



# WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON  
STATISTICAL  
SOCIETY

October 2003

## The 2003 Morris Hansen Lecture

The Washington Statistical Society is pleased to announce the thirteenth in its annual series of lectures to honor the memory of Morris Hansen. This lecture series is made possible by a grant from Westat, where Morris Hansen was senior statistician for 20 years and serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors at the time of his death.

This year the Morris Hansen lecture series speaker is **Dr. Paul Biemer**. Dr. Biemer serves as a Chief Scientist at the Research Triangle Institute, International (RTI) and was named a Distinguished Fellow in 2002, only the second person to reach the highest level of the research track at RTI. He also holds a joint appointment with the University of North Carolina. Dr. Biemer has been associated with RTI since 1991, when he took the position of Principal Scientist and Director of the Survey Methods Program.

Dr. Biemer received his Ph.D. in Statistics from Texas A&M University in 1978. His Ph.D. dissertation examined nonsampling errors in surveys, which has continued to be his major research interest. He is the author of a book with Lars Lyberg, *Introduction to Survey Quality* (New York: John Wiley, 2003) and is the lead editor of *Measurement Error in Surveys* (New York: John Wiley, 1991).

Upon completing his graduate work, Dr. Biemer joined the Census Bureau in Washington, D.C. as a mathematical statistician. There he led a number of major quality improvement projects for the 1980 Decennial Census and the current surveys program. He advanced to the position of Assistant Division Chief of the Statistical Research Division. Dr. Biemer left the Census Bureau in 1986 to take an Associate Professor position at New Mexico State University. At NMSU, Dr. Biemer assumed the positions of Head of the Department of Experimental Statistics and Director of the University Statistics Center. He continued his research on nonsampling errors with funding from the Census Bureau and the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

<b>WSS and Other Seminars</b> (All events are open to any interested persons)	
<b>October 14 Tues.</b>	<b>Morris Hansen Lecture: New Methods for Estimating and Analyzing Measurement Error in Surveys</b>
<b>15 Wed.</b>	<b>The Pricing and Mispricing of Consumer Credit</b>
<b>16 Thurs.</b>	<b>The Role of Statistics in Achieving the Dream</b>

Also available on the World Wide Web at the following URL: <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss>

## Announcements

### **SIGSTAT Topics for Fall 2003**

October 15, 2003: PROC MIXED - Part 1: Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis (<http://www.sas.com>)

This session will be the first of several sessions showing how PROC MIXED in SAS/STAT can be used to estimate longitudinal data models.

November 12, 2003: Code Portability: SAS Data step in DBMS/Copy - using it as a SAS Work-Alike

Many SAS users own Conceptual Software 's DBMS/COPY , a widely used utility for transferring data between software packages. Conceptual's software product lines have been acquired by DataFlux [a subsidiary of SAS Institute].in October of 2002. This talk is a "Primer" on running SAS DATA step code with minimal change in the DBMS environment.

December 10: PROC MIXED - Part 2: The General Linear Mixed Model & Evaluating Covariance Structures (<http://www.sas.com>)

Continuing the topic from October, we'll discuss the general linear mixed model and how it is specified in PROC MIXED.

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the CPCUG, the Capital PC User Group, and WINFORMS, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science. All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from 12:30 to 1:30. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk. First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, [hallahan@ers.usda.gov](mailto:hallahan@ers.usda.gov), and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the SIGSTAT website, <http://www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/>.

### **FCSM 2003 Conference**

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology's (FCSM) 2003 Research Conference will be held November 17-19 at the Sheraton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia. The conference will feature a plenary address by Colm O'Muircheartaigh and focus on a wide range of current research and methodological topics relevant to federal government statistical programs. For a copy of the advance program and more information about the conference, please refer to <http://www.fcsm.gov/events/#upcoming>.

### **COPAFS Seminar**

New Metropolitan - Micropolitan Areas Implications for Statistical and Policy Decision Making

The date and time are November 4, 2003 with a start time of 8:00 a.m. and an ending time of 5:00 p.m. It will held at the Embassy Suites in Alexandria, VA. The session is hosted by the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS).

The session topics include "What We Have and Why," "Using the New Classifications at the National Level," "Regional Uses of the New Classifications," and "Where Do We Go From Here?".

The cost is \$95.00 for the seminar which is payable by purchase order or check made to COPAFS. There is a limit of 150 participants.

For a registration form or for more information, contact the COPAFS office: 703/836-0404 or by email at [copafs@aol.com](mailto:copafs@aol.com).

