



WSS NEWS

WASHINGTON
STATISTICAL
SOCIETY

April 2006

HERRIOT AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

Nominations are sought for the 2006 Roger Herriot Award for Innovation in Federal Statistics. The award is intended to reflect the special characteristics that marked Roger Herriot's career:

- Dedication to the issues of measurement;
- Improvements in the efficiency of data collection programs; and
- Improvements and use of statistical data for policy analysis.

The award is not limited to senior members of an organization, nor is it to be considered as a culmination of a long period of service. Individuals at all levels within Federal agencies, other government organizations, nonprofits, the private sector, and the academic community may be nominated on the basis of their contributions.

The recipient of the 2006 Roger Herriot Award will be chosen by a committee comprising representatives of the Social Statistics Section and Government Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association and the Washington Statistical Society. Roger Herriot was associated with and strongly supportive of these organizations during his career. The award consists of an honorarium and a framed citation.

Joseph Waksberg (Westat), Monroe Sirken (National Center for Health Statistics), Constance Citro (National Academy of Sciences), Roderick Harrison (U.S. Census Bureau), Clyde Tucker (Bureau of Labor Statistics), Thomas Jabine (SSA, EIA, CNSTAT), Donald Dillman (Washington State University), Jeanne Griffith (OMB, NCES, NSF), Daniel Weinberg (U. S. Census Bureau), David Banks (FDA, BTS, NIST), Paula Schneider (U.S. Census Bureau), and Robert E. Fay III (U.S. Census Bureau) are previous recipients of the Roger Herriot Award.

For more information, contact Lawrence Cox, Chair, Roger Herriot Award Committee, 301 458-4631 or LCox@CDC.Gov. There are no fixed requirements for the contents or format of nomination packages, but completed packages must be received by May 1, 2006. Electronic submissions to Dr. Cox in MS-Word or PDF format are encouraged.

Alternately, nominations may be mailed to:

Lawrence H. Cox
National Center for Health Statistics
3311 Toledo Road, Room 3211
Hyattsville, MD 20782

WSS and Other Seminars (All events are open to any interested persons)		
April 4	Tues.	An Analysis of a Two-Way Categorical Table Incorporating Intra-Class Correlation
20	Mon.	Using comparative genomics to assess the function of noncoding sequences (NCS)
26	Wed.	A Generation of Data: The General Social Surveys, 1972-2006 and Beyond
28	Fri.	Stochastic Variants of EM: Monte Carlo, quasi-Monte Carlo and more
May 4	Thurs.	Self-employment and Entrepreneurship: Reconciling Household and Administrative Measures
9	Tues.	Herriot Award Encouraging Innovation in Government Statistical Agencies: Roger Herriot's Legacy
June 7	Wed.	Independence

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

Announcements

Retirement

Michael P. Cohen has taken early federal retirement. He had been Assistant Director for Survey Programs, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, US Department of Transportation. During his federal government career, he also worked for the National Center for Education Statistics and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mike is the WSS financial auditor, historian, and representative to the Washington Academy of Sciences.

SIGSTAT Topics for April 2006 – May 2006

April 26, 2006: Introduction to Enterprise Guide 4.1 for Statistical Analysis (<http://www.sas.com>)

The demo begins with a quick tour through the layout of Enterprise Guide (EG) as a menu-based interface to SAS procedures. Emphasis in this workshop will be on the statistical capabilities of EG. In particular, a set of data (put together using enhanced features of the query builder task) will serve as a case study for a forecasting exercise. The demo will show how code generated by EG can be customized, stored, and rerun, and custom reports saved with new Report Controls Integration. Linda Atkinson and Charlie Hallahan will be the speakers.

May 17, 2006: Univariate Detrending Using SAS: Some Examples and Applications
(<http://www.sas.com>)

Detrending or filtering is an important tool for the macroeconomist studying business cycle fluctuations. Business cycles can be thought of as deviations of output from its trend. As such, detrending or filtering allows us to focus on the 'cyclical' properties of output. Four methods of detrending using SAS will be presented: Beveridge-Nelson decomposition, Hodrick-Prescott filter, Baxter-King filter, and Unobserved Components. Two applications of univariate detrending are also presented. The first is to use SAS to generate 'stylized facts' of the business cycle and the second is to examine the consequences of detrending on the effects of monetary policy on output. Ban Cheah, Westat, will be the speaker.

