



SEPTEMBER 1985

WASHINGTON  
STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

## Calendar

September 5	Thursday	Sample Designs for Panel Surveys of Agricultural Production
September 18	Wednesday	Composite Estimation of Totals for Livestock Surveys
September 24	Tuesday	Postcensal Estimates of Households for States and Counties
September 26	Thursday	Comparability of National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) and National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) Data Based on the 8th Versus 9th Revision of the ICD.
September 26	Thursday	Use Attitude Tracking Study-II
October 1	Tuesday	Data Reliability in the Current Population Survey

\*\*\*\*\*  
 WSS and the National ASA---Randall K. Spoeri, ASA Associate Executive Director

When former WSS President Terry Ireland asked me to write this article some months ago, he generously gave me considerable latitude. In a nutshell, he asked that I address the program of activities and support provided by the national ASA, that would be of interest to WSS and its members. I will try to briefly summarize the many and diverse topics that come to mind.

Beginning with the new ASA Constitution, effective January 1984, increased attention has been focused on ASA's 72 (as of Spring 1985) chapters. Under the 1984 Constitution, a new Council of Chapters was established. The charter for the Council of Chapters appeared in the January 1984 issue of Amstat News. For the first time in recent memory, this body has as its charge support of the chapters and is made up of a representative from each chapter. Under the leadership of 1984 Chair Joe Skwish of the Delaware Chapter and 1985 Chair Bob Mason of the San Antonio Chapter, the new Council of Chapters has really taken off. I will touch on some of the Council's projects shortly.

Even before the establishment of the Council of Chapters, a study of ASA, its organization and operations, was carried out during 1982-83 by John J. Corson of the National Executive Service Corps. In his final report, which appeared in the November 1983 issue of The American Statistician, he strongly recommended that the ASA national office devote considerably more energy to working with chapters. With my arrival as a member of the staff in September 1983, this became one of my first priorities.

(Continued)

WSS and the National ASA---Randall K. Spoeri, ASA Associate Executive Director  
(Continued)

Through the efforts of the Council of Chapters and our office, we are now beginning to see some of the fruits of our labors. Let me list several of these activities and services.

1. LINK--The first issue of this quarterly newsletter, devoted solely to news and features for and about chapters, appeared in February 1985. It is compiled, edited, produced, and distributed from the national office based on input from chapters and others interested in the chapters. The mailing list is composed principally of chapter offices and ASA leaders, but anyone can be added. Let our office know in writing if you would like to begin receiving LINK.

2. Chapter Handbook--This resource guide for chapter officers is currently in preparation and will be reviewed by the Council. The goal is to publish and distribute this "how-to" document by the end of 1985.

3. National Speakers List--Chapters are often in need of names of persons who are willing to speak at chapter functions. On behalf of the Council, the national office is compiling a National Speakers List that will contain volunteer speakers, their topics for presentation, and their requirements for expenses, if any. Names have been solicited through Amstat News (April, 1985) and LINK (Spring 1985). Let us hear from you if you want to be included.

4. Chapter Visitation Program--In order to meet face to face with chapter leaders and their membership, and speak at a chapter meeting, ASA officers and executives regularly visit the chapters. The goal is currently to visit roughly half our chapters each year and to meet with a chapter about every other year. In the fall of each year, chapters are queried about their wishes for a visitor (i.e., yes or no, when, and who: Fred Leone, another officer or me) for the next year. Based on this input, a schedule is worked out. Feedback from these visits is tremendously useful to the national office and the Council. The chapters also value and enjoy them.

5. "Packaged" Presentation on ASA--As part of the Chapter Visitation Program, I have prepared a 35mm slide presentation entitled "The American Statistical Association: In Service to You and the Profession." This presentation provides an overview of ASA, its history, organization, programs and services. I am happy to respond to requests to give this 45- to 50-minute talk to groups including the chapters. We plan ultimately to make this available as a script and slides package for use by chapters and others interested in telling the ASA story.

6. Annual Survey of Chapters--Each year chapters are surveyed on a variety of topics. Improvements have recently been made to the questionnaire, which is sent out to chapter presidents in the spring. Follow-up for nonrespondents is also done. The responses are summarized and a report prepared, which is then provided to all the chapters and discussed at the ASA Annual Meeting in August. These data are vital to the Council and the national office in responding to chapter needs and interests.

7. Slide Presentation on Careers in Statistics--The Council, with the help of the Cincinnati Chapter, is developing a 35mm slide presentation on careers in statistics. After a script and supporting slides are prepared, a selected number of chapters will "field test" the package. The finalized version will then be made available to chapters and other interested groups.