### **Note from the WSS NEWS Editor**

Items for publication in the December 2003 WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than October 28, 2003. E-mail items to Michael Feil at [michael.feil@usda.gov](mailto:michael.feil@usda.gov).

## Program Announcement

- Title:** Simple Response Variance Then and Now
- Speaker:** Paul P. Biemer  
RTI International and the University of North Carolina
- Chair:** Daniel Kasprzyk, Mathematica Policy Research
- Discussants:** Robert Groves, University of Michigan  
Keith Rust, Westat
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, October 14, 2003: 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- Location:** The Jefferson Auditorium, USDA South Building, between 12th and 14th Streets on Independence Avenue S.W., Washington DC. The Independence Avenue exit from the Smithsonian METRO stop is at the 12th Street corner of the building, which is also where the handicapped entrance is located. Except for handicapped access, all attendees should enter at the 5th wing, along Independence Avenue. Please bring a photo ID to facilitate gaining access to the building.
- Sponsors:** The Washington Statistical Society, Westat, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service.
- Reception:** The lecture will be followed by a reception from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the patio of the Jamie L. Whitten Building, across Independence Avenue S.W.
- Abstract:** As a student of nonsampling error, I was greatly influenced by the papers of Morris Hansen and his colleagues at the Census Bureau. The paper that influenced me most was "The Estimation and Interpretation of Gross Differences and the Simple Response Variance" (Hansen, Hurwitz, and Pritzker, 1964). The authors developed a model for evaluating survey classification error using reinterview surveys, introduced the concepts of simple response variance and the index of inconsistency as measures of the gross difference, and demonstrated their usefulness for optimal survey design.
- In this presentation, I review the response error model proposed in their seminal work and demonstrate how it flows naturally from the simple concept of two-stage cluster sampling. I also show how it relates to a latent class model in which the true value of a characteristic is the latent variable. Using this latent variable formulation of the gross difference, I consider the progress we have made in 40 years towards resolving the "unresolved issues" HHP listed at the end of their paper, including: (a) relaxing the assumptions of independent and parallel remeasurements, (b) using the estimates of response inconsistency to improve questionnaire design, and (c) clarifying the relationship between simple response variance and response bias.
- Several examples that illustrate the utility of these error models for improving survey design and other uses will be provided. The paper concludes with an examination of the similarities and differences between HHP's view of nonsampling error in the 1960's and our current view.

## Program Announcement

- Topic:** The Pricing and Mispricing of Consumer Credit
- Speakers:** Darryl Getter, HUD
- Discussant:** Paul Calem, Federal Reserve Board
- Chair:** Linda Atkinson, Economic Research Service
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, October 15, 2003; 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center Room 10, Postal Square Building (PSB), 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. Please use the First St., NE, entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see "Notice" at the end of this announcement.
- Sponsor:** Economics Section
- Abstract:** Some households face rejections and some are charged higher prices for credit relative to others. Previous academic studies view this as an indication of market failure in the consumer credit markets. This research, however, argues such findings could rather be viewed as proof that credit markets are functioning properly. Evidence presented here suggests that most rejected borrowers who have been considered "credit-constrained" in the traditional credit-rationing literature pose a higher credit risk to lenders, and most households that either get rejected or must pay higher loan rates to obtain credit are properly credit rationed. Meanwhile, some high credit quality borrowers, who may have qualified for lower rates, pay premium loan rates. The more relevant issue concerning modern consumer credit markets, therefore, is whether the prices borrowers pay for loans correctly reflect their level of credit risk. This paper re-examines consumer participation in credit markets looking specifically at issues related to the pricing of loans to borrowers of different levels of credit risk.

### NOTICE

To attend this seminar, you will need to do one of the following:

e-mail name, affiliation, and name of seminar to [wss\\_seminar@bls.gov](mailto:wss_seminar@bls.gov) (underscore after 'wss') by noon 1 day ahead

or

call 202-691-7524 at least 2 days ahead and leave a message. Finally, bring a photo ID.

## **Program Announcement**

### **The Role of Statistics in Achieving the Dream**

On October 16, 2003, there will be a 40th anniversary Washington Statistical Society (WSS) session honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., entitled "The Role of Statistics in Achieving the Dream."

A panel format will be used with speakers who are statisticians and demographers, mixed together with civil rights activists. Some of you who read this were on the Mall on August 28, 1963. Please come and share. And if you were not there, come and feel the sense of excitement and hope that existed then. Learn how statistics has played a role at nearly every juncture in leading to progress.