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 **12:00 to 1:00 (note new time)**. 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/>.

Summer Econometric Program at the Economics Department - American University

One week concentrated classes for Researchers, Faculty and graduate students.

May 15-19, 2006 - Bayesian Econometrics (lecturer: John Geweke), May 30 - June 3, 2006 - Discrete-Choice-Censored models (lecturer is Bill Greene).

For details see:

http://www.american.edu/cas/econ/summerprogram/summer_program1.htm

For registration, follow the guideline on the Web page (fill up the forms and send/email to the Econ. Dept, AU).

We expect the classes to be full, so it is suggested to register as early as possible.

If you have registration questions, please email econ@american.edu or ATobler@american.edu

Please feel free to circulate among your students and/or colleagues,

Note from the WSS NEWS Editor

Items for publication in the June issue of the WSS NEWS should be submitted no later than April 25, 2006. E-mail items to Michael Feil at michael.feil@usda.gov.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **An Analysis of a Two-Way Categorical Table Incorporating Intra-Class Correlation**
- Speaker :** Jai Choi, Mathematical Statistician, NCHS/ORM
- Chair:** Joe Fred Gonzalez, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Date/Time:** Tuesday, April 4, 2006 / 10:00 -11:30 a.m.
- Location:** National Center for Health Statistics, Room 1403. To attend seminars at NCHS, you need to email your name and title of the seminar to JGonzalez@cdc.gov by noon of the work day before the seminar. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. Further instructions for admission will be given upon receipt of your email. NCHS is located at 3311 Toledo Road in Hyattsville, MD. Metro: From Prince Georges Plaza on Green line, take footbridge across East-West Hwy and go one block north on Belcrest, go half block east on Toledo.
- Sponsor:** WSS Public Health and Biostatistics Section and NCHS/ORM
- Abstract:** It is straight forward to analyze data from a single multinomial table. Specifically, for the analysis of a two-way categorical table, the common chi-squared test of independence between the two variables and maximum likelihood estimators of the cell probabilities are readily available. When the counts in the two-way categorical table are formed from familial data (clusters of correlated data), the common chi-squared test no longer applies. We note that there are several approximate adjustments to the common chi-squared test. For example, Choi and McHugh (1989, *Biometrics*, 45, 979-996) showed how to adjust the chi-squared statistic for clustered and weighted data. However, our main contribution is the construction and analysis of a Bayesian model which removes all analytical approximations. This is an extension of a standard multinomial-Dirichlet model to include the intra-class correlation associated with the individuals within a cluster. We have used a key formula described by Altham (1976, *Biometrika*, 63, 263-269) to incorporate the intra-class correlation. This intra-class correlation varies with the size of the cluster, but we assume that it is the same for all clusters of the same size for the same variable. We use Markov chain Monte Carlo methods to fit our model, and to make posterior inference about the intra-class correlations and the cell probabilities. Also, using Monte Carlo integration with a binomial importance function, we obtain the Bayes factor for a test of no association. To demonstrate the performance of the alternative test and estimation procedure, we have used data on activity limitation status and age from the National Health Interview Survey and a simulation study.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **A Generation of Data: The General Social Surveys, 1972-2006 and Beyond**
- Speaker:** Tom Smith, National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago
- Chair:** Norman Bradburn, NORC, University of Chicago
- Discussant:** Clyde Tucker, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after `wss`) by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Social and Demographic Statistics Section
- Abstract:** This presentation will describe the design and structure of the GSS; discuss important findings including major societal trends, cross-national differences, and sub-group analyses of ethno-racial and religious groups; and detail several methodological and substantive innovations that are being introduced in the latest round of GSSs.

