



MAY 1985

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Calendar

May 1	Wednesday	Open Workshop on Nonparametric Methods in Time Series Analysis
May 9-10	Thurs.-Fri	Workshop on Exact Matching Methodologies (FEE EVENT)
May 14	Tuesday	NCHS Laboratory Studies on the Cognitive Aspects of Questionnaire Design
May 15-16	Wed-Thurs	Shortcourse: A Hands-On Review of Statistical Software for Microcomputers (FEE EVENT)
May 16	Thursday	Methodological Considerations for the U.S. Decennial Life Tables, 1979-81
May 16	Thursday	Probability Models
May 23	Thursday	Whither Tax Reform?
June 12	Wednesday	Workshop on Writing and Presenting ASA Papers

Upcoming Events

Early June Shortcourse: Exploratory Data Analysis (Fee Event)
 June 12, Wednesday WSS Annual Dinner (Registration Form Enclosed)

Random Bits - Terry Ireland, WSS President

More than 60 people attended the short course given in March on Expert Systems in Statistics. We had expected 30. WSS has found a niche for itself in offering good low-cost one or two day courses on statistics. Our courses cost about one-fifth that of a corresponding commercial short course. We are able to do this because of strong support from the ASA Continuing Education program under Jill Stormer. ASA handles the mailing of announcements for us and the assignment of Continuing Education Units. Fred Leone, Executive Director of ASA, has taken the lead in supporting continuing education programs as part of a many-faceted national program in statistics. Fred will continue as Executive Director at least through 1987. Personally, I hope to see him there into the nineties. He has also been very supportive of my own work for the Committee on Professional Ethics.

The committee on Short Courses has actively expanded our program begun by Maria Gonzalez last year. The committee has brought a new idea to our program -- joint conference sponsorship. WSS is a joint sponsor with the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology of a Workshop on Exact Matching Methodologies to be held May 9th and 10th.

WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY PROGRAM CHAIRS

Agri. & Nat. Res.
 Fred Vogel 447-3638
 Gary Liberson 363-7140

Phys. Sci. & Eng.
 Seymour Selig 334-3522
 Nozer Singpurwalla 676-7515

Short Courses
 Wendy Alvey 376-0216

Economics
 Wray Smith 484-9220
 Bette Mahoney 695-9053

Pub. Health & Biostat
 James Dambrosia 496-5763
 Jai Choi 436-7047

Methodology
 Cathryn Dipbo 523-1874

Social & Dem.
 Lee-Ann Hayek 357-1587
 Charles Mann 466-6161

Stat. Computing
 Harry Foxwell 872-8058
 Ron Steele 475-3483

Newsletter
 Julia Oliver 252-1121

Employment
 Evelyn Kay 223-2530

Random Bits - Terry Ireland, WSS President: (Continued)

We have learned to handle some interesting behind the scenes problems in the development of our short courses. Several incidents come to mind. Last year we managed to charge \$5.00 for one of our short courses. We had not expected to receive purchase orders for such a low fee. Nevertheless, we processed 10 of them. The evening before Bill Gale was to speak at the Expert Systems short course, we were having dinner when the copying service called to say that the collator had broken down midway through the reproduction of Bill's notes. It was a real learning experience to watch four practicing statisticians and one honorary statistician sitting around my dining room table trying to derive the optimal procedure for doing collating by hand.

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: Open Workshop on Nonparametric Methods in Time Series Analysis
SPEAKERS: Ulf Grenander, Brown Univ.; C. L. Mallows, Bell Labs;
A. Feuerverger, Univ. of Toronto; B. Wells, Mitre Corp.;
S. Berman, New York Univ.; B. Kedem, J. Benedetto, and
A. Rosenfeld, Univ. of Maryland
DATE & TIME: Wednesday, May 1 (9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.) and Thursday, May 2, 1985
(10:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.)

LOCATION: Univ. of Maryland, Engineering Bldg. (088) auditorium, Room 1202.

TOPIC: NCHS Laboratory Studies on the Cognitive Aspects of Questionnaire Design
SPEAKER: Judy Lessler, NCHS
CHAIR: Kent Marquis, Census
DATE & TIME: Tuesday, May 14, 1985, 12:30-2:00p.m.
LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5, 901 G Street, N.W.
ABSTRACT: The goals, methods and results of Part A of a three part study to evaluate the use of laboratory methods and the cognitive sciences in the design and testing of health interview questionnaires will be discussed. The Part A study was an exploratory study that identifies recall and response issues associated with the planned 1986 supplements to the National Health Interview Survey. Two specific issues were investigated: recall and estimation of the number of events in a reference period, and response to survey questions that contain unfamiliar terms.

