs.gov
	J. Michael Brick	(301) 294-2004	mikebrick@westat.com
Historian	Dwight Brock	(301) 517-4026	dwightbrock@westat.com
Social Arrangements Committee	Ranjana Kohli	(202) 552-6456	RKohli@mathematica-mpr.com
Video Conferencing	Dan Gillman	(202) 691-7523	gillman.daniel@bls.gov
Communications	Phil Kalina	(703) 725-6600	phil@philkalina.com
Web Master	Jonathan Lisic	(202) 720-0034	jonathan.lisic@nass.usda.gov
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Committee	Brian Sloboda	(202) 693-5904	Sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov
Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition	Barnali Das	(301) 279-4593	barnalidas@westat.com
Quantitative Literacy Volunteer Coordinator	VACANT		
Quantitative Literacy Workshop Coordinator	Mark Otto	(301) 497-5872	mark_otto@fws.gov
Quantitative Literacy Science Fair Coordinator	Frank Yoon	(609) 945-6616	FYoon@Mathematica-Mpr.com

Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members				
Committee	**Member**	**Role**	**Telephone**	**E-mail**
Membership Committee	John Czajka		(202) 484-4685	jczajka@mathematica-mpr.com
	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
	John Dixon	Govt. Sec. Rep.	(202) 691-7516	dixon.john@bls.gov
	Mary Batcher	WSS Rep.		marybat1@verizon.net
WSS Committee on ASA Fellows	Polly Phipps	Chair	(202) 691-7513	Phipps.polly@bls.gov
	Cynthia Clark		(703) 556-8825	czfclark@cox.net
	Debbie Griffin			Deb_Griffin3@verizon.net
	Jill Montaquila		(301) 517-4046	jillmontaquila@westat.com
Shiskin Award Committee	Robert Parker	Chair	(301) 467-7677	parkerrobertp@aol.com
	Thomas Evans	Secretary	(202) 691-6354	Evans.thomas@bls.gov
	Paul Bugg			paul_bugg@omb.eop.gov
	Connie Citro			ccitro@nas.edu
	Carol Corrado			Carol.corrado@conference-board.com
	Dennis Fixler			dennis.fixler@bea.gov
	Michael Horrigan			horrigan.michael@bls.gov
	Charles Hulten			hulten@econ.bsos.umd.edu
	William Bostic			William.g.bostic.jr@census.gov
	Polly Phipps		(202)691-7513	phipps.polly@bls.gov
	Brian Bucks			brian.bucks@cfpb.gov

Non-voting Members – Committees and Other Board Members				
Committee	**Member**	**Role**	**Telephone**	**E-mail**
Hansen Lecture Committee	Morgan Earp		(202) 691-7387	earp.morgan@bls.gov
	Frauke Kreuter		(202) 390-0413	fkreuter@umd.edu
	Eric Slud			eric.v.slud@census.gov
	Barry Graubard	Chair	(202) 276-7316	graubarb@mail.nih.gov
	Mark Harris	USDA Rep.	(703) 877-8000 ext. 100	mark_harris@nass.usda.gov
	Keith Rust	Westat Rep.	(301) 251-8278	keithrust@westat.com
Gertrude Cox Award Committee	Chris Moriarity	WSS Rep.	(301) 270-3416	cdm7@cdc.gov
	Mike Larsen	WSS Rep.	(301) 881-9260	mlarsen@bsc.gwu.edu
	Diane Herz	WSS Rep.	(202) 250-3529	dherz@mathematica-mpr.com
	Karol Krotki	RTI Rep.	(202) 728-2485	kkrotki@rti.org
	Marcus Berzofsky	RTI Rep.	(919) 316-3752	berzofsky@rti.org
	Phillip Kott	RTI Rep.	(301) 468-8281	pkott@rti.org
Statistics Education Committee	Carol Joyce Blumberg	Co-chair	(301) 273-3093	cblumberg@gmail.com
	Elizabeth Johnson	Co-chair	(703) 993-9116	ejohns40@gmu.edu
	Paul Buckley		(240) 601-5573	pbuckley@gonzaga.org
	Carol Howald		(443) 518-4933	chowald@howardcc.edu
	Kathleen Robens		(301) 915-5757	Kathleen_c_robens@mcpsmd.org

FROM THE WSS NEWS EDITOR

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