Program Announcement

- Title:** Stochastic Variants of EM: Monte Carlo, quasi-Monte Carlo and more
- Chair:** Charles Hallahan, USDA/ERS
- Speaker:** Wolfgang Jank, University of Maryland
- Discussant:** James Gentle, George Mason University
- Date/Time:** Friday, April 28, 2006 / 12:30 to 2 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics, Conference Center in G440. To be placed on the seminar list attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after 'wss') by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Use the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** Statistical Computing Section, WSS
- Abstract:** Many statistical models involve a combination of observed and unobserved data. Examples include the linear mixed model, the generalized linear mixed model or the hierarchical model. The EM (Expectation-Maximization) algorithm naturally appeals to this situation by iteratively imputing the unobserved data. One of the problems though with EM is that in many contemporary models the expectation step is analytically intractable, leading to integrals that have no closed-form solution. This is especially problematic in situations where the integral is of high dimension. An increasingly popular approach to overcome this problem is to approximate the integral via simulation. This leads to a stochastic EM implementation. In this presentation we review some of the recent advances in this field which include the Ascent-based Monte Carlo EM algorithm (a new automated MCEM version based on EM's famous likelihood ascent property), efficient quasi-Monte Carlo EM versions, and a new automated implementation of the stochastic approximation version of EM. We motivate and illustrate our problem in the context of a geostatistical model for online purchases.

Program Announcement

- Title:** **Self-employment and Entrepreneurship: Reconciling Household and Administrative Measures**
- Speakers:** Melissa Bjelland, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Cornell University and LEHD (Bureau of the Census)
John Haltiwanger, University of Maryland, NBER and LEHD
Kristin Sandusky, LEHD
James Spletzer, Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Discussant:** Katharine Abraham, University of Maryland and NBER
- Chair:** Linda Atkinson, Economic Research Service, USDA
- Date/time:** Thursday, May 4, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center, Room 8. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after `wss`) by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Economics Section
- Abstract:** Have changes in the economy blurred the boundaries of the population of self-employed, a large and historically difficult segment of the workforce to quantify? To date, household-based surveys such as the Current Population Survey (CPS) have provided the leading sources of information on the self-employed, a substantial group accounting for about 11% of the workforce that operate over 16 million businesses. Yet it is unknown how well respondent reports of self-employment align with information from administrative sources and how disagreements may have changed over time. The increase in outsourcing and hobby businesses has made the standard survey question, "Are you self-employed?" less straightforward to answer. In this paper, we use micro data from the 1995-2001 Annual Social and Economic (March) Supplements of the CPS linked with administrative (tax-based) data from the Social Security Administration's Detailed Earnings Records (DER) and the Census Bureau's Business Register (containing both employer and non-employer businesses). While levels of entrepreneurship are fairly similar in the CPS, DER and Business Register, our initial findings suggest that the datasets do not consistently agree on which workers are self-employed. We find striking levels of misclassification; for example, less than half of the workers who are self-employed in the survey data are also self-employed in the administrative data. To better understand this disparity and to help identify respondent types likely to provide misleading or incorrect information, we characterize these differences over time by worker and job traits that include age, education, and industry. Lastly, we examine possible connections between this mismatch and gaps between household and business-based measures of employment and earnings at various stages of the business cycle.

Program Announcement

Title: **Encouraging Innovation in Government Statistical Agencies: Roger Herriot's Legacy**

Speaker: Robert E. Fay, U.S. Census Bureau

Chair: Lawrence H. Cox, National Center for Health Statistics

Date/time: Tuesday, May 9, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after `wss`) by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.

Sponsor: Roger Herriot Award Committee

Abstract: When he died unexpectedly in 1994, Roger Herriot left behind numerous colleagues in the Federal statistical community who knew both him and his work closely. At that time, it was self-evident that Roger had been a remarkable innovator.

In a 1995 paper, William Butz fondly recollected many of Roger's personal characteristics possibly contributing to his creativity. I wish to revisit Roger's creativity and to reflect on possible lessons for the statistical system. Although creativity is not yet thoroughly understood, findings from cognitive psychology and related disciplines suggest ways in which many of Roger's attributes served him well. At the same time, he benefited from the institutional environments in which he worked. I will argue that the future of innovation in government statistical agencies may in part depend on preserving niches where people like Roger can be both creative and influential.

