



FEBRUARY 1985

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

- 1. February 6 Wednesday Graphical Perception
- 2. February 13 Wednesday State-of-the-Art in Exit Polling
- 3. February 14 Thursday Consumer Expenditure Survey: Results from the 1980-1981 Interview
- 4. February 15 Friday Case-Control Studies for Estimation of the Natural History of Preclinical Disease from Screening Data
- 5. February 20 Wednesday SAS in the VAX/VMS Environment
- 6. February 26 Tuesday Generalized Variance Functions
- 7. February 28 Thursday Phase II Trials in Cancer: Present Status and Analysis Methods
- 8. March 7-8 Thurs-Fri Workshops on Federally Funded Surveys

Report from the Board of Directors: Jerry Coffey, Representative to the ASA Board-1984

1984 was a year of momentous choices for the ASA Board of Directors. Three of the four Board meetings involved multi-million dollar decisions. The Budget Committee, under the leadership of Doug Dunn, developed ASA's first program budgets -- displaying the approximate cost and sources of funding for each ASA activity. Budgets for both 1984 and 1985 were approved by the 1984 Board. The budget preparation process is being advanced to allow more complete analysis of ASA needs and program finances. These improvements in financial planning will support John Neter's proposals to review ASA policies and goals.

The other major financial decisions involved the Building and Development Fund. In January the Board authorized preliminary negotiations for a headquarters building in the Washington metropolitan area, but insisted that any commitment be subject to approval by the full Board. At a special meeting in April, a building proposal was presented and, after exhaustive consideration and debate, rejected. The concept of the fund was broadened to accommodate gifts for designated development projects. So far only about two percent of pledges have been earmarked, but it is too early to draw conclusions. 1985 may see some of the pro-development rhetoric backed up by contributions.

At the November/December meeting, ASA management and the first two million dollar budget dominated attention. With the early retirement of Ed Bisgyer and the imminent retirement of Fred Leone, new employment contracts were designed to assure leadership continuity.

The 1985 budget decisions were symptomatic of the current ferment in the organization. Funds for critical improvements in office space, equipment, and staff support were coupled with a decision to defer any action on a building for at least two years. (Continued)

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM CHAIRS

<p>Agri. & Nat. Res. Fred Vogel 447-3638 Gary Liberson 363-7140</p>	<p>Phys. Sci. & Eng. Seymour Selig 334-3522 Nozer Singpurwalla 676-7515</p>	<p>Short Courses Wendy Alvey 376-0216</p>
<p>Economics Wray Smith 484-9220 Batte Mahoney 695-9053</p>	<p>Pub. Health & Biostat James Dambrosia 496-5763 Jai Choi 436-7047</p>	<p>Methodology Cathryn Dippe 523-1874</p>
<p>Social & Dem. Lee-Ann Hayek 357-1587 Charles Mann 466-6161</p>	<p>Stat. Computing Harry Foxwell 872-8058 Ron Steele 475-3483</p>	<p>Newsletter Julia Oliver 252-1121</p> <p>Employment Evelyn Kay 223-2530</p>

Report from the Board of Directors: Jerry Coffey, Representative to the ASA Board-1984
(Continued)

In 1985 the Continuing Education program will continue to be partially supported by general association funds, reversing a previous commitment to make the program self-sustaining by that date. The shift reflected the sentiment that this activity was making a contribution to the mission of ASA. On the other side of the ledger, the Board returned to the policy of building up the "equity" (operating reserves) of the association. Each of these decisions nibbled at the issues of dedicated funds and non-liquid equity which the Association has yet to tackle head-on. Though my last official act was to cast the lone dissenting vote on the equity build-up in the new budget, I felt privileged to have served on the most contentious and assertive Board of Directors in recent memory.

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: Graphical Perception
SPEAKER: William S. Cleveland, AT&T Bell Laboratories
CHAIR: Russell A. Kirsch, Sturvil Corp.
DISCUSSANT: Joseph Psotka, Army Research Institute
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 6, 1985; 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: George Washington University, Room 103, Building C, 2201 G Street, N.W.
ABSTRACT: Graphical perception is the visual decoding of the quantitative and qualitative information that is encoded on graphs. Recent investigations have uncovered basic principles of human graphical perception that have important implications for the display of data.

TOPIC: State-of-the-Art in Exit Polling
SPEAKER: Warren Mitofsky, CBS News Election and Survey Unit
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 13, 1985; 11:00AM-12:00 Noon (NOTE SPECIAL TIME)
LOCATION: GAO Auditorium, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.
RESERVATIONS: Reservations required. Contact Linda Carte at 523-1760.
BSTRACT: Mr. Mitofsky will discuss the sampling and estimation problems which accompany the use of exit polls. He also will describe the methods used for the collection and transmission of information under the severe time constraints present on election day.