But there is still a long road ahead and much more for statisticians to do in achieving true equality of opportunity. It is safe to say that few of those attending the March on Washington that day would have predicted what happened in the 40 years since. Progress has been slower than hoped but the dream has also been broadened with many legislative, social, and economic accomplishments.

The October 16 session will begin at 12:30 pm and run until about 2:30pm. The location is the BLS Conference Center, 2 Postal Square Building, across from Union Station. To gain admittance you must call at least two days ahead to Kevin Cecco at 202-874-0464. Because this is a special occasion there will be light refreshments offered.

## Symposium Announcement

### QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE GOVERNMENT SYMPOSIUM

December 9 and 10, 2003  
Sponsored by  
The Washington Statistical Society

Holiday Inn, Rosslyn at Key Bridge  
1900 North Fort Meyer Drive in Arlington, VA 22209

#### Symposium Objective

The Washington Statistical Society is pleased to announce the sixth Quality Assurance in the Government Symposium. This symposium picks up with Quality Assurance where the very successful 1988 through 1992 symposia left off. The objectives of this symposium are to provide a basic introduction/update to quality assurance principles, to illustrate through case studies practical applications of these principles, and to address policy and organizational issues associated with quality assurance. The symposium will be held December 9 and 10, 2003.

Lars Lyberg of Statistics Sweden will give the keynote address on 'How European National Statistical Organizations are Continuously Improving Their Quality.' Other program highlights include a panel of agency administrators to discuss 'Why Care About Quality Statistics,' luncheon sessions to provide insights into Six Sigma and Exploiting Technology for Improving Measurement, and a general session on the Government Performance and Results Act with current agency success stories. There will be concurrent sessions covering a variety of topics including sampling, cognitive testing, standards for data quality, quality in graphical displays of data, technology, and statistical consulting.

#### Location and Metro Service

The Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge is located at 1900 North Fort Meyer Drive in Arlington, VA. Complimentary parking is available for all vehicles. Complimentary indoor parking is available for passenger vehicles only due to height restrictions.

The Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge is located one block from the Rosslyn Metro Station served by the Blue and Orange Lines.

#### Registration Information

The registration fees will be \$225 for members of WSS, ASA, ASQC; \$275 for non-members; and \$100 for full-time students with ID. Registration includes a copy of the Proceedings available at the symposium, continental breakfasts, buffet luncheons, and a reception. Early registration is strongly recommended. Look for registration forms and program details in the October and November 2003 WSS Newsletters, and in an October 2003 brochure mailed to WSS members. If you are not a WSS member and would like an electronic announcement please e-mail Glenn White at [glenn.white@ey.com](mailto:glenn.white@ey.com).

#### Accommodations

Participants must make their own overnight accommodations. If you use the Holiday Inn Rosslyn at Key Bridge mention that you are attending the symposium to obtain priority consideration.

## Employment

As a service to local statisticians, *WSS News* provides notification of employment opportunities and description of those seeking employment here in the Washington, DC, area. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this feature of the newsletter. The deadline for inserting notices is five (5) weeks before the publication date. Those interested should email or call Anne Peterson, at [apeterson.ipr@verizon.net](mailto:apeterson.ipr@verizon.net) or (703) 979-1191.

### Postdoctoral Position in Epidemiological Methods at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

The Epidemiology Branch is an intramural research program within the Division of Epidemiology, Statistics and Prevention Research at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. It actively conducts research within the domain of human reproduction, pregnancy, infant and child health. The Branch is currently recruiting a post-doctoral fellow interested in methodology and exposure assessment. Research areas include, but not limited to, the development of methods in causality, ROC analysis, and measurement error. The fellow will work closely with a Branch scientist and also be encouraged to develop his/her own research track. The candidate must have a PhD or MD degree and less than five years post-doctoral research experience. Preference will be given to candidates with an interest in methods in: (1) reproductive epidemiology research in the above fields, or (2) research aiming to improve exposure assessment. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests, and three letters of reference to:

Dr. Germaine Buck  
Chief  
Epidemiology Branch  
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 6100, Room 7B03  
Bethesda, MD 20892

For inquiry, please contact:

Dr. Enrique F. Schisterman  
Epidemiology Branch  
NICHD/NIH  
Tel: 301-435-6893  
Email: [schistee@nih.gov](mailto:schistee@nih.gov)

This position will be open till it is filled.

The National Institutes of Health is an equal opportunity employer.