TOPIC: Shortcourse: A Hands-On Review of Statistical Software for
Microcomputers (FEE EVENT).
SPEAKERS: Harry Foxwell, American Chemical Society, and Josefino Lago, Westat.
DATE & TIME: Wednesday, May 15, (1:00-4:30 pm) and Thursday, May 16, (9:00-4:30 pm)
LOCATION: George Washington University, 21st and G Streets, N.W., Wash. D.C.
REGISTRATION: Registration through separate ASA Mailing. For additional details,
contact Harry Foxwell at 872-8058.

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PROGRAM ABSTRACTS (Continued)

TOPIC: Methodological Considerations for the United States Decennial Life Tables, 1979-81
SPEAKER: Lester R. Curtin, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
CHAIR: Robert J. Casady, NCHS
DISCUSSANT: Robert Armstrong, NCHS
DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 16, 1985, 1:30 - 3:30 P.M.
LOCATION: Center Building, Room 1-23, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD.
ABSTRACT: United States Decennial Life Tables for 1979-81 will soon be published by NCHS. In this seminar, the basic methodology for the construction of the Decennial Life Tables is discussed, including the use of Medicare data for measuring the mortality of the aged. Although the basic methodology is consistent with that used for the 1969-71 Decennial Life Tables, some changes have been implemented. For the first time, standard errors for the life table functions will be published. For State life tables, considerations for the minimum number of deaths required will be discussed along with considerations for smoothing of anomalies in the State data. Finally, the methods for the multiple decrement and cause-elimination tables will be presented.

TOPIC: Probability Models
SPEAKER: Peter Purdue, NSF, & Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington
CHAIR: Richard Soland, George Washington University (GWU)
DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 16, 1985, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m. (note 12:45 starting time)
LOCATION: GWU Marvin Center, 800 21st St., N.W., Fifth Floor Lounge (Room 501).
ABSTRACT: Mathematical modeling is the art of compromise, the balancing of what is mathematically tractable against the demands of the real world. The essence of the application of mathematics to modeling problems is the recognition of exploitation of patterns and regularity inherent to the problem. These ideas will be illustrated using examples from queuing and biology and concentrating on situations involving randomness or chance.

TOPIC: Whither Tax Reform?
SPEAKERS: Henry Aaron and Harvey Galper, Brookings Institution
CHAIR: Wray Smith, Mathematica and GWU
DISCUSSANT: Bruce Davie, House Ways and Means Committee
DATE & TIME: Thursday, May 23, 1985; 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Departmental Auditorium, Rm. GE-069, Forrestal Bldg., 1000 Independence Ave., S.W. (Bring this announcement to assure entry to the building)
ABSTRACT: The chances for tax reform are better than they have been in years. How should one go about evaluating the various proposals for reform and simplification? The speakers recently authored Assessing Tax Reform (Brookings, 1985)

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Short Course on Exploratory Data Analysis

WSS is sponsoring a two-day short course on Exploratory Data Analysis to be held during the first week of June 1985. Dr. James Dolby from San Jose State University, San Jose, California, will teach this intermediate-level course on Tukey's EDA. Registration forms will be sent to WSS members and building representatives under separate cover.

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OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (Continued)

March Board Meeting

The annual "Open" meeting of the WSS Board of Directors was held March 26. However, no members-at-large attended this year's session. Much of the discussion centered on upcoming special presentations and short courses. In the continuing review of the WSS ByLaws, it was decided to leave the Methodology Section as a formal Section but to consider a redefinition of the provisions for operating as a Section of the Society.

Washington Applied Modeling Association Meeting

On Tuesday May 21, the second meeting of the Washington Applied Modeling Association will be held. The focus will be on the presentation and application of modeling techniques across scientific and engineering disciplines. The meeting will be held at the System Planning Corporation Building, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Rosslyn, Va, beginning at 6:30 pm. The general format will include a half-hour wine-and-cheese informal discussion period, followed by a one-hour technique-and-application presentation. A few minutes at the end will be reserved for discussion and ideas for techniques and speakers in the future. For further information, contact Pete Malpass at Contel, (703) 385-4300x124 or Lionel Mitchell at CTA, (703) 883-3750.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!

