



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

December 2003

THE JEANNE E. GRIFFITH MENTORING AWARD

On receiving the Roger Herriot Award in June 2001, Jeanne E. Griffith said:

One of the most rewarding aspects (of Federal statistics for me was the opportunity to promote creative activities and energies among my staff...When I have had the blessing to mentor young people in their careers, I have tried to emphasize.....(that) only they, themselves, can make the most of (the)...chances that life presents.

Dr. Griffith died in August 2001 after working for more than 25 years in the Federal statistical system. Throughout her career, and especially in her latter senior management positions at the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Science Foundation, one of Jeanne's highest priorities was to mentor and encourage younger staff at all levels to learn, to grow, and to recognize and seize career opportunities as they came along.

The Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award has been established to encourage mentoring of younger staff in the Federal statistical system. It is presented annually, beginning in 2003, to a supervisor who is nominated by co-workers and supervisors, and chosen by the Award Selection Committee.

The award is co-sponsored by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, the Council for Excellence in Government, the Washington Statistical Society, the Social Statistics and Government Statistics Sections of the American Statistical Association, and the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics.

Nominations for 2004 will be accepted beginning in November 2003. The last date for submission of nominations is April 1, 2004, and the Award Committee will make its determination of the award winner by May 1, 2004. The award will consist of a \$1000 honorarium and a citation, which will be presented at a ceremony arranged by the co-sponsors in June 2004.

The winning mentor will be selected for his or her efforts in supporting the work and developing the careers of younger staff. Examples of typical mentoring activities include:

- * Advising junior staff to help them create career opportunities, networking skills, and contacts for growth and development;
- * Counseling junior staff and providing resources to help develop their technical writing, analysis, presentation and organizational skills and knowledge;
- * Encouraging junior staff growth and career development through attendance and oral presentations at meetings with higher level officials, staffs of other agencies, professional associations, training courses, and conferences;
- * Motivating junior staff and building self confidence through feedback on their efforts, being a listener when that is needed, and creating a caring and supportive environment;
- * Serving as a role model for junior staff through professional expertise, information and insights, balancing collegial and personal roles, and including everyone across rank, race, ethnicity, and seniority.

For further information on the award, contact Ed Spar, Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) by phone: 703-836-0404; fax: 703-684-3410; or by e-mail at copafs@aol.com. The nomination cover sheet and guidelines—or a photocopy of it—should be attached to a nomination memorandum or letter. Forms can be obtained by contacting Ed Spar, or by downloading from the COPAFS website at <http://www.copafs.org>. All nominations should be returned to the Jeanne E. Griffith Mentoring Award Committee, c/o COPAFS, 1429 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 no later than April 1, 2004.

WSS and Other Seminars (All events are open to any interested persons)	
December 2 Tues.	Efficient Estimation for Surveys with Nonresponse Follow-Up Using Dual-Frame Calibration
3 Wed.	Survey Nonresponse Measurement Reconsidered
4 Thurs.	Standards and Metadata in a Statistical Agency
11 Thurs.	Mapping Environmental Indicators: A Demonstration of Dynamic Choropleth Maps (DC Maps) Java-based Web Application

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

Announcements

S I G S T A T **Topics for Fall 2003**

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, 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/>.

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) 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.

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the February 2004 WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than December 30, 2003. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Announcement

This is the second in a series of WSS seminars on calibration and related types of estimation.

Title: **Efficient Estimation for Surveys with Nonresponse Follow-Up Using Dual-Frame Calibration**

Speaker: Vincent G. Iannacchione, Statistics Research Division, RTI International

Co-authors: Avinash C. Singh and Jill A. Dever, RTI International

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 2, 2003, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Room tba, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see notice at the end of this announcement.

Sponsor: WSS Methodology Section

Abstract: In surveys where response rates are low, a follow-up survey of nonrespondents may be used to augment the respondents from the main survey. This may help in reducing the residual nonresponse bias still present in survey estimates based only on the main survey after adjustments for high nonresponse are made via modeling. However, when cost considerations require that the follow-up sample size be small, the reduction in bias obtained from the follow-up may be negated by the increase in sampling variance due to highly unequal selection probabilities in the combined sample. In this situation, a possible solution may be to trim the extreme weights in order to reduce the mean square error (MSE) associated with key survey estimates. However, it is not clear how to control the bias introduced by trimming.

