

JUNE 1985

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Calendar

June 4	Tuesday	Shortcourse: Exploratory Data Analysis
June 11	Tuesday	Misfortune of Memory in Survey Reporting of Health Experience
June 12	Wednesday	Workshop on Writing and Presenting ASA Papers
June 12	Wednesday	WSS Annual Dinner
July 23	Tuesday	ARIMA Models, Seasonal Adjustment and Outliers (NOTE DATE!)

1984-1985 President's Report -- Terry Ireland, President

The Annual Report is in a new place this year so that we can summarize the activities of the year as it ends. It has been a very active year. The Continuing Education program continues to grow. WSS has sponsored workshops on computers and statistics, data analysis, federally funded surveys, and writing and presenting statistical papers in response to a broad membership survey. A full schedule of speakers filled out the various programs and the Methodology section. The income from our Continuing Education program has supported the expansion of our Newsletter. It will continue to do so. These activities are the heart of WSS.

The Board Members dealt with the usual complement of administrative problems while adding some initiatives of their own. They instituted an Annual Presidents' Service Award to recognize long-term service which furthers the goals of the Washington Statistical Society and the Washington Statistical Community. They established a free membership in WSS for statisticians visiting in the Washington area during the year. They modified the By-Laws to conform with ASA standards and to clarify the requirements for Sections within WSS. In recognition of the support given to WSS by ASA, the Board passed two resolutions affirming its support for the ASA program development efforts and making a contribution to the ASA program development fund. The Board clarified in the form of a resolution an implicit policy that neither talks nor sessions should promote or give the appearance of promoting a commercial product. And finally, the Board established the WSS Coffee Mug (a beautiful light blue, imprinted with the WSS Newsletter masthead designed by Dick Taeuber). Each Board Member will receive a mug in recognition of their service to WSS. The mugs will also be on sale at the Annual Dinner.

(Continued)

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 Dippo 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~~

33-1153

1984-1985 President's Report -- (Continued)

We have actively tried to expand our community of statisticians. We have increased our local associate members both through the Visiting Associate Member program and by inviting every potential member who attended one of our sessions to become a Local Associate. We invited local universities to describe their statistical programs in our Newsletter. By holding our third holiday wine and cheese party in three years, we established for sure an Annual WSS Holiday Party. We also co-sponsored a reception for John Aitken in the Fall.

We wish to extend the recognition of the Washington Statistical Society to the outstanding students at our local universities: Mr. Ahmad Mokatrin at American University; Mr. Modise Maaga at Howard University; Ms. Elizabeth Phillips at the George Washington University; and Mr. Jan Winnicki at the University of Maryland.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve as President this year. I have often visited Board Members at their offices, getting the necessary papers to them in the nick of time, receiving valuable counsel, and enjoying their friendship. I will treasure these warm friendships in the years to come. I have been well supported by the great variety of skills and service provided to WSS by the Board Members and by the WSS committee members. Together we have well served a worthwhile and effective Society. Thank you.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE WASHINGTON STATISTICAL SOCIETY
AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES: 1984-1985

Rich Allen	Donald King
Wendy Alvey	Nancy Kirkendall
Aroona Borpujari	Mary Grace Kovar
Jim Carpenter	Josefina Lago
Jay Choi	Gary Liberson
Bennie Clemmer	Lillian Madow
Jerry Coffey	Bette Mahoney
Michael Cohen	Charles Mann
James Dambrosia	Susan Miskura
Virginia de Wolf	Julia Oliver
Cathryn Dippo	Earl Pollack
Harry Foxwell	Fritz Scheuren
Mitchell Gail	Seymour Selig
Maria Gonzalez	Nozer Singpurwalla
Lee-Ann Hayek	Courtenay Slater
Terry Ireland	Wray Smith
Eva Jacobs	Cecelia Snowden
Ayah Johnson	Ron Steele
Daniel Kasprzyk	Dick Taeuber
Evelyn Kay	Fred Vogel

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: Exploratory Data Analysis
SPEAKER: James Dolby, San Jose State University
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, June 4 and Wednesday, June 5, 1985; 9:30-5:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5, 901 G Street, N.W.
REGISTRATION: Cost to WSS and ASA members is \$90; nonmembers, \$110. For registration information contact Virginia de Wolf at (W) 275-4419 or (H) 588-8812
ABSTRACT: Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) is a set of techniques developed by John Tukey. The objective of EDA is to explore data. The philosophy of EDA is not to trust numerical summaries of the data but to (1) display graphically distributions in order to reveal unanticipated patterns in the data and (2) use statistics which are resistant to outliers.