The election for new officers for the 1985-1986 program year is underway. Members have been mailed, under separate cover, the biographical sketches of the nominees for office and an official ballot. The ballots are due May 21, 1985. DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

300 (1970) 1985 and to discuss the large membership of the Society

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Have you changed jobs or received any honor or award? Members are invited to submit these announcements to Julia Oliver, P.O. Box 23502, Washington, D.C. 20026. Each submission should include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes.

Charles E. Caudill, Statistical Reporting Service, USDA, was presented the National Aeronautics and Space Administration medal for outstanding leadership for fostering the development of remote sensing science, and the application of this new technology while serving as Chairman of the AGRISTARS Interagency Program Management Group.

David T. Hulett, has been named Director, Research for Commercial Electronic Equipment at TRW, Inc.'s Electronic and Defense Sector headquartered in Los Angeles area. His most recent past position was General Manager for Strategic Planning in Tosco Corporation's Projects and Ventures Department. In the 1970's he served in OMB's Statistical Policy Division and in the Energy Information Administration.

Carlyle Maw, moved from the Office of Civil Rights where he served as Chief Statistician to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, National Center for Education Statistics.

N. D. Singpurwalla, was awarded the 1984 Wilks Award for Contributions to Statistical Methodologies in Army Research Development and Testing. The citation for his award reads as follows: "For singular contributions to reliability theory and life testing methodologies, for professional services to the statistics community, and for invaluable assistance in solving several important testing problems in the Department of Defense."

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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. (202) 331-1153

JOB OPENINGS

Project Director: Ph.D. (with intramural experience) or M.S. (with 2 years experience) in biostatistics or epidemiology. Effective communication skills, familiarity with FDA requirements and managerial abilities required. Computer background in SAS helpful. Competitive salaries and excellent benefits offered. Qualified applicants should submit resume with salary history to Ms. Dixon, Biometric Research Institute, Inc., 1401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22209.

Statistician 1530 GS-11/12: Position for statistician at the M.S. (M.A.) and Ph.D level with a background in psychology, economics, or other social science area. Position requires skills in the application of statistical software packages to large payroll or personnel files. Data is to be analyzed for potential civil rights violations; e.g., age, race, sex, etc. Send 171 to Joseph Donovan, Director, PSD, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 2401 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20507, (202) 634-7062.

Statisticians and Epidemiologists: Eleven Epidemiologists/Statisticians are being sought by the Interview and Examination Statistics Program of National Center for Health Statistics to analyze data collected in the National Health Interview Survey and the Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and to plan the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and the future National Medical Expenditure Survey. Applications are being sought from persons with graduate training in epidemiology or biostatistics. Persons with a background in the fields of biological sciences, nutrition, nursing, medicine, sociology, economics, demography, health service, or related fields who have training in epidemiology or biostatistics are also encouraged to apply. Positions range from GS-9 through GS-13 with salaries equivalent to \$21,804-\$37,599 depending on education and experience. Applicants must be on the Federal Register Statistician Series. Send 171 to Cindy Rooney, (301) 436-7104, in Hyattsville, Maryland.

Computer Programmer/Analysts, GS-5 to GS-12: USDA Economic Research Service has two current openings; desire knowledge of SAS, SPSS, FORTRAN, and/or microcomputer software; small organization; work with latest microcomputer and mainframe equipment. Moving to 1301 N.Y. Ave., N.W. this summer. Applicants must have civil service status. Expect more openings. For info call Chuck Little at 475-5220 or Chris Early at 447-7148.

WANTED--A few good men and women for a broad range of statistical activities at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

NCES has several openings for applied statisticians GS-1530-7-12, in the divisions of Elementary & Secondary education statistics, Postsecondary and Vocational education statistics, and Multi-level Education statistics. Assignments will depend on grade but all offer an opportunity to engage in a broad range of statistical activities related to longitudinal or cross sectional surveys, studies, and analyses of significant areas of education data relating to the particular aspects of the field of education to which assigned. If interested, please forward a resume or SF 171 and summary cover letter to: Nancy Moles, NCES, 1200 19th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20208-1605, or call (202) 254-7641.

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JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an applicant seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing this applicant should notify Mrs. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization and telephone number. The applicants will be notified or the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential.

Code Number: 85-XX

Position Wanted: Statistician in Metro Area

Education: B.A., Statistics, Costa Rica; 1-Year program at Grinnel College

Availability: Late May 1985

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