We present an alternative in which we make more efficient use of information in the data. Our method is motivated by analogy with small-area estimation techniques in that our goal is to balance the variance of an unbiased but unstable quasi design-based estimator (this is based on the main and the follow-up samples with possibly nonresponse model adjustments for the follow-up) with a biased but stable quasi model-based estimator (this is based on the main sample with a nonresponse model adjustment). The term 'quasi' is used to signify that in the first case, the design-based estimate plays the major role as only a small part of the sample has nonrespondents, while in the second case with no follow-up, model adjustment for nonresponse plays the major role as a large part of the sample has nonrespondents.

We propose that the ideas underlying dual-frame estimation together with sampling weight calibration can be used to develop composite weights to produce estimates that are expected to strike a balance between variance and bias. The weight calibration is performed such that it has built-in controls for extreme weights while preserving the known population totals for various auxiliary variables as well as zero controls for difference estimates from the two samples for a key set of study variables. The proposed method is illustrated for a survey of Gulf War veterans with a nonresponse follow-up survey.

* To attend seminars at BLS, you need to email your name, affiliation, and title of the seminar to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore between "wss" and "seminar") by noon at least two days in advance, or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo id to the seminar. A new list begins October 1, 2003. Once you are on the list you need not contact BLS for seminars through December 31, 2003. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Survey Nonresponse Measurement Reconsidered
- Chair:** Wendy Rotz, Ernst and Young, LLP
- Speakers:** Fritz Scheuren, NORC; Mike Dennis, Knowledge Network; Robie Sangster, BLS
- Discussant:** Brian Harris-Kojetin, OMB
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, December 3, 2003, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see notice at the end of this announcement.
- Sponsors:** Methodology Section of the Washington Statistical Society (WSS) and the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
- Abstract:** Nonresponse has many effects on survey quality. All forms of unit nonresponse increase the expense of getting a sample of a given size. Completely ignorable nonresponse, however, only reduces the sample size; otherwise it does not impact on the mean square error. Other forms of unit nonresponse have potential biasing effects, depending on the success that the survey practitioner has in modeling the response mechanism. Currently surveys often report overall measures which do not distinguish between these types of nonresponse. Can new measures be constructed? And if so, would such measures change our current emphasis on refusal conversion and focus efforts elsewhere?

* To attend seminars at BLS, you need to email your name, affiliation, and title of the seminar to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore between "wss" and "seminar") by noon at least twodays in advance, or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo id to the seminar. A new list begins October 1, 2003. Once you are on the list you need not contact BLS for seminars through December 31, 2003. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Ave NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.

Annual Holiday Dinner!!!

Please come join your friends and colleagues for a celebration of the holiday season. The 2003 WSS Holiday Dinner will be held Wednesday, December 10, at the Vantage Point Restaurant & Lounge in the Holiday Inn Rosslyn Key Bridge. Hope to see you there!

Reservations must be received by December 5, 2003. Simply complete and send the 2003 Holiday Flyer.

Program Announcement

Title: Standards and Metadata in a Statistical Agency

Speaker: Daniel W. Gillman, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Discussant: Charles J. Rothwell, National Center for Health Statistics

Chair: Eugene M. Burns, Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Date/Time: Thursday, December 4, 2003, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Conference Room 8, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see Notice at the end of this announcement.

Sponsor: WSS Quality Assurance and Physical Sciences Section

Abstract: There is a wide range of standards in use today, they cover many subject areas, and there are many standards development organizations (SDOs). The most successful standards over time are developed through a consensus building process that is open, subject to due process, is transparent, and has a right of appeal. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) are two well-known examples of SDOs.

Many statistical agencies develop standards, either by themselves or with other similar organizations. In fact, some have a standards division that is responsible for statistical standards within the organization. Two well-known (in the US) examples of statistical standards developed by statistical organizations are the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). Statistical organizations also use ISO, W3C, and other standards.

NAICS and SOC are standards related to data. These and other code sets, often under the responsibility of ISO or other SDOs, are used to describe, classify, or code data that is collected by the agency. In this sense, these standards are also metadata. And, so, there is a strong connection between standards and the metadata that describes the data and survey life cycle within the statistical agency.

There are also metadata standards. These are standards that address how one organizes or describes data. The Unified Modeling Language (UML) and the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) are two such examples.

This paper describes an ideal standards setting process, relates how standards influence the work of statistical agencies, describes the connection between standards and metadata, and shows how standards based metadata management works. The need for a coherent standards strategy in the statistical agency is discussed.