Program Announcement

- Topic:** **Independence**
- Speaker:** Cynthia Clark, Director of Methodology, Office of National Statistics, UK
- Chair:** Connie Citro, Committee on National Statistics, the National Academies
- Discussant:** Fritz Scheuren, NORC
- Date/Time:** Wednesday, June 7, 2006 / 12:30 to 2:00
- Location:** Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference Center. To be placed on the seminar attendance list at the Bureau of Labor Statistics you need to e-mail your name, affiliation, and seminar name to wss_seminar@bls.gov (underscore after `wss`) by noon at least 2 days in advance of the seminar or call 202-691-7524 and leave a message. Bring a photo ID to the seminar. BLS is located at 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE. Take the Red Line to Union Station.
- Sponsor:** WSS Social and Demographic Statistics Section
- Abstract:** Forthcoming

Announcements

STAT DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2006

The Statistics Consortium at the University of Maryland, College Park, will sponsor a Statistics Day on April 20, 2006. The speaker is Professor, Peter Bickel, Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley. The title is "Using comparative genomics to assess the function of noncoding sequences (NCS)". The discussant is Professor Steven Salzberg, University of Maryland.

Abstract:

We have studied 2094 NCS of length 150-200bp from Edward Rubin's laboratory. These sequences are conserved at high homology between human, mouse, and fugu. Given the degree of homology with fugu, it seems plausible that all or part of most of these sequences is functional and, in fact, there is already some experimental validation of this conjecture. Our goal is to construct predictors of regulation (or potential irrelevance) by the NCS of nearby genes and further using binding sites and the transcription factors that bind to them to deduce some pathway information. One approach is to collect covariates such as features of nearest genes, physical clustering indices, etc, and use statistical methods to identify covariates, select among these for importance, relate these to each other and use them to create stochastic descriptions of the NCS which can be used for NCS clustering and NCS and gene function prediction singly and jointly. Of particular importance so far has been GO term annotation and tissue expression of downstream genes as well as the presence of blocks of binding sites known from TRANSFAC data base in some of the NCS. Our results so far are consistent with those of recent papers engaged in related explorations such as Woolfe et al (2004), Bejerano et al (2005) and others but also suggest new conclusions of biological interest.

Date: Thursday, April 20, 2006

Place: Lecture Hall 1410, Physics Building

University of Maryland, College Park

Time: 4:15 -- 6:00 PM

Reception: 6:00 -- 6:45 PM, Rotunda, Mathematics Building

Parking: Free parking is available from 4:00 PM at Parking Lot XX, and at the Parking Garage. As you enter the campus from Route 1, make the first right and again a first right to reach lot XX. To enter the Parking Garage, turn right at the "Big M", go to the first stop sign, make a left and another left to enter.

The Physics Building is located very near the "Big M" circle, and across from the Parking Garage.

Please visit the UMD Statistics Consortium web site at <http://www.statconsortium.umd.edu> for updates and details.

For information contact Rupa Jethwa Eapen, 301-314-7911, rjeapen@survey.umd.edu.

Announcements

WSS Statistical Poster Competition

It is coming up on that time of year again for annual WSS Statistical Poster Competition. Every year the ASA holds a statistical poster competition for school children in grades K thru 12. In cooperation with the ASA, WSS awards local prizes for the competition for participants in the Washington DC-Metro Area. As with every year, we had a great turnout of posters and volunteers in 2005 and wanted to extend the invitation to anyone who would be interested in participating in this year's competition as a judge.

The local posters will be judged on Saturday, April 8th from 10 AM until 12:30 PM. Coffee, Snacks, and other refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact Archana Joshee (Archana.Joshee@ey.com) or myself (Ryan.Petska@ey.com) and we will provide you with the details.

The judging will be held at the Ernst & Young Building located at:

1225 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
(The Dupont Circle Metro Stop)

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@insightpolicyresearch.com or (703) 373-6645.