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (ATP), ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OFFICE (EAO), SUPERVISORY POSITION (LEVEL 4/5: GS-14-15)

The ATP partners with the private sector to accelerate the development of high-risk technology development that has broad based benefits for society. EAO evaluates the ATP using surveys, econometric studies, cost-benefit studies, and policy analysis, and disseminates findings in reports, factsheets, seminars, and conference presentations. These evaluations are conducted by EAO staff and contractors from universities and research organizations. (See [http://www.atp.nist.gov/eao/eao\\_main.htm](http://www.atp.nist.gov/eao/eao_main.htm))

This is a *supervisory position* that manages a staff of economists and statisticians that primarily oversees the collection, processing and analysis of the EAO Business Reporting System (BRS). The data are used both cross-sectionally and longitudinally in economic studies, descriptive analysis, and as performance measures. An ideal candidate will have survey, economic analysis, and business experience, and ability to manage large contracts. Masters/MBA/PHD preferred. NIST is an EEO employer.

If interested, please send CV and short writing sample to Stephanie Shipp, Director, EAO, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-4710, or email to [Stephanie.Shipp@nist.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Shipp@nist.gov)

### Statisticians

The Financial Advisory Services ("FAS") practice of PricewaterhouseCoopers provides comprehensive financial, economic and strategic advice to companies with complex business problems. Within FAS, the Dispute Analysis & Investigation (DA&I) group provides a broad range of consulting services to attorneys and other parties involved in litigation, arbitration or mediation and other alternative dispute resolution forums. Specialty practice areas include economic, statistical and financial analysis, complex litigation and data analysis, breach of contract claims, business interruption, investigation services, intellectual property disputes, construction disputes, securities fraud, and insurance claims services.

Economists and Statisticians within the Economic Analysis practice work together to develop practical and achievable solutions for our clients, through the use of sampling applications, statistical and economic modeling, forecasting and prediction and the ability to process and analyze large volumes of data.

Successful candidates will possess 3 to 5 years of related experience. Knowledge of statistical analysis and SAS programming required. We welcome candidates with distinguished academic achievement, a high level of personal integrity and a high level of energy and a strong desire to learn. MA/MS/PhD with areas of concentrations in Statistics and/or mathematics. Please send resumes to: [FASCarees@us.pwcglobal.com](mailto:FASCarees@us.pwcglobal.com)

### **Biostatistician/Sr. Biostatistician/Principal Biostatistician**

This position will be responsible for designing, analyzing, and reporting clinical trials in support of drug development. This includes: Writing statistical methods sections for protocols, writing statistical analysis plans, conducting analysis with SAS, writing statistical reports, interacting with regulatory agencies if needed and managing CROs for all statistics related issues. This critical position requires an excellent communicator who is able to work collaboratively as part of an interdisciplinary drug development team. As such excellent oral and written communication skills are a must. Additionally, this position requires an MS or PhD in Biostatistics. Experience in Biotech and/or pharmaceutical industry is desired.

Please contact Guilford Pharmaceuticals, 6611 Tributary Street, Baltimore, MD 21224 [hr@guilfordpharm.com](mailto:hr@guilfordpharm.com) for information or application.

### **Statistical Programmer/Senior Statistical Programmer/Principal Statistical Programmer**

This position will provide programming support to the project teams. Able to work effectively in a team environment; receive instructions and convey related problems and issues in a constructive manner. Able and flexible to work on multiple protocols simultaneously. Has strong SAS programming skills and technical problem solving capability. Provide input on the design of CRFs, databases, table shells, and CRT. Able to pool data from different sources and restructure them in compliance to the regulatory e-submission guideline. Collaborate cross functionally to build Biostatistics infrastructure. This includes writing documents for data files, programs, and validations, standardizing and streamlining the biostatistics process, and writing appropriate programs for fast data extraction and report. Manage CROs and consultants to ensure regulatory requirements are followed. Minimal 3 years of statistical programming experience in drug/biotech industry. Proficient in SAS, including SAS/STAT and SAS/Graph. Programming in Splunk, Visual Basic, and Web development is a plus. Degree in biostatistics is preferred. Please contact Guilford Pharmaceuticals, 6611 Tributary Street, Baltimore, MD 21224 [hr@guilfordpharm.com](mailto:hr@guilfordpharm.com) for information or application.

### **Statisticians/Analysts**

**Division:** Research and Evaluation **Status:** Regular Full-Time **Job Code:** RE/ST/MD **Location:** Silver Spring, MD

**Description:** The MayaTech Corporation is seeking statisticians and analysts to provide statistical and quantitative analysis, data management, data reporting, and statistical programming support for health-related research and evaluation projects. Positions are available in both our Silver Spring, MD and Atlanta, GA offices. **Responsibilities:** The successful candidates will participate as the methodological and analytical leads to identify and develop appropriate methods and approaches, evaluate the suitability of data sources, and apply appropriate statistical techniques in support of large- and small-scale applied research projects.