++++++
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 (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

Topic: **Mapping Environmental Indicators: A Demonstration of Dynamic Choropleth Maps (DC Maps) Java-based Web Application**

Speaker: William P. Smith, Ph.D.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Chair: Mel Kollander

Date/Time: Thursday, December 11, 2003, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Postal Square Building (PSB), Conference Center, Conference Room 9, 2 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Please use the First Street entrance to the PSB. To gain entrance to BLS, please see Notice at the end of this announcement.

Abstract: Dr. Smith will demonstrate Dynamic Choropleth Maps (DC Maps), a dynamic Web-based geographic mapping tool that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) uses for visualizing possible relationships between environmental, health, and demographic indicators. This interactive visualization focuses on using map slider controls to make spatial contexts and data interactions visible. Such a tool can be used to visualize environmental indicators spatially and to allow one to interact with up to three indicators at once for dynamic real-time map rendering. Patterns that would be almost impossible to discern from static maps may become apparent through dynamic views of these indicators on a choropleth map. Multiple indicators may be selected for mapping from a list of over 300 data sets. Data are displayed using a county-level choropleth map of the United States. A choropleth map displays numerical data for geographic areas by sorting the data into classes and assigning each class a color on the map.

How DC Maps Work. DC Maps can be used to create quick map-based displays or to identify possible associations between indicators for further study. For each indicator displayed on the map, a slider bar allows the user to condition or filter the data to observe possible relationships between the indicators. As the sliders are moved, the map is updated instantly to reflect interactions in the data. This enables the user to see, for example, the change in the distribution of chemical releases as the user varies poverty rates. The list of indicators can be customized to reflect user needs. Also, the geographic boundary data can be varied to accommodate these needs and display alternative data sets.

Data Available for Display. Currently DC Maps displays environmental, health, demographic, and economic data at the county level from a number of key sources, including the following. The data used for the indicators listed are available for export and use outside DC Maps.

- Census 2000 Demographic Data
- HHS Health Indicators
- NCI Cancer Mortality Data
- U.S. EPA Toxics Release Inventory, Air and Water Quality Data
- Other Economic, Labor, Agricultural, and Health Statistics

++++++
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 (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.

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 or (703) 979-1191.

The Biostatistics Center CLINICAL TRIAL BIOSTATISTICIANS M.S. and Ph.D. Level Positions

With an opportunity for substantial leadership responsibility in studies of international public health import.

The Biostatistics Center of The George Washington University, founded in 1972, is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institutes of Health. We

enjoy over \$45 million per year of NIH research funding for major studies in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, maternal/fetal medicine, osteoporosis, urology, and the genetic basis for various diseases. The center has a staff of 124 with 26 biostatisticians/epidemiologists, including 9 faculty. We are recruiting MS and Ph.D. level staff to participate in these and future studies. Please visit our web site (below).

We are seeking individuals who want to join a highly competent team of academic biostatisticians and epidemiologists; who desire to contribute to the design and analysis of major medical studies, seek substantive scientific and statistical responsibility, enjoy interacting with medical investigators; take pride contributing to the publication of major papers in leading medical journals, and desire to make an impact on the public health. Our faculty also participate in graduate programs in biostatistics, epidemiology and statistics which afford opportunities for teaching at the graduate level. The research projects also provide an environment rich in methodological problems, with opportunities for collaboration with research active Center faculty and graduate students.

Assistant to Full Research Professorial Positions: (3 or more openings):

Ph.D. level positions available on or about July 1, 2002. To serve as Associate Project Director (Co-Investigator) or future Project Director (Principal Investigator). Minimum Requirements: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, 1-5 years' experience with clinical trials, especially

study design and statistical analysis of study results using SAS, excellent oral and written English communication skills, and supervisory experience. Review of applications began on June 10, 2002 and will continue until the positions are filled.

Master's Level Research Position: (1 or more)

Minimum Requirements: Master's in Biostatistics or Statistics and 1-5 years experience in analysis, supervision of data management and study design for biomedical applications. Good written and oral communication skills, and detailed knowledge of SAS required.

Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employee (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children. Letter and CV to: Colleen Foster, HR Manger, The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852. No phone calls please. <http://www.bsc.gwu.edu>

The George Washington University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer

Samuel W. Greenhouse Memorial Post-Doctoral Scientist The Biostatistics Center The George Washington University

Family and friends have established a post-doctoral scientist position in memory of the late Sam Greenhouse, pioneering biostatistician at the National Institutes of Health, and Professor of Statistics and Associate Director of The Biostatistics Center at The George Washington University. This 12-month, full-salary research position at The GWU Biostatistics Center located in Rockville, MD will provide the opportunities for methodological research and participation in the design and analysis of multi-center clinical trials and epidemiologic studies. A discretionary fund is provided for computers, travel, etc. Complete information is available from www.bsc.gwu.edu. Requirements: Doctorate in Statistics or Biostatistics awarded since January 1, 2002, methodological research with application to clinical trials or epidemiologic studies, some collaborative medical research experience, US citizenship or permanent residency. Tuition benefits for employee (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Inquiries to John M. Lachin, Professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, and of Statistics, The Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Rockville, MD 20852 (jml@biostat.bsc.gwu.edu).

The George Washington University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Mathematical Statistician

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) anticipates an opening for a position within the Statistical Research and Applications Branch (SRAB) of the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. This is located within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). SRAB provides statistical expertise and sets the direction for mathematical and statistical research used to carry out surveillance of the nation's cancer burden and understanding of how cancer control activities influence that burden. Recent examples include: change point analysis to characterize cancer trends, recurrent event survival analysis of screening mammography patterns. Position responsibilities will include: development of methods and associated software, and design/analysis of pertinent studies to answer key questions about cancer incidence, survival, mortality and cancer-related health status in diverse populations of the US. Excellent communication skills are necessary to communicate and translate statistical information to diverse audiences.

Doctoral degree required in statistics, biostatistics, or related field with experience/interest in the development and interpretation of health statistics. Salary \$71,461-\$106,086. The location is Rockville, MD, near Washington, DC. Excellent benefits. DHHS and NIH are equal opportunity employers. Please send a cover letter summarizing your experience and interests along with your CV, and contact information for three references, by December 15, 2003 to:

Dr. Eric (Rocky) Feuer
Chief, Statistical Research and Applications Branch
National Cancer Institute
6116 Executive Blvd., Room 5041, MSC 8317
Bethesda, MD 20892-8317 (US Mail)
Rockville, MD 20852 (Overnight courier)
Phone: (301) 496-5029
Fax: (301) 480-2046
E-mail: rf41u@nih.gov

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.

To express interest or obtain more information about the position, call Laura Zayatz at (301) 763-4955. For further information about the application process for this position in Disclosure Limitation, apply on-line at http://www.census.gov/hrd/www/vacancy/nmaths_t2.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.

Education Measurement

The Education Assessment Program of the American Institutes for Research, which works in test design, development and analysis with a variety of clients at the national, state, and local level, is seeking experienced education measurement specialists, testing specialists and quantitative psychologists to work on student assessment projects. These positions will be focused on applying and interpreting quantitative measurement data, reporting of statistical analysis and writing technical reports. The successful candidates will have professional experience in test development, score reporting and a thorough knowledge of classical and modern test theory, methods and applications. A Ph.D. in psychological or educational measurement with an emphasis on quantitative analysis or psychometrics, or industrial organizational psychology is required. Successful candidates should possess strong communication skills and be comfortable dealing with a range of technical, lay and policy audiences. Excellent writing skills and strong oral and interpersonal skills required.

AIR offers an excellent compensation package and benefits. Central location in Washington, DC. Please e-mail resume with cover letter, independently written and edited writing sample, and availability to resumes@air.org, subject line "Psychometrician" or forward to:

American Institutes for Research
Human Resources - PSYC
1000 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007-3835

Fax (202) 944-5454
www.air.org
EEO

Social Security Administration, Office of Policy, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (ORES) Supervisory Position (GS-15, Salary Range \$95,987-\$124,783)

ORES conducts research and provides data to study the effects of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and proposed changes in those programs, on individuals and the economy. This is a supervisory position to direct the Division of SSI Statistics and Analysis located in Baltimore, MD. A staff of 17 economists, program analysts and programmers develop databases for statistics, research, and evaluation of Social Security's Supplemental Security Income and Disability Insurance benefit programs, produce a variety of statistical publications relating to these programs, and develop analyses for internal use by policymakers and for publication and conference presentations. Data are derived from SSA's programmatic data files, special-purpose surveys conducted by SSA, and surveys conducted by other federal agencies that are linked to SSA's program data. The successful candidate will need to have or develop detailed knowledge about SSA's SSI and DI programs and data and be able to manage and give direction to the staff. A job posting is expected in early 2004.