(Continued)

WSS and the National ASA---Randall K. Spoeri, ASA Associate Executive Director  
(Continued)

8. Videotape Presentation on Promoting Statistics--The Council is appointing a committee to look into developing a videotape on promoting statistics at the secondary level. Since this activity is still in the planning stage, input is welcome.
9. Continuing Education--The CE Program is continuing to expand its activities for chapters. WSS has already been an active participant. However, Jill Stormer and I are anxious to involve other chapters as well. Many have already begun taking advantage of low-cost videotape rentals, advice on developing programs at the chapter level, and continuing education units (CEU's), but we continue to look for other means of reaching chapters with Continuing Education.
10. Annual Meeting--At the Annual Meeting, there are four activities directly involving chapters:
  - o Semi-annual Meeting of Council Officers
  - o Annual Business Meeting (Breakfast) of the Council
  - o Chapter Officers Workshop and Reception
  - o Nontechnical paper session sponsored by the Council
11. Regional Meetings--At its April 1985 meeting, the ASA Board of Directors approved the concept of ASA holding regional meetings as a complement to the Annual and special-topic meetings. Although still in the early planning stages, it is clear that the 7 ASA Districts, with Council Governors in each, along with constituent chapters, will play a major role in these regional meetings.
12. Administrative Services--The national office continues to provide chapters with a variety of these services, including:
  - o Collecting chapter dues
  - o Providing mailing labels and lists of ASA members in chapter areas
  - o Notifying chapters of new members in their area
  - o Assisting interested groups in petitioning for chapter status

In addition, the Board has approved the acquisition of an inhouse computer for the ASA office. Once fully operational, it is hoped by early 1986, additional administrative services can be made available.

Although there are other projects and services currently being discussed, the ones I have listed should capture the new vitality and activity in the chapters, the Council of Chapters, and the national office. I am committed to the health and vibrancy of our chapters and spend a large portion of my time on this endeavor. I hope those concerned will feel free to contact me as matters arise that need discussion or attention.

I appreciate having the opportunity to tell some of what we are doing for our chapters. We are doing quite a bit, but need to do more, and can use your help. Let us hear from you!

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS

TOPIC: Sample Designs for Panel Surveys of Agricultural Production  
SPEAKER: Rick L. Williams, Research Triangle Institute  
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, September 5, 1985; 12:30-2:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Room 5152 South Agriculture Bldg., 12th and Independence Ave., S.W.  
ABSTRACT: The Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) of the USDA is charged with estimating the production levels of raw agricultural commodities in the U.S. This has traditionally been carried out through a system of independently analyzed surveys conducted at several time points throughout the growing season. Much of the data collected at a particular time point exhibits a strong relationship to the data collected at a previous time point. A study will be presented which explores the possibility of using a double-sampling survey design with a regression estimator. Optimal designs will be presented which minimize the total cost of the surveys for fixed levels of precision.

\*\*\*\*\*

TOPIC: Composite Estimation of Totals for Livestock Surveys  
SPEAKER: Lynn Kuo, Research Fellow of the Statistical Survey Institute, 1984-1985  
DISCUSSANT: Ron Fesco, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, September 18, 1985; 12:30-2:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Room 3109 South Agriculture Bldg., 12th and Independence Ave., S.W.  
ABSTRACT: Four different estimators are used by the Statistical Reporting Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to estimate the livestock inventory in 10 major States. All estimators are based upon samples from both an area frame and a list frame. Composite estimation to combine these four estimators is discussed. The composite estimator is derived by minimizing a quadratic function subject to linear constraints. Numerical results show that the optimal combined estimator often consists of combining just two of the four estimators.

\*\*\*\*\*

TOPIC: Postcensal Estimates of Households for States and Counties  
SPEAKER: Campbell Gibson, Bureau of the Census  
CHAIR: Donald Hernandez, Bureau of the Census  
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, September 24, 1985; 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
LOCATION: Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Room A-5, 901 G Street, N.W.  
ABSTRACT: A Census Bureau report on annual estimates of households by state for the 1981-84 period was released in August 1985. The estimates are based largely on the national trend in the adult population per household. The Bureau hopes to do research on this method and other methods to determine the reliability of postcensal estimates of total households for counties and of households by type and by size of states.