TOPIC: Consumer Expenditure Survey: Results from the 1980-1981 Interview
SPEAKERS: Gail Hoff, Census; Curtis Jacobs, Katrina Reut and Stephanie Shipp, BLS
CHAIR: Eva Jacobs, BLS
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, February 14, 1985; 12:30PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: Forrestal Building, Room BE-069, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
ABSTRACT: Survey results from the first two years, 1980-1981, of the interview portion of the continuing Consumer Expenditure Survey will be presented. The data were collected from 10,000 urban consumer units, each interviewed over five (5) quarters.

TOPIC: Case-Control Studies for Estimation of the Natural History of Preclinical Disease from Screening Data
SPEAKER: Ron Brookmeyer, Johns Hopkins University
CHAIR: Richard Raubertas, National Institutes of Health
DISCUSSANT: Phil Prorock, National Cancer Institute
DATE AND TIME: Friday, February 15, 1985: 12:00 Noon-1:30PM (NOTE SPECIAL TIME)
LOCATION: Landow Building, Conference Room E, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD.
ABSTRACT: A matched case-control methodology for screening data is proposed for joint estimation of the sojourn time distribution and the false negative rate of the screening test.

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS (Continued)

TOPIC: SAS in the VAX/VMS Environment
SPEAKERS: Jay Levinsohn, Research Triangle Institute and Mike Rhodes, Westat, Inc.
CHAIR: Ron Steele, USDA
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 20, 1985; 12:00 Noon-1:30PM (NOTE SPECIAL TIME)
LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5, 901 G Street, N.W.
ABSTRACT: Differences between SAS under VMS and SAS on IBM systems will be discussed. Performance comparisons between SAS on VAX, SAS on IBM, and INDAS (a statistical package which emulates SAS) on VAX will be presented. Cost factors will also be discussed.

TOPIC: Generalized Variance Functions
SPEAKER: Richard Valliant, Bureau of Labor Statistics
CHAIR: Andrew White, National Center for Health Statistics
DISCUSSANT: Larry Cahoon, Census
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, February 26, 1985; 1:00PM-2:30PM (NOTE SPECIAL TIME)
LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5, 901 G Street,, N.W.
ABSTRACT: Generalized variance functions (GVF's) are used in a number of sample surveys, including the Current Population Survey (CPS) and the Health Interview Survey, as a convenient method of publishing sampling errors. The method consists of estimating the relvariance of an estimator \hat{T} of a total by using a model with the form $a + b/\hat{T}$. The results of an empirical study will be presented in which 2000 cluster samples were selected from a CPS dataset.

TOPIC: Phase II Trials in Cancer: Present Status and Analysis Methods
SPEAKER: Young Jack Lee, National Institutes of Health
CHAIR: Susan Ellenberg, National Cancer Institute
DISCUSSANT: Richard Simon, National Cancer Institute
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, February 28, 1985; 12:00 Noon to 1:30PM (NOTE SPECIAL TIME)
LOCATION: Landow Building, Conference Room A, 7910 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD
ABSTRACT: This paper reviews Phase II studies reported in the cancer literature and explores ten questions regarding design, conduct and analysis. Methods of analyzing response rates against reference rates will be reviewed also.

IRS/STATISTICS OF INCOME SEMINAR

TOPIC: Highlights of the 1982 SOI-Individual Income Tax Returns Publication
SPEAKER: Susan Hostetter, Marshall Epstein, June Walters, IRS
CHAIR: David Paris, IRS
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, February 27, 1985; 1:00PM-2:00PM
LOCATION: 1201 E Street, N.W., Room 401, Washington, D.C.
ABSTRACT: This seminar will provide an overview of information in Statistics of Income -- 1982, Individual Income Tax Returns. Highlights regarding sources of income, statutory adjustments, itemized deductions, exemptions, tax credits, and tax will be reported. Where relevant, changes in the law will be related to changes in taxpayer activity. Information on methodology will also be provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Copies of JASA Available

Mrs. Calvert Dedrick has copies of most Journal of the American Statistical Association (JASA) editions between 1974 and 1980 which she would like to give to some Washington Statistical Society member. She also should have most copies of the American Statistician for the same time period. If interested call her at 966-4673.

Annual Open Board Meeting

Under provisions of the Constitution of the Washington Statistical Society at least one meeting of the Board of Directors each year must be advertised as an "open" meeting with participation invited from the membership-at-large. This year's open meeting will be held Friday, March 22, 1985, in the American Statistical Association Conference Room, Room 623, at 806-15th Street, N.W. The meeting is expected to last until approximately 2:00 P.M. A special feature of this year's meeting will be remarks by Dr. I. Richard Savage on ASA development plans and relationships with chapters. Contact Rich Allen at 447-3896 for more details.

Forum on Career Management

Washington Women Economists are sponsoring a Forum on Career Management on Saturday, March 9, 1985. All interested professionals are welcome. The forum will feature speakers and workshops on career decision-making, strategies for career follow-through, and finding the hidden job markets. For information call Margaret Jess, after 6:00 P.M. at 543-8756.