Interested candidates should contact Susan Grad Deputy Associate Commissioner for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics
500 E Street, S.W. Washington DC 20254
Tel: 202-358-6220 Fax: 202-358-6079 Email: susan.grad@ssa.gov

U.S. citizenship is required. The Social Security Administration is an equal opportunity employer.

Announcements

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE GOVERNMENT SYMPOSIUM

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. The symposium brochure is online at : <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss>

2004 CART Data Mining Conference

Conference Background

This conference honors the original authors of CART (Leo Breiman, Jerome Friedman, Richard Olshen, Charles Stone) with the opportunity to meet with them in person. Each is planning to offer a keynote paper. The conference will provide an opportunity for data mining professionals to exchange ideas.

Contest Background:

As part of the CART 2004 Data Mining Conference, we have organized a student competition focusing on the data mining technology of Leo Breiman, Jerome Friedman, Richard Olshen, and Charles Stone. There is a Grand Prize of \$1500. We see this as an opportunity for students to solve a real world data mining problem of personal interest to them while working with cutting-edge data mining software tools. Professors might want to incorporate the contest into projects related to class work.

Complete details can be found on the conference website: <http://www.cartdatamining.com>



Washington
Statistical
Society

P.O. Box 752
Suitland, MD 20752

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FALLS CHURCH, VA
PERMIT NO. 186

POSTMAN: DATED MATERIAL
Please deliver by December 1, 2003

President David Marker 301-251-4398	Past President Brenda Cox 703-684-1180	President-Elect John Czajka 202-484-4685
Secretary Courtney Stapleton 301-763-4142	Treasurer Erin Whitworth Dyal 571-235-7128	
Vice Chair for District 2 of Council of Chapters Carolee Bush 202-997-2264	Council of Chapters Representative Glenn White 202-327-6414	
Representative-at-Large Dan Cork 202-334-2573 Tom Mule 301-763-8322	Representative-at-Large Jill Montaquila 301-517-4046 Jennifer Guarino 202-728-1973	
Agriculture and Natural Resources Dan Beckler 703-235-5213 Ext. 131 Mel Kollaner 202-537-6700	Economics Linda Atkinson 202-694-5046 Anna Jan 202-327-6328	Methodology Patrick Cantwell 301-763-4982 Wendy Rotz 202-327-7822
Public Health and Biostatistics Grant Izmirlian 301-496-7519 Jai Choi 301-458-4144	Public Policy Brian A. Harris-Kojetin 202-395-7314	Quality Assurance and Physical Sciences Amrut Champaneri 202-366-5998 Eugene Burns 202-366-3491
Short Courses Slyvia Dohrmann 301-610-5119 Trena Ezzati-Rice 301-427-1478	Social and Demographic Statistics Judy Droitcour 202-512-9145	Statistical Computing Michael Yang 202-223-9160 Charlie Hallahan 202-694-5051 Dean H. Judson 301-763-2057
Electronic Mail Committee Michael Greene 301-504-7335 S.V. (Vince) Massimini 703-883-5893	Data Collection Methods Sameena Salvucci 703-807-2309 Jonaki Bose 202-366-9979	Membership Fritz Scheuren 202-320-3446 John Dixon 202-691-7516 Antoinette Ware Martin
Webmaster Dan Jacobs 301-403-4220	WSS NEWS Editor Michael Feil 202-690-3130	Local Arrangement Kevin Cecco 202-874-0464
Employment Anne Peterson 703-979-1191	Quantitative Literacy Carolyn Carroll 703-379-4500	Social Arrangements Jeri Mulrow 703-292-4784
Video Librarian Mel Kollander 202-537-6700	Quantitative Literacy Poster Competition Archana Joshee 202-327-6859 Ryan Petska 202-327-7245	WSS Historian & Financial Advisor Michael P. Cohen 202-366-9949
Science Fair Coordinator Lee Abramson 301-415-6180	WSS Committee on ASA Fellows Michael L. Cohen 202-334-3765 Fritz Scheuren 202-320-3446 Carol House 202-720-4333	Science Fair Coordinator Lee Abramson 301-415-6180
Video Coordinator John Dixon 202-691-7516		