TOPIC: Misfortune of Memory in Survey Reporting of Health Experience
SPEAKER: Elizabeth Loftus, University of Washington
CHAIR: Monroe G. Sirken, National Center for Health Statistics
DISCUSSANT: Elizabeth Martin, Bureau of Social Science Research
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, June 11, 1985; 2:00-3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Center Building, Room 1-23, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD.
ABSTRACT: Because of their mutual interest, cognitive psychologists and survey researchers might have been expected to have a long history of collaborations. In fact, only recently have attempts been made to foster a dialogue between the two disciplines. This seminar will describe some of the collaborative efforts that have been initiated and show how mutually beneficial work might be conducted.

TOPIC: Workshop on Writing and Presenting ASA Papers
SPEAKERS: Wendy Alvey and Beth Kilss, IRS; Chip Alexander, Census, and Nancy Spruill, Department of Defense.
CHAIR: Charles R. Mann, Charles R. Mann Associates.
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, June 12, 1985; 1:00-3:00 p.m.
LOCATION: IRS Auditorium, 1111 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C.
ABSTRACT: For a number of years now, the WSS has joined with the ASA in an effort to improve the quality of statistical papers, especially those presented and published in conjunction with the Annual Meetings of the ASA. Charles R. Mann, Charles R. Mann Associates, Inc., will chair this session, which focusses on:
o good writing techniques and ASA guidelines--Nancy Spruill, Department of Defense;
o selection of material and oral delivery--Chip Alexander, Bureau of the Census; and
o graphics and handouts, Wendy Alvey and Beth Kilss, Internal Revenue Service.
The format is envisioned as an interactive "workshop" and ample time will be provided for questions, comments and discussion. The speakers will be glad to comment individually on examples of your work after the session, so feel free to bring along your drafts. Veteran speakers are also welcome--both to share their own experiences and to pick up a few tips themselves. For more information, call Wendy Alvey on 376-0216.

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TOPIC: ARIMA Models, Seasonal Adjustment and Outliers
 SPEAKER: Peter Burman, University of Kent at Canterbury
 CHAIR: Stuart Scott, Bureau of Labor Statistics
 DISCUSSANT: William Bell, Bureau of the Census
 DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, July 23, 1985; 1:00-2:30 p.m. (NOTE DATE!)
 LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5, 901 G Street, N.W.
 ABSTRACT: Selected issues in model-based seasonal adjustment will be discussed:
 (1) choice of a decomposition in "top-heavy" models, i.e., when non-white
 noise irregulars may be appropriate, (2) identification of outliers
 automatically and through checking for external causes, and (3)
 sensitivity of model selection and parameter estimation to the presence
 of outliers. Alternatives are evaluated according to post-sample
 forecast errors in a study of Census Bureau series.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summary of April Board Meeting

Nearly the entire April 30, 1985 meeting of the WSS Board of Directors was devoted to consideration of proposed By-Law changes. After discussion, a new set of By-Laws was approved. One major change is the simplification of the procedure for establishing a Section of the Society. The new By-Laws also define all WSS members to be members of each Section which will eliminate the confusion which has always been present on Section membership.

1984-85 Student Scholarship Winners

The winners of the 1984-85 WSS student scholarships are as follows:

University	Person
American	Mr. Ahmad Mokatrin
Howard	Mr. Modise Maaga
George Washington	Ms. Elizabeth Phillips
Maryland	Mr. Jan Winnicki

Report on Meeting of ASA Board of Directors,
 April 12-13, 1985, Washington, D.C.,
 Eva F. Jacobs, District 1 Representative

There were two major presentations to the Board and several shorter committee reports.