WESTAT

AN EMPLOYEE-OWNED RESEARCH CORPORATION

Westat is an employee-owned corporation headquartered in the suburbs of Washington, DC (Rockville, Maryland). We provide statistical consulting and survey research to the agencies of the U.S. Government and to a broad range of business and institutional clients. With a strong technical and managerial staff and a long record of quality research, Westat has become one of the leading survey research and statistical consulting organizations in the United States.

Our company was founded in 1961 by three statisticians. The current staff of more than 1,800 includes over 60 statisticians, as well as research, technical, and administrative staff. In addition, our professional staff is supported by data collection and processing personnel situated locally and in field sites around the country. The work atmosphere is open, progressive, and highly conducive to professional growth.

Our statistical efforts continue to expand in areas such as the environment, energy, health, education, and human resources. Westat statisticians are actively involved in teaching graduate-level courses in statistical methods and survey methodology in collaborative arrangements with area colleges and universities.

We are currently recruiting for the following statistical position:

Survey Sampling Statistician (Job Code WSS/DRM/6001)

Three or more years of relevant experience in sample design and selection, frames development, weighting, imputation, and variance estimation. Must have a master's or doctoral degree in statistics and have excellent writing skills. Coursework in sample survey design is highly desirable.

Westat offers excellent growth opportunities and an outstanding benefits package including life and health insurance, an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), a 401(k) plan, flexible spending accounts, professional development, and tuition assistance. For immediate consideration, please send your cover letter, indicating the Westat Job Code, and resume by one of the following methods to:

Job Code is **REQUIRED** to apply.

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Email: resume@westat.com • FAX: (888) 201-1452

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**The George Washington University
School of Public Health & Health Services**

Faculty Member in Biostatistics

The Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics is recruiting for a full time faculty member at the Assistant or Associate Professor level with expertise in biostatistics.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to join a growing Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the nation's capital that has a highly respected and energetic teaching and research faculty and the opportunity to conduct clinical trials research at The Biostatistics Center.

Under the leadership of its new Chairman, Alan E. Greenberg, MD, MPH, the Department has expertise in HIV/AIDS, cancer, behavioral, and aging epidemiology, geographical health information systems, and biostatistical methods. In addition, the Department has established collaborative opportunities with other Departments in the GWU School of Public Health and Health Services, the GWU Medical Center, the Veterans Administration Hospital, Children's National Medical Center, the National Cancer Institute, the Department of Defense, and the DC Department of Health.

The Biostatistics Center is a leader in the statistical coordination of clinical trials conducted by the National Institute of Health. The center is renowned for its leadership in multi-center trials in diabetes, cardiovascular disease, maternal/fetal clinical medicine, osteoporosis, and urology, and the genetic basis for a series of diseases.

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics is involved in the MS and PhD degree programs in biostatistics and in epidemiology, among other graduate degree programs. The MS and PhD degree programs in biostatistics and in epidemiology admitted its first class in 1995. There are currently 15 doctoral students matriculated in the PhD degree in biostatistics and 10 students matriculated in the MS degree in biostatistics. More than half of the doctoral students in biostatistics are working on their dissertation research.

Responsibilities of the position will include teaching upper level courses in theoretical and applied biostatistics, mentoring masters and doctoral students in biostatistics, participating in clinical trials research at the GWU Biostatistics Center (<http://biostat.bsc.gwu.edu>), and developing an externally-funded research program.

Faculty rank and compensation will be commensurate with experience. Review of applications will begin on March 1, 2006, and will continue until the position is filled. Send letter of application, CV, and a list of 3 references, preferably electronically, to:

Dr. Dante A. Verme

Chair, Search Committee, Biostatistics

E-mail: sphdav@gwumc.edu (electronic submissions strongly preferred)

Vice Chair for Educational Activities

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

The George Washington University

School of Public Health & Health Services

2300 Eye St., NW, Ross Hall 125

Washington, DC 20037

GWU SPHHS Webpage: <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs>

The Biostatistics Center Webpage: <http://biostat.bsc.gwu.edu>

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Master's Level Research Positions: These positions require a 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. Send CV to address below.