Have You Changed Jobs Or Received An Honor Or An Award?

Beginning with the March issue, WSS will publish a monthly feature on Membership News. WSS members are invited to submit these notices to Julia Oliver, P.O. Box 23502, Washington, D.C. 20026. Each submission should include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes. Deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the month of publication.

Census Bureau Holds First Annual Research Conference

The Bureau of the Census will hold its First Annual Research Conference on March 20, 1985, at the Sheraton International Conference Center and Hotel in Reston, Virginia. Session topics include automation, survey design and estimation, statistical computing, evaluation of data quality, confidentiality issues in Federal statistics, improving National population projections methodology, total survey design approach for telephone surveys, valuation of noncash benefits, the underground economy, non-response adjustment procedures in sample surveys, statistical standards, and quality issues and experiences. The conference also includes a Shirley Kallek Memorial Lecture delivered by Alan Greenspan, former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and presentations by Sidney L. Jones, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Department of Commerce, and Janet Norwood, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The cost of the conference is \$75. For additional information and/or reservations, contact the Conference Coordinator, Carolee Bush, Center for Survey Methods Research, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233, 301/763-7976.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

WSS Information for Visiting ASA Members

Short-term job assignments in the field of statistics often bring visiting statisticians, economists and social-scientists to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. WSS would like to invite these visitors to participate in the activities of our chapter. Contact Edith McArthur at 301/763-5158 if you are aware of visitors to our area that might like to participate in WSS activities and receive the monthly newsletter.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notice is five (5) weeks before the month of publication.

Send notices and requests to:
Evelyn R. Kay
520-22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037 202/331-1153

JOB OPENINGS

The following three job openings are located in the Capital of a Southern African Nation. Candidates who meet the requirements and who are willing to accept a three (3) year assignment, should send a resume to Debbie Harding, TransCentury Corp., 1724 Kalorama Road, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

- 1. Senior Statistician (Professor):** Work on the staff of the Department of Mathematics (where statistics courses are currently offered) at the University of this Southern Africa nation's capital. Duties include establishment of a statistics degree program, a statistics training laboratory, and concomitant training manuals; and assistance in upgrading teaching skills of junior faculty in the department. **Qualifications:** Ph.D. or Master's in statistics or mathematics. At least five (5) years of experience in teaching undergraduate-level statistics and mathematics courses and developing course content for such a program. Some practical experience in the collection and analysis of data and the application and use of microcomputers in such activities is preferable. Some previous experience in working in a developing country in such a capacity is essential.
- 2. Senior Statistician:** Work in the National Commission for Development Planning's Office of Central Statistics as an advisor and trainer of junior and mid-level civil service statisticians and other professionals in data analysis, survey methodology and formulation, and data-collection techniques. **Qualifications:** Ph.D. or Master's in statistics or mathematics (with concentration in statistics) and practical experience in data collection and analysis with and without computer assisting. Some teaching experience (at B.S. level) is helpful. Statistical survey methodology and techniques are essential. At least five (5) years of above experience required and some previous experience in working in developing countries is mandatory.
- 3. Manpower Economist/Planner:** Work in the National Commission for Development Planning's Office of Manpower Planning. Duties include strengthening the manpower planning and analysis process, formulating the annual national training plan, providing on-the-job training for junior and mid-level civil service professionals in manpower analysis and planning techniques, and utilizing computer technology. **Qualifications:** Ph.D. or Master's in manpower economics and planning; and experience in performing operational research manpower analyses, planning, and projections in developing countries. Experience in using microcomputers and training others in such use is essential.

Job OPENINGS (Continued)

Instructor Position - International Training Program, Bureau of The Census

Training Branch of the International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC) has conducted training programs for statisticians and data processing specialists from developing countries for nearly forty (40) years. Training is offered in several specializations. The training program in food and agricultural statistics is undergoing a major expansion to meet needs of agricultural statisticians and planners from Africa and other parts of the Third World. Several new agricultural statistics and agricultural economics courses are being developed in cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

Training Branch, ISPC, is recruiting a senior agricultural statistician, with some background in agricultural economics, to direct the development and implementation of the food and agricultural statistics curriculum. The person hired for this position will work with agricultural statisticians and planners in the ISPC training program in Washington. He or she will have some opportunity to take part in overseas workshops or technical assistance activities as well. The ISPC training program is conducted in English, but fluency in French or Spanish is desired.

The senior agricultural statistician instructor position can be filled at the GS-12 or GS-13 level (\$31,619 - \$37,599). Consideration also will be given to more junior applicants to fill an instructor position at the GS-9 or GS-11 (\$21,804 - \$26,381) level in the food and agricultural statistics curriculum.

Applicants for this position should submit a Personal Qualifications Statement (SF-171) to Kenneth R. Bryson, Chief, Training Branch, ISPC, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, or telephone 301/763-2860.



P.O. Box 23502
Washington, D.C. 20026