The first presentation was made by a consultant on office automation. This study was performed at the direction of the ASA Board in consultation with an ASA In-House Computer Review Committee to make recommendations on providing the ASA national office with a comprehensive in-house system for database and financial management, word processing, statistical analysis and other capabilities. The consultant examined ASA needs, prepared an RFP, and evaluated the vendors' responses to the RFP.

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OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

The consultant narrowed the choice to the proposals of two vendors, the advantages and disadvantages of which were displayed and discussed. The Board passed a resolution empowering the In-House Computer Review Group and the Executive staff of ASA to continue negotiations with the two vendors and work out the final contractual arrangement with one of them. The consultant also recommended the hiring of a systems manager, which was also approved.

The second extensive presentation was made by the chairman of the ASA Strategic Planning Group, president-elect D. W. Marquardt. The group is developing a strategic planning framework that can be used by all ASA constituencies. A draft of the proposed strategic planning process was presented. The plan is to have all the ASA groups become familiar with the work, to discuss strategic planning and to prepare their input to the Strategic Planning Group. There will be a special meeting of the ASA Board in November to review the proposals and the comments and reactions of the constituent ASA groups.

The remainder of the agenda covered the following business and action items:

1. Appointment of W. Allen Spivey of the Business Economics Section to the Publications Committee. This in accordance with the desire to have the Committee represent all parts of the membership.
2. The formation of three new chapters was approved. The Council of Chapters has been active in encouraging the formation of chapters. Guidelines for establishing chapters were approved. Guidelines for withdrawing chapter charters are now in preparation.
3. A report on the status of the Building and Development Fund was distributed. Fund raising activities will continue until November when the Board will review the status and decide whether to continue the campaign.
4. After hearing the report of the Committee on Meetings, the Board voted to approve an experiment with regional meetings. This policy will be reviewed after three regional meetings. These meetings will complement the annual meetings. It was also agreed that ASA would cooperate with other organizations in arranging special topics meetings. The allocation of invited paper sessions at the annual meeting was also reviewed and approved.
5. The Board approved the appointment of an ad hoc committee on the economic status of statisticians with the charge to be limited to an investigation of the supply and demand for statisticians.
6. Other topics included the Survey on Journal Options for which a questionnaire is being prepared, discussion of financial matters, discussion of the treasurer's function, budget committee reorganization, and the ISI meetings.

Call for Papers on Statistics and Human Rights

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is undertaking a study of how statistical techniques can be used to improve human rights reporting and analysis. The AAAS project director, Eric Stover, is seeking (1) proposals for commissioned papers on relevant topics and (2) information on relevant papers already presented or published, or to be presented or published. Papers in both categories are to be included in a special issue of a scientific journal or a separate published report. For further information, please write or telephone Eric Stover at AAAS, Clearinghouse on Science and Human Rights, 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 467-5237.

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inseting 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

ORI, Inc. has full and part-time openings at all levels for a variety of software applications for government and commercial clients. Areas of application include financial systems, market research, statistical survey processing, statistical research. Statistical/mathematical background not required but a definite advantage. At least one year of SAS experience required; experience with other languages desirable. For consideration, applicants should send resume to: Human Resources, ORI, Inc., 1375 Piccard Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20910.

JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below are brief descriptions of the qualifications of 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: 85-04

Position Wanted: Applied statistician in Washington, D.C. area.

Education: B. Stat. (Statistics), University of Costa Rica; selected for one-year program at Grinnel College, Iowa. Fluent in English and Spanish.

Experience: Surveys, statistical packages and some computer experience, research, teaching, and small business management.

Availability: End of May 1985.

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JOB APPLICANTS (Continued)

Code Number: 85-05


Position Wanted: Mathematical Statistician, GS-1529-12/13 in Washington DC area.

Education: Masters degree, GWU 1981

Experience: 20 years Federal Government: (physical) systems reliability, acceptance sampling and statistical quality control, large-scale computerized data bases, SAS/SAS Graph, reports, precise time and time intervals mathematical statistical models for risk assessment, and regression analysis (GLM).

Objective: Applied mathematical statistics in R&D environment.

Area of Interest: Multivariate analysis, and multiple time series analysis.





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