Assistant to Full Research Professorial Positions are available immediately to serve as Co-Investigator or Principal Investigator (Project Director) and to provide statistical direction of the design, conduct and analysis of studies and the conduct of methodologic research to meet the projects needs. 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.

Minimum Position Requirements: Doctorate in Biostatistics, Statistics or Epidemiology, or alternatively an M.D. or Ph.D. in Biological Science, Physical Science or Computer Science with a Masters in Biostatistics or Statistics, 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.

Application Procedures: Applicants must send a Curriculum Vitae and three letters of reference; a letter to include a synopsis of their role in collaborative medical research that has led to medical scientific presentation or publication and a statement of career purpose indicating their career goals and how this position can help you achieve those goals; and applicants for Assistant Research Professor positions must send an Official Transcript of graduate coursework leading to the doctoral degree to: Sarah Fowler, Research Professor and Director, The George Washington University Biostatistics Center, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 750, Rockville, MD 20852. [HTTP://WWW.BSC.GWU.EDU](http://www.bsc.gwu.edu)

Review of applications is ongoing until the positions are filled. Rank/position title and salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Tuition benefits for employees (including Ph.D. in Statistics, Biostatistics and Epidemiology) and for spouse and dependent children.

All research and regular faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor in Biostatistics or Statistics may be apply for the Samuel W. Greenhouse Biostatistics Research Enhancement Award. For

a period of 1 year, the award will provide 20% effort for methodological research and a discretionary fund to support professional activities, travel to professional meetings, supplies and equipment. Applicants for the research faculty position may also apply for the Greenhouse Award while their faculty application is being considered. For complete information including Award Application Materials Requirements, please visit our website at: www.bsc.gwu.edu.

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SAS Programmers

Anteon is currently seeking qualified SAS Programmers to work in Washington, DC. The SAS Programmer must be able to work with extremely large data sets and have a comprehensive understanding of statistical methods. The Programmer is responsible for analyzing a variety of medical surveillance data, using statistical methods, in SAS and similar programs. Must have the ability to assess the feasibility of proposed studies and evaluate data sources for other researchers. Must be able to mentor junior analytic staff in approach of final product and experienced with SASR (v 9.1). Must have advanced knowledge of the principles, methods, and techniques involved in project management; advanced knowledge of the principles, methods, and techniques used in all phases of assigned functional area; must have the ability to manage multiple tasks within assigned project. Education: Masters Degree or equivalent experience. Programmer must have extensive experience with data analysis software tools (specifically SAS), scientific plotting software, and database management. Applicants must be eligible to obtain a security clearance to work at a government site. Please send resumes to nflies@anteon.com

Survey Research and Analysis

The Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) - one of three federally funded research and development centers run by the Institute for Defense Analyses - assists the Executive Branch of the US government as it formulates federal S&T policy by providing objective, high-quality analytic support to inform policymakers. Chartered by an act of Congress in 1991 as the Critical Technologies Institute, and later renamed the Science and Technology Policy Institute in 1998, STPI provides the highest quality and rigorously objective technical analytical support for the <http://www.ostp.gov/> Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and other government users, under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation. A challenging career opportunity now exists for work in the area of survey research and analysis. Responsibilities: A highly qualified individual is sought to collaborate in the design of data collection methods, specification of data processing requirements, selecting and applying advanced statistical analysis to socio/economic or demographic data, and developing innovative methods of data presentation for use by planners and policymakers.