\*\*\*\*\*

TOPIC: Use Attitude Tracking Study-II  
SPEAKER: Michael Lawrence, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), Department of Defense(DOD)  
CHAIR: Zahava Doering, DMDC, DOD  
DISCUSSANT: Steve Sellman, Office of Secretary, DOD  
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, September 26, 1985; 12:30-2:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: DMDC Conference Room, 4th Floor, 1600 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA  
ABSTRACT: The Use Attitude Tracking Study-II is an annual survey of approximately 8,000 males and females conducted by DOD to assess the interest in and knowledge of the military among American youth. This presentation will describe the survey and present data describing the propensity of young people for military service. It will also consider how the level of propensity related to youth unemployment.

(Continued)

PROGRAM ABSTRACTS (CONTINUED)

TOPIC: Comparability of NHDS and NAMCS Data Based on the 8th Versus 9th Revision of the ICD  
SPEAKER: Benjamin Duggar, Science Applications International Corporation  
CHAIR: Iris Shimizu, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)  
DISCUSSANT: Delray Green, NCHS  
DATE AND TIME: Thursday, September 26, 1985; 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: Center Building, Room 1-23, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, MD  
ABSTRACT: Commencing January 1, 1979 NCHS changed from using ICDA-8 to ICD-9-CM for coding diagnoses and surgical procedures data collected in the National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS) and diagnoses collected in the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS). To assist users of NHDS diagnoses data, a sample of 1975 discharge records have been dual coded in both ICDA-8 and ICD-9-CM and comparability ratios derived for each of the NHDS published categories of diagnoses. For NAMCS the entire 1978 sample was dual coded and comparability ratios developed. The methodology, comparability ratios, and explanations will be presented.

\*\*\*\*\*

TOPIC: Data Reliability in the Current Population Survey (CPS)  
SPEAKER: Colm O'Muircheartaigh, Bureau of the Census and London School of Economics  
CHAIR: Janice Shack-Marquez, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
DISCUSSANT: Joseph Waksberg, WESTAT  
DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, October 1, 1985; 12:30-2:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: GAO Auditorium, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.  
ABSTRACT: An improved estimate of simple response variance for CPS data will be presented. The level of response variance and of the index of inconsistency for different types of respondents will be examined both for self-reports and for proxy-reports. Some applications of the results will be suggested.

\*\*\*\*\*

Upcoming Sessions - Details Next Month

October 8, 1985 A Multipurpose Optimum Allocation Algorithm  
October 8, 1985 Multiple Imputation for Interval Estimation  
October 18, 1985 Carl Harris will speak on a topic to be announced.  
October 30, 1985 A Markov Chain Model for Illinois Corn Yields  
November 15, 1985 Shortcourse on Generalized Linear Models (see enclosed announcement)

\*\*\*\*\*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE BOARD MEETING

The annual meeting of the outgoing and incoming Boards of Directors of the Washington Statistical Society was held June 25, 1985. In her opening comments, new President Mary Grace Kovar referred to a recent article in LINK, the Newsletter of the Council of Chapters of ASA, which expressed concerns about the status of chapters. Mary Grace stated that WSS had two strong features which had led to its success: a solid program of scientific sessions and a regular newsletter to all members. The Society has added to these features a strengthened program of short courses in recent-years.

The Board voted to leave dues for the 1985-86 program year at the present levels. One new suggestion made for further consideration was that WSS participate in area high school science fairs by making awards and judging entries.

(Continued)

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### WSS ANNUAL DINNER

The Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner, on June 12, 1985, was attended by 120 members and guests. One special feature of the evening was the table with four former chairmen of the Department of Statistics/Computer and Information Systems of the George Washington University.

The guest speakers--Harold Bright, Professor Emeritus of GWU, and Katherine Wallman, Executive Director of the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics--made insightful comments on the present status of the statistics profession and suggestions for improvement.

The Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics was presented to David A. Pierce for his work at the Federal Reserve Board. Maria E. Gonzalez was recognized as the outgoing Past President of WSS, but was on foreign travel and unable to attend. Seymour Selig was presented a certificate recognizing him for ten years of service on the Board of Directors. Rich Allen received the first annual Presidents' Award for service to the Society. Carol Ireland was recognized by her husband, outgoing WSS President Terry Ireland, for her contributions to the Society in the past year, which included helping with the arrangements for many of the special meetings and hosting short course speakers from out of town. She was presented a gift of roses and a WSS coffee mug.

### DAVID A. PIERCE WINS SHISKIN AWARD

The sixth annual Julius Shiskin Award for Economic Statistics was presented June 12, 1985, to David A. Pierce for his use of modern statistical techniques in the data collection and modelling efforts at the Federal Reserve Board. The presentation was made at the Washington Statistical Society Annual Dinner along with an honorarium of \$250.