**Requirements:** Candidates for this position must possess, at a minimum, a Master's degree in statistics, biostatistics, or social or behavioral sciences, and should possess strong statistical and programming skills and the ability to work under the direction of project leaders with minimal supervision. Experience with SPSS and SAS programming required. Additional experience with other statistical programming a plus. Requires skill in conducting descriptive and inferential statistics, logistic regression and/or probit analyses. Experience with hierarchical linear modeling or structural equation modeling in health-related research a plus. Candidates must have proven experience conducting statistical analyses, managing and constructing data files from survey and other data sets, and producing written and tabular statistical reports. Requires excellent oral and written communication skills. Publication and presentation record also a plus. **Benefits:** The MayaTech Corporation provides applied research, evaluation, and program support to Federal public health agencies. We offer a competitive benefits package and supportive work environment, and opportunities in both our Silver Spring, Maryland and Atlanta, Georgia offices. Principals only. No telephone calls, please. Due to the volume of submissions, The MayaTech Corporation will contact only candidates who match our requirements.

**To apply, please submit a detailed resume and salary history/requirements. For consideration, applications must include the following job code: RE/ST/MD**

**The MayaTech Corporation**  
Attn: Human Resources Office  
1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 900  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-5645  
Fax: 301.587.1524  
E-Mail: [hr@mayatech.com](mailto:hr@mayatech.com)  
Equal opportunity employer  
[www.mayatech.com](http://www.mayatech.com)



**U.S. CENSUS BUREAU****DISCLOSURE LIMITATION RESEARCH POSITION**

Applications and nominations are invited for one permanent position in the Statistical Research Division at the U.S. Census Bureau in the Washington, D.C. area. This position is an integral part of a research program aimed at identifying, testing, and implementing statistical disclosure control strategies, in order to effectively protect the confidentiality of survey and census participants. The principal duties include the development of statistical approaches and computational algorithms to identify disclosure risk. The development of data retrieval and data integration approaches will be a key component of the work. These approaches must be incorporated in easy-to-use software. Other responsibilities include data analysis, documentation, and the presentation of results in scientific journals and at meetings.

**Requirements:** At least a masters degree in a relevant field such as Statistics, Mathematics, or Computer Science. Experience in computer programming including knowledge of Java, C++, or C is required. Must be able to create and design user-friendly software. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. The salary range is \$46,175 to \$73,546 depending on qualifications and experience. U.S. citizenship is required.

For further information or to start the application process for this position in Disclosure Limitation, **a p p l y o n - l i n e** at <http://www.census.gov/hrd/www/vacancy/nmaths12.html>. Follow the instructions for electronic applications, and submit your resume and transcripts to 1-800-601-8952. If you have questions, please contact the Census Bureau's Recruitment Branch at 1-800-638-6719.

**The Census Bureau Is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT****Introduction to Capital Science**

On Saturday and Sunday, March 20-21, 2004, The Washington Academy of Sciences and its Affiliated Societies (including the Washington Statistical Society) will hold the pan-Affiliate Conference, Capital Science. It will be held in the Conference Facility of the National Science Foundation in Ballston. With more than 25 of the Academy's Affiliates participating, the Conference will serve as an umbrella for scientific presentations, seminars, tutorials, and talks. After late September 2003, the Conference website will be operative, showing the schedule of events, abstracts of papers, and logistical information, as well as providing the ability to pre-register. Go to <http://www.washacadsci.org/>

The Conference has two equally important purposes. First, it will provide the Academy's Affiliates with a venue to present and, through the Proceedings, publish papers of scientific merit. Given shrinking budgets and the concomitant loss of travel funds, this alone would be reason enough to hold the Conference.

But the Conference will also highlight the fact that the Washington DC area is not only the political capital of the country but, in many respects, the nation's intellectual capital -- with several major universities and government laboratories that are the homes of an astonishing number of Nobel laureates. The Academy believes that showcasing the intellectual muscle of the area will help provide the support needed to continue to build and keep the United States at the forefront of scientific achievement.

**Michael P. Cohen of BTS (202-366-9949, [Michael.cohen@bts.gov](mailto:Michael.cohen@bts.gov))** is the Washington Statistical Society representative to the Washington Academy of Sciences (not to be confused with the *National* Academy of Sciences). For more information, please contact him.



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