Qualifications include

- o PhD in statistics, sociology, psychology or demography; or MS with relevant experience
- o Demonstrated knowledge of sample design, variance estimation, statistical models of measurement error and/or the analysis of data from complex surveys
- o Expertise in statistical analytic software such as SAS or SUDAAN
- o Expertise in data visualization
- o Expertise in visual analytics methods
- o Excellent written and oral communication skills
- o Ability to obtain necessary security clearances

Contact Information: Pamela Ebert Flattau, PhD
 Science and Technology Policy Institute/IDA
 1899 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
 Suite 520
 Washington, DC 20006-3602
 202-419-3735 / pflattau@ida.org



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Curtis Jacobs Award

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Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize for Outstanding Statistics Project 2005 - 2006

Background: The Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize was established in 1991 to honor the memory of a former statistician of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mr. Jacobs served as the chief statistician on many major Federal economic statistics programs, including the Consumer Price Index, which measures the rate of inflation in the American economy. The innovations he introduced are good examples of the practical uses of statistics and mathematics in improving the collection of data needed to form public policy.

Purpose: The purpose of the Jacobs Award program is to provide encouragement for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of surveys and their uses. To appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of statistics reported in the press and elsewhere, it is important to have a basic understanding of how surveys are taken and how results are produced.

Eligibility: Students must attend a high school or middle school in the Washington, D.C. area. In addition, the students must have a teacher or an advisor who will cover material on statistics during the 2005-2006 academic year.

Rules: Students may work individually or in teams of up to four students. A five to ten page typewritten report must be submitted. Subject matter is the choice of the participants. The students must collect original data. A copy of the data and questionnaire must be enclosed with the project report. Entries become the property of the sponsors and cannot be returned.

Types of Projects: The project may focus on the role of sample surveys as a way of gathering information for making decisions, as a way to make comparisons among groups, or as a way of collecting data for analyzing trends over time. Two examples of data that students might collect are expenses associated with automobiles and money earned in part-time jobs held by classmates.

Steps: The steps involved in a typical project will include those found in many surveys: define the objectives of the survey and the population of interest; determine an appropriate method of random sample selection and data collection; develop a questionnaire or data collection form; select a random sample and collect data; process completed questionnaires or data collection forms; analyze data and interpret results; and finally write a report.

Judging: Each entry will be judged according to the following criteria: creativity in the choice of topic and objectives; understanding of the steps needed to conduct a survey and how well those steps are executed; definition of the population; utilization of an appropriate sample selection methodology; thoughtfulness of the survey questions and ease of the questionnaire design; analysis of the data and

interpretation of survey results; and the overall quality of the written report. Judges will be statisticians in the Washington Statistical Society. Their decisions are final.

Prizes: A middle and high school award will be given. The two winning teams will each receive a prize of \$200 in U.S. savings bonds. The team members and a teacher or advisor who supervised the project will receive invitations to the Washington Statistical Society's annual dinner where the prizes will be awarded. The teachers will receive a plaque and the winning schools will receive a one year free school membership to the American Statistical Association.

Submitting a Project: The deadline for entry is June 1, 2006. To compete for the award, submit a copy of the entry form (see reverse) and a five to ten page-typewritten report describing the project to:

Brigid Brett-Esborn
Curtis Jacobs Entry
Ernst & Young LLP
1225 Connecticut Ave.
Washington, DC 20036

Resources: A source of information on surveys is the series of pamphlets: *What is a Survey?*, *How to Plan a Survey*, *How to Collect Survey Data*, and *Judging the Quality of a Survey* published by the American Statistical Association (ASA). A good reference book is *Exploring Surveys and Information from Samples* published by Dale Seymour Publications. Another source is the pamphlet *Surveys and You* published by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Two web sites may be of interest: the American Statistical Association at <http://www.amstat.org> and the Washington Statistical Society at <http://www.science.gmu.edu/~wss/>.

For more information on the Curtis Jacobs Award, teachers may contact Ms. Brett-Esborn at (202) 327-5946. Washington area statisticians are available to visit interested classes to discuss types of projects and survey sampling.



**Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize
for Outstanding Statistics Project
2005 - 2006**

Sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society and the American Statistical Association

Entry Form
Curtis Jacobs Memorial Prize 2005-2006

Please print clearly or type:

Names of students on team: _____

Grade(s): _____

School or Organization: _____

Address: _____

Teacher or Advisor: _____

Phone: () _____

Title of Project: _____

Mail entry form and project report to the address shown on the reverse side of this form. Entries must be postmarked by the deadline date shown on the reverse.