The Award Program is designed to honor unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of economic statistics in interpreting the economy. Participating organizations in the program are the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, National Bureau of Economic Research, National Association of Business Economics, and the Washington Statistical Society, all of which Mr. Shiskin was associated with in his long and fruitful career.

Previous winners of the Award were Estella Dagum of Statistics Canada, James Bonnen for his work chairing the President's Reorganization Project for the Federal Statistical System, Edward Denison for his work at the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Brookings Institution, Beatrice Vaccara for her contributions at the Bureau of Industrial Economics, and Geoffrey Moore for his research on business cycles.

### ELECTION RESULTS

Daniel Kasprzyk was elected as the Vice President/President-Elect for the 1985/86 program year. Rich Allen was reelected as Secretary for the next two years. Wendy Alvey and Susan E. Ellenberg were elected as Representatives-at-Large for 1985-1987. Mary Mulry-Liggan was elected as the Methodology Section Program Chair.

(Continued)

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### WSS CONTINUING EDUCATION

The WSS Committee on Short Courses has begun planning for the 1985-86 year. Several sessions are now tentatively planned:

1. In November, Daryl Pregibon of Bell Laboratories will give a one-day course on Generalized Linear Models using modules from the ASA videotape course. (See enclosed announcement for specific details.)
  2. In late fall Harry Foxwell and Josephina Lago are planning to repeat their very successful course, "A 'Hands-on' Review of Statistical Software for Microcomputers."
  3. Scheduled for the spring is a Workshop on Writing and Presenting Statistical Papers. This workshop is similar to those given in prior years.
  4. In the spring, we may also sponsor a Computer Expo on Statistical Software.
- Anyone with further suggestions for Continuing Education courses - especially possible speakers - should contact Virginia de Wolf at (W) 275-4419 or (H) 588-8812.

### EMPLOYMENT COLUMN

Deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date

Send notices and requests to:  
Evelyn R. Kay 202/331-1153  
520 22nd Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037

### JOB OPENINGS

Experienced Survey Statistician. Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), is looking to hire a survey statistician to do consulting work for U.S. Government agencies. The work will include client interaction, computer analyses using SAS and SPSS, task management, and indepth analytical work presented in report formats. An advanced degree is required with, 3-5 years of related experience. Immediate availability is desired. Send resume and salary requirements to: SAIC, Attn: D. F., 1710 Goodridge Drive, McLean, VA 22102.

Statistician/Mathematician/OR Analyst, GS-7/12. Position is as a member of a small team functioning as consultants to agency economists on statistical, mathematical and econometric issues. Proficiency in statistical software required, especially SAS. Other packages supported included SPSS, TROLL, Speakeasy and TSP on the IBM mainframe and SORITEC, RATS, ESP and SPSS/PC on IBM-PC compatible personal computers. Ability to organize and conduct training classes and seminars on the use of statistical packages and the application of statistical techniques. MS in Statistics/Mathematics/OR desired. For more information, contact Charlie Hallahan, Data Services Center, Room 240A, Economic Research Service, USDA, 1301 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-4788, Telephone (202) 786-1505.

(Continued)

EMPLOYMENT COLUMN (CONTINUED)

JOB APPLICANTS

Listed below are brief description of the qualifications of applicants seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing these applicants 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 applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential.

CODE NUMBER: 86-01

Position wanted: Data analyst/statistician, preferable in private sector in metro DC.  
Education: PhD Biopsychology, CUNY 1985; BA Psychology, U of Michigan 1978.  
Experience: 5 years with SAS and SPSS packages and Fortran programming.

CODE NUMBER: 86-02

Position wanted: Applied statistician in metro area.  
Education: MA, Applied Statistics, California State U at Long Beach 1978; prior emphasis on social science, linguistics, and zoology.  
Experience: Multivariate research, software development. Statistical packages, Fortran, and Basic. Also publishing, teaching, management, and small business.  
Areas of interest: Multivariate research, software development.

CODE NUMBER: 86-03

Position wanted: Mathematical Statistician  
Education: MSc Mathematical Statistics, McGill University, BSc Mathematics, McGill University  
Experience: 10+ years in public and private sectors in areas of transportation, energy and housing. Fortran, APL, and SPSS. Familiar with SAS and BMDP  
Expertise: Sampling, statistical inference and estimation procedures, questionnaire design, analysis of variance, regression analysis, discriminate analysis, analysis of log-linear data, probit analysis, logit analysis, and other types of multivariate analysis techniques and in the use of nonparametric